Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

PART TWO

September 2003

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

PART TWO

PREPARED FOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DENVER SERVICE CENTER

AND

WASHITA BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) in Charlottesville, Virginia, (formerly the Charlottesville, Virginia office of OCULUS) in association with Susan Maxman Architects in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, undertook the preparation of this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) Part Two, for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site (NHS). Washita Battlefield NHS extends over 315 acres of the approximately 3,000-acre Washita National Historic Landmark area. Located in Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, Washita Battlefield NHS was established in 1996 to commemorate the November 27, 1868, conflict between the 7th U.S. Cavalry led by Lt. Col. George Custer and Chief Black Kettle's Cheyenne community camped on the banks of the Washita River. The conflict was the first effort of a new U.S. Army policy to wage war against Plains Indians during the quietude of the winter months, and resulted in the deaths of many Cheyenne, including Chief Black Kettle and his wife. The site retains important cultural and historical value for the Cheyenne and other Southern Great Plains tribes, and its protection supports their on-going struggle to maintain control of their traditional homelands. In addition, the NHS, associated with the Washita River and adjacent floodplain and relatively undeveloped upland areas, serves to protect a myriad of natural resources. The purpose of this Part Two CLR is to further the National Park Service's (NPS) goals of better understanding and managing the landscape of Washita Battlefield NHS. The CLR focuses on short and long term treatment recommendations for

the battlefield landscape. In particular, the report provides treatment guidelines and strategies for the preservation and enhancement of historic, cultural, and natural resources, in support of the legislated goals of protecting and preserving the visual scene as closely as possible as it was at the time of the battle, and of perpetuating and interpreting landscape resource qualities and values.

As Part Two of the CLR, this document is intended to "articulate a preservation strategy for long-term management of [the] cultural landscape based on its significance, existing conditions, and use."[1] A Cultural Landscape Report is the primary guide utilized by the NPS for treatment and use of a cultural landscape. Based on the historic context provided in a historic resource study, a CLR documents and evaluates the character-defining features, materials, and qualities that make a landscape eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It provides analysis of the landscape's development and evolution, modification, materials, construction techniques, geographical context, and use over time. CLRs are generally intended to provide a synthetic and cohesive view of a site's historic and existing features through comprehensive documentation, analysis, and evaluation. Using this knowledge as a basis for decision making, CLRs often provide carefully considered cultural resource treatment recommendations. While CLRs vary in their emphasis and level of investigation, they are typically inter-disciplinary in nature, drawing on information developed by historians, landscape architects, ecologists, botanists, architects, and archeologists, as well as other project-specific disciplines. The level of investigation conducted for a CLR is determined by many factors, potentially including the historical significance and integrity of the site, identified management objectives, past documentation efforts, and landscape alterations or changes under consideration by the owner.

Typically, CLRs are composed of three parts:

- Part One includes a site physical history, existing conditions documentation, comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions, and National Register-level significance evaluation and integrity assessment.
- Part Two presents a treatment plan based on the information developed in Part One and on any identified management goals for the site.
- Part Three conveys landscape treatments.

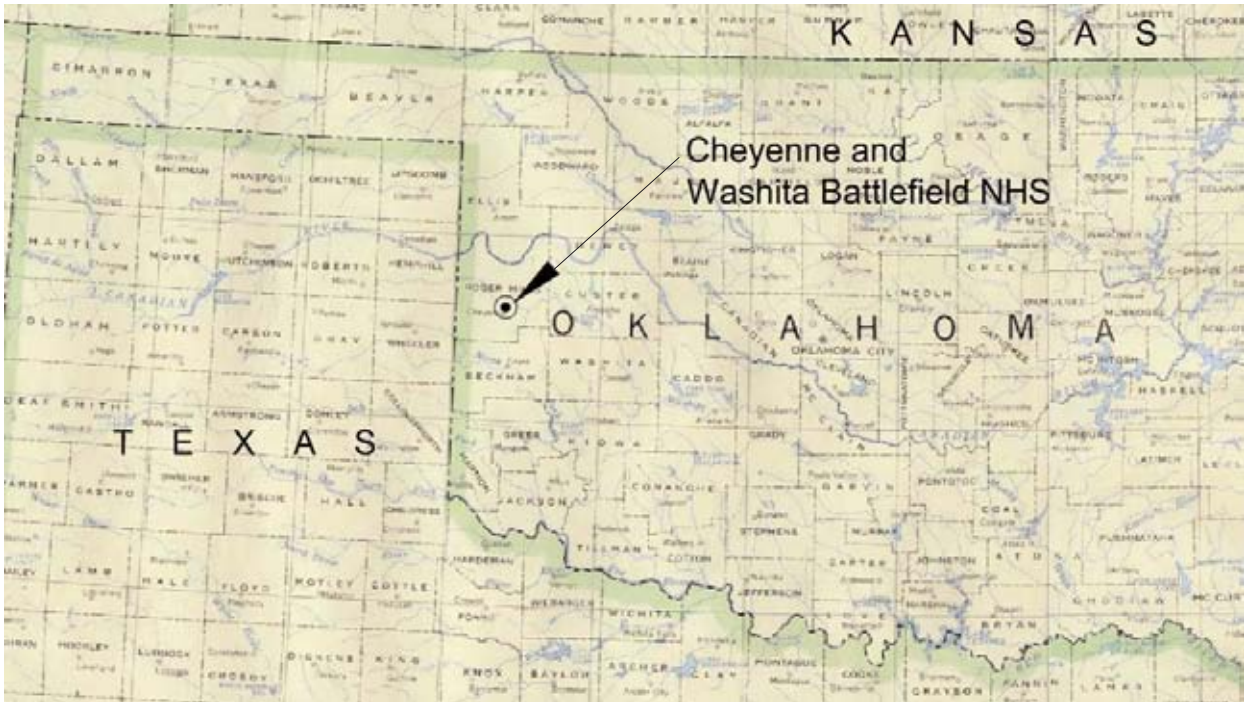
The Washita Battlefield NHS CLR treatment plan draws from information researched and compiled by NPS prior to initiation of Part Two. These documents include a 1999 *Level Two Cultural Landscape Inventory*; 2001 *Long Range Interpretive Plan*; draft 2001 *Historic Resource Study*; and 2001 *General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (GMP/EIS). The GMP/EIS identifies a preferred development alternative for

[1] Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan. *A Guide To Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*, (Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1998), 81.

the park that establishes the basis for treatment included in the CLR for Washita Battlefield NHS. Of primary concern for this site is understanding the landscape as it appeared at the time of the 1868 battle. At that time, as yet unsettled by European-Americans and used only as a temporary winter camp by Plains Indians, the site had likely been moderately impacted by humans. Understanding the site's ecology, natural systems, features, and processes is therefore critical to the establishment of appropriate treatment and management strategies. In addition, working with a site's natural processes tends to diminish the effort needed, and potentially the costs, to manage and maintain the landscape. With this in mind, the project has benefited from an on-going dialogue between JMA CLR project personnel and NPS personnel involved in the preparation of a *Vegetation Management Plan* for the site.

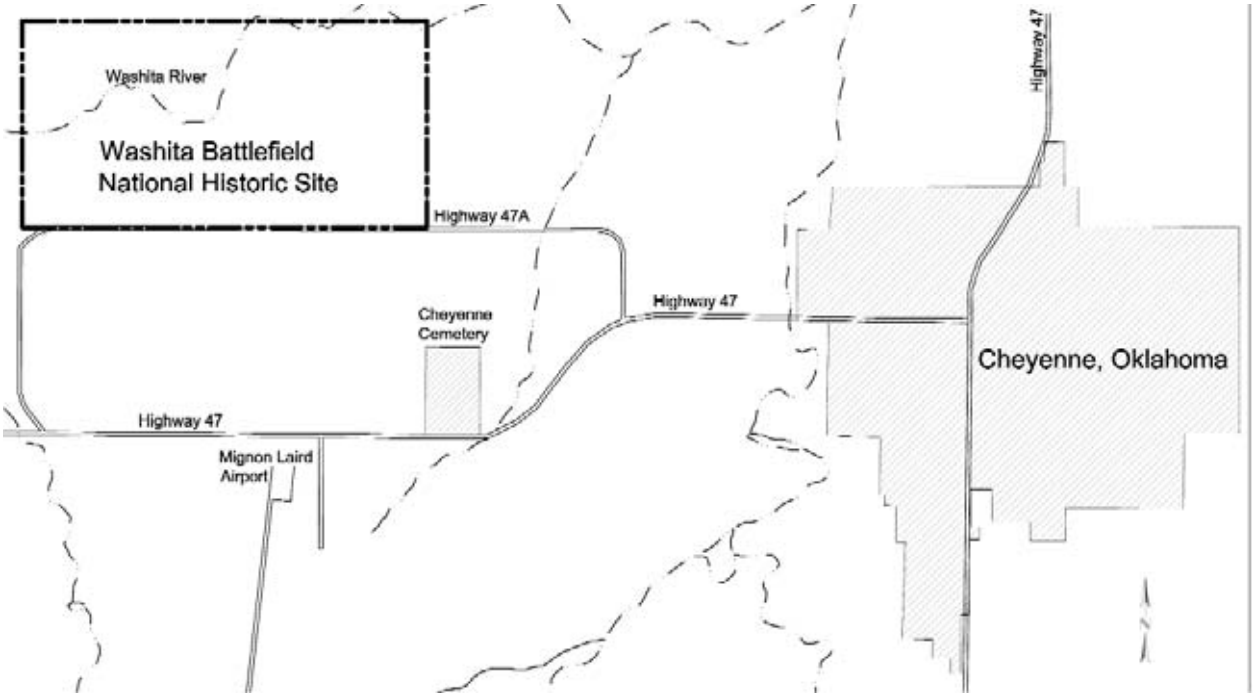
DESCRIPTION OF STUDY BOUNDARIES

Washita Battlefield NHS is a 315.2 acre property located in Rogers Mill County, which abuts Texas in far west-central Oklahoma. The NHS is comprised of a single continuous tract of land that straddles the Washita River just northwest of the city of Cheyenne, Oklahoma. The rectangular site, approximately one mile by one-half mile in size, is bounded to the south by State Highway 47A, which forms a short loop to the north of Highway 47. The western boundary of the NHS extends north, and along the same alignments, of the return portion of State Highway 47A. The Washita River enters the site approximately halfway along the western border and meanders across the northern half of the site in a diagonal direction, abutting the northern boundary along its eastern half. Chief Black Kettle's Cheyenne village is believed to have been located in one of the meanders south of the river in the northeast quarter of the NHS. Location and vicinity maps for Washita Battlefield NHS are included in Figures 1 and 2.



Courtesy of The General Libraries, University of Texas at Austin.

Figure 1. Location Map



Survey provided by Overland Partners, Inc. Map prepared by JMA.

Figure 2. Vicinity Map

HISTORICAL SUMMARY[2]

Washita Battlefield NHS is located on land that was used for centuries by indigenous peoples of North America. By the early 1800s, this area was part of a large wintering and hunting territory for various Plains Indian tribes. As European-American exploration and settlement increased in the region, so too did the presence of the United States Army. In the 1850s, the United States government began to negotiate and sign treaties with Plains Indian tribes. By the 1860s the government had begun to move the Plains Indians onto reservations.

Often it was the United States' failure to honor a treaty that led to further hostilities. Food and clothing that were promised to compensate for lost hunting territory were not delivered and tribes would resort to raids on settlers in retaliation. In 1868, Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan launched a winter campaign against the Cheyenne and Arapaho, who were suspected of such raids. Sheridan chose to attack in winter because Plains Indian tribes would remain relatively inactive during the winter, and he saw a surprise winter attack as an opportunity for success with little resistance.

In November 1868, Chief Black Kettle (who had already signed peace treaties with the U.S. government in 1861, 1865, and 1867) visited Acting Indian Agent Col. William B. Hazen at Fort Cobb, hoping to avoid additional conflict. Colonel Hazen explained that Black Kettle must instead work with General Sheridan, who was waging the campaign. Chief Black Kettle returned to his camp comprised of an estimated fifty-one lodges and 200 to 300 people with news of the refusal on November 26, 1868. That evening, members of his tribe, including his wife, urged the chief to move his camp downriver and closer to other Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, and Plains Apache camps. Black Kettle refused to move until the following morning.

Just after midnight that night Lt. Col. George A. Custer and the 7th Cavalry came upon Black Kettle's village. As part of the Army's winter campaign, Custer had left Fort Dodge for Camp Supply, then headed south following a group of raiders. Wintery weather slowed the advance of the 7th Cavalry, but in the early hours of November 27th they were encouraged when Custer's scouts detected the presence of a village on the floodplain below. Historic accounts of the battle indicate that Custer was doubtful about the existence of the village until he heard a child cry out in the darkness. While the location that Black Kettle had chosen for the village was ideal for a winter camp—close to water and protected from the wind in the low area of the floodplain—it was not ideal from a defensive point of view. Until that morning, however, it had never been necessary to defend this location during winter against an attack.

[2] Condensed from Washita Battlefield NHS GMP, CLI, and draft Historic Resource Study.

On Custer's orders, the 7th Cavalry divided into four battalions, surrounded the village, and attacked at daybreak. As the Cheyenne attempted to escape downriver or across the floodplain, Custer's men fired on them from the uplands overlooking the village. Eventually, the Cavalry rode down into the village to round up the Cheyenne as they tried to escape. Chief Black Kettle and his wife, Medicine Woman Later, were killed as they crossed the Washita River. One of Custer's officers, Major Elliott, and his men headed downriver (east) during the battle to pursue a group of fleeing Cheyenne. Arapaho from one of the lower camps, responding to the sound of gunfire, met Major Elliott and his men in pursuit of the Cheyenne. Greatly outnumbered, Elliott and his men were surrounded and killed. Their mutilated bodies were later found, and Custer was criticized for their deaths.

As warriors from other villages downriver began to gather on the eastern ridges, Custer ordered his men to burn the contents of the Cheyenne village and slaughter most of the 800-head pony herd. This was to prevent the other tribes from using the village's horses or supplies. The warriors watched in horror as the village was destroyed. Fearing attack by the mounting numbers of warriors to the east, Custer faked a charge on the warriors which lasted just long enough to get them to retreat to their villages. Custer then turned his men and went back to Camp Supply. The bank of the Washita River was strewn with dead and the burning remains of the village. The Cheyenne claim that eleven men and nineteen women and children were killed. Fifty-three women and children were taken prisoner.

