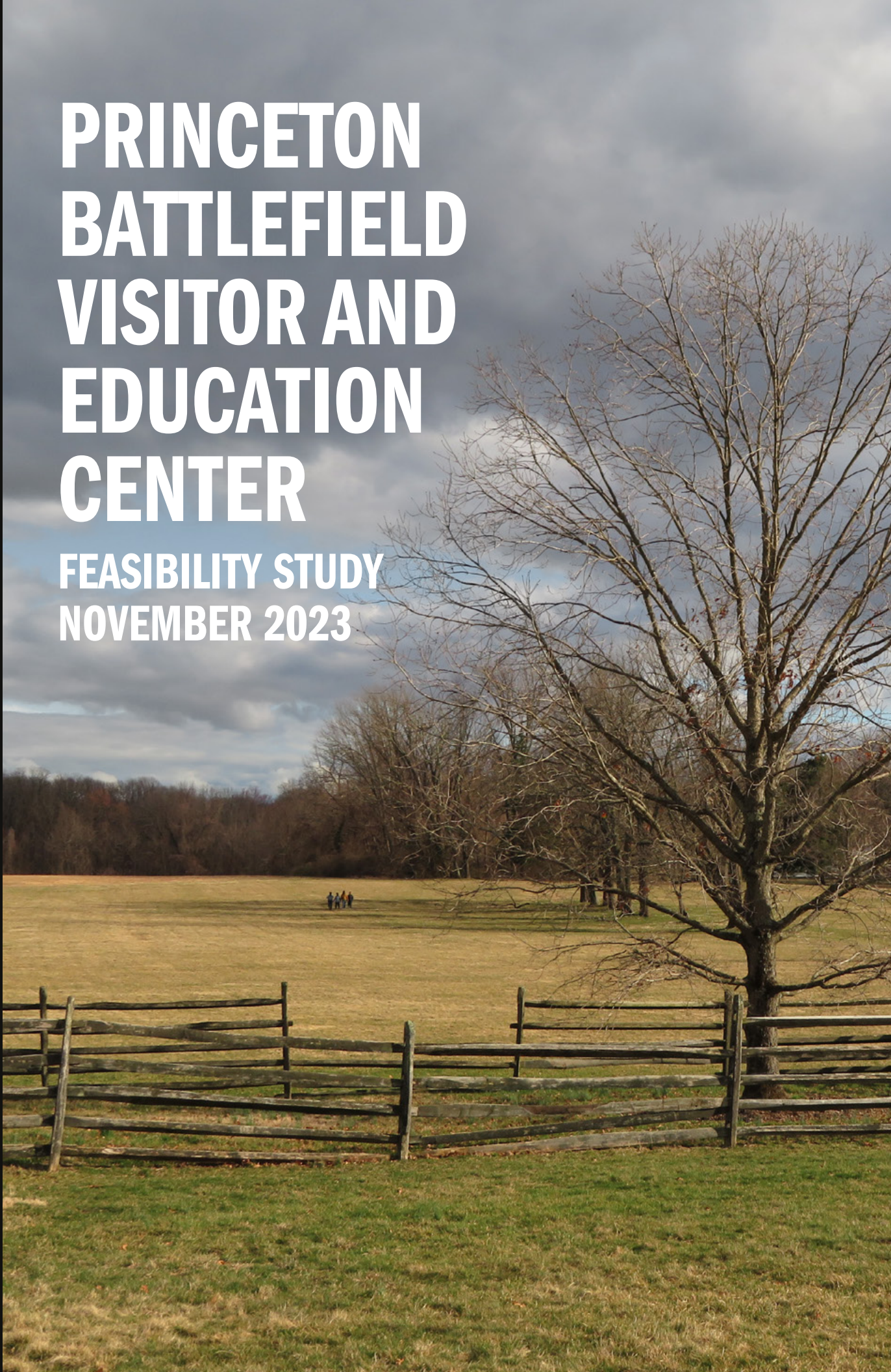


# PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTER

FEASIBILITY STUDY  
NOVEMBER 2023

JOHN G. WAITE ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS PLLC





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PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTER

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The team thanks Will Krakower of the NJ DEP Division of Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites for invaluable information about the site and for arranging access when needed.



# CONTENTS

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- Introduction ..... 1
- Program Study ..... 3
  - Interpretation And Education ..... 3
  - Visitor Services..... 4
  - Staff And Administrative Space ..... 4
  - Collections..... 5
  - Building Systems And Construction ..... 6
  - Compliance ..... 6
  - Summary Of Program ..... 7
  - Operational Considerations ..... 8
- Review Of Existing Facilities ..... 10
  - Thomas Clarke House ..... 10
  - Shed ..... 14
  - Other Buildings..... 16
- Recommendations ..... 18
  - Preferred Building Site..... 18
  - Design Approach ..... 19
  - Building Options ..... 19
  - Vision ..... 20
  - Cost..... 24

Schedule.....	24
Appendices.....	25
A. Visitor And Education Center Description From The Princeton Battlefield Preservation And Interpretation Plan .....	26
B. Benchmark Studies .....	33
Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center, Manalapan, NJ .....	33
Washington Crossing State Park Visitor Center, Titusville, NJ .....	38
Washington Crossing Historic Park (Pa) Visitor Center, Taylorsville, PA.....	42
Jockey Hollow Visitor Center, Morristown National Historical Park, Bernardsville, NJ .....	50

(Note: Appendices have been modified, removing consideration of the relocation of the Atle Selberg residence from consideration, following consultation 2018-2024)



# INTRODUCTION

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Princeton Battlefield State Park was established in 1946 on a 40-acre plot containing the Mercer Oak and the Thomas Clarke House, key features of the Revolutionary War Battle of January 3, 1777. It has been expanded since that time, and now encompasses 85 acres, with another 14 acres pending for addition to the Park by donation from the American Battlefield Trust. These 14 acres, known as Maxwell's Field or the IAS Tract, are a part of the site of George Washington's successful counterattack against British regulars. The American Battlefield Trust, with funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, commissioned a plan for interpretation and rehabilitation of the new extent of the Park, *Princeton Battlefield Preservation and Interpretation Plan* (History Associates and Stach PLLC, 2022.) The Plan provides direction to establish a more engaging interpretive experience and landscape restoration guidance to restore war-time character and features, enhancing visitor experience and appreciation. One such recommendation is the vision for a permanent visitor and education center, the principal topic of this investigation. With the approval of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites, the American Battlefield Trust has commissioned John G. Waite Associates, Architects (JGWA) to prepare this Princeton Battlefield Visitor and Education Center Feasibility Study.

The benefits of a Visitor and Education Center for the site include:

- Attracting a wide variety of visitors to the site, with resulting economic activity in the area such as restaurants and shopping;
- Generating activity that raises the status and presence of the site both in the community and to visitors;
- Providing a facility to interpret the place of the Battle of Princeton in the wider context of the Ten Crucial Days and the Revolutionary War; and
- Increasing capacity for groups to be able to experience the site.

Stakeholders in the process of developing a visitor and education center for the Princeton Battlefield share several common visions, including:

- Interpretation of the history and significance of the Battle to a wide audience;
- Commemoration of individuals significant in this Battle and stage of the Revolutionary War;
- Education about the Battle, related actions, and the Revolutionary War for schoolchildren;
- Creation of a collaborative space for local historic and community groups;
- Development of a place that begins the process of grounding the understanding of the Battle in the artifact of the land;
- Expansion of the resources for learning about and researching the Battle of Princeton;
- Creation of appropriate modern facilities for group tours, including school groups;
- Universal access for people of all ages and abilities; and
- Development of an environmentally sustainable facility that can be maintained easily.

