



Chapter 6

Interpretation Strategies: Three Heritage Centers

Due to the size and complexity of the battlefield, the 2013 Plan proposes a series of Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Corridors as a means to organize public heritage interpretation via a cohesive coordinated Heritage Interpretive Network (HIN). The HIN concept was developed and coordinated via BBTF input efforts. The HIN correlates with strategic landscapes planning. Phase 3 groups related landscapes into what this plan terms the eastern battlefield, where Gen'l Washington undertook his battle (defense) strategy – the Americans moved from DE into PA on Sept. 9-10, 1777 ('American Approach & Encampment Landscape') and arrayed on Sept 10 to guard Brandywine Creek crossings ('Fords Landscapes'). Gen'l Howe's (attack) strategy of dividing Crown Forces into two columns¹ led to battle on two fronts. Having arrived at Strode's Mill village area after an arduous long morning march (around 7 hours) by the Crown Force northern column on Sept. 11, Gen'l Howe then proceeded on to reach the northern tactical setting of Osborne Hill, a high elevation observation point, and devised his battle strategy ('Osborne Hill Landscape'). After a brief (around 1 hour) halt for Crown Force troops to rest, Howe then continued into combat with the Americans ('Birmingham Road Combat Area' Landscape). By mid-morning on Sept. 11, Crown Force eastern advancing column under Gen'l Knyphausen had reached Brandywine Creek, and after skirmishes during their morning advance, and then a lull, engaged in combat starting around noon with the Americans around Chadds Ford ('Chadds Ford Combat Area' Landscape).

The eastern battlefield covers a large area and several significant distinct battle elements and for these reasons multiple Heritage Centers are planned featuring the story of Osborne Hill as a tactical observation setting with high terrain and views, Birmingham Road area combat, combat at Chadds Ford, choice of defensive ford positions along Brandywine Creek, and the American approach into PA and encampment, intertwined with civilian involvement/impacts by both armies, which took place from approximately very early morning September 9, 1777 through September 11, 1777 and into the days after as Crown Forces occupied the area. American locations in DE on September 8, before moving into PA, may also be a point of interpretation that is related to eastern battlefield areas but outside of the five Landscapes in this plan. As well, prior study of Rearguard and Strategic Retreat actions in other portions of the eastern battlefield (Dilworthtown village, Thornton village, and Concordville area)² are related for interpretive purposes.

The 2013 Plan indicates that Chadds Ford and Dilworthtown villages have a good potential for heritage interpretation respectively due to their proximity to Chadds Ford area combat, Birmingham Road area combat, Rearguard combat, and American Retreat, plus some walkability and public amenities (e.g. restaurants and shops). The breadth of history in the eastern battlefield, including areas in this study and further east, revealed that two Heritage Centers may not suffice. A Battlefield National Historic Landmark Heritage Interpretation & Connectivity Plan was completed in 2022 (NHL BBHIP Plan) to vet that reveal. NHL BBHIP Plan looked at several possible Heritage Center locations and, via public and stakeholder engagement, identified three eastern battlefield Heritage Centers, as well as battle related and non-battle-related heritage themes for each. This chapter applies information from the NHL BBHIP Plan and other interpretive projects to provide information about eastern battlefield heritage interpretation and, along with a related conceptual Heritage Interpretive Tour (Appendix C), is intended to be a guide for use and implementation by local entities. As a framework, this chapter recaps key concepts that are detailed in the rest of the plan. Prose may be somewhat repetitive, and when interpreting this