The Battle of the Washita was a pivotal event in the Southern Plains "Indian Wars." It served as a prototype of winter war campaigns that was used through the 1870s. Many continue to debate the appropriate title for the incident on the banks of the Washita River that day. Battle or massacre, it is an important chapter in the history of the United States' treatment of indigenous people.

In 1890, the U.S. Army placed a memorial on a hill south of Black Kettle's camp. By the mid-1890s, European-American settlement in Oklahoma began to increase, and with it the open range was increasingly converted to agricultural use in suitable areas. The site of the Battle of Washita was used primarily for agriculture into the 1990s, although memorials and special ceremonies were held to commemorate the events of 1868 throughout the 20th century. Construction of a rail grade in 1914 uncovered the grave of a Cheyenne victim; the body was re-interred at the site in 1930. In the 1960s, the state of Oklahoma constructed an overlook pavilion and picnic shelter at the location of the Army memorial and Cheyenne gravesite. In 1996, 315 acres representing the core of the battlefield were purchased by the Oklahoma Conservation Fund. Federal legislation was subsequently passed establishing Washita Battlefield NHS, and the site was donated to the NPS in 1997.

SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLOGY

SCOPE

In October 2001, the NPS developed a scope of work for the Washita Battlefield NHS CLR, Part Two. The following objectives were identified for the report:

- Review relevant existing studies and key related literature including the: 1999 *Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 2001 draft *Historic Resource Study*, 1998 *Vegetation Analysis*, 1997 draft *Archeology of the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site*, 1999 *Oral History Research for Washita Historic Site,* 2000 *Historic Use and Condition Study*, 2000 GIS mapping, *Ethnographic Overview (Phase II) for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site*, and compiled bibliography;

- Meet with park and regional NPS personnel to discuss management goals and objectives, and the scope and level of detail for the CLR Part Two;

- Develop an overall treatment approach and specific short and long-term treatment recommendations with a focus on biotic resources, without repeating the work of the draft *Vegetation Management Plan*; and

- Present treatment recommendations in written and graphic form.

METHODOLOGY

This CLR has been prepared in accordance with the guidance offered in the most recent versions of various federal documents, many of which are cited for their relevance in the NPS scope of work for this project:

- NPS *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques (1998)*
- National Register Bulletin No. 30: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines and Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation*
- NPS Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resources Management Guideline*s
- NPS Management Policies (2001)
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (1996)

- *Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards* (UFAS) or *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines* (ADAAG), whichever provides greater accessibility
- NPS 77: *Natural Resources Management Guidelines*
- NPS *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design*
- SER-82 *Biotic Cultural Resources: Management Considerations for Historic Districts in the National Park System*
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969
- Director's Order 12: *The National Park Service NEPA Compliance Guideline*
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)
- *Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th ed.
- NPS-10A: *Preparation of Design and Construction Drawings*

Existing Conditions Field Surveys

In May 2002, JMA project personnel Rob McGinnis and Matt Whitaker undertook field investigations at Washita Battlefield NHS. They spent four days in the park collecting field data and meeting with NPS park and regional personnel and a Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal representative. Prior to the trip, a planning-level existing conditions AutoCAD base map was developed using electronic mapping files provided to JMA by Overland Partners, Inc. of San Antonio, Texas; GIS data from Greg Jarvis at the Denver Service Center; aerial photos; and the USGS topographic map for the area. The map was field-checked for accuracy during the May 2002 fieldwork visit. Additions, deletions, and other corrections to the base information were noted in the field, as was the character of the primary landscape features inventoried. JMA personnel also photographed the site's primary landscape features during fieldwork efforts. The locations of the photographic station points, and the directions of the views, were noted on the base drawings in the field. Photographs of representative landscape features were selected to illustrate information conveyed within the CLR. These are included in the report and referenced in the text.

Landscape Areas

Because the site has seen a range of human manipulations and the resulting vegetation compositions, as well as differing planned uses, the CLR includes the identification of fourteen landscape areas that reflect historic and planned land uses and management approaches. The landscape areas were utilized to describe and illustrate site-specific and customized treatment recommendations and management guidelines that best reflect the

needs of the resources. Figure 3 illustrates the location of each of the fourteen landscape areas identified in the CLR.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

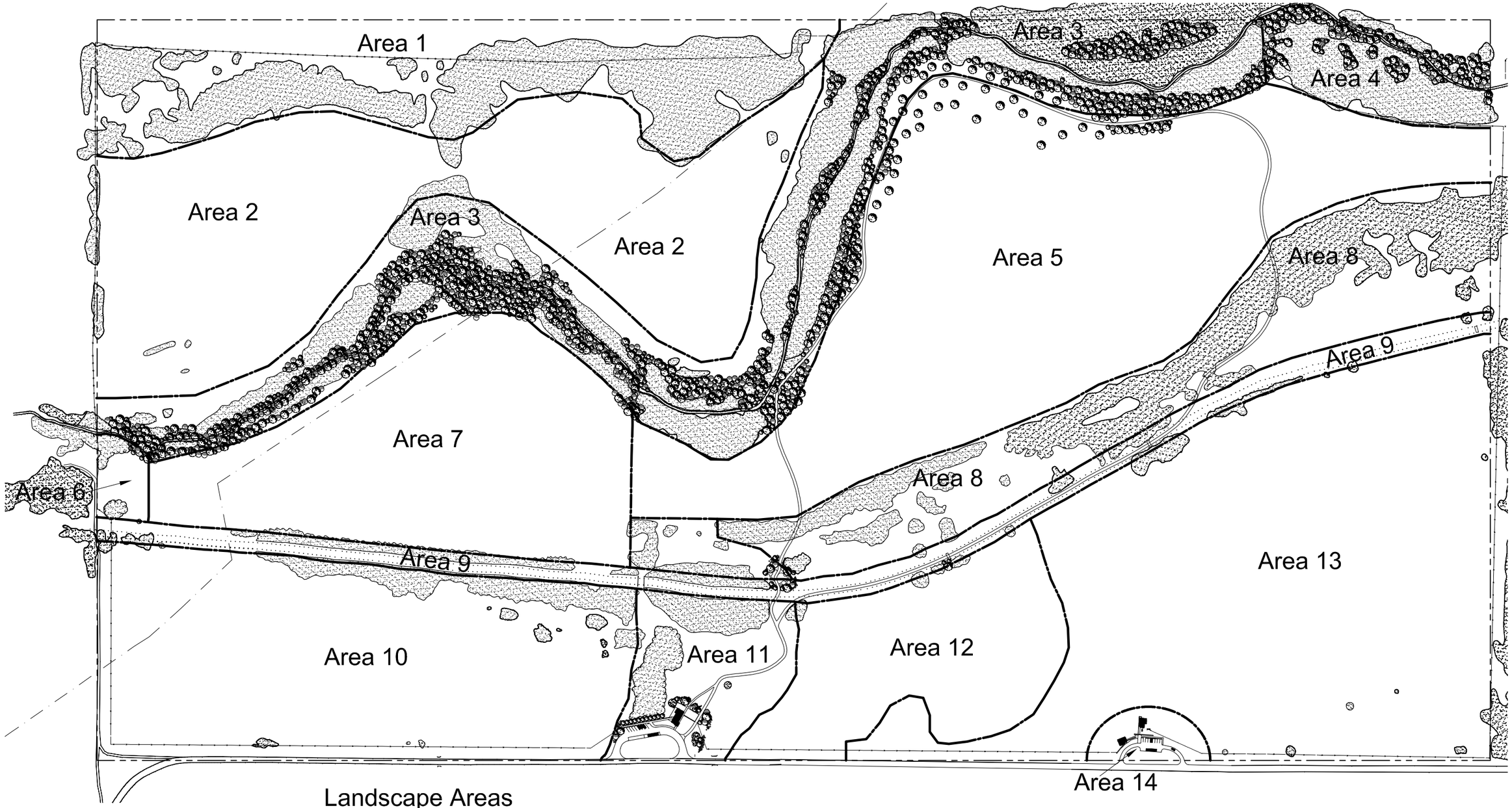
The recommendations provided in Part Two of the CLR for the treatment of Washita Battlefield NHS are intended to articulate a strategy for long-term management of the site that balances natural and cultural resource values. The recommendations are based on an understanding of the significance, integrity, and condition of the site as identified through previous historic and existing conditions research and documentation, and the interpretive goals of the NPS for imparting its history to the visitor. The treatment approach presented in this report is intended to further protection, preservation, and enhancement of the existing landscape, and to be compatible with the future planning and design efforts associated with visitor access, interpretation, and natural and cultural resource preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration.

The treatment plan consists primarily of guidelines and recommendations. An overview passage introduces the philosophical approach to treatment that applies to all recommendations included in the CLR. This is followed by lists of site or area-specific projects. The treatment plan is illustrated graphically at a park-wide scale, and in plan enlargements of important areas where an additional level of detail is necessary to convey numerous recommendations.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

JMA evaluated all four of the treatment alternatives defined by the Secretary of the Interior for their relevance to the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site treatment plan: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each was considered for its applicability to the specific nature of park resources. JMA recommended a combined treatment approach of restoration, preservation, and rehabilitation based on the park's legislation and park planning documents such as the 2001 *GMP* and *Long Range Interpretive Plan*.

The 2001 GMP identified four management prescriptions to guide land use at Washita Battlefield NHS: restoration-conservation, contemplative, extended learning, and development. These prescriptions established the framework for JMA's treatment recommendations. Through collaboration with Pam Benjamin, a Plant Ecologist with the Denver Service Center, and Washita Battlefield NHS personnel, JMA identified fourteen landscape areas and associated management needs that were addressed specifically in the treatment plan (Figure 3).



Landscape Areas

1 North Wooded Bench
2 Northwest Floodplain
3 Riparian Corridor
4 Grazed Riparian
5 Village Floodplain
6 Contemplative Area
7 Southwest Floodplain
8 South Riparian
9 Railroad Grade
10 Southwest Field
11 Trailhead
12 South Central Field
13 Upland Prairie
14 Overlook

Map prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Sources: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Series, Cheyenne Quadrangle Roger Mills County, Oklahoma 1989; U.S.D.A. aerial photograph #16 613030 1993-24. October 1, 1993; 2001 GIS data from Intermountain Region GIS Office, Denver, Colorado, 2002; and AutoCAD drawings from Overland Partners, Inc. San Antonio, Texas.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

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Figure 3. Landscape Areas
Cultural Landscape Report Part Two
Cheyenne, Oklahoma - National Park Service
Not To Scale - September 2003

One of the most difficult tasks facing park management will be the restoration of healthy functioning ecosystems to those areas not slated for development. Past exotic species introductions and drastic changes in the hydrology of the Washita River watershed present the most complex challenges to restoring healthy ecosystems. A systematic effort to eradicate or control exotic species, including prescribed burning, mechanical and chemical removal, native plant seeding, and cooperation with surrounding land owners must be adopted to meet this challenge. An in-depth study of the site's hydrology and a recommended approach to riparian corridor restoration are being developed to support a solution to this problem.

Treatment of a 1920s railroad grade through the middle of the site also poses complex challenges for NHS site managers. Its impact on hydrology, ecology, archeological resources, and the likely cost of its removal require careful study before taking any action.

The Washita Battlefield NHS Long Range Interpretive Plan outlines interpretive themes and programming for the planned Visitor Center that will be located outside the NHS. Redesign of the current primary visitor–resource interaction point at the Overlook is underway. JMA incorporates the forms and materials utilized in the proposed new design of the Overlook and Visitor Center into a design for a trailhead and new trail. Programmatic features, such as a mood-setting wayside and amphitheater, are considered in the treatment plan. Issues associated with trail and wayside placement, such as nesting them within native vegetation and avoiding long linear stretches to preserve views from the Overlook, are also addressed.

A critical component in the management and protection of Washita Battlefield NHS resources are the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, a resource themselves. Involvement of the tribes in all aspects of resource management, and in the development of interpretive themes and the stories presented at the site, is essential to the goals of healing and reconciliation. Both the GMP and Long Range Interpretive Plan recognize the critical nature of this involvement.

The management strategies presented in the Washita Battlefield NHS CLR take into account the sometimes conflicting goals of protecting historic, cultural, and natural resources, and providing for the comfort, education, and enjoyment of visitors. This treatment plan carefully considers the interrelationship of all park resources in its approaches and recommendations. The findings of future studies and investigations relating to the site's history, natural resources, and archeological resources should be utilized to update and evaluate this CLR to assure that management strategies continue to properly address the needs of the park's resources and its visitors.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDY

Because it is a new park in the NPS system, a number of critical issues at Washita Battlefield NHS are already under consideration. A Historic Resource Study, ethnographic study, oral history documentation, archeological assessment, and Cultural Landscape Inventory have been completed or are in the final stages of preparation. The *Riparian Restoration Study*, *Vegetation Management Plan*, and vascular plant survey that are currently underway should be given high priority for completion.

A feasibility study to determine the potential direct and indirect effects of the removal of all or portions of the railroad grade should be completed before action is taken. As new technology allows, the site should continue to be examined for archeological evidence of the battle. Vegetation and riparian restoration activities and results should be documented to inform future NPS restoration projects.