*The Preservation and Interpretation Plan* defines clearly a path to interpretation using many modalities, including exhibits, multi-media, site tours with interactive personal technology, and

interpretive signage in the landscape, among others. A Visitor and Education Center would be a part of creating a successful interpretation of the Battle and its place in American history.

The current facilities for visitors and education at the Princeton Battlefield State Park (PBSP) are inadequate. The Clarke House is a good historic house museum with period rooms used to interpret the daily life of a Quaker farm family at the time of the Battle, and the death of General Mercer, a close friend of Washington and a key commander in the Battle, in the house several days after the Battle. While the two recently renovated exhibit spaces in the 19th century wing of the Clarke House provide basic interpretation of the Battle, it is a small installation and not accessible to persons with disabilities. No part of the Clarke House is accessible to persons with mobility disabilities. This area also does not have space to house other visitor amenities such as a gift shop or restrooms. There are two single-occupant toilet rooms attached to the adjacent historic shed, with limited barrier-free access.

Working with the Division of State Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the Princeton Battlefield Society, and the American Battlefield Trust (ABT,) JGWA developed a program for a facility for museum/exhibit space, teaching space, staff space, and visitor amenities. Space needs of 7,000 – 8,000 square feet are projected, which are comparable to facilities at other similar parks. The Thomas Clarke House cannot accommodate such facilities.

The preferred site for visitor services including a Visitor and Education Center at the south end of the State Park property near the Friends Meetinghouse, outside of the boundary of the Core Battlefield, has been identified in the 2022 *Preservation and Interpretation Plan*, including a new entrance from Princeton Pike. A new structure of approximately 7,000 square feet is the preferred building alternative.

# PROGRAM STUDY

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A building program is a statement of the functional spaces in the building based on the needs of the users. Staff of the NJ DEP Division of Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites, including both administrators and staff at the Princeton Battlefield State Park; the American Battlefield Trust; and the Princeton Battlefield Society were consulted by JGWA in preparation of the program, along with community groups concerned with local history and education regarding the Battle. The JGWA team also toured visitor centers at Revolutionary War sites in the area to identify successful and less successful elements.

## INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

*Princeton Battlefield Preservation and Interpretation Plan* lays out proposals for interpretation of the Battlefield to various audiences and in multiple formats. While many of these rely on digital services on the Battlefield grounds such as augmented reality, a physical Visitor and Education Center remains a long-term goal as presented in the excerpt in Appendix A. Interpretation is also envisioned to expand beyond the activities on the Battlefield itself to the lives of those in the area in the period, including colonists and indigenous peoples.

Interpretation of the Battle is the primary function of the Visitor and Education Center. Spaces to accomplish this function will include exhibit areas with different lighting conditions to accommodate displays, interactive exhibits, and video screens. Because the building will serve as the gateway to the Battlefield itself, interpretation spaces should have views to the landscape to strengthen that connection. It is anticipated that exhibitions will also remain in the 19th century wing of the Clarke House.

A video or film is often a part of interpretation of a historical event, and the stakeholders at Princeton feel it would be worthwhile there. To be done most successfully, this requires an enclosed space with specialized lighting, audio systems, and acoustical treatments to provide high-quality audio. A visual connection to the Battlefield is not necessary for this space. To allow the space to be most useful, it can have a flat floor and moveable furniture such as benches (with backs) or gangable stacking chairs. A local precedent for furnishings would be simple wood benches such as those at the nearby Friends Meetinghouse.

Formal educational events are also a desired part of the interpretation of the Battle, ranging from tours for schoolchildren to lectures and symposia aimed at community members and scholars. The Park currently hosts school tours for the Clarke House and the Battlefield, but has no facilities for other educational activities. There are also no facilities for lectures or symposia. Educational events like this could take place in the theater space, or a multi-purpose space similar to a classroom where lessons and other group activities could take place. Modular furniture would allow flexibility in the use of the space, allowing for tables and chairs, open space for physical activities, lecture-style seating, and meeting configuration. This multipurpose space should be able to host simple food service for visiting groups and receptions, as well as plumbing and counterspace to accommodate activities such as painting, and general clean-up. A visual connection to the Battlefield is also desirable.

## VISITOR SERVICES

Typical service needs are restrooms, refreshments, shopping, and indoor and outdoor areas to gather before and after tours. A lobby generally serves as an organizing space in a building providing access to interpretive and educational spaces, a reception area, a shop, restrooms, and staff spaces.

As noted by History Associates and STACH in the 2022 Plan, a shop provides revenue for the site, and an opportunity for visitors to extend their learning with books and other materials after their visit. It can also provide a sort of advertising as visitors send cards and postcards of the site to others, or bring home branded items and materials about the Battle. An information rack with cards and brochures from other related and nearby historical sites is often a feature of a visitor and education center, and those racks exist at Monmouth Battlefield and Washington Crossing State Parks.

At a primarily outdoor site such as the Battlefield, areas to warm up or cool down are welcome. This can be accommodated in a seating area in a visitor and education center when the building is open, which could be located in the lobby. The State of NJ and many other park and museum facilities close these buildings at least two days per week and in later afternoon and evening daylight hours. For summer use, an outdoor shaded area with seating would be helpful. For the winter, this same area could have shelter from the wind and radiant heating. The comparable visitor centers studied all had some amount of visitor seating, both indoor and outdoor. At Washington Crossing in Pennsylvania, indoor and outdoor seating is placed to have a view of the location of the crossing, and at Princeton seating should have a view of the Battlefield.

Water for visitors is a significant need for an outdoor site. Bottled water can be sold in a shop, or in a vending machine. The Park would need to consider whether an outdoor vending machine is a vandalism risk. Indoor and outdoor drinking fountains and bottle fillers can be provided as well. (Indoor drinking water is a building code requirement.)

Fully barrier-free restroom facilities would be sized to handle the typical daily load of visitors to the center, and not the numbers for a re-enactment or special event. Portable facilities would be required in those cases. It would be possible to provide access to the rest rooms from outside, but this is not recommended when the Visitor and Education Center is not staffed. If off-hours facilities are required, free-standing vault-type toilet structures typical of parks can be provided in the vicinity of the parking area. The Park currently has two toilet rooms attached to the Clarke House shed with access from the outside. These facilities are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and are closed when the site is not staffed. Restroom finishes and fixtures should be durable and low-maintenance, and plumbing fixtures should be water-conserving.

## STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE SPACE

The on-site staff of the Princeton Battlefield State Park today consists of one full-time permanent employee and one seasonal employee. Grounds maintenance staff is assigned periodically from Washington Crossing State Park. The Clarke House is currently open Wednesday – Sunday, and the grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Staff now occupies the second floor of the 19th century wing in the Clarke House. The space is very limited, and it is not accessible to persons with disabilities. This staff area includes a small reference library, which is generally not available to the public except by special arrangement.



The staff at PBSP provide tours of the Battlefield and the Clarke House, and supervise visitors to the exhibit space and period rooms. They also perform administrative work, and research topics related to the Park. When only one is present, the Clarke House will be closed if that person is on site giving a tour or doing work elsewhere. If staffing is not increased, this issue will only be worsened with a second facility, necessitating closure of both should the single staff person be away. Three full time equivalent staff is the recommended minimum complement for the site with a Visitor and Education Center, per Mark Texel, Administrator of State Parks and Historic Sites in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

Staff space should include one private office, a common work space, a library space, a conference room, and a break room. The common workspace should be sized for the State staff plus community volunteers from the Princeton Battlefield Society or other organizations, with at least four workstations. The library and conference room could be combined in a single space. It should include conference seating for ten at a table. A direct view from the visitor spaces into the staff spaces is not recommended. From observation at comparable visitor centers, the staff spaces can become disorganized and compromise the professional atmosphere of the building.