¹ See Southern Battlefield 'The Army March at Dawn in Two Columns' project

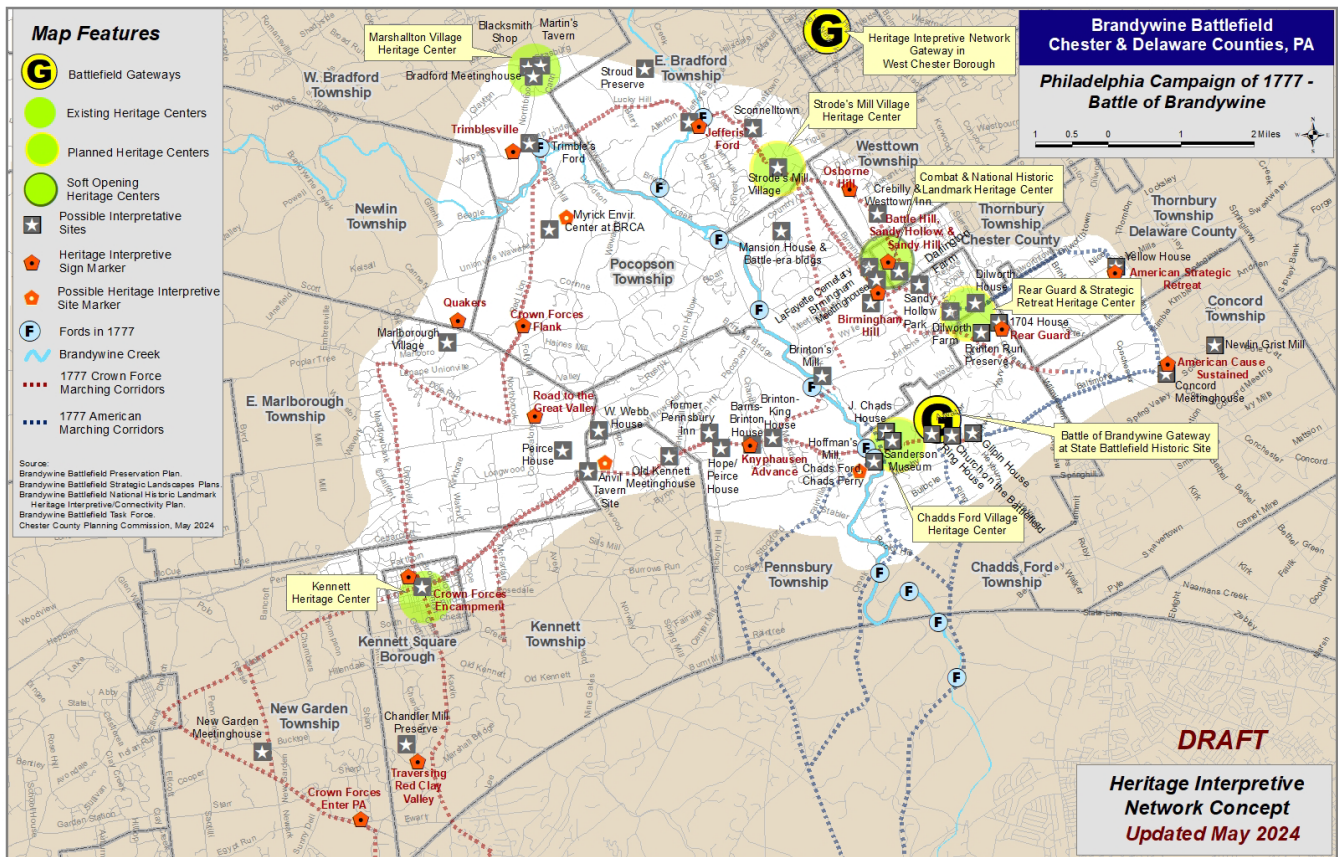
² See Rearguard and Strategic Retreat Plan for interpretation information about the third combat area and Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Heritage Interpretive & Connectivity Plan for information about the related Heritage Center.

part of the battlefield, other plan components, as well as other projects and materials referenced, should still be consulted for detailed and clarifying information.

Visiting historic sites is one of the most popular forms of recreation in Pennsylvania. An important aspect of such historic and cultural resource-based visitation is authenticity. Authenticity of historic sites and places – distinguished as being considered Heritage Sites when visitable or viewable to the public - is what makes them so critical and attractive to visitors, residents, and for battlefield interpretation. For example, there is only one Dilworthtown Inn that American Forces and Crown Forces passed as the battle ensued or Strode’s Mill the vicinity of which Crown Forces halted to prepare for battle. Local heritage tourism visitation encompasses roughly 65% local residents and 35% other visitors. The combination of natural features and historic resources that exist in the battlefield is the optimal way to deliver a meaningful and authentic experience for audiences. Interpretation provides important heritage recreation and education benefits to the community via a better understanding of what is literally ‘in their back yards, as well as possible economic assistance via boosting the local heritage economy and support businesses. Strategies in this Chapter respect that the battlefield spans existing communities where people live and work today just as they did in 1777.