Chapter Two

Treatment Recommendations

CHAPTER TWO

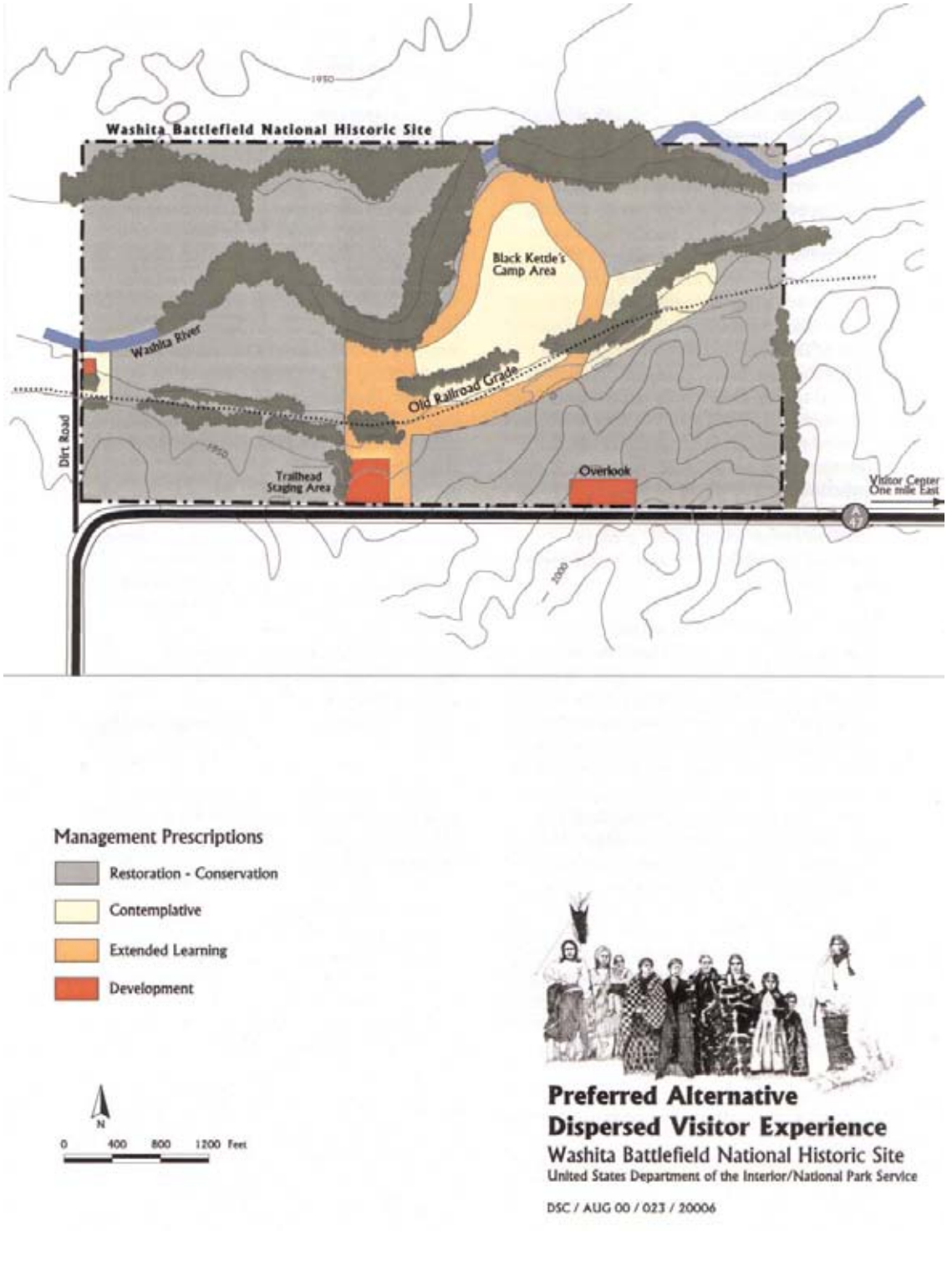
TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This treatment plan was prepared to provide Washita Battlefield National Historic Site (NHS) with an overall vision for the cultural landscape that will guide long-term management and interpretation of the site. The treatment plan seeks to address the needs identified in various park planning documents, including the General Management Plan (GMP), Vegetation Management Plan, Long-Range Interpretive Plan, and Resource Management Plan. These needs are associated with the park's mission to identify, preserve, and protect existing natural, cultural, and historic resources, and to institute proper management and interpretive programs based on an understanding of the resources. Figure 4 is an illustration of land-use designations from the GMP preferred alternative.

This chapter is divided into two sections: Recommended Treatment Approach and Treatment Plan. The recommended treatment approach outlines the alternatives recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for treating historic landscapes, and provides an overarching treatment approach for the Washita Battlefield NHS landscape.

The treatment plan provides detailed recommendations made for managing park resources. The treatment plan is composed of graphic and written design and management recommendations, organized by landscape area. Fourteen landscape areas have been identified based on vegetative composition, ecosystem type, historic and planned land use, and management approaches (Figure 3).



NPS Washita Battlefield NHS General Management Plan /EIS 2001. 38.

Figure 4. GMP Preferred Alternative Illustration

Within each landscape area, a site-specific approach to landscape management is outlined and supported by treatment recommendations. The recommendations are subsequently organized by landscape characteristic, including: natural systems, spatial organization, land use, circulation, topography, vegetation, buildings and structures, small-scale features, views, and archeological resources. Specific project descriptions that address implementation of the treatment recommendations are summarized at the end of each landscape area section. The treatment plan is depicted graphically at a park-wide scale, and on plan enlargements.

RECOMMENDED TREATMENT APPROACH

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

The Department of the Interior currently recognizes four appropriate treatment alternatives for historic landscapes: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These are defined and discussed in both *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and NPS's Director's Order Number 28*: Cultural Resources Management Guideline*s. DO-28 provides the following definitions of the four treatment alternatives for cultural landscapes:

> *Preservation* maintains the existing integrity and character of a cultural landscape by arresting or retarding deterioration caused by natural forces and normal use. It includes both maintenance and stabilization. Maintenance is a systematic activity mitigating wear and deterioration of a cultural landscape by protecting its conditions. In light of the dynamic qualities of a landscape, maintenance is essential for the long-term preservation of individual features and integrity of the entire landscape. Stabilization involves re-establishing the stability of an unsafe, damaged, or deteriorated cultural landscape, while maintaining its existing character.
>
> *Rehabilitation* improves the utility or function of a cultural landscape, through repair or alteration, to make possible an efficient compatible use while preserving those portions or features that are important in defining its significance.
>
> *Restoration* accurately depicts the form, features, and character of a cultural landscape as it appeared at a specific period or as intended by its original constructed design. It may involve the reconstruction of missing historic features, and selective removal of later features, some having cultural value in themselves.
>
> *Reconstruction* entails depicting the form, features, and details of a non-surviving cultural landscape, or any part thereof, as it appeared at a

> specific period or as intended by its original constructed design. Reconstruction of an entire landscape is always a last-resort measure for addressing a management objective and will be undertaken only after policy review in the regional and Washington offices.[1]

RECOMMENDED TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE

The treatment plan provided in this chapter is intended to improve the ability of Washita Battlefield NHS site managers to meet current and future functional, maintenance, and management needs. An approach that includes aspects of Preservation, Restoration, and Rehabilitation appears best suited to guide the treatment of Washita resources. This approach will allow the park to meet the goals outlined by its enabling legislation and reaffirmed in its 2000 Resource Management Plan and 2001 GMP. This combination of approaches would apply variously to different aspects of landscape management. Remnants of historic features in good condition, such as areas of healthy prairie or views, should be **preserved**. Degraded plant communities should be **restored** to promote a site-wide healthy ecosystem. Areas that are the focus of visitor interpretation and education should be **rehabilitated** in as non-intrusive a manner as possible. This varied approach allows NHS personnel to protect the site's resources, work towards conveying landscape character that is more consistent with the period of significance, support educational and interpretive programs for visitors, and honor the site's sacred meaning to the Cheyenne and Arapaho.

[1] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1997), 98-102.

GENERAL DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The list of recommendations outlined below represents an overview of the primary goals for landscape treatment and management identified as part of this cultural landscape report (CLR).

— Undertake all work in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, and Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* and all applicable local, state, and federal codes, regulations, and policies.

— Protect, retain, and maintain all contributing features of Washita Battlefield NHS.

— Retain the integrity of the historic landscape by protecting individual elements as well as the character of the overall landscape.

— Collaborate with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes in the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the site. Input from the tribes will be critical in areas that are highly sensitive to change, such as the location of the village and the horse kill area, particularly if the NHS is going to meet the GMP-stated goals of healing and reconciliation.

— Limit new construction to within the areas noted for development in the GMP. In these areas, construct limited new additions to the Washita Battlefield NHS landscape as necessary to increase the functionality of the site, enhance the visitor experience, or achieve interpretive goals. Base the design of new additions on the guidelines provided in the CLR treatment plan.

— Incorporate only native plants into new plantings. Consider particularly native species of grasses, trees, and shrubs currently found growing within the park, and those known to have existed in or before 1868. Prevent the introduction of any invasive alien species as part of new plantings or otherwise on the site.

— Consider carefully, when adding new features, the potential impact of development on archeological resources, existing patterns of spatial organization, and the historic character of the site as a whole. New design within the historic landscape must be based on a thorough understanding of the integrity of the site to avoid diminishing it.

— Establish park standards for site furnishings, including benches, trash receptacles, lighting fixtures, drinking fountains, sign systems, and other small-scale features.

— Recognize the critical importance of natural resources to the cultural landscape and site history, and strive to maintain the ecological integrity of the site.

— Cooperate with surrounding landowners to maintain the quality of existing views beyond park boundaries. This may include the acquisition of scenic or conservation easements on surrounding properties.

— Analyze the potential impacts of change on the site's landscape prior to the implementation of any project.

— Control and monitor visitor access, use, and impacts to the park to prevent damage to the park's cultural and natural resources, particularly, but not limited to, sensitive ecological areas such as the riparian corridor, sacred sites such as the village floodplain, and potential and known archeological resources.

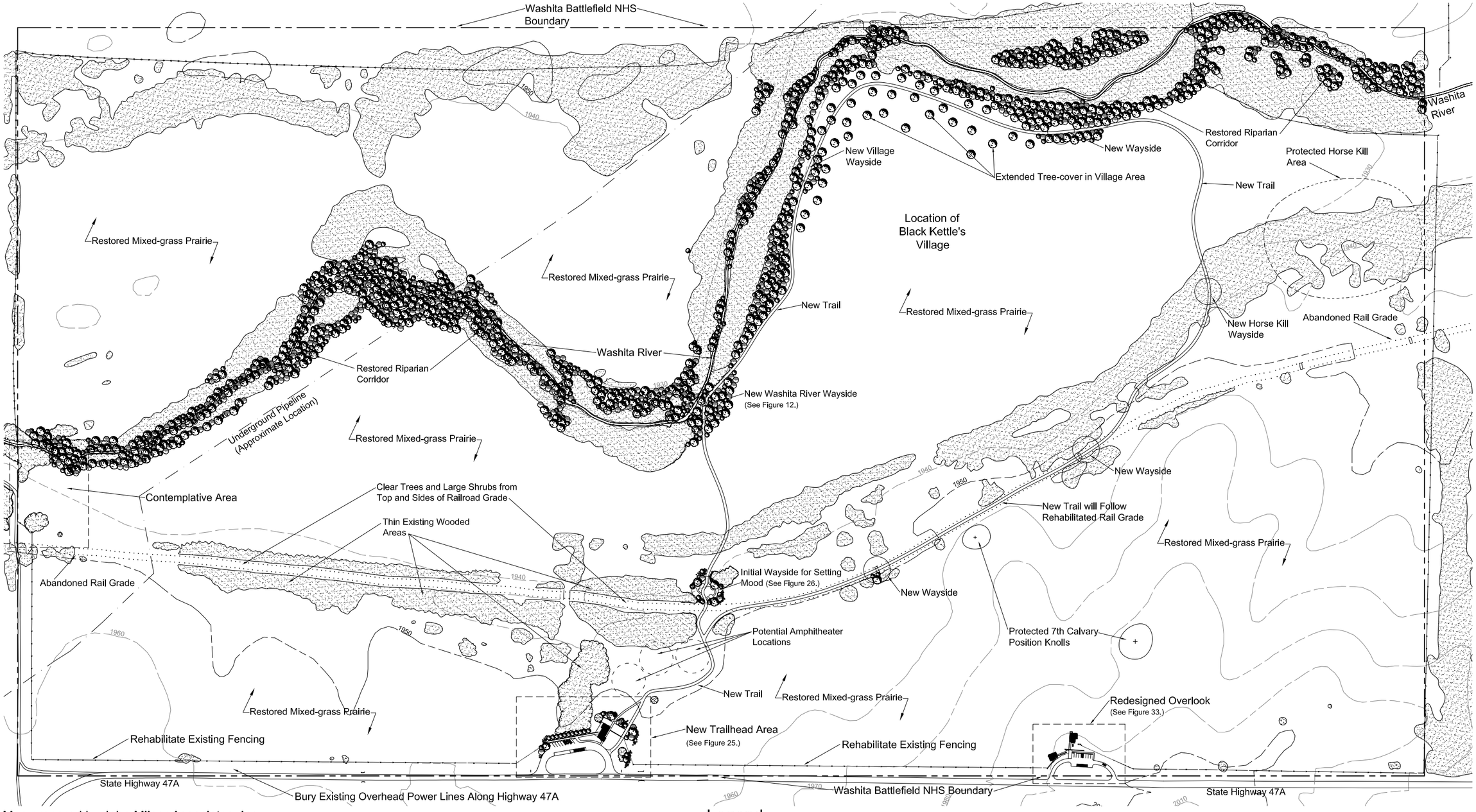
— Develop a general document to guide treatment and new construction at the battlefield that is similar in scope to the *Plan of Action For the Treatment and Disposition of Human Remains, Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects of Cultural Patrimony That May be Discovered During Planned Archeological Activities at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site*. Ensure all contractors and NPS personnel working in the park are aware of the procedures laid out in this document.

— Document carefully any features that are removed.

General Park Projects

See Figure 5. Treatment Plan – All drawings represent conceptual designs only.

Three projects associated with the implementation of the CLR treatment plan extend across more than one landscape area: establishment of an interpretive trail; burying utility lines; and installation of uniform fencing along the NHS boundary. These projects are discussed in detail within each of the areas in which they fall. Of these projects, the interpretive trail is the most complex and will require the most planning and forethought. The trail will provide access to most of the important features in the park. If not properly implemented, the trail could pose a threat to landscape resources. Wayside nodes, contemplative spaces, and the trail corridor are potentially subject to compaction from heavy use and infestations by invasive plants inadvertently carried there by visitors. The design and layout of the trail corridor and associated features should take these issues into consideration. Once constructed, the trail corridor and its associated features should be monitored for impacts to the resources, with a goal being early detection.



Map prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Sources: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Series, Cheyenne Quadrangle Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, 1989; U.S.D.A. aerial photograph #16 613030 1993-24. October 1, 1993; 2001 GIS data from Intermountain Region GIS Office, Denver, Colorado, 2002; and AutoCAD drawings from Overland Partners, Inc. San Antonio, Texas.

Legend

- NHS Boundary
- 10' Contour Interval
- 50' Contour Interval
- Roads
- Trail
- Washita River
- Buildings
- Railroad Grade
- Pipeline
- Fence
- Existing Tree-cover
- Proposed Tree-cover

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

N

Figure 5. Treatment Plan

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Cheyenne, Oklahoma - National Park Service
Not To Scale - September 2003

Two additional projects apply to the entire site: the procurement of an aerial photogrammetric survey to provide good baseline information for future planning and implementation projects, and the completion and implementation of the Vegetation Management Plan. The list of park-wide projects includes:

— Construct an interpretive loop trail from the Trailhead area to the river and around the presumed village location.