The former residential kitchen in the Clarke House currently serves break needs for the staff and storage and clean-up for events involving food, and should continue in operation to serve events at the Clarke House and surrounding site, as well as staff stationed in the Clarke House. Facilities in a staff breakroom in a new visitor and education center should at a minimum include a sink, refrigerator, coffee maker, and microwave. Counter space and cabinets for storage and workspace are also needed. These facilities can be expanded to serve catering needs for large gatherings if that is a priority. Tables and chairs for eating lunch or snacks should also be provided.

A wardrobe closet and changing area is desired for staff period costume needs.

## COLLECTIONS

The collections at PBSP primarily consist of two cannons, furnishings in the Clarke House, and a small collection of archaeological artifacts from various eras of investigations at the Battlefield.

One cannon is on display on the porch of the wing, and is not operational. One gun on a carriage is stored in the shed, and is used at events on site.

The Clarke House furnishings collection is on display and in use in the house to create period rooms for interpretation of period life and the death of General Mercer. It includes kitchen tools and equipment for use in cooking demonstrations both in the fireplace and at outdoor fires. The collection is not known to have any connection with the Clarke family.

The archaeological collection is not on display. Climate control for its storage should be considered, as some items could be quite fragile. This is the only collection not currently on display which would be appropriate to display inside a Visitor and Education Center. The collection is currently stored in the basement of the Clarke House, and may remain there if not put on display. The State may also provide elements of the Swan Collection at Washington Crossing related to the Battle of Princeton on loan to a museum exhibition at Princeton. These items may require climate-controlled cases.

## BUILDING SYSTEMS AND CONSTRUCTION

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has a series of commitments to sustainability, reducing natural resource use, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The visitor and education center building should be at a minimum in compliance with the US Green Building Council requirements for a LEED- certified building, and ideally be able to achieve a higher rating. (The Monmouth Battlefield Visitor Center has a LEED Silver rating,) This rating system considers siting, water and energy use and conservation, use of renewable or recycled materials, the human environment, and air quality.

One of the major components of the energy use profile of any structure is the HVAC system. Many strategies exist to reduce the use of fossil fuels such as geothermal systems, extracting and rejecting heat from water wells; high-efficiency electric systems such as heat pumps; and flexible systems which can modulate energy use based on occupancy and other conditions.

Electric power and lighting can also be made more sustainable by using energy-conserving light fixtures with LED sources and occupancy sensor controls, and energy conserving appliances and equipment. On-site power generation with photovoltaic panels can also be used to reduce electric power use from the grid. Incoming power may also be bought from renewable sources.

Water-conserving plumbing fixtures should be used, and capture of gray water and roof drainage water for irrigation or other uses should be considered.

The building HVAC system should be designed primarily for visitor and staff comfort. Specialized conditions for artifact conservation should be provided only on a localized basis and not for entire areas. Micro-climates can be provided in artifact housing. Humidification and dehumidification generally increase the energy consumption of a system, and should be used in limited locations only.

Because it is not anticipated that the building would have a dedicated facility operation and maintenance staff, all building materials and systems must be simple to maintain and operate on a daily basis by the site staff, although annual maintenance contracts would be recommended for the systems.

## COMPLIANCE

All construction at State-owned historic properties is subject to review by the NJ Historic Sites Council under the NJ Register of Historic Places Act. An Application for Project Authorization must be completed, and the project will be reviewed by the Council according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. If Federal money is used for construction, such as a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program, then review of the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be required since the proposed site is within the boundaries of the National Historic Landmark. This review is conducted between the federal funding agency and the NJ SHPO, and involves local and national stakeholders. Often the Project Authorization application can be used as the documentation for Section 106 review.

The selected site for the building will also have to be reviewed by the State for environmental concerns and possible permitting. This would include topics such as wetlands, habitats, plant life, and stream buffers.

Plan review and inspection for the building would take place through the Bureau of State and Local Code Inspections in the NJ Department of Community Affairs, unless a return to local request is made for the Princeton construction officials to review and inspect locally. The design and new construction must comply with the NJ Uniform Construction Code, including the Energy Subcode. Any work at the Clarke House would need to comply with the NJ Rehabilitation Subcode.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

The NJ State Park Division of Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites has recently completed a new visitor center at Monmouth Battlefield State Park, housed in a surviving piece of a 1960s structure and an adjacent newly constructed building. It is in the design process for a new visitor center at Washington Crossing State Park, which will be an entirely new facility. Both centers replace smaller and outdated centers. The programs for these two buildings are very similar, and can be used as a basis for establishing space requirements for a visitor and education center at Princeton.

Interpretation and education are the primary function of any visitor and education center program. As noted in the *Preservation and Interpretation Plan*, interpretation can include multiple types of exhibits, from interactive and audio-visual elements to artifact displays to informational panels. At Princeton, with a focus on the Battle period landscape, the interpretive spaces should provide connections and views to the Battlefield and adjacent sites such as the Meetinghouse and the route of Washington's approach to Princeton. Educational space should mesh with the interpretive space for activity areas and audio-visual programming areas. Educational space should also provide seating for lecture and panel presentations related to the Battle, and for rental use by affinity groups such as the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Ten Crucial Days.

### WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK PROGRAM

USE	ESTIMATE AREA (NET SQUARE FEET)	COMMENTS
Lobby <i>Includes Welcome Lobby, Gift Shop, Restrooms, and Retail Support</i>	1,100 NSF	This space is designed to accommodate peak yearly crowds in the thousands for the Crossing re-enactment in December.
Interpretation <i>Includes exhibits and support spaces – AV, prep, and storage</i>	3,000 NSF	Washington Crossing has a significant collection of artifacts, the Swan Collection, which PBSP does not.
Education <i>Includes a tiered theater, flat-floor room with 40 fixed seats, AV, and storage</i>	2,200 NSF	
Administration <i>Includes conference room/library, offices for 2 staff, break room, and staff restroom</i>	600 NSF	This appears to allow for workspace for additional staff in other locations. No other space exists at PBSP.
Support <i>Includes mechanical/electrical space, janitor's closet</i>	535 NSF	
Total (Net)	7,435 NSF	
Total (Gross)	11,152 GSF	Factor of 1.5 to account for circulation and lack of efficiency

PROPOSED PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD PROGRAM

USE	ESTIMATE AREA (NET SQUARE FEET)	COMMENTS - Comparison to Washington Crossing State Park
Lobby <i>Includes lobby/orientation, gift shop, restrooms, and retail support</i>	800 NSF	Large Welcome Lobby is not needed at Princeton, reduced by 300 NSF.
Interpretation <i>Includes exhibits and support spaces – AV, prep, and storage</i>	1,500 NSF	Without the collection of artifacts to display, the exhibits can be smaller at Princeton; exhibit space will remain in the Clarke House; reduced by 1500 NSF.
Education <i>Includes a flat-floor theater with 60 seats, a room to accommodate 30 in classroom style, AV, and storage</i>	1,500 NSF	Reduced by 700 SF; a tiered theater is not warranted at Princeton. Room capacities based on an estimated 30 people per school class.
Administration <i>Includes conference room, library, office space for 3 - 4 staff, and break room</i>	1,000 NSF	PBSP has requested space for wardrobe and changing for costumed interpreters; there is no other space for staff workspace as there is at WCSP; increased by 400 NSF
Support <i>Includes mechanical/electrical space, janitor's closet</i>	500 NSF	Comparable to WCSP
Total (Net)	5,300 NSF	
Total (Gross)	7,950 NSF	Factor of 1.5 to account for circulation and lack of efficiency

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Princeton Battlefield State Park is currently staffed by a historian (full-time, permanent) and one seasonal interpreter (part-time, temporary.) An increase in the staff to three would be required to operate a visitor and education center as well as the Thomas Clarke House. This would result in double the staff cost to the State if the property remains staffed five days per week. If it is staffed seven days per week, the staff cost would increase by as much as three times, depending on how many staff were present on a given day.