Setting the Stage for Interpretation - Heritage Interpretive Network

Strategic landscapes heritage interpretive planning builds on the 2013 Plan’s Interpretation Network Preliminary Concept. The 2013 Plan established the Concept as a foundation point, and is updated as the Network evolves via follow up projects, such as this Phase 3 project. The most current update is shown in a 2024 Heritage Interpretation Network Map. Updates continue to employ a series of Heritage Site categories or tiers - Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites – categories in the 2013 Plan Concept - plus adds the BBTF Battlefield Interpretive Sign Marker project, while Viewing Corridors/Sites can help link Heritage Sites.



Background

Battle of Brandywine was a complicated, multi-phase battle in the American Revolution involving nearly 30,000 troops and lasting from sunup to sundown on September 11, 1777. It was a defining battle, specifically for the British Campaign in 1777 to overtake and occupy Philadelphia, the colonial capital. The battle was significant as it involved the highest ranked officers of both the American Army and British Army, Gen'l Washington and Gen'l Howe, and was one of the few times they faced off. It represents one of the earliest and largest battles of the American Revolution in terms of number of troops actively engaged in combat and total battlefield land area involved (including troop movement, camp, skirmish, and combat areas). It was the largest single day land battle of the American Revolution. To that end, the battlefield extends through 15 municipalities in two counties, covering approximately 35,000 acres of land. As a testament to its importance, a portion of the battlefield is a National Historic Landmark, the highest level of historic resource designation in the nation. Chester County, in coordination with BBTF, has studied the battlefield via projects funded through grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program, and like the battle itself, is doing this using a multi-phased approach. Battlefield efforts look to implement a statement from the ABPP 2007 Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the U.S. – “The more a historic site is recognized, documented, interpreted, and made accessible, the more likely it is to be protected in the long term.”

The above reasons are why it is critical to raise community and public awareness of the local presence of the battlefield through heritage interpretation efforts as exemplified through this regional collaborative interpretive Network concept. The 2024 updated Heritage Interpretative Network map displays the most current interpretation network concept for the entire battlefield. The Network provides a thematically connected plan of action to highlight the interpretation of authentic battle-era historic sites and places that have been preserved for nearly 250 years and still exist today. It is based and coordinated in the regional collaboration of BBTF that has been working together for over 30 years on Battlefield planning, outreach, and preservation efforts. Its work has reached out to include also Paoli and Clouds and work with Valley Forge for a Philadelphia Campaign Partnership in Chester County and beyond. The 250th anniversary of the nation in 2026 and 250th anniversary of the Philadelphia Campaign in 2027 (and 1stQ of 2028 for Valley Forge) is the official launching point for this interconnected Network, which is planned for long term, ongoing legacy implementation. The Network has as well been expanded countywide to other Chester County heritage themes, e.g. Iron & Steel, Underground Railroad, Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner lines, through the recent Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan (2024).

Summary Description

The Heritage Interpretive Network is a coordinated approach to identify and connect – by theme & place – still visible Heritage Sites, including building and landscapes, as the focus for public interpretation and visitation. Purposes are to raise the visibility of heritage sites, provide a sound visitor experience, amplify the power of place, and foster the local heritage economy and spin-off economy. The Network links identified Heritage Sites by tier category based on core considerations of theme, visitor capacity and readiness, locale, and audience type, as well as other criteria., Heritage Sites are tiered into the following categories:

- **Gateways** provide orientation and an overview of one overarching theme through exhibits, programs, guided tours, and other interpretation, launching the visitor experience for the theme and can regularly accommodate a large capacity for visitors at one time. Visitors are directed to related themed Heritage Centers and Interpretive Sites, and other thematic Gateways.
- **Heritage Centers** continue the interpretive experience for an overarching theme, focusing on aspects of that theme as well as localized themes, in a historically important locale, and near a cluster of related Interpretive Sites. Less intensive in scale than a Gateway, Heritage Centers break history, interpretation, and themes into manageable, digestible sections. Largely self-guided with limited guided experiences and scheduled programs.
- **Interpretive Sites** are battle-era structures, roads, properties, and natural and land areas that still exist in the contemporary landscape. They focus on their relevance for particular elements of interpretive themes and their potential for public access. They are largely self-guided with limited visitor capacity and amenities.