— Bury electric lines along Highway 47A a the south side of the park.

— Select and install uniform fence styles throughout the park.

— Procure an aerial photogrammetric survey of the park.

— Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.

TREATMENT BY LANDSCAPE AREA

See Figures 3. Landscape Areas and *5*. Treatment Plan – All drawings represent conceptual designs only.

LANDSCAPE AREA 1: NORTH WOODED BENCH

This approximately 22.7-acre area stretches along the site's northern boundary between its northwestern corner and its center. The slightly rolling bench, with a southern aspect, serves as a transition zone between the Washita River floodplain and the upland prairie. Dominant woody species include American wild olive, black willow, American elm, hackberry, soapberry, Chickasaw plum, and cottonwood. Dominant herbaceous species include little bluestem, various grammas, switch grass, as well as yucca and cactus. Non-native invasive species include tamarisk and downy brome grass. Analysis indicates that this area of the park has never been plowed. Due to livestock grazing and the suppression of fire, however, the area does exhibit signs of ecological degradation.[2]

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone and should remain undeveloped. Native ecosystem restoration should be conducted to yield a healthy, functioning, open wooded vegetation community. According to the park's GMP, this area will not be accessible to visitors.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Utilize controlled burns and eradicate or control invasive alien species to help restore the ecosystem. This area's natural systems are in relatively good condition; the landforms and vegetation retain a high degree of integrity. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Re-establish historic spatial patterns in this area through restoration of the ecosystem.

[2] Pam Benjamin, Draft Vegetation Management Plan (Denver, CO: National Park Service, 2002), 4.

Land Use

- Avoid development in this area. Maintain it as a Restoration-Conservation zone.

Circulation

- Avoid construction of circulation features in this area.

Topography

- Avoid changes to this area's topography.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation within this area.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid construction or placement of buildings or structures in this area.

Small-scale Features

- Avoid adding any small-scale features within this area, with the exception of NHS boundary fencing. Boundary fencing should be of the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive type feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire.

Views

- Cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views to surrounding properties. While visitors to Washita Battlefield NHS are unlikely to venture across the river to this landscape area, views into the North Wooded Bench from visitor-use areas will likely be available. Management of the area to promote the health of the natural features and systems will allow for historically appropriate views into this area.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area.

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.

- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

LANDSCAPE AREA 2: NORTHWEST FLOODPLAIN

This 37.3-acre, nearly level area lies south of the North Wooded Bench (Area 1) and straddles a bend in the Washita River (Figure 6). Like other portions of the floodplain, there are signs of old river channels within this area. Historically, it was used for pasturing livestock and as a hay and wheat field.[3] Due to past agricultural activities, the area exhibits significant signs of ecosystem degradation. Reductions in stream flow and flood events due to the many flood control dams that have been built within the watershed, as well as on-site agriculture, have greatly altered the floodplain's vegetation patterns and composition.

Chickasaw plum thickets are common on the floodplain. Herbaceous species typical of the area include camphorweed and bundle flower. These native species co-exist with a number of non-native invasive plant species such as tamarisk, downy brome grass, yellow sweet clover, Bermuda grass, and Johnson grass.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone. It should remain undeveloped, and restoration efforts should be conducted to re-establish the native wet prairie ecosystem characterized by mixed grasses and forbs. Like Area 1, the Northwest Floodplain area is not slated to be accessible to visitors according to the GMP. Its character and treatment are important to interpretation of the battle due to its proximity and visibility to visitor use areas.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Conduct controlled burns, and eradicate or control invasive alien plant species to restore the ecological health of this area. Unlike Area 1, this area's natural systems have been greatly impacted by the site's agricultural history. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Re-establish historic spatial patterns in this area through restoration of the ecosystem.

[3] Priscilla Stotts and Robert DuBey, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Vegetation Analysis. (Santa Fe, NM: National Park Service, 1998), 13-14.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 6 (H-30). View of Northwest Floodplain from across Washita River

Land Use

- Avoid development in this area. Maintain it as a Restoration-Conservation zone.

Circulation

- Avoid construction of circulation features in this area.

Topography

- Avoid changes to this area's topography.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation within this area.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid construction or placement of buildings or structures in this area.

Small-Scale Features

- Avoid adding any small-scale features within this area, with the exception of NHS boundary fencing. Boundary fencing should be of the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive type feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire.

Views

- Cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views to surrounding properties. While visitors to Washita Battlefield NHS are unlikely to venture across the river to this area, views into the Northwest Floodplain from visitor-use areas will likely be possible. Management of the area to promote the health of natural features and systems will allow for historically appropriate views into this area.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area.

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.

- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

LANDSCAPE AREA 3: RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

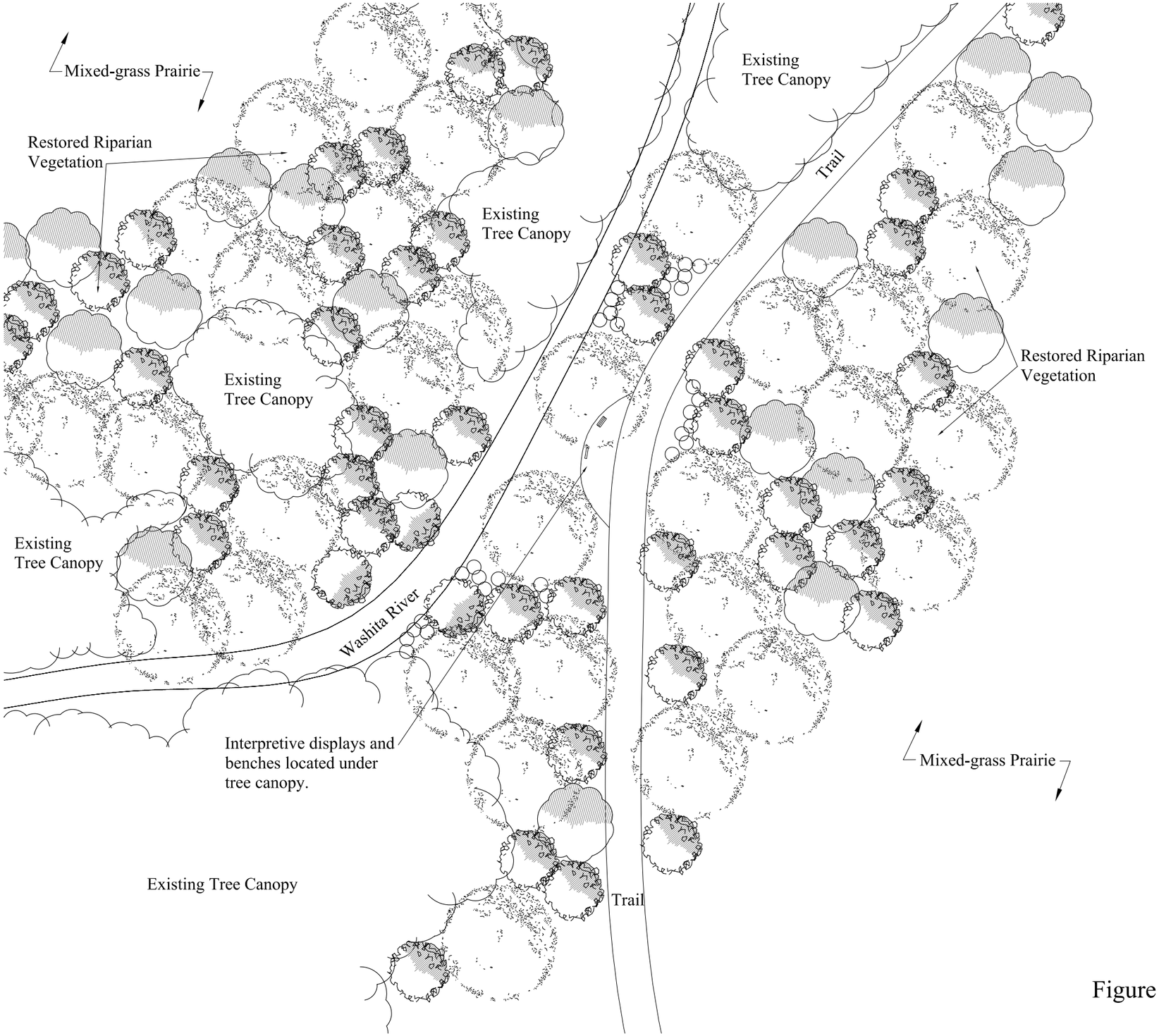
See Figure 7 Washita River Wayside Conceptual Plan - All drawings represent conceptual designs only.

The Riparian Corridor for the Washita River occupies 36.1 acres and averages a width of 240 feet as it crosses the NHS (Figures 8 through 10). The average bank-to-bank width of the river within the area is twenty-one feet. The width of the riparian corridor in 1868 was significantly broader than it is today. The placement of hundreds of dams within the watershed has resulted in reduced stream flow and fewer flood events. This, coupled with on-site agricultural practices, has greatly altered riparian vegetation patterns beyond repair; it is not likely that the historic configuration and composition of vegetation communities can be restored, given the limited control that the park maintains over the river corridor. A technical memorandum describing the assessment of the riparian corridor of the Washita River within the Washita Battlefield NHS from October 24, 2001, explains:

> The land-use history of the watershed has major relevance to the condition of the stream. This part of Oklahoma was heavily impacted by the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, causing many people to lose their farms. Agricultural practices in those days, unfortunately, were conductive to erosion from both wind and water. It is reported that most of the topsoil that was under the original prairie is gone. It is likely that with the watershed in such deteriorated condition, huge amounts of sediment were washed into the creeks.
>
> Since the 1950s, numerous flood control structures have been built on tributaries of the Washita River. Soil conservation efforts have been applied to many private ranches and farms, and the establishment of the Black Kettle Grasslands has improved land management on a significant portion of the watershed. Therefore, present stream morphology represents an ongoing change from the Dust Bowl-era channel to one that is adjusting to present-day water and sediment conditions.[4]

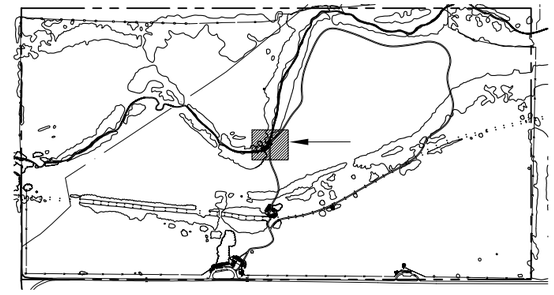
The Riparian Condition Assessment memorandum provides a brief two-phase approach for riparian corridor treatment. Phase one focuses on the preparation of a rigorous analysis of watershed hydrology; phase two involves the immediate planting of cottonwood trees within the corridor. The park has followed this advice, and has initiated

[4] Richard Inglis and Joel Wagner, Memorandum to Superintendent, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site. 24 October 2001, 1-2.



The first wayside along the trail, this stop would allow visitors views up and down the Washita River. Like each of the proposed waysides, this one is nested in native vegetation to screen it from the broad views available at the Overlook. Vegetative clearing should occur just enough to allow for interpretive displays and circulation. Native riparian grasses and forbs and some shrubs should be maintained to prevent erosion. This would be the only direct connection to the river along the trail to limit damage to the riparian ecosystem and respect the sacred meaning of the river to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

Location Map



Legend

Trails

River

Existing Trees

Proposed Trees

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

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Figure 7. Washita River Wayside Conceptual Plan

Cultural Landscape Report Part Two

Designed by Overland Partners, Inc. San Antonio, Texas

Scale 1" = 30' - September 2003

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 8 (D-22). Washita River and Riparian Corridor

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 9 (E-4). Tamarisk along bank of river

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 10 (H-27). Washita River oxbow

a Riparian Restoration Study. Cottonwood saplings have already begun to be planted within the corridor. In 1999, park personnel began eradicating tamarisk, an invasive non-native tree, which had come to dominate large portions of the riparian corridor at the expense of native herbaceous species such as plains bluestem, horseweed, and hedge nettle. Other invasive species known to exist within the area include downy brome grass, Bermuda grass, and black locust. Native woody species within the floodplain in the area include American elm, cottonwood, hackberry, Chickasaw plum, indigo, and various willow species.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone and should remain undeveloped. Native ecosystem restoration should be conducted in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning riparian ecosystem. Both the draft Vegetation Management Plan and draft Riparian Restoration Study should be consulted for critical interim treatment options (until these reports are finalized), such as the establishment of cottonwood trees in the corridor. This area of the NHS is critical to the historic significance and to the ecological health of the NHS. Its high visibility from visitor-use areas, and the dependence of scene restoration on a properly functioning riparian ecosystem render treatment in this area a high priority.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Remove and control tamarisk, and reintroduce cottonwoods, willows, dogwoods, and native herbaceous species to stabilize the stream bank and slow erosion. Natural systems in the Riparian Corridor have been greatly degraded by the reduction in water table levels, invasion by tamarisk, and agricultural practices. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan and forthcoming Riparian Restoration Study for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other ecosystem issues.

Spatial Organization

- Restore tree cover within the river corridor. Historic spatial patterns in this area correspond to those of the site's natural ecosystem. The spatial patterns along the river are particularly significant to the site's history due to its connection to the siting of the Chief Black Kettle's Cheyenne village. Historic accounts of the site indicate that a much wider band of tree cover existed in 1868; reduction in the current water table and flood events will not allow for the restoration of such a large area of trees, however. As this area is the primary focus of many of the visitors, even a few trees here would go a long way toward conveying the actual spatial organization of the site during the battle. The trail and interpretive wayside should be nested within native vegetation and in such a way as to be as

unobtrusive as possible and not visible from a distance or from other areas along the trail.

Land Use

- Avoid development in this area. Maintain it as a Restoration-Conservation zone. Limit visitor access out of respect for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, and in order to protect fragile stream bank vegetation.

Circulation

- Establish a minimal river crossing to allow service access north of the river, if needed. The Riparian Restoration Study team should be consulted on the most appropriate form such a crossing should take in order to minimize impacts on stream health and morphology. Intrusion on the historic scene should be considered in determining the form, location, and type of materials used for the crossing.