The maintenance budget would also increase significantly with the addition of a larger structure to the Park.

One option to reduce additional costs would be to associate with partners in the local history community to provide staffing assistance and cost sharing for use of spaces such as a theater or classroom.

The Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS) is the Officially Recognized Friends Organization (ORFO) for the Princeton Battlefield State Park. As such, the Society may undertake interpretive activities at the Park, with the approval of the Director. Ongoing interpretive activities currently include monthly Battlefield walking tours, the annual Battle anniversary tour/re-enactment, and several special events with an educational purpose. In the past the Society has supplied volunteers to augment the State staff at the Clarke House, and could be a resource for staffing at a visitor and education center. ORFOs may also take on a greater role in partnering with the State by leasing



and operating facilities, such as the Walt Whitman Association does at the Walt Whitman House in Camden, and the Proprietary House Association at the Proprietary House in Perth Amboy. ORFOs may also make donations to the State for special projects, which could include design and fabrication of exhibits or other fit-out at a visitor and education center. PBS has recently completed design for the new exhibits at the Clarke House in cooperation with the State.

PBS has a strong interest in expanding educational programming for primary and high school students, and would support spaces in a visitor and education center that would serve that use. They would also provide leaders and guides for this programming.

Other local organizations which may have an interest in co-use of a visitor and education center include:

**The Historical Society of Princeton**, a long-established professionally staffed organization dedicated to Princeton history, occupies a six-acre farmstead site on Quaker Road within the Battlefield boundary. The Society has a large, 3-season event space in a historic barn, but limited exhibit space at the Updike Farm. They could be a strong partner in development of changing exhibits for a visitor and education center, as well as cooperative space use for a classroom or theater, since those spaces are not available at Updike Farm. In return, the barn could be used for Battlefield events appropriate to that space. A walking trail could be established between the Visitor and Education Center parking and the Updike Farmstead.

**The Princeton Monthly Meeting** still worships in the Meetinghouse where it did at the time of the Battle, adjacent to Thomas Clarke's farm. While as pacifists they do not generally have an interest in interpreting the Battle, they would be a resource for developing interpretation of the role of the Friends in the community at the time of the Battle; the Clarke families were members of the Meeting. They currently cooperate with the Historical Society to provide public tours of the Meetinghouse and grounds on an intermittent basis. The Meeting appears to be interested in being involved with the visitor and education center, and the Friends' School may also be interested in using (renting) space in a visitor and education center on an intermittent basis. The main concerns of the Meeting, which have been under discussion, are not to disturb their worship time with cannon and other gunfire, and not to increase bicycle and pedestrian traffic along the edge of their campus. A recent fire on the porch of the Meetinghouse has heightened their concerns.

**The Princeton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution** is committed to the interpretation and commemoration of the Revolutionary War and the local events in the Princeton area. While they could not be a significant financial supporter, they would be available to support special events and to rent facilities for their meetings and ceremonies. They currently do this at other sites in Princeton, including Morven.

**The Sons of the American Revolution** locally take an active role in education about the Revolutionary War, including the Ten Crucial Days and the Battle of Princeton. They would provide leaders for tour groups, and volunteer staffing of a visitor and education center. They could also rent space for meetings and presentations.

## REVIEW OF EXISTING FACILITIES

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There are no structures on the Princeton Battlefield State Park property which can accommodate the proposed program. New construction will be required.

### THOMAS CLARKE HOUSE

The Clarke House, a contributing resource to the Princeton Battlefield NHL, is a wood frame residential structure dating to the mid-eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It was acquired by the State of NJ in 1946 and restored in 1976 to reinstate 18th century features such as windows and doors that had been removed by previous residents. At this time it was also configured to house resident Park staff in the later wing, while the earlier part of the house was used as a house museum relating to the Battle of Princeton.

Today the building continues to serve as a museum interpreting the life of the Clarke family at the time of the Battle, the Battle, and the death of General Hugh Mercer from bayonet wounds received in the Battle. On the ground floor, the wing includes two rooms used for exhibits and the 1976 kitchen. The exhibit spaces are recently rehabilitated in a joint project between the PBS and the State.

The State has maintained the building in serviceable condition, with fluctuations in upkeep. In the 2010s, significant exterior repairs and basement wall repairs were undertaken in cooperation with the PBS, along with reconstruction of the 19th century porch on the south side of the earlier section of the house. Windows were extensively restored as well. The shutters were removed and stored due to their poor condition about ten years ago, and have not yet been rehung.

The building is fully heated and cooled with a residential/light commercial system, and does not provide humidity control.

While there are currently no significant deferred maintenance projects at the Clarke House other than the shutters, regular periodic maintenance of finishes and systems is always required.

Upon request, people with disabilities who require special considerations can be assisted by staff at the Clarke House.



Figure 1: The Thomas Clarke House and its shed overlook the rolling fields where the Battle of Princeton took place. JGWA 2022.



Figure 2: At the time of the Battle, the south facade of the house, the main entrance, faced the Sawmill Road, now gone. The Greek Revival stoop on the taller portion of the building and the two-story wing with piazza to the right are 19th century additions. JGWA 2022





Figure 3: The historic back of the Clarke House now faces the main road. Only the taller section existed at the time of the Battle. The wing to the left is a 19th century addition. The shutters are in storage awaiting restoration. JGWA 2022



Figure 4: The kitchen in the Thomas Clarke House is used for cooking demonstrations, as well as part of self-guided tours. JGWA 2023





Figure 5: The Battle of Princeton exhibit in the Clarke House was completed in 2023. This exhibit or a similar one is expected to remain in the Clarke House. JGWA 2023



Figure 6: In a view from the southwest, the shed sits to the left of the Thomas Clarke House. JGWA 2023

## SHED

The Shed is an 18th century structure, with later lean-to additions. The lean-to on the north side was constructed to house the public toilet rooms for the site, two single-occupant facilities. The rest of the structure is used for storage by the Princeton Battlefield Society and by the Park.

As a historic structure and a contributing element of the Princeton Battlefield NHL, the interior could be interpreted to the public in the future. It is pictured in the Benson Lossing view of Princeton Battlefield.

The building envelope was restored in the past five years, including a new wood shingle roof, and siding and structural repairs. It is in very good condition. No work was done at the toilet rooms, which are in serviceable condition.



Figure 7: This view of the Clarke House with the shed at the far left appeared in Benson J. Lossing's *Illustrated Field-Book of the Revolution* in 1852. Courtesy Princeton Battlefield Society.





Figure 8: The original portion of the Clarke House shed is the one and a half story section to the left. JGWA 2022.