- **Viewing Sites** are a type of Interpretive Sites that are private properties viewed from a public right of way.
- **Viewing Corridors** are roadway segments, often having low to moderate traffic volumes, and trails or paths that provide views of landscapes, buildings, and natural features relevant to the battle and reflective of the battle-era landscape connecting themes and Sites through drives, bicycling, walking, or equestrian.
- **Heritage Interpretive Tours** link Heritage Sites and Viewing Corridors for contained and directed public viewing, awareness, education, and interpretation. At this point, tours are designed to be done via automobile; however there may be sections of tours that could be undertaken by foot or bicycle.

Brandywine Battlefield Gateway

As recommended in the 2013 Plan, the main and ‘flagship’ battlefield Gateway remains Brandywine Battlefield Park in Chadds Ford. The main Gateway for the entire Chester County Heritage Interpretive Network, including for Brandywine Battlefield as part of the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 heritage theme, is in West Chester Borough at Chester County History Center (CCHC). CCHC installed a new permanent exhibit about the American Revolution and Philadelphia Campaign locally. As central locations able and wanting to accommodate larger scale visitorship, such as tour buses, Gateways serve as primary battlefield information visitor centers. They include battle history and publicly accessible sites, as well as nearby businesses and amenities. Brandywine Battlefield Park, as the main Brandywine Battlefield Gateway, is intended to be where all primary interpretive and educational programming for the entire Brandywine Battlefield begins. CCHC, as the Gateway for the entire Network and covering all heritage themes at a 30,000ft level, is intended to have supplemental high level interpretive information for the battlefield. Heritage Centers anchor each main battlefield area (northern, southern, and eastern) and build on the information the visitor receives at a Gateway.

Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Centers

Through the 2022 NHL BBHIP Plan, three Heritage were identified for the eastern battlefield. A southern battlefield Heritage Center was identified in Phase 2 southern battlefield study, while the 2013 Plan as reiterated in Phase 1 northern battlefield study identified two other northern battlefield Heritage Centers. Out of the six total identified places for Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Centers, the first was designed and opened in Marshallton Village and the second was Kennett Heritage Center in Kennett Square Borough. Thornbury Heritage Center is partly open via a ‘soft opening’, and Strode’s Mill Village Heritage Center is underway and should be open soon. Chadds Ford and Dilworthtown Heritage Centers are planned.

Heritage Centers are in historic buildings or places and near to thematically related Interpretive Sites, which together form mini-Networks or ‘Heritage Center clusters’ within the larger Network. Heritage Center clusters interpret their area’s stories as aspects of an overarching theme within the larger Battlefield Network. Sites within a Heritage Center cluster are intended to support one another including visitors, marketing, and possible events within their mini-Network. Heritage Centers are generally geared towards smaller scale visitorship at a time where visitors can learn about elements of the battle – battle themes – plus localized themes. Visitors are then directed to nearby Interpretive Sites and Viewing Corridors/Sites that further tell the battle story. Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Sites/Corridors work in concert with one another thematically to show and tell particular elements of the battle. They are at/near their actual 18th century locations and through interpretive methods such as interpretive tours, displays, apps, brochures, interactive media, and/or signage. Heritage Centers vary in their configuration depending on the site, and often include indoor areas (e.g. Kennett Heritage Center), may include outdoor areas (e.g. proposed future Strode’s Mill Village Heritage Center), or both outdoor and indoor areas (e.g. Marshallton Heritage Center). Possible volunteer staffing may be available as well.