- Limit visitor access to the river to one or two points. Location of a wayside on the riverbank as indicated in Figure 5 would allow those visitors using primarily the first leg of the trail to access the river and the views both up and down the channel. The wayside should edge the main trail. Establish a viewing area in front of the wayside that is surfaced with mown grass. If heavy use leads to deterioration of the grass surface, upgrade it to aggregate, preferably a local material. High-use wayside viewing areas might also require the addition of Resin Pavement™ or a similar binding agent in conjunction with the aggregate. Visitor access along the river should be monitored for its impact to the area. A method for restricting access, should damage result from excessive use, should be identified. Consideration of a method involving vegetation to control visitor access should be attempted first, with temporary and then permanent fencing used as a last resort. Avoid construction of any other circulation features in the riparian corridor.

Topography

- Follow Riparian Restoration Study recommendations for bank repair and stabilization. Avoid other topographic alterations to this area.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation within this area.

Buildings and Structures

- A minimal river crossing to allow service access north of the river and trail boardwalks in seasonally wet areas are the only structures recommended for this area. The Riparian Restoration Study team should be consulted on the most appropriate form such a crossing should take in order to minimize impacts on stream health and morphology. Intrusion on the historic scene should be considered in determining the form, location, and type of materials used for the crossing and boardwalks. Avoid the construction or placement of any other structures in this area. Avoid construction or placement of buildings in this area.

Small-scale Features

- Avoid adding any small-scale features within this area, with the exception of NHS boundary fencing. Boundary fencing should be of the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive type feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire.

Views

- Cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views to surrounding properties. Views of this area are critical in the telling of the events of November 1868. Management of the area to promote the health of the natural features and systems will allow for historically appropriate views into this area.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area.

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Maintain and increase the density of cottonwood trees in the riparian corridor.
- Complete the Riparian Restoration Study and develop a plan for its implementation.
- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Finalize the design for the trail and waysides.
- Construct a trail and/or boardwalks.
- Construct an interpretive wayside as the first stop along trail.

- Continue removal of tamarisk.

- Construct, if necessary, a river crossing to allow service/maintenance access to northern portion of the park. The crossing should be located and constructed to allow for the least disruption to the historic scene. The Riparian Restoration Study should, if possible, address possible design solutions.

- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

LANDSCAPE AREA 4: GRAZED RIPARIAN

The 6.2 acre Grazed Riparian area forms the northeastern corner of the site and is separated from the rest of the park by fencing to allow access to the river by an adjacent property owner (Figure 11). This area is dominated by weedy plant species and has significantly less tree and shrub cover than other portions of the riparian corridor.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone and should remain undeveloped. Native ecosystem restoration should be conducted in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning riparian ecosystem. Solutions for improvement of this section of the river and this area of the park must include the continued access to the river by the adjacent property owner. The Vegetation Management Plan and Riparian Restoration Study should consider restoration solutions for this area that provide for improved ecosystem health yet maintain access to the river by the adjacent landowner. Because of the proximity of this landscape area to the site of Chief Black Kettle's village, the high visibility of the area to visitors to the NHS, and its importance to maintaining a healthy riparian corridor, establishing a treatment approach that incorporates ecological restoration should be a high priority.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Reintroduce cottonwoods, willows, dogwoods, and native herbaceous species to stabilize the stream bank and slow erosion. Natural systems in this area have been greatly degraded by the reduction in water table levels and agricultural practices. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan and the Riparian Restoration Study for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other ecosystem restoration actions.

Spatial Organization

- Restore tree cover within the river corridor. Historic spatial patterns in this area correspond to those of the site's natural ecosystem. The spatial patterns along the river are particularly significant to the site's history due to its connection to the siting of Chief Black Kettle's Cheyenne village. Historic accounts of the site indicate a much wider band of tree cover in 1868. Reduction in the current water table and flood events may not support the restoration of such a large area of trees, however.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 11 (E-10). Grazed Riparian Area

Land Use

- Avoid development in this area. Maintain it as a Restoration-Conservation zone.

Circulation

- Avoid construction of circulation features in this area.

Topography

- Follow Riparian Restoration Study recommendations for bank repair and stabilization. Avoid other topographic alterations to this area.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation within this area.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid constructing or placing buildings or structures in this area.

Small-scale Features

- Avoid adding any small-scale features within this area, with the exception of fencing. NHS Boundary and other fencing should be of the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive type feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire.

Views

- Cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views to surrounding properties. While visitors to Washita Battlefield NHS are unlikely to venture across the river to this landscape area, views into the Grazed Riparian Area from visitor-use areas will likely be available. Management of the area to promote the health of the natural features and systems will allow for historically appropriate views into this area.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area.

Landscape Area Projects

- Maintain and increase the density of cottonwood trees in the riparian corridor.

- Complete the Riparian Restoration Study and develop a plan for its implementation.
- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

LANDSCAPE AREA 5: VILLAGE FLOODPLAIN

The 49.4-acre Village Floodplain is considered to be the location of Black Kettle's village on the morning of the attack by U.S. 7th Calvary (Figures 12 and 13). The floodplain has changed significantly since 1868, when it likely was characterized by a mixed cottonwood/mesic prairie floodplain community. The lack of archeological evidence within the area indicates that past flood events have significantly altered soil deposits. Today, reductions in stream flow and flood events due to the placement of hundreds of dams within the watershed, as well as on-site agricultural practices, have greatly altered the floodplain's natural vegetation patterns.[5] The floodplain was cleared in the 1970s for use as pasture and more recently planted in non-native plains bluestem grass. Aerial photographs from the 1970s indicate that two cottonwood-lined drainages crossed the area, suggesting a former hydrologic link across the floodplain between the South Riparian Area and the Riparian Corridor.

In 1999, the NPS began to restore native grasses to the Village Floodplain. After a prescribed burn, the area was tilled and planted in sorghum for two years. In 2001, the area was planted with a native prairie grass mixture. Today the area has a mix of native prairie species and some persistent exotics such as Johnson grass.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP variously as including Contemplative, Extended Learning, and Restoration-Conservation zones. Areas designated as Restoration-Conservation zones should remain undeveloped with native ecosystem restoration applied in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning, dry mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. Much of the area included within the zones designated for Contemplative and Extended Learning activity overlaps with the location of Black Kettle's village on the morning of November 27, 1868, and is therefore considered sacred to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Access to the village site should be restricted for non-tribe members out of respect for the sacredness of the site. The Extended Learning zone will contain the main visitor trail through the site, and provide visitor and emergency access along with interpretive displays and areas for rest. A limited number of informal contemplative spaces should provide for more private reflection away from the main trail.

As the location of Black Kettle's village, this area is highly significant, both in its indispensability to the mission of the park and in its meaning and importance to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. The Village Floodplain will hold a high degree of interest for NHS visitors and will see use by both the public and tribal members. This interest and use will offer the best opportunities for communicating the story of the Battle of Washita, to reconcile grievances, and to offer a place of healing.

[5] Benjamin, Vegetation Management Plan, 5.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 12 (D-12). Village Floodplain looking northeast.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 13 (I-21). Village Floodplain from the middle of the site looking east.

In light of this, the layout and design of trail features should and will be highly scrutinized. Layout and design elements, such as interpretive waysides and contemplative spaces, should be given careful consideration and involve close collaboration with tribal representatives. To fulfill the goals of allowing multiple perspectives, healing, and the conveyance of the deep meaning this place has for Cheyenne and Arapaho people, the tribes must be involved in shaping this area.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Utilize controlled burns and eradicate or control invasive alien species to help restore the ecosystem and encourage the return of native plant species. While this area was significantly degraded only a few years ago, recent restoration activity has begun to reverse the damage from agricultural practices. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Attempt to restore tree cover in the area adjacent to the Riparian Corridor. Historic spatial patterns in this area correspond to those of the site's natural ecosystem. As the location of Black Kettle's village, spatial patterns in this area are critical to the site's history. Historic accounts indicate a much wider band of tree cover over portions of this area in 1868.[6] While reduction in the current water table and flood events might not allow the restoration of such a large area of trees, significant effort should be directed at restoring as much of this tree band as possible especially in this area. Trail, interpretive, rest, and contemplative features should be nested within native vegetation, unobtrusive as possible, and not visible from a distance or from other areas along the trail.

Land Use

- Avoid development with the Restoration-Conservation zone. Contemplative spaces in this area should have limited and informal features that respect its sacred designation by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. The Extended Learning zone in this area should provide visitor, service, and emergency access to the site, as well as areas for interpretive displays and rest, while maintaining a level of respect for the sensitivity of the site.

[6] Stan Hoig, *The Battle of Washita* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1976), 138.

Circulation

- Establish the primary trail to accommodate visitor, service, and emergency access to the center of the site. Materials for the main trail should blend with the site's native materials by using local aggregate and a binding agent such as Resin Pavement™, a natural pine resin that is marketed as suitable for sensitive natural environments.[7] Waysides should edge the main trail. Establish a viewing area in front of the wayside that is surfaced with mown grass. If heavy use leads to deterioration of the grass surface, upgrade it to aggregate, preferably of a local material. High-use wayside viewing areas might also require the addition of Resin Pavement™ binding agent in conjunction with the aggregate.

  The first segment of the trail from the orientation building to the river should be barrier-free and accessible to the greatest extent feasible without impacting the historic scene. The trail section within this area and leading to the river should meet or exceed the trail construction standards established in the Final Report from the Regulatory Negotiation Committee (of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board) on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. Trails for contemplative spaces should be surfaced with mown grass. Trail layout should avoid long linear stretches to minimize views of the trail from surrounding areas. Interpretive waysides and contemplative spaces should be pocketed into the natural landscape in such a way as to minimize their visibility from surrounding areas. Signs and interpretive displays should encourage visitors to stay on the trail to avoid resource damage and to respect the sacredness of the site.

Topography

- Avoid alterations to this area's topography except for the trail corridor manipulation necessary to allow for barrier-free access where feasible and to minimize erosion.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area. Zones around interpretive waysides and contemplative spaces, as well as any mown grass trails will require occasional mowing. Mown grass areas should consist only of native grass species. Vegetation along trails should be managed to discourage departure from the trail to limit visitor impacts on natural systems, archeological sites, and to respect the sacred nature of the site.

[7] http://www.sspco.org/resinpavment.html accessed on May 13, 2003.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid the construction or placement of buildings in this area. Structures to provide shade and/or access (such as low boardwalks or wood puncheons in wet areas) should be kept at a minimum to reduce intrusion on the historic scene. Such structures should blend into the natural landscape using native materials when possible, and maintain a low profile so as not to be visible from a distance.

Small-scale Features

- Avoid adding small-scale features in this area whenever possible. Small-scale features should be minimal, blend with the natural landscape, and maintain a low profile so as not to be visible from a distance. Small-scale features that might be necessary within the area include informational signs, interpretive displays, audio devices, benches, and trash receptacles. NHS boundary fencing should be of the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive type feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire. Small-scale features in this area should be consistent with similar features used elsewhere in the park.

Views

- Maintain historic views and view corridors within this area. Views into this area are the most significant in the park. The visibility of this area from surrounding high grounds played a strategic role in the historic battle as 7th Cavalry soldiers (including Custer who commanded from a nearby knoll) took positions here to begin the assault on the village. Views into this area are not only historically significant, they are also a principal focus of the park's Overlook—a primary point of visitor contact. Views into this area should give visitors a sense of the 1868 landscape. Trails, structures, and small-scale features should be designed, located, and constructed so as not to detract from the scene. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area. Archeological clearing should be performed prior to the construction of trails, waysides, or contemplative spaces. The horse kill location should be protected and monitored according to the Archeological Survey and Soil Testing at

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site recommendations. Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act should be met.[8]

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Increase, as possible, native tree density adjacent to the riparian corridor.
- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Finalize the design for the trail and waysides.
- Build primary trail/accommodate service access through the area, including sections of boardwalk in seasonally wet areas.
- Construct interpretive waysides along the trail. Proposed locations are indicated on Figure 5.
- Construct a limited number of informal contemplative spaces along the trail.
- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

[8] Loy C. Neff, *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site* (Tucson, AZ: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service-Intermountain Region Western Archeological and Conservation Center, 2002), 60.

LANDSCAPE AREA 6: CONTEMPLATIVE AREA

The 1.25-acre Contemplative Area is situated between the railroad grade and the Washita River, and stretches 200 feet east from the western boundary (Figure 14). This area edges the Southwest Floodplain and the Riparian Corridor. One quarter of the area is covered by woody growth with the remainder in open grassland. Woody species include cottonwood, indigo, and American elm. Herbaceous species include annual sunflower. Invasive species include tamarisk, Bermuda grass, downy brome grass, and kochia.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as part of the Contemplative and Development zones, and is intended to provide the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes an area for private reflection and ceremonies. A tribal representative present during the site visit for this project noted the tribe's interest in establishing parking, a place for elders to sit, and access to the river. The site's well-maintained appearance was also noted as important to tribal members. Specific design of the Contemplative Area will be completed by NPS following further consultation with tribal representatives.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Manage the natural systems in this area in accordance with the recommendations for the Southwest Floodplain and Riparian Corridor areas. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan and the Riparian Restoration Study for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other ecosystem issues.

Spatial Organization

- Screen automobile parking from view from the reflection space and the rest of the park, using vegetation. Screen the reflection space from view of the rest of the park. Establish trails to be concealed within native vegetation and wide enough for easy passage of a wheelchair.

Land Use

- Avoid development within the area, with the exception of a parking area.

Circulation

- Discontinue use of the existing service access road to the interior of the park from the farm road running adjacent to the park's western boundary. Convert a portion of the roadbed for a small gravel parking area. Pedestrian trails of

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 14 (G-9). Contemplative Area looking east.

packed earth or local aggregate should be constructed to access the reflection space and the river. Mown prairie grasses should be used to allow for circulation inside the reflection area. The Contemplative Area should be maintained to allow easy access and use by tribal members.

Topography

- Avoid alterations to the area's topography, except for trail corridor manipulations to allow for universal accessibility and to minimize erosion.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area. Species that have a cultural significance to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes should be given preference.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid constructing or placing buildings or structures in this area.

Small-scale Features

- Consider constructing only the minimal number of small-scale features necessary in this area, and design any features to blend with the natural landscape. These might include benches for users and gates to secure the area at night. NHS boundary fencing should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire. Small-scale features in this area should be consistent with other similar features used throughout the park.

Views

- Screen the parking area and reflection space with vegetation for the privacy of the tribe and to reduce intrusion on the historic scene. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area. Archeological clearing should be performed in anticipation of location and construction of the trails and parking area.