## OTHER BUILDINGS

1. Stone Smokehouse. This small structure sits northeast of the Thomas Clarke House, and is currently not interpreted. As a historic structure, it could be interpreted in the future.
2. Selberg Residence. This 1952 house is planned to be removed from the property.



Figure 9: Stone Smokehouse. JGWA 2023.





Figure 10: Selberg Residence Front Entrance, CHSIR 2023



Figure 11: Selberg Residence Living Room, CHSIR 2023

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## PREFERRED BUILDING SITE

Identified in the 2022 *Princeton Battlefield Preservation and Interpretation Plan* as the recommended location for visitor services, this land lies within the National Historic Landmark boundary and the present-day acreage of PBSP but outside of Core Battlefield, making it an ideal location for arrival and visitor services. Because of this optimal location, this site was identified as the strongest candidate for construction of new structures and Park infrastructure.

Located roughly 150 yards to the southwest of the present-day visitor parking area, this location presents the best place to begin exploration and experience of the park's natural and cultural resources. New infrastructure improvements for entry drive, parking and visitor services may be accommodated outside of Core Battlefield. The site should retain vegetative screening of adjacent open space on lands owned by the Princeton Friends Meeting and Friends School. Battlefield views to the west may be restored through selective tree removal, and trails from visitor parking and future visitor and education center here would take advantage of closer proximity to Institute Woods and the Friends' Meetinghouse, as well as the approach route to the Battle on the Sawmill Road. Vegetative screening should also be maintained between the site and the houses along Mercer Road.

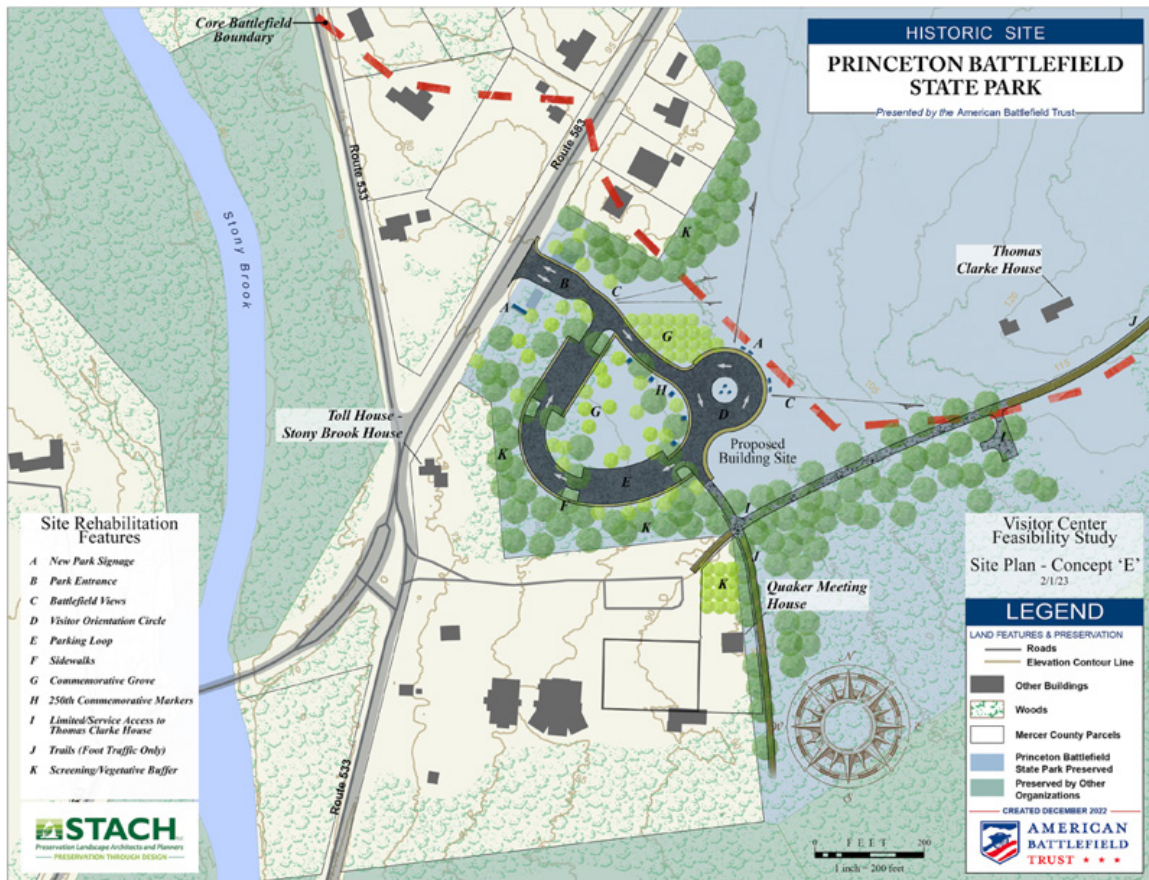


Figure 12: The preferred site for a visitor and education center lies within the Park, but outside Core Battlefield, indicated by the red dashed line. The Meetinghouse lies just to the south of this site, and it has convenient access from Mercer Road. STACH 2023.



## DESIGN APPROACH

A Visitor and Education Center building must fulfill the program requirements as well as respond to the site and promote the interpretive mission of the Battlefield.

### SITE DESIGN

The Center will be a key part of the entry sequence to the Battlefield landscape. It should facilitate the transition into the landscape, and not pose a barrier. When viewed from the Battlefield it must not dominate the landscape or the historic and residential structures surrounding the site.

Entering from Princeton Pike, the visitor should have a view both of the Battlefield and the Center. The Thomas Clarke House will be visible in the distance when the landscape restoration is complete. Parking should be outside of this viewshed, and screened with vegetation to obscure it from the Battlefield. Ideally the Center will respond to both the primary views to the Battlefield and the secondary view to the Friends' Meetinghouse. Hardscape should be limited to the minimum needed for access, service, and maintenance.

### BUILDING DESIGN

A new Visitor and Education Center will be inserted into a cultural landscape that has historically been vernacular residential and agricultural. Buildings tend to be small scale, and built with stone and wood, with some brick. In the late 19th century, the outbuildings for the Drumthwacket estate located between Mercer Road and Route 206 (King's Highway) were constructed in a picturesque revival style, but still similar in scale and form to the residential and agricultural buildings of the previous 150 years. In the mid-20th century, the construction of the Institute for Advanced Study at the north edge of the Battlefield brought modernist design to the residential surroundings, as well as larger scale institutional structures. These larger scale buildings remain well screened from the Core Battlefield area of the PBSP, so that the surroundings are still low in height, local and traditional in materials, and residential in character.

The building must fit into this context, and not dominate it. The building must also help to preserve and enhance viewsheds on the Battlefield and approaching the Battlefield. Using scale, form, and materials that respect the architectural context is one approach that has been successful at other locations.

### BUILDING OPTIONS

**Option 1:** Construct a new 7,500 sq. ft. structure to include all program elements.

A single large structure must be scaled so as not to overwhelm the site, being significantly larger than anything in the area outside of the well-screened new construction at the Friends School. It must be a marker on the site, but must also redirect visitors to the Battlefield landscape itself. Responding to the site, it would be appropriate to break the overall mass up into smaller parts of similar scale to the surrounding buildings. Exterior materials should also be similar to those of the surrounding structures, including wood, stone, and brick. Other natural materials such as metal would also be appropriate in limited amounts. The building should be designed to achieve a minimum of LEED silver certification.