Eastern Battlefield Heritage Centers

The viewer’s experience is intended to continue from the Gateway to Heritage Centers. Heritage Centers provide thematic historic information as well as logistical information and guides visitors to Interpretive Sites, to Viewing

Sites/Corridors via Heritage Tours, as well as to other area amenities (restaurants, shops, bed-and-breakfasts, trails, parks, preserves, etc.) and other practical and recreational activities.

Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark area provides an incredible context for eastern battlefield Heritage Centers. Battle-era buildings and landscapes are still viewable thanks to preservation efforts and landowner value and stewardship of historic places. These Heritage Centers will showcase overarching Brandywine Battlefield themes as well as localized themes. In brief:

Chadds Ford Heritage Center - Washington's Defense Heritage Center at Chadds Ford Historical Society:

- **Main Brandywine theme** – “The British Feign/Washington’s Attempt to Defend his Position at Chadds’ Ford”
- **Heritage Interpretive study/info** - BB National Historic Landmark Heritage Interpretive & Connectivity Plan
- **Battle related subthemes/stories** - battle action of Queen’s Rangers Loyalist unit; British Feign tactic; battle at Chadds Ford; Brinton’s Ford cannon duel; Maxwell’s troops crossing Creek in crossfire; American defense at southern fords; American encampment; American approach from DE and choosing defense of the Creek; American Reconnaissance & Communication; Camp Followers and Baggage wagon train; floating wagon bridge; Great Morass; Battle impact on local community.
- **Non-Battle themes/stories** - Where Wyeth Meets Washington; Chadds Ford village (architecture/ buildings /functions, Taverns and Gathering Place, role of crossroad villages; Hoffmans Mill; 18th C fords & ferries as “road crossings”; Adaptive Reuse; Still readable BB landscape; People in the community; Who were the Chads?; 18th C domestic life; Historic springhouse as a schoolhouse
- **Associated municipalities** - Heritage Center is located in Chadds Ford Twp DC at CC boundary of/associated battle events also in Pennsbury Twp and Birmingham Twp

Thornbury Heritage Center - The Combat and Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Heritage Center at Thornbury Farm.

- **Main Brandywine theme** – “Fours Hills and a Hollow/The Battle Ensues & BB NHL”
- **Heritage Interpretive study/info** - BB National Historic Landmark Heritage Interpretive & Connectivity Plan
- **Battle related subthemes/stories:** battle actions at Osborne Hill, Crebilly, Birmingham Meeting, Birmingham Hill, Battle Hill, Sandy Hollow, Sandy Hill; Lafayette and France; Dr. Benjamin Rush/military hospital at Birmingham Meetinghouse/18th medicine/treating the injured/ad hoc field hospitals; Quaker community and the Battle; Battle impact on local community.
- **Non-Battle themes/stories:** Chester County Multi-Generational Rural Agricultural Tradition via history of Thornbury Farm; Quarries; Preserving BBNHL (Community Conservation and Land Conservation Efforts); Still readable BB landscape; Native American connection to Sandy Hollow; Brandywine Valley Quaker settlement and Birmingham Meetinghouse; People in the community.
- **Associated municipalities:** Heritage Center is located in Thornbury Twp CC, and associated battle events also in Birmingham Twp and Westtown Twp

Dilworthtown Heritage Center - Washington's Rearguard & Strategic Retreat Heritage Center at Clouser House in Historic Dilworthtown:

- **Main Brandywine theme** – “The Americans Adapt/The Last Stand & the Retreat”
- **Heritage Interpretive study/info** - BB National Historic Landmark Heritage Interpretive & Connectivity Plan; Rearguard Defense & Strategic Retreat plan & project
- **Battle related subthemes/stories** - battle as a pivotal event in American Revolution/Battle’s meaning; Strategic retreat as a tactical maneuver; Greene’s Rearguard Defense; Pulaski’s charge; Black soldiers and Ned Hector; Impact of British occupation; Battle impact on local population after occupation/long term; Remembering those who sacrificed
- **Non-Battle themes/stories** - Dilworthtown village (architecture/buildings/functions, Taverns and Gathering Place, role of crossroad villages, Dilworthtown still extant 5-points colonial intersection); Still readable BB landscape; Native American connection to Brinton’s Run; People in the community
- **Associated municipalities** - Heritage Center is located in Birmingham Twp at the DC boundary of/and associated battle events also in Chadds Ford Twp DC, Thornbury Twp DC, and Concord Twp

Brandywine Battlefield Interpretive Sites

There are many Interpretive Sites. They work in concert with a Heritage Center to form a “Mini-Network” or “Heritage Center cluster” to highlight themes and related people, places, events.