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Complete the Riparian Restoration Study and develop a plan for its implementation.
- Generate a design of the Contemplative Area in cooperation with tribal members.
- Rehabilitate and revegetate, as needed, the west service access drive.
- Construct parking and trails for the Contemplative Area. If possible, coordinate with the construction of parking areas at Overlook and Trailhead area for economy of materials and labor.
- Construct the reflection space at the Contemplative Area.
- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

LANDSCAPE AREA 7: SOUTHWEST FLOODPLAIN

The 24.5-acre Southwest Floodplain area was previously used as a wheat field (Figures 15 and 16). Today, reductions in stream flow and flood events due to the placement of hundreds of dams in the watershed, as well as on-site agricultural practices, have greatly altered the floodplain's natural vegetation patterns. In 1998, the NPS began a restoration program in this area. However, the draft Vegetation Management Plan notes that early successional and weedy species, such as horseweed, camphor weed, sow thistle, annual sunflower, curlycup gumweed, and Johnson grass still dominate the area.[9]

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone and should remain undeveloped, with native ecosystem restoration applied in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning, dry mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. This area is not slated for visitor use by the current GMP but has historic significance in its proximity to the battle and is important to the park's ecological health and historic viewsheds.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Continue efforts to restore native ecosystem function to this area with the use of prescribed burns and treatment of invasive species as critical methods. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Restore tree cover as possible within this area to replicate historic spatial patterns, which correspond to those of the site's natural ecosystem. Historic accounts indicate a much wider band of tree cover over portions of this area in 1868. Reduction in the current water table and flood events might not allow for the restoration of such a large area of trees.

Land Use

- Avoid development within this area, which is designated as a Restoration-Conservation zone.

[9] Benjamin, Vegetation Management Plan, 5-6.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 15 (H-4). Southwest Floodplain looking southeast

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 16 (I-2). Southwest Floodplain at river, looking south

Circulation

- Avoid construction of circulation features in this area.

Topography

- Avoid changes to this area's topography.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid constructing or placing buildings or structures in this area.

Small-scale Features

- Avoid adding small-scale features within this area with the exception of NHS boundary fencing. The fencing type should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire.

Views

- Manage this area as a healthy ecosystem to maintain historically appropriate views. While visitors to Washita Battlefield NHS are unlikely to venture to this area, views into the Southwest Floodplain from high visitor-use areas is likely. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area.

Landscape Area Projects

- Rehabilitate and revegetate, as needed, the west service access drive.

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.

- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

LANDSCAPE AREA 8: SOUTH RIPARIAN

The 21.3-acre South Riparian area is a narrow corridor that lies just north of the rail grade (Figures 17 and 18). The area is depressed slightly below the surrounding terrain and holds water after rains. It may at one time have been a channel of the Washita River. This theory is also supported by 1970s-era aerial photographs showing tree-lined drainages connecting this area to the river. In 1998, a vegetation analysis report for the park deemed this area to be "possibly the most pristine area in the park."[10] The same report also suggested a link between the health of this area and the presence of the rail grade. Woody vegetation includes cottonwoods, black willows, and American elms, as well as fourteen additional native tree and shrub species. Herbaceous species include plains blue grass, Canadian wild rye, little bluestem, and sideoats grama. Invasive species include downy brome grass and Bermuda grass. It is likely that the eastern edge of this area overlaps with the location of the horse kill during the Washita attack.[11]

Treatment Concept: This area was variously designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as part of the Contemplative, Extended Learning, and Restoration-Conservation zones. Areas designated Restoration-Conservation zones should remain undeveloped, with native ecosystem restoration applied in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning open wooded ecosystem. The Contemplative and Extended Learning zones potentially overlap with portions of the horse kill location and are considered sacred to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. The Extended Learning zone will provide visitor and emergency access to the center of the site, along with interpretive displays and areas for rest. A limited number of informal contemplative spaces should provide for more private reflection away from the main trail. Access should be restricted to the portion of this area which might overlap with the horse kill location.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Make careful study of this area's hydrology and the likely impacts before altering the nearby Railroad Grade. The natural systems in the South Riparian are in relatively good condition with non-native plant invasive perhaps the most significant threat. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring and other vegetation issues.

[10] Stotts and DuBey, *Vegetation Analysis,* 29.
[11] Neff, *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing*, 36.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 17 (D-8). South Riparian

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 18 (E-35). South Riparian below current trail

Spatial Organization

- Re-establish the natural ecosystem to support restoration of historic spatial patterns. Trail, interpretive, and contemplative features should be nested within native vegetation and designed to be as unobtrusive as possible.

Land Use

- Avoid development within the Restoration-Conservation zones in this area. Contemplative spaces in this area should have limited and informal features that respect sacred designation by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. The Extended Learning zone in this area should provide visitor, service, and emergency access to the site as well as areas for interpretive displays and rest.

Circulation

- Provide for visitor, service, and emergency access to the center of the site via the main trail. Materials used to construct the main trail should blend with the site's native materials by using local aggregate and a binding agent such as Resin Pavement™, a natural pine resin that is marketed as suitable for sensitive natural environments. Contemplative spaces should be connected to the main trail via mown grass trails. Waysides should edge the main trail. Establish a viewing area in front of the wayside that is surfaced with mown grass. If heavy use leads to deterioration of the grass surface, upgrade it to aggregate, preferably of a local material. High-use wayside viewing areas might also require the addition of Resin Pavement™ binding agent in conjunction with the aggregate.

- Trail layout should avoid long linear stretches to minimize views of the trail from surrounding areas. Interpretive waysides and contemplative spaces should be pocketed into the natural landscape in such a way as to minimize their visibility from surrounding areas. Signs and interpretive displays should encourage visitors to stay on the trail to avoid resource damage and to respect the sacredness of the site. Trails/access should not extend into the horse kill area.

Topography

- Avoid alterations to this area's topography except for trail corridor manipulations to allow for barrier-free access when feasible and to minimize erosion.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area. Zones around interpretive waysides and contemplative spaces, as well as any grass-tread trails will require occasional mowing. Vegetation along trails should be managed to discourage visitors from leaving the trail prism in order to limit visitor impacts on natural systems, archeological sites, and to respect the sacred nature of the site.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid the construction or placement of buildings in this area. Structures to provide shade and/or access (such as boardwalks in wet areas) should be kept at a minimum in order to reduce intrusion on the historic scene. Such structures should blend into the natural landscape, using native materials when possible, and maintain a low profile so as not to be visible from a distance.

Small-scale Features

- Establish only those small-scale features in this area that are absolutely necessary. New features should blend with the natural landscape, and maintain a low profile so as not to be visible from a distance. Potential small-scale feature additions within this area might include informational signs, interpretive displays, audio devices, benches, and trash receptacles. Small-scale features in this area should be consistent with similar features used elsewhere in the park.

- NHS boundary fencing should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire.

Views

- Manage this area as a healthy ecosystem to retain historically appropriate views that are important in conveying the events of November 1868. Views into this area should give visitors a sense of the 1868 landscape. Trails, structures, and small-scale features should be designed, located, and constructed so as not to detract from this scene. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area. Archeological clearing should be performed prior to the construction of trails, waysides, or contemplative spaces. The open borrow pit or quarry site should be managed in a way to prevent access and be screened from visitors' view using

native vegetation when feasible. Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act should be met.[12]

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Finalize the design for the trail and waysides.
- Build trail/service access through area, including sections of boardwalk in seasonally wet areas.
- Construct an interpretive wayside along trail in the proposed location indicated on Figure 5.
- Construct a limited number of informal contemplative spaces along the trail.
- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

[12] Neff, *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing,* 60-65.

LANDSCAPE AREA 9: RAILROAD GRADE

The 9.9 acre Railroad Grade area is characterized by the abandoned route of the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railroad constructed through the site in the winter of 1928-29[13] (Figures 19 and 20). It is during the construction of this rail line that the remains of an individual from Black Kettle's village was discovered and sent to a local newspaper office. The remains were buried in 1930 during a ceremony attended by Cheyenne survivors of the 1868 attack.[14]

This area is one of the most altered portions of the park in terms of its relationship to 1868 features and appearance. The eastern half of this area was cut to establish the railroad grade, while the western half of the area was built up with fill borrowed from surrounding areas and railroad grade cuts. The rail bed itself is formed from a mixture of cinders, gravel and soil which provide a poor substrate for vegetation. The area is currently in succession, with woody species including American elm, hackberry, Chickasaw plum, and smooth sumac. Herbaceous vegetation includes little bluestem, giant ragweed, sand sage, Canada wild rye, camphor weed, horseweed, and Illinois bundleflower. Invasive species include soapberry, cheat grass, kochia, Johnson grass, and yellow sweet clover.[15] Invasive species dominate the western half of the area but are found only occasionally along the eastern half. It is possible that a portion of this area at the far eastern end of the site overlaps with the horse kill area.

Treatment Concept: Portions of this area are designated in the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as Contemplative, Extended Learning, and Restoration-Conservation zones. Areas designated Restoration-Conservation should remain undeveloped, with native ecosystem restoration applied in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning dry mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. The Contemplative zone potentially overlaps with a portion of the horse kill location that is considered sacred to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. The Extended Learning zone will provide visitor and emergency access to the center of the site along with interpretive displays and areas for rest. A limited number of informal contemplative spaces should provide for more private reflection away from the main trail. Access should be restricted in the portion of this area that might overlap with the horse kill location.

[13] U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Washita Battlefield National Historic Site* (Santa Fe, NM: Intermountain Support Office, November 1999), 22.
[14] Jerome A. Greene, DRAFT *Historic Resource Study Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Oklahoma*. (Harpers Ferry, WV: National Park Service, March 2001), 276.
[15] Benjamin, Vegetation Management Plan, 6.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 19 (E-24). Eastern Railroad Grade, looking west

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 20 (K-32). Western Railroad Grade, looking west

The Railroad Grade area provides the most complex treatment dilemma for the park. While the rail grade disrupts the historic scene, the financial and environmental cost to remove and/or replace potentially toxic soil, re-establish pre-railroad landforms, and restore native vegetation could be tremendous. The *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site* also notes the potential for direct and indirect resource impact from removal activity.[16] These issues suggest the least harm and most benefit in removing only the western one-half of the rail grade. Most of this portion of the railroad grade is elevated on fill. A thorough study of all these factors should be undertaken before action is planned, however.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Study the possible effects of railroad grade removal. The historic natural systems which would have been functioning in this area in 1868 have been greatly altered. Most significant are the changes in hydrology for this and surrounding areas that result from the change in grade. The rail corridor redirects the flow of water from the southern portion of the site into several box culverts. A significant result of this alteration is the collection of sediments along the rail corridor, preventing them from filling the South Riparian area. Disruption of the soil in this area could result in changes in the site's natural systems.

- Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Consider integrating a section of the railroad grade east of the Trailhead into the new trail that will provide access to the interior of the site. Currently the rail grade provides an east to west, gently sloping corridor through the middle of the site. On the east side of the site, piles of excavated soil form a tunnel-like space. A wayside along this portion of the trail would be screened by the excavated soils.

Land Use

- Avoid development within the Restoration-Conservation zones in this area. Contemplative spaces in this area should have limited and informal features that

[16] Neff, *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing,* 54.

respect the sacred designation by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. The Extended Learning zone in this area should provide visitor, service, and emergency access to the site, as well as areas for interpretive displays and rest.

Circulation

- Provide for visitor, service, and emergency access to the center of the site along the main trail. Materials for the main trail should blend with the site's native materials by using local aggregate and a binding agent such as Resin Pavement™, a natural pine resin that is marketed as suitable for sensitive natural environments. Contemplative spaces should be connected to the main trail via mown grass trails. Waysides should edge the main trail and include a viewing area surfaced with mown grass. Upgrade the grass tread to local aggregate if heavy use requires it. High-use waysides might also require the addition of a Resin Pavement™ binding agent in conjunction with the aggregate.

  The trail in this area will vary from other areas because the form of the railroad grade will result in a linear layout. The perpendicular orientation of the trail from the Overlook and lowered grade, along much of the section where the trail will run, will minimize views of the trail. Interpretive waysides should be located along the lowered section of the railroad grade or in native vegetation in order to minimize their visibility from surrounding areas. There are few appropriate places for contemplative spaces along the portion of the trail in this area. If one is needed in this area, it should also be located in such a way to minimize views from surrounding areas. Trail design should encourage visitors to remain on the trail. Signs and interpretive displays should encourage visitors to stay on the trail to avoid damage to resources and to respect the sacredness of the site. Trails/access should not extend into the horse kill area.

Topography

- Avoid alterations to this area's topography, except for trail corridor manipulations to allow for barrier-free access when feasible, and to minimize erosion, pending further study into the feasibility of rail grade alteration.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area. Zones around interpretive waysides and contemplative spaces, as well as any mown grass trails, will require occasional mowing. Vegetation along trails should be managed to discourage departure from the trail in order to limit visitor impacts on natural systems, archeological sites, and to respect the sacred nature of the site.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid constructing or placing buildings in this area. Structures to provide shade should be kept at a minimum in order to reduce intrusion on the historic scene. Such structures should blend into the natural landscape by using native materials whenever possible, and maintain a low profile so as not to be visible from a distance. Maintain existing wood box culverts. When condition issues require culvert removal, document the existing culverts and replace them with culverts that have the least amount of visual impact on the visitor experience.

Small-scale Features

- Establish only those small-scale features that are absolutely necessary. New small-scale features should blend in with the natural landscape. These might include informational signs, interpretive displays, audio devices, benches, and trash receptacles. NHS boundary fencing should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Acceptable alternatives include wood or steel posts strung with wire. Small-scale features in this area should be consistent with other similar features used on site. Avoid placement of any other small-scale features.

Views

- Maintain views into this area in such a way as to provide visitors with a sense of the 1868 landscape. Depending on one's location within the park, views of the rail grade area either blend with the historic scene or detract from it. Non-historic and detracting views should be given significant consideration if and when mitigation efforts are undertaken. In areas where fill was used to raise the grade, tree and shrub vegetation should be cleared from the top and sides of the grade in order to reduce its visual impact and accentuated elevation. Shrubs or small trees along the base of the grade could help it blend into the surrounding prairie. Trails, structures, and small-scale features should be designed, located, and constructed to be least visible from the Overlook and surrounding areas. Existing native vegetation and new native plantings should be the dominant method for screening views of the rail grade. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area. Archeological clearing should be performed in appropriate areas before constructing and locating trails and small-scale features in this area. The potential for damage of archeological resources related to rail grade removal

should be considered in the decision-making process on rail grade removal. The horse kill location should be protected and monitored according to the Archeological Survey and Soil Testing at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site recommendations. Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act should be met.[17]

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Complete a thorough study of potential effects of railroad grade removal.
- Finalize the design for the trail and waysides.
- Build trail/service access through area.
- Construct an interpretive wayside along the trail in the proposed location indicated on Figure 5.
- Construct an informal contemplative space along the trail.
- As needed, replace/repair NHS boundary fencing with uniform fencing.