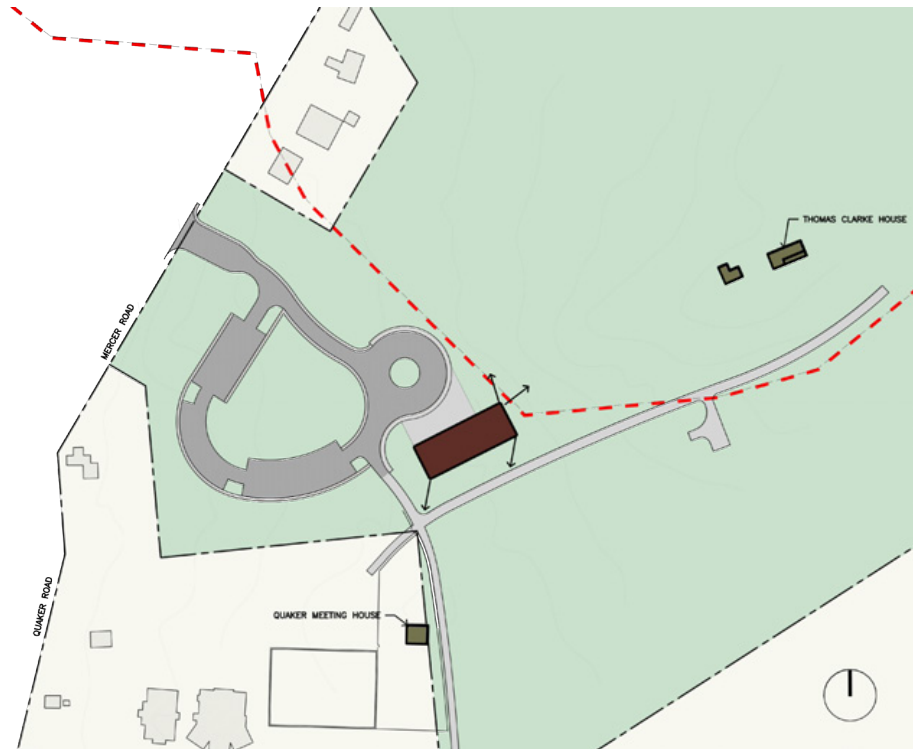


Figure 13: Option 1 - Single 7,500 sq. ft. Structure, JGWA 2023.

**Option 2:** Relocate the 2,600 sq. ft. Selberg Residence to serve as a part of a center in conjunction with a new 5,000 sq. ft. structure. This option has been determined not to be feasible by the State of NJ. See Appendix C.

## VISION

The Visitor and Education Center is sited to reinforce the edge of the Core Battlefield, and transition visitors from the arrival area to the Battlefield itself. The educational and interpretive resources in the center equip the visitor to get the most from a subsequent tour of the Battlefield, and to reinforce the experience after a tour.

The building massing will include several volumes with form and scale related to the surrounding architecture, including residential structures and the Friends Meetinghouse. Materials will also reflect surrounding buildings. The building is not intended to be a reproduction of a historical building; it is intended to be identifiable as a new, destination structure, but not an intrusion in the cultural landscape of the Princeton Battlefield National Historic Landmark.

The interior of the building will be organized around a lobby space, from which visitors may access exhibition and education spaces, services, and the Battlefield itself. Staff and administrative spaces will also connect to this lobby. Primary spaces will have views of the Battlefield and the historic approach routes to orient visitors to the Battlefield and the course of the Battle.

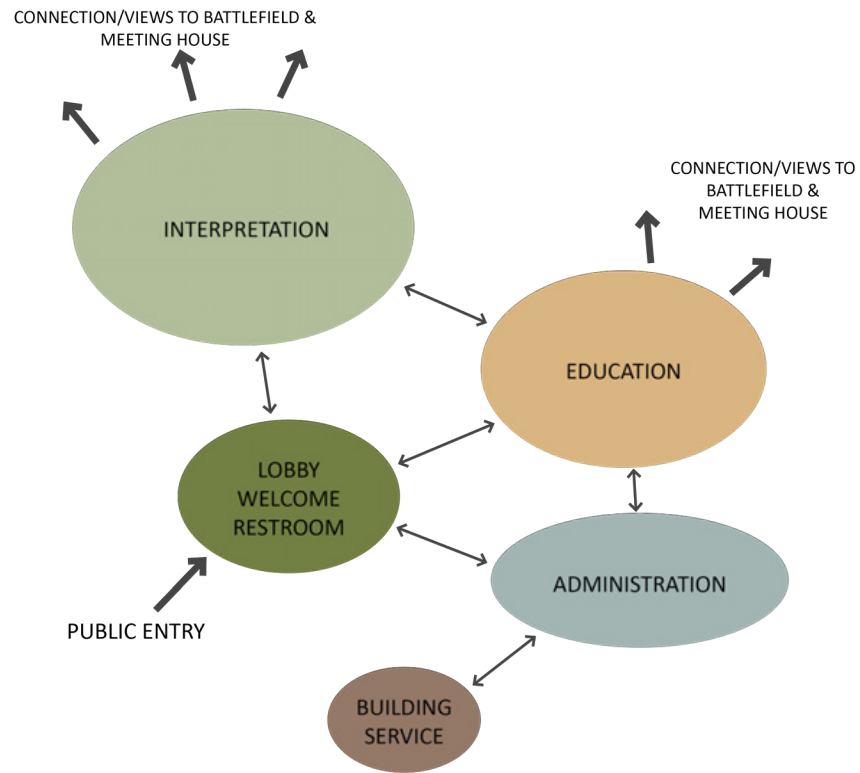


Figure 14: This diagram shows the relative size and proposed relationships between program areas in the Visitor and Education Center. JGWA 2023



JOHN G. WAITE, ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

MOLLY JORDEN DEL., 2023

Figure 15: Looking north, the Thomas Clarke House and shed are visible in the distance, with the visitor and education center to the right (east), Molly Jorden, JGWA 2023



JOHN G. WAITE ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

MOLLY JORDEN DEL., 2023

Figure 16: From the Battlefield, the Visitor and Education Center helps define the edge of the Park, along with the Thomas Clarke House and Shed. The Meetinghouse is in the distance beyond the Visitor and Education Center. Molly Jorden, JGWA 2023

## COST

Based on the project size and materials of the building, using data for institutional construction in the Princeton area, the cost for the building and associated landscaping is estimated to be between \$7,000,000 and \$9,000,000 in present dollars. This cost can be verified when a more detailed design has been completed.

## SCHEDULE

The Division of State Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites does not have the staff capacity to take on design and construction of more than one significant visitor and education center design and construction project at the same time. They likely would not be able to begin design on a facility for Princeton Battlefield until substantial completion of the Washington Crossing Visitor Center in 2025. The project at Princeton is likely to be at least a four-year process, with two years of design and permitting, and two years of construction. This projects a completion date in 2029, two years past the 250th anniversary of the Battle. In order to have a visitor and education center completed by the time of the Battle 250th anniversary, design for the facility would need to begin in 2023. However, the celebration of this milestone is extended in Princeton with the anniversary of the Continental Congress at Nassau Hall and Washington at Rockingham in 2033.

The State has committed to the implementation of the Mobile Visitor Center as described in the *Preservation and Interpretation Plan* which will provide enhanced interpretation of the Battle for the 2027 anniversary, and mitigate the lack of a physical visitor and education center.