Eastern Battlefield: Overview for Interpretive Purposes

As described in Chapters 3 and 4 and Appendix B and C, the eastern battlefield is where the three stages of combat during the battle occurred. These areas are each represented by a Heritage Center to tell their story as well as related Interpretive Sites and Viewing Sites/Corridors in each of the three Heritage Center clusters. New research through this project is outlined in Chapter 4 and would be part of interpretive information.

In terms of broad battle-related themes, Chadds Ford Heritage Center will represent the eastern battlefield landscape where the Crown Forces stages their feign and Washington thought he was facing the full British Army in his defense of his positions near Chadds’ Ford and the resulting battle at Chadds Ford area. Thornbury Heritage Center will represent the eastern battlefield landscape where the main battle combat stage occurred involving terrain of four hills and a hollow and will also represent Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark area. Dilworthtown Heritage Center will represent the eastern battlefield landscape where the third and final stage of combat occurred via the American Rearguard action and where the American Strategic Retreat occurred. Heritage Centers will direct visitors to explore heritage themes (below) related to these significant battlefield events and the battle-era colonial landscape they took place within, as well as localized non-battle themes that have been identified.

Interpretive Themes

Chapter 5 of the 2013 Plan recommends establishing unifying interpretive themes for the battlefield. This plan takes that step and identifies themes for the eastern battlefield based on the area’s significance, which speaks to several overarching themes broadly categorized as ‘military events’, ‘18th century landscape’, and ‘local community’. Aspects of these themes are interlaced. Under (one or more) broad categories fall specific themes for this area that directly reflect reasons for the area’s significance. Detailed themes per Heritage Center cluster area are above.

Themes

Military events theme:

- Gen’l Howe’s devised strategy at Osborne Hill and ensuing combat at Battle Hill, Birmingham Hill, Sandy Hollow, and Sandy Hill.
- British feign strategy and ensuing combat at Chadds Ford.
- Gen’l Washington’s strategy and approach into PA leading to defensive positions along Brandywine Creek and American encampment.
- Gen’l Greene’s last stand, the Rearguard tactic, to hold off Crown Forces long enough for Americans strategic retreat to Chester.

Military events and local community themes:

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| ➤ American reconnaissance | ➤ Civilian involvement in the battle |
| ➤ Battle impact on local civilians/rural community | ➤ Local support of the war effort |

18th century landscape theme:

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| ➤ Areas of still readable battlefield landscape | ➤ Brandywine Valley settlement patterns |
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Local community and 18th century landscape themes:

- Brandywine Valley in the colonial era through 1800, including role of taverns, roads, and villages/population centers in colonial Chester County
- Civilians at-large/ local rural civilian community
- Enduring Quaker roots and Peace Testimony

Chester County history related themes: Landscapes' history also mirrors major themes in the overall history of Chester County including multi-generational rural agricultural tradition, Brandywine Valley Quaker settlement, enduring historic landscapes, prosperous commerce/industry foundations, and the Philadelphia Campaign of the American Revolution that in totality traversed a significant area of Chester County.

Museum of the American Revolution (MAR)

related themes: Landscape interpretive themes can also be categorized under the broad MAR themes. Landscape themes of American Forces military tactics including the defensive 'fight and retreat' intended strategy, American reconnaissance, local militia as part of American Forces, Civilian involvement in the battle, and Local support of the war effort could fall under 'Citizens turned Revolutionaries'; Battle impact on local civilians and the community and Civilians at-large under 'Radical Nature of the Revolution'; Battle skirmishes, Crown Force army logistics including Baggage Supply Train, and Crown Force military tactics leading up to and at the start of battle including twice dividing into two lines/columns under 'Surviving the Darkest Hours'; and Brandywine Valley in the colonial era through 1800, still readable battlefield landscapes areas, and Quaker roots/Peace Testimony under 'Lasting Meanings'. The overarching theme for the entire Brandywine Battlefield as a pivotal moment in the American Revolution, discussed in the 2013 Plan, speaks to all MAR's themes.