[17] Neff, *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing,* 60-65.

LANDSCAPE AREA 10: SOUTHWEST FIELD

The 32.7-acre Southwest Field area was in wheat in 1997 (Figures 21 and 22). In the spring of 1998, the NPS began restoration activities in the area by seeding with native grass species.[18] Woody species edge the northern and eastern sides of this unit and include invasive Osage orange, black locust, Eastern red cedar, soapberry, and Siberian elm, with an occasional native elm. Tree density in this area is higher than what would occur naturally due to the retention of water behind the rail grade and suppression of fire. Native shrub species include shinnery oak, sand sagebrush, and plains yucca. Herbaceous species include little bluestem, Indian grass, prairie switchgrass, side oats grama, blue grama and buffalo grass. Invasive species include yellow sweet clover, field bindweed, and various brome grasses. This area contains a prehistoric archeological site that the Archeological Survey for the Washita NHS suggests is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.[19]

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone and should remain undeveloped, with native ecosystem restoration applied in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning ecosystem of dry, mixed-grass prairie. This area is not slated for visitor use as identified in the current GMP, but has historic significance in its proximity to the battle and is important to the park's ecological health and historic viewshed. A Determination of Eligibility for National Register status should be completed for the prehistoric archeological site. Restoration activities should avoid soil disturbance at the prehistoric site or any other activity which could damage exposed resources.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Continue to use controlled burns and eradicate or control invasive species to encourage the return of native plant species to the area and reduce the density of trees along its northern and eastern edges. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Re-establish the site's natural ecosystem to support restoration of historic spatial patterns in this area.

[18] Stotts and DuBey, *Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Vegetation Analysis,* 25.
[19] Neff, *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing,* 63.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 21 (F-20). Southwest Field from Highway 47A, looking northwest

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 22 (K-21). Southwest Field looking south

Land Use

- Avoid development in this area, which has been designated a Restoration-Conservation zone.

Circulation

- Avoid construction of circulation features in this area.

Topography

- Avoid changes to this area's topography.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid constructing or placing buildings or structures in this area.

Small-scale Features

- Avoid adding new small-scale features within this area, with the exception of NHS boundary fencing. The fencing type should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Since this portion of the park is bordered to the south by a state road, and is therefore highly visible, fencing used in this area should blend into the natural landscape while clearly looking contemporary and not giving the appearance of being historic. The Core-ten post used in the Overlook design should be considered as standard fencing along Highway 47A. Two strands of barb-less wire could be used to prevent bicyclists and other vehicles from crossing the fence. Utility lines running along Highway 47A should be buried to improve the historic appearance of the scene.

Views

- Manage this area as a healthy ecosystem to maintain and enhance historically appropriate views. Views of this area are important in the telling of the events from November 1868. Utility lines along Highway 47A should be buried to improve the views into this area. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Evaluate the identified prehistoric archeological site for National Register eligibility. Access to this area should be restricted. Special procedures should be developed to ensure prairie restoration activities such as burning, mechanical cutting or seeding of vegetation does not damage prehistoric resource. The site should be monitored for natural and human disturbances. Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act should be met.[20]

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Protect the prehistoric site from damage related to vegetation restoration in the area.
- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Complete determination of eligibility for National Register status of the prehistoric site.
- Bury utility lines along Highway 47A.
- Replace fencing along Highway 47A.

[20] Neff, Archeological Survey and Soil Testing, 63.

LANDSCAPE AREA 11: TRAILHEAD

See Figures 23 Trailhead Conceptual Plan and 24 Mood Wayside Conceptual Plan – All drawings represent conceptual designs only.

The 9.3 acre Trailhead area retains remnants of a residence and farm structures that were utilized by the site's former owners (Figure 25 through 27). Ornamental plants, building debris, trash dumps, road corridors, the railroad grade, fence remnants, and large numbers of invasive plant species characterize the area. Invasive herbaceous species include kochia, Bermuda grass, cheat grass, yellow sweet clover, Johnson grass, and downy brome. Woody species include soapberry, black walnut, and Kentucky coffee bean trees, which dominate the western portion of the area in a dense stand. Herbaceous species include sunflower, curlycup gum weed, sandbur, and ragweed.

Treatment Concept: This area has been variously designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as including Development and Extended Learning zones. This heavily disturbed area is slated for development as a Trailhead for the park. According to the GMP, the Trailhead area should provide parking for automobiles and buses, restrooms, seating, shade areas, an accessible trail at least as far as the river, and emergency/service access to the interior of the site. The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan Section I: Long-Range Interpretive Plan indicates the area should also contain a small informal amphitheater and an initial wayside to set the appropriate mood before visitors continue into the interior of the site. The severe infestation of aggressive invasive species in this area poses a threat to other areas of the park. Methods for preventing this should be addressed before site development begins. The Washita Battlefield NHS Long-Range Interpretive Plan notes a likely future increase in school and other tour groups visiting the park. The Trailhead area needs to be able to accommodate medium-sized groups at a minimum.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Restore natural systems in this area. Developed portions of this area should be set within a restored native prairie landscape with native shrubs and trees screening the developed areas from the rest of the site. The thick stand of trees in this area should be thinned to a more historically appropriate density. Steps should be taken to reduce the spread of invasive plant species from this area to other areas of the park. This will be especially significant during construction of the Trailhead and trail. During construction, equipment can provide a vector for spreading seeds along the trail corridor. Once use of the area begins, people and maintenance equipment can act as vectors to carry seeds into a number of other

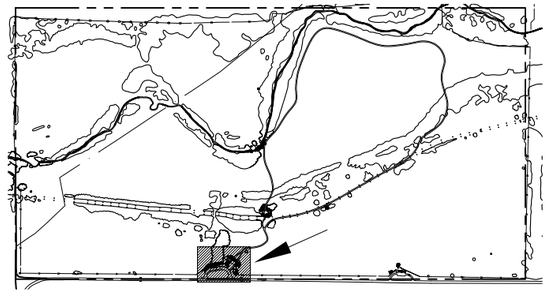
Using the forms & materials established in the Overlook design, the Trailhead area supports the programing needs identified in the GMP & Interpretive Plan. Visitors will have a clear view of the Orientation Building as they enter the area, while the building & parking area will be screened from the rest of the park. Native prairie extends to the edge of the new development and designed native prairie plantings surround the building & parking.

Trail
New Native Trees and Shrubs
Existing Tree
Thinned Existing Wooded Area
Mixed-grass Prairie
Shaded Seating
Restroom Entrances
Patio
Patio
Seat Wall
Service and Emergency Access
New Native Trees and Shrubs
Sidewalk
Seat Wall
Orientation Building
Sidewalk
Information Kiosk
Native Prairie Planting
Mixed-grass Prairie
Core-ten Steel Posts
Bus/RV
Future Parking Expansion
Core-ten Steel Posts
NHS Boundary Fencing
Existing Trees
NHS Boundary Fencing
NHS Sign
One-way Drive
One-way Drive
NHS Sign
State Highway 47A

Legend

- Trail
- Fence
- Roads
- Buildings
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees

Location Map



Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

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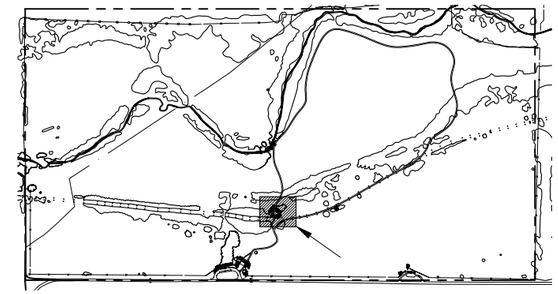
Figure 23. Trailhead Conceptual Plan

Cultural Landscape Report Part Two
Cheyenne, Oklahoma - National Park Service
Scale 1" = 40' - September 2003

As described in the Interpretive Plan, this wayside should integrate evocative text, images, and sculptural elements to "create a mood and give the feeling visitors are entering a special place." Trees and shrubs should form gateways at the wayside area entrance and exit and enclose the space. Like the Trailhead, native prairie should extend to the edge of the developed area and designed native plantings should surround the interpretive displays and sculptures.

Location Map



Legend

- Trail
- Railroad Grade
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees

Mixed-grass Prairie
Main Trail
Existing Tree Canopy
New Native Trees and Shrubs
Interpretive Display
Interpretive Display
Mixed-grass Prairie
Mixed-grass Prairie
Existing Tree Canopy
Interpretive Display
New Native Trees and Shrubs
Main Trail
Railroad Grade
Railroad Grade
Return Trail
Existing Tree Canopy
Mixed-grass Prairie
Existing Tree Canopy

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

N

Figure 24. Mood Setting Wayside Conceptual Plan
Cultural Landscape Report Part Two
Scale 1" = 20' - September 2003

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 25 (B-24). Inside Trailhead area, looking south

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 26 (B-19). Trailhead area from Highway 47A

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 27 (B-26). Inside Trailhead area, looking north.

areas of the park. Steps should be taken to minimize the spread of invasive plants, such as ensuring that contractors and NPS rangers are aware of the problem and carefully wash equipment before moving from the Trailhead to the trail. Ideally, efforts should be made to reduce the numbers of invasive species in this area before construction and visitor use begins. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Establish five distinct organized spaces in this area. The first will be the entrance drive and parking area, which should be screened by vegetation from the rest of the park but still allow for clear views to the orientation building. The second will be the space around the orientation building that will provide visitor orientation and services. The third space will be the trail itself that leads from the orientation building. The fourth space will be the initial mood-setting wayside that should be isolated from the orientation building and the Village Floodplain using vegetation. This visual separation will help convey the transition from the service area to a sacred area. Vegetation should be used to form a room-like space where interpretive displays and possible sculptures would be located to educate visitors before continuing. An opening in the vegetation would form a threshold and signal movement into a new zone. The fifth space will be the amphitheater for group presentations. Ideally, the amphitheater can be located in a natural depression. A topographic alteration may, however, be necessary to form an appropriate space. Trail, interpretive, and contemplative features should be nested within native vegetation and designed to be as unobtrusive as possible.

Land Use

- Educate visitors about the site and the challenge level of the upcoming trail, and provide access to shaded seating in this space. Land-use activities for the area will include vehicle access and parking, information, interpretive, and restroom facilities. The mood-setting wayside should prepare visitors to experience the site. An amphitheater will allow group presentations.

Circulation

- Construct a paved new entrance and parking area, and connect them with the orientation building/Trailhead area via accessible paved walks. This area currently acts as an access point for the site using the old entrance drive for the residence and farm. The new entrance drive and parking area will replace this drive and serve as the primary service and emergency access to the park.

Surface materials used should reflect the design standards established by Overland Partners, Inc. at the Overlook. The trail/service drive will provide for visitor, service, and emergency access to the center of the site and should blend into the natural landscape. Materials for the main trail should blend with the native materials using local aggregate and a binding agent such as Resin Pavement™, a natural pine resin that is marketed as suitable for sensitive natural environments.

Trail layout should avoid long linear stretches to minimize views of the trail from surrounding areas. Interpretive waysides and contemplative spaces should be pocketed into the natural landscape in such a way as to minimize their visibility from surrounding areas. The trail section within this area and leading to the river should meet or exceed the trail construction standards established in the Final Report from the Regulatory Negotiation Committee (of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board) on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. Signs and interpretive displays should encourage visitors to stay on the trail to avoid resource damage and to respect the sacredness of the site. The mood-setting wayside will be the first stop along the trail for visitors. This area should be located along the trail between the orientation building and the Village Floodplain. Surface materials should consist of loose crushed local aggregate, or, if heavy use requires it, an aggregate and a binding agent such as Resin Pavement™.

Topography

- Establish the new Trailhead within this relatively flat area. Since this area has been highly disturbed with the construction of farm buildings and agricultural activity and their subsequent demolition, the grading required for the construction of the Trailhead facilities and amphitheater are unlikely to further impair historic integrity. The finished grades should blend smoothly with the surrounding landscape areas, leaving no abrupt change in grade.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation, in accordance with Invasive Species Executive Order 13112. All traces of ornamental vegetation associated with the former residence on this site should be removed. This includes fruit trees, perennials, cedars, and Chinese junipers. The stand of trees adjacent to the road, which includes redbuds and cottonwoods, should be preserved and protected during development.[21] The large American elm in the center of the area should be preserved and protected during development. Landscape vegetation should

[21] While redbuds might not be native to this site, they are native to Oklahoma (the state tree) and Roger Mills County, not an ecosystem threat, and will help screen the Trailhead development from other areas of the site.

provide sufficient shade, and screen the parking and orientation building from the rest of the site. The initial mood-setting wayside development should incorporate native vegetation to form a transition space allowing for visitors to contemplate before continuing. Vegetation along the trails should be managed in such a way as to discourage departure from the trail, thereby limiting visitor impacts on natural systems, archeological sites, and respecting the sacred nature of the site.

Buildings and Structures

– Establish new buildings and structures in this area that reflect the materials and design forms established by Overland Partners, Inc. at the Overlook. The orientation building should provide restrooms, drinking fountains, and shaded seating. Masonry walls should be incorporated for seating and to control vehicle access into the interior of the park. An information kiosk should be located at the orientation building.

Small-scale Features

– Establish small-scale features that reflect the materials and design forms established by Overland Partners, Inc. at the Overlook. Small-scale features in this area should blend with the natural landscape as much as possible and be consistent with similar features used elsewhere in the park. Features in this area will likely include informational signs, interpretive displays, audio devices, benches, trash receptacles, and tire stops. NHS boundary fencing should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Since this portion of the park is bordered to the south by a state road, and is therefore highly visible, the fencing used should blend into the natural landscape, while clearly appearing as a product of its own time and not historic. Automobile access-control fencing leading from the perimeter into the area should match the Core-ten steel used by Overland partners at the Overlook area. This same fencing material should be considered as a standard for the Highway 47A corridor. Two strands of barb-less wire could be used to prevent bicyclists and other vehicles from crossing the fence. Utility lines running along Highway 47A should be buried to improve the historic appearance of the scene.