# APPENDICES

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## A. VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTER DESCRIPTION FROM THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION PLAN

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## Future Interpretive Improvements

### *Permanent Visitor Center*

**Intended Audience:** All

**Themes:** All

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

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

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



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

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

When it opens, this building should have areas dedicated to a permanent exhibit, temporary exhibits, a movie theater, a classroom/meeting space, a museum shop, and office and bathroom space. These spaces can be scaled up and down as necessary depending on the final design of the center. Consolidating these activities in the visitor center will also free up space in the Thomas Clarke House for more interpretive programming.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

A well-executed orientation film can help visitors understand the significance of the site and make them eager to learn more. Statements made at the first public meeting

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

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

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

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

### *Stockton Street Entrance and Trail*

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

## **Wayside**

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

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

## **AR Experience**

### **Washington-Rochambeau March**

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

## **Boundary Marker**

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

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



## B. BENCHMARK STUDIES

### MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER, MANALAPAN, NJ

The Battle of Monmouth was the largest land Battle of the Revolution, and many acres are preserved at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. The new visitor center completed in 2014 replaced one section of the 2-part 1960s visitor center. The remaining section of the earlier brick building and the brick and concrete bridge that originally linked the two sections now have an uneasy relationship on the site with the gleaming white box of the new visitor center.

From the large parking areas, visitors enter the site between the two buildings, which form a portal to the expanse of the Battlefield on the farm fields below. A large brick-paved plaza can accommodate the crowds for the re-enactment.

The rehabilitated earlier building contains a classroom, an archaeology lab, public restrooms, storage, and mechanical space. The new building includes staff workspace, a shop, a tiered theater, exhibits, and public restrooms. The yearly re-enactment attracts thousands, both participants and spectators, so many restrooms are provided.

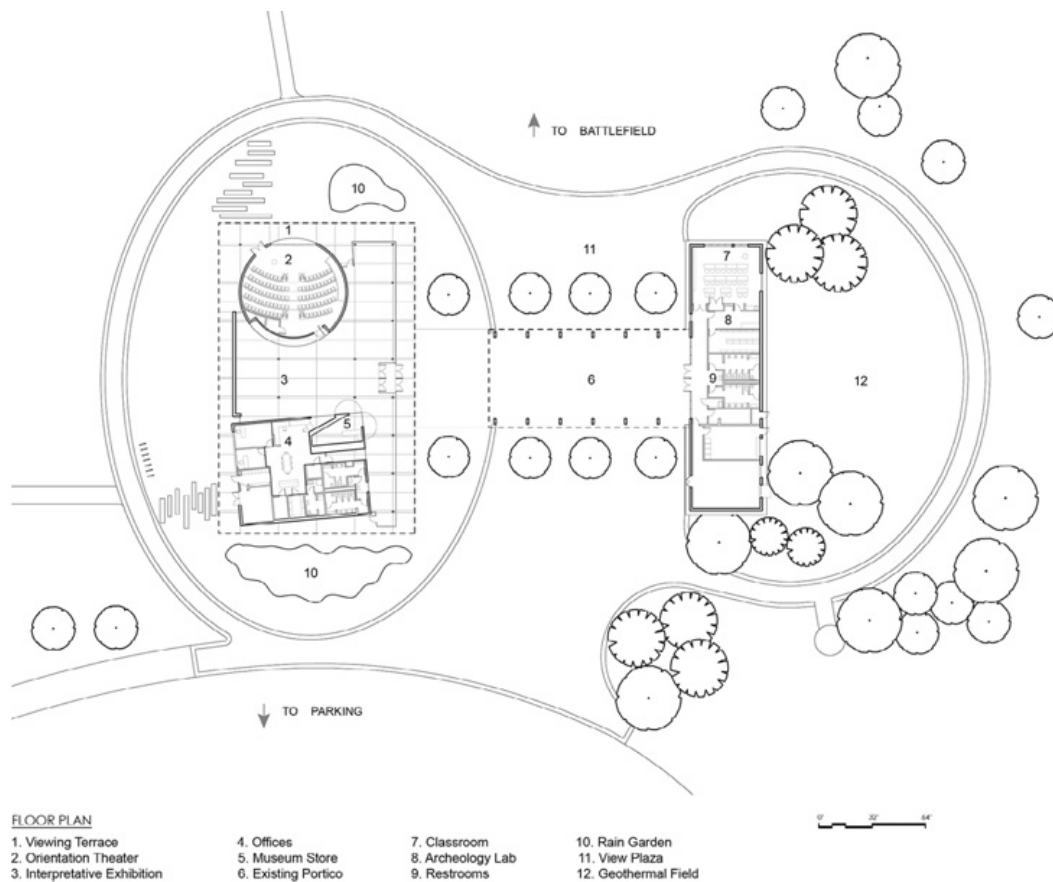


Figure 17: Plan of the Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center. The new addition constructed in 2014 is on the left. (ikon 5 Architects)

The exhibit features a vintage model of the Battle, with lights that come on to point out certain parts of the Battle. This has been a much-loved exhibit at the Battlefield for many years, and is currently under repair. Another key feature is the theater. At the end of the film, the screen rises and the curtains slide back so that the view of the Battlefield replaces the screen. This method of incorporating battle landscape views into the interpretive and educational spaces of the building should be considered at Princeton.

While the exhibits are professionally presented, the support spaces do not meet the same standard. Paper signs are taped to the glass wall of the gift shop, and books are stacked haphazardly. Books are also stacked on shelves and carts in the hallway at the rest rooms. The work area seen through the welcome window is messy. Administrative spaces at Princeton should not be in direct line of sight of visitors.

The building is certified LEED Silver, and incorporates geothermal heating and cooling, rain water collection, and many energy-saving strategies. The Princeton Visitor and Education Center should have these same aspirations.



Figure 18: The previous visitor center consisted of two brick pavilions connected by a concrete bridge. The bridge and the pavilion to the right remain. State of New Jersey, date unknown.





Figure 19: The new visitor center addition to the left faces the bridge and pavilion of the previous facility to the right. JGWA 2022.



Figure 20: A cannon marks the entrance to the visitor center. JGWA 2022.





Figure 21: The tall space of the theater projects above the roof in a drum. The deep overhangs shade the windows to limit reflections when looking out, and to reduce heat gain. JGWA 2022.



Figure 22: The interactive model of the Battlefield is to the left. JGWA 2022.





Figure 23: The exhibition spaces takes advantage of the views of the Battlefield. JGWA 2022.



Figure 24: The previous building and bridge occupy one side of the brick plaza. JGWA 2022.

## WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER, TITUSVILLE, NJ

The Washington Crossing State Park Visitor Center is a purpose-built one-story building dating to the 1970s. Stylistically it is typical of contemporary design of the time, with some very nice details. It serves as the visitor center for a park that includes the site of the crossing, historic buildings, a summer theatre, and walking trails in fields and woods.

The building is sited in an open field about a half mile from the Delaware River and the site of the crossing. The building has no view of the river and no direct connection to the site of the crossing. There is a picnic grove to the west of the Visitor Center. Visitor parking is approximately 800' to the east of the building, connected via a concrete path. Separate barrier-free parking is located closer to the building.

The visitor center has two public entrances which access a circulation space dividing the public and private/service areas of the building. The public spaces to the southwest consist of exhibit areas and a small auditorium/viewing room with carpeted risers. The private spaces include an open office area adjacent to the entrance, a private office for three occupants, and restrooms. A reception counter forms one side of the circulation space. A standing rack holds brochures for the Park, other sites, and local attractions.