Battle reenactment encampment at the preserved Sandy Hollow Heritage Park with Sandy Hill in the foreground and Crebilly Farm Viewing Site in the background center-left

Thematic Narrations

Specific themes for the area can be organized into thematic narrations or stories for public consumption, which can be conveyed through eastern battlefield Heritage Centers and related Heritage Tours, Viewing Sites/Corridors, and Interpretive Sites for the area:

Role of the eastern battlefield in the overall battle Thematic Narration:

This would tell the story of the battle in the eastern battlefield and, as such would incorporate information from this plan, as well as the Rearguard and Strategic Retreat Plan. This narrative would also include the Americans entering PA and their encampment as well as the Crown Forces encampment for several days after the battle.

Americans entering PA, Encampment, and Defensive Positions along the Creek Thematic Narration:

Gen'l Washington's military strategy in selecting the defense of Brandywine Creek and around the Chadds Ford area would be discussed. This includes why the Chadds Ford area was chosen as the main defensive position and why certain fords to the south and north were selected for defense as well as discussion of the American encampment in the days before the battle. While there is a great interest in the Crown Force encampment in the

Kennett Square area, lesser has been interpreted about the American encampment and this would be a time to bring this under told story to life.

Battle at Chadds Fords and Four Hills and a Hollow Thematic Narration:

The story highlights the heart of Gen'l Howe's strategy starting at daybreak September 11 leading to the final stage of his strategy in what became the battles at Chadds Ford and at Birmingham, Sandy, Battle Hills and Sandy Hollow/related observation point on Osborne Hill. This includes the successful British military tactic under Gen'l's Howe and Cornwallis and conflicting American reconnaissance provided to Gen'l Washington leading him to turn his troops north too late in an attempt to fight off the British offensive. This also includes the eastern advance executed by Gen'l Knyphausen ending in what would be a successful tactical feign or what would appear as the full of the Crown Forces combatting with American Forces.

Rearguard and American Strategic Retreat Thematic Narration:

The story highlights Washington's rearguard under Gen'l Greene who launched a final stand against Crown Forces to protect Americans retreating to Chester, allowing Washington and his forces to evade capture. It also includes American and Crown Force military actions moving southeast from Sandy Hill area to the Dilworthtown area. Greene's final stand at the Battle of Brandywine permitted the American Army to rally and fight another day.

Terrain, Physical Geography, and Natural Resources in the Southern Battlefield Thematic Narration:

This narration would largely rely on information in Chapter 3 that discusses terrain, particularly the Creek, and its bank and marshy flood lands, and the four hills as topographic battle features.

Roads, fords, taverns, meetings, and hamlets in colonial Chester County Thematic Narration:

This narration would partly rely on information in Chapter 4 that discusses settlement patterns including 18th century roads, properties, and key structures (meetinghouse, mills, residences, blacksmith shops, taverns, and the like) that are still present in the modern landscape, along with the stories of local civilians.

Techniques that were used to clarify troops routes and locations Thematic Narration:

This narration would partly rely on Chapter 3 information that discusses the analysis used (primary documents and field study) to ground truth and determine troop movement locations in today's landscape September 8-11. Information and sources used to create battle-era roads and properties mapping and types of documented accounts that still exist could also be discussed.

Impact of two invading armies on the local community Thematic Narration:

Effectively, the battle brought an invasion of two armies into the community. Primary accounts giving a sense of conflict and cooperation between both armies and the local community could be featured. Reported property losses (in the form of plunder claims, depredation claims, and Quaker sufferings), diary entries, letters, field reports and other others could provide the basis for this narration, which would need to be supplemented by additional interpretation to fill-in gaps.

Local support or lack thereof for the war effort Thematic Narration:

One of the unique aspects of the battlefield that sets it apart from others of the era is the pacifist