Views

– Screen developed portions of this area from the surrounding site. Utility lines running along Highway 47A should be buried to improve the surrounding views. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area. This includes further archival research as advised by the Archeological Survey and Soil Testing at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in order to determine the potential for historically significant resources in the area of the Wesner farm. Archeological clearing should be performed prior to constructing and locating trails, the parking area, orientation building, and other structures. Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act should be met.[22]

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Demolish and remove farm remnants and ornamental vegetation.
- Finalize the design for the Trailhead, trail, and mood-setting wayside.
- Construct parking for the Trailhead area; if possible, coordinate with construction of the parking areas at Overlook and Contemplative Area for economy of materials and labor.
- Construct the orientation building at the Trailhead.
- Construct trail/service access through area.
- Construct the mood-setting wayside.
- Construct the outdoor amphitheater.
- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Bury utility lines along Highway 47A.
- Replace fencing along Highway 47A.

[22] Neff, Archeological Survey and Soil Testing, 54.

LANDSCAPE AREA 12: SOUTH CENTRAL FIELD

The 13.9-acre South Central Field was used for growing wheat until 1997, when it was allowed to go into succession (Figures 28 and 29). Visible agricultural terraces characterize this field. While contiguous with the Upland Prairie area, the ecological health of these adjacent areas is vastly different and will require different restoration approaches. Herbaceous species present include annual sunflower, gumweed, and yellow and white sweet clover.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone and should remain undeveloped, with native ecosystem restoration applied in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning dry mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. The location and high visibility of this area between the Overlook and Trailhead area and adjacent to the state road bordering the park render it a priority for restoration.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Continue use of controlled burns and eradication and control of invasive species to encourage the return of native plant species to the area. Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Re-establish the site's natural ecosystem to restore historic spatial patterns in this area.

Land Use

- Avoid development within this area, which is a Restoration-Conservation zone.

Circulation

- Avoid construction of circulation features in this area.

Topography

- Avoid changes to this area's topography. Over time, the agricultural terraces will blend into the natural terrain. Taking this, and the fact that native grass cover will mostly obscure these features, into consideration renders the cost and the environmental disturbance associated with their removal prohibitive.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 28 (B-25). South Central Field from Trailhead area

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 29 (B-11). South Central Field from Highway 47A

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid constructing or placing buildings or structures in this area.

Small-scale Features

- Avoid establishing small-scale features within this area with the exception of NHS boundary fencing. The fencing type utilized should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Since this portion of the park is bordered to the south by a state road, and is therefore highly visible, fencing used in this area should blend into the natural landscape while clearly looking contemporary and not appear historic. The Core-ten post used in the Overlook design should be considered as standard fencing along Highway 47A. Two strands of barb-less wire could be used to prevent bicyclists and other vehicles from crossing the fence. Utility lines running along Highway 47A should be buried to improve the historic appearance of the scene.

Views

- Manage this area as a healthy ecosystem, and avoid new development within the area to maintain historically appropriate views. Views of this area are important in conveying the events of November 1868. Utility lines running along Highway 47A should be buried to improve surrounding views. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area.

Landscape Area Projects

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended regimes.

- Bury utility lines along Highway 47A.

- Replace fencing along Highway 47A.

LANDSCAPE AREA 13: UPLAND PRAIRIE

Dominated by typical prairie plant community species, the 47.9-acre Upland Prairie area is the highest quality native upland prairie habitat at the Washita NHS (Figures 30 and 31). Species present include little bluestem, various grammas, sand sage, and yucca. On the southern border of this area, along the rail grade, stands a large colony of smooth sumac. Downy brome grass is one of only a few invasive species present.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated by the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Restoration-Conservation zone and should remain undeveloped, with native ecosystem restoration applied in appropriate areas to yield a healthy, functioning, dry mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. As one of the ecologically healthiest areas in the park, this area should be given a high priority for vegetation management to ensure its continued health.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring and other vegetation issues. The natural systems present in this area are some of the most pristine in the park.

Spatial Organization

- Re-establish the site's natural ecosystem to restore historic spatial patterns in this area.

Land Use

- Avoid development within this area, which is a Restoration-Conservation zone.

Circulation

- Avoid construction of circulation features in this area.

Topography

- Avoid changes to this area's topography.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation in this area.

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 30 (A-5). Upland Prairie from Highway 47A with knoll in middle ground

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 31 (A-14). Upland Prairie, from southeast corner of site

Small-scale Features

- Avoid establishing small-scale features within this area with the exception of NHS boundary fencing. The fencing type utilized should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Since this portion of the park is bordered to the south by a state road, and is therefore highly visible, fencing used in this area should blend into the natural landscape while clearly looking modern and not historic. The Core-ten post used in the Overlook design should be considered as standard fencing along Highway 47A. Utility lines running along Highway 47A should be buried to improve the historic appearance of the scene. Two strands of barb-less wire could be used to prevent bicyclists and other vehicles from crossing the fence.

Buildings and Structures

- Avoid construction or placement of buildings or structures in this area.

Views

- Manage this area as a healthy ecosystem, and avoid new development within the area to maintain historically appropriate views. Views of this area are important in conveying the events of November 1868. Utility lines running along Highway 47A should be buried to improve surrounding views. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area.

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.

- Bury utility lines along Highway 47A.

- Replace fencing along Highway 47A.

LANDSCAPE AREA 14: OVERLOOK

Figure 32 Overlook Conceptual Design

The 2.6-acre Overlook area is the earliest location where commemoration of the Battle of Washita took place (Figures 33 and 34). A number of the markers erected to commemorate the battle remain in this area today, in addition to the re-interred remains of a tribal member who lost his/her life during the battle. The CLI lists these commemorative resources as contributing to the site's historic significance. Overland Partners, Inc. of San Antonio, Texas has completed a concept plan for the replacement of various Overlook structures, such as picnic shelters, with features that are more appropriate to and respectful of the site, such as observation and meditation pavilions. Currently, the vegetation in the area consists primarily of non-native fescue turf and weedy species.

Treatment Concept: This area is designated in the Washita Battlefield NHS GMP as a Development zone. Development will follow plans prepared by Overland Partners, Inc. Native prairie grasses and forbs should replace the existing non-native fescue grass at the site.

Recommendations by Characteristic

Natural Systems

- Refer to the Vegetation Management Plan for specific recommendations on invasive plant control, restoration activities, vegetation monitoring, and other vegetation issues.

Spatial Organization

- Design structures in such a way as to maintain a low profile, with forms that complement the surrounding natural features.

Land Use

- Retain or establish land-uses within the area that support visitor use and access, including commemorative, vehicular access and parking, site information, interpretive, and areas for reflection.

Observation Structure

Mixed-grass Prairie

Cheyenne Grave

Historic Markers

Mixed-grass Prairie

Wall

Reflection Structure

Sidewalk

NHS Boundary Fencing

Wall

Core-ten Steel Posts

One-way Drive

NHS Boundary Fencing

Native Pairie Planting

State Highway 47A

Legend

Road

Buildings

Sidewalk

Fence

Location Map

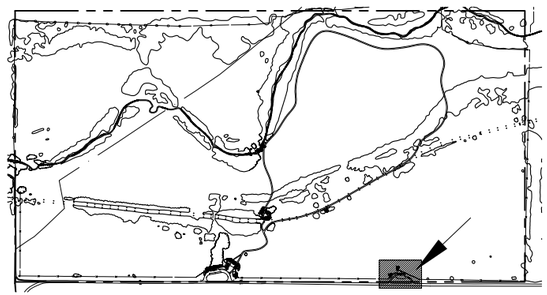


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Figure 32. Overlook Conceptual Plan

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Designed by Overland Partners, Inc. San Antonio, Texas

Scale 1" = 30 - September 2003

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 33 (A-27). Existing Overlook

John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002

Figure 34 (A-28). Overlook Pavilion and commemorative features

Circulation

- Provide accessible paths from the parking lot to site features. Materials should blend with the natural environment. Consider utilizing primarily local materials.

Topography

- Blend finished grades smoothly with the surrounding landscape, leaving no abrupt changes in grade.

Vegetation

- Plant and maintain only native vegetation, in accordance with the Invasive Species Executive Order 13112. A native grama sod could be used as opposed to traditional lawn species.

Buildings and Structures

- Incorporate materials and forms in the design of buildings that complement the surrounding natural features, without attempting to look historic.

Small-scale Features

- Design small-scale features within this area to blend with the natural landscape as much as possible and be consistent with other similar features used on site. Features in this area will likely include informational signs, interpretive displays, benches, trash receptacles, and tire or wheel stops. NHS boundary fencing should be the most effective, cost efficient, and unobtrusive feasible. Since this portion of the park is bordered to the south by a state road, and is therefore highly visible, the fencing used should blend into the natural landscape, while remaining contemporary in design and clearly a product of its own time. The Core-ten steel automobile access control fencing used by Overland Partners, Inc. should be considered as a standard along the entire Highway 47A corridor. Two strands of barb-less wire could be used to prevent bicyclist and other vehicles from crossing the fence. Signage should match that used at the Visitor Center and Trailhead area.

Views

- Utilize views from this point to guide management decisions on restoration projects and to identify non-contributing or distracting viewsheds requiring adjustment. The appearance of the other areas of the park and surrounding properties from this point are critical. As a primary contact point for visitors to Washita NHS, this area is designed to provide views of the park, specifically of

the village location and battlefield. Washita NHS management needs to continue working with surrounding landowners to maintain the quality of existing views outside park boundaries. NHS management should continue to cooperate with adjacent landowners to protect views into the surrounding properties.

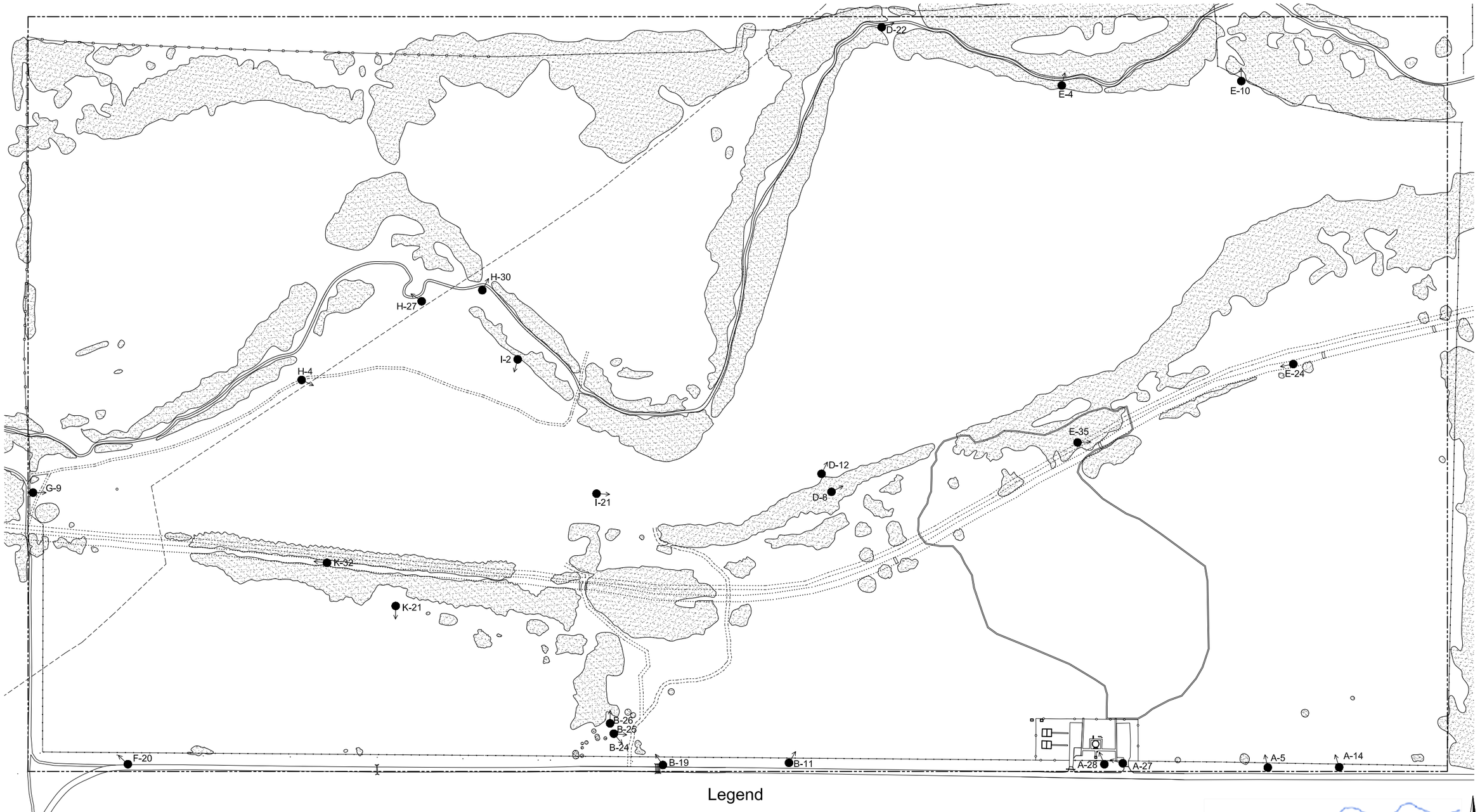
Archeological Resources

- Identify, document, and protect archeological resources within the area. Archeological clearing should be performed in appropriate areas before demolition of existing structures and before construction and location of paths, parking area, and structures. Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act should be met.[23]

LANDSCAPE AREA PROJECTS

- Complete the design for the new Overlook structures and parking lot.
- Protect the contributing commemorative features in this area.
- Demolish and remove existing structures and parking at Overlook.
- Construct new Overlook structures and parking lot. If possible, coordinate with construction of parking areas at Contemplative Area and Trailhead area for economy of materials and labor.
- Complete the Vegetation Management Plan and follow its recommended restoration regime.
- Bury utility lines along Highway 47A.
- Replace fencing along Highway 47A.

[23] Neff. *Archeological Survey and Soil Testing,*60-65.



Legend

- NHS Boundary
- Washita River
- Buildings
- Roads
- Road Trace
- Trail
- Fence
- Pipeline
- Railroad Grade
- Photograph Location Points
- Existing Trees

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Map prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

Sources: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Series, Cheyenne Quadrangle Roger Mills County, Oklahoma 1989; U.S.D.A. aerial photograph #16 613030 1993-24. October 1, 1993; 2001 GIS data from Intermountain Region GIS Office, Denver, Colorado, 2002; and AutoCAD drawings from Overland Partners, Inc. San Antonio, Texas.

Figure 35. Photograph Location Map

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Cheyenne, Oklahoma - National Park Service

Not To Scale - September 2003

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