The collections on display in the exhibit areas are very high-quality artifacts of both military and civilian life in the period of the crossing from the Swan Collection. The artifacts are crowded into custom aluminum cabinets spaced closely together in the exhibit spaces. A single individual lingering over a display can create a bottleneck.

The overall impression of the Visitor Center is one of disarray. The vestibules contain many flyers and notices. The rack of books for sale appears amateurish. The open office area is messy, with papers on all work surfaces. There is random furniture in the circulation space. The reception counter is untidy. The restrooms are large, modern, and clean.





Figure 25: View of the Visitor Center from the parking area. JGWA 2022.



Figure 26: Main visitor entrance to the Visitor Center. JGWA 2022.





Figure 27: Signs taped to the door. The overflowing bulletin board in the vestibule is visible through the door to the right. JGWA 2022.



Figure 28: The main public area is being used for artifact study because other areas are not usable. JGWA 2022.





Figure 29: Mis-matched chairs and other furniture in the public area. JGWA 2022.



Figure 30: Rear visitor entrance across from the picnic grove. JGWA 2022.

## WASHINGTON CROSSING HISTORIC PARK (PA) VISITOR CENTER, TAYLORSVILLE, PA

The Visitor Center for Washington Crossing Historic Park is a free-standing purpose-built structure. It sits on the west bank of the Delaware River overlooking the location where the Crossing took place in 1776. Today the building is a series of additions built around a mid-twentieth century colonial revival structure housing an auditorium seating more than 200 people. The structure is composed of random ashlar stone resembling many other colonial and colonial revival structures in Bucks County and along the Main Line. The quality of this construction is excellent, and it blends in with the historic buildings in the area.

Wings were added to this building to increase interpretation, staff space, and visitor services. The most recent addition in 2012 included a large glass vestibule overlooking the river, and an extension of the exhibit space, also overlooking the river. The purpose of this building is clearly to accommodate the crowds associated with the Crossing re-enactments each December.

Site features include an allee of flags of the 13 original states and the Betsy Ross flag leading to the US flagpole; an accessible entrance with a cannon on display; commemorative monuments and plaques; interpretive signage; and paths leading to historic structures and other points of interest, including the river bank where the crossing occurred. This plan has kept commemorative features out of the most significant cultural landscape, also a goal at Princeton. Ordinary and accessible parking is across River Road / PA Route 32 to the west of the Visitor Center. This parking does not accommodate re-enactment parking needs. A well-marked crosswalk identifies the route from the parking to the Visitor Center entrance.

The Visitor Center is open seven days a week, with a staff of up to ten people at a time, including Department of Conservation and Natural Resources personnel – professional and maintenance – plus Friends staff, both paid and volunteer. There is a gift shop, archival storage, and classroom and office space. Staff give guided tours of the Visitor Center exhibit which continue out onto the grounds along the river. At 1:00 on a Friday in September 9th, there were approximately 10 visitors at the Center, with 8 on a tour. They had also watched the orientation film in the auditorium. Additional visitors were touring the site at this time. The women's restroom includes 5 stalls, and the men's a similar number.

The Visitor Center is very well maintained, and tidy inside. Signage is clear and well placed. Ad hoc signs and flyers tacked up have been minimized. Staff space is not visible from public space. The public spaces are clean and uncluttered, and present a highly professional appearance. This is a goal for Princeton, so that there is no distraction from the interpretation and education functions.





Figure 31: A wide crosswalk at River Road leads from the parking area to the George Washington monument and the entrance to the Visitor Center. JGWA 2022.



Figure 32: Entrance to the Visitor Center. JGWA 2022.





Figure 33: Flags of the original colonies line the walk to the American flag on axis with the George Washington monument. JGWA 2022.



Figure 34: The auditorium seats more than 200 visitors. JGWA 2022.



Figure 35: At the main lobby, the building entrance is to the right, and the auditorium is to the left. JGWA 2022.





Figure 36: The event lobby will accommodate re-enactment crowds overlooking the river. JGWA 2022.



Figure 37: The event lobby has a panoramic view of the site of the crossing. Note the commemorative marker to the left. It does not intrude significantly on the view of the site. JGWA 2022.



Figure 38: The viewing area at the exhibit gallery overlooks the river and the site of the crossing. Seating for visitors after a tour at Princeton could use this as a model. JGWA 2022.





Figure 39: The event lobby provides an accessible route between the two floor levels of the Visitor Center, as well as a gateway to the site. JGWA 2022.





Figure 40: Extensive glazing at the east side of the Visitor Center connects the building to its significant site. JGWA 2022.



Figure 41: View of the Visitor Center from the south along River Road. JGWA 2022.

## JOCKEY HOLLOW VISITOR CENTER, MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, BERNARDSVILLE, NJ

The Jockey Hollow Visitor Center is operated and maintained by the National Park Service and provides interpretation and some services for the site of the winter 1779 – 1780 encampment near Morristown, NJ. The main visitor center and museum is on the grounds of the Ford Mansion, about six miles northeast in Morristown, the quarters of General Washington during the winter encampment.

The building is approximately 50 years old and constructed of soldier-course brown brick. It is made up of geometric forms including a cylinder to house the public restrooms. The entrance area has glazed walls opening onto the access from the parking area and onto the path to the Wick House, a historic house museum. There are small tables and chairs against these windows within the protection of the overhang. The main level currently has a gift shop and reception desk, as well as at the interior entrances to the restrooms. The restrooms also have doors at the exterior, which is something that should be considered at Princeton. Adjacent to the entrances is a sunken area with a curved bench for approximately 15 visitors opposite a fireplace with an exhibit panel above. This inviting area is one of three roughly pie-shaped interpretive areas in a central circular form.

The other two interpretive areas are a cut-away reconstruction of a soldier's hut and a video display area with bench seating for about 15. A ten-minute video produced by NJN Public Broadcasting is shown on demand. A few interpretive panels and photographs occupy the circulation path around the exhibits. At the parking lot side is a ranger office screened from the public space.





Figure 42: The Jockey Hollow Visitor Center from the parking area. JGWA 2022.



Figure 43: The cylinder with the restrooms is to the right of the entrance from the parking area. Tables and chairs are provided at the exterior. JGWA 2022.





Figure 44: There are entrances to the restrooms from the plaza surrounding the visitor center. JGWA 2022.





Figure 45: The side of the building toward the Wick House has more glazing than the parking lot side as well as tables and chairs. JGWA 2022.



Figure 46: The gift shop and reception area with the sunken seating are beyond. JGWA 2022.



Figure 47: The interior entrance to the restrooms is opposite the reception desk. This area serves several functions - welcome, orientatoin, staff space, and gift shop. JGWA 2022.





Figure 48: The sunken area behind the reception desk has a curved bench facing the fireplace and the map of the encampment. It is a welcoming area for visitors returning from the encampment site in hot or cold weather. JGWA 2022.



Figure 49: The cut-away reconstruction of a hut includes an on-demand audio recording describing life in the encampment. JGWA 2022.



Figure 50: The interior of the hut is set up to demonstrate life in the encampment. JGWA 2022.





Figure 51: The circulation space around the exhibit core is a missed opportunity for interpretive panels. JGWA 2022.





Figure 52: There are current photos on the wall behind the video area. JGWA 2022.



Figure 53: The video viewing area has a similar layout to the reception space seating with a similar curved bench. JGWA 2022.





Figure 54: A winding path leads from the visitor center to the Wick House, encampment site, and trails beyond. JGWA 2022.





Figure 55: A curved path leads to the parking area and the vehicle roads within the Park. JGWA 2022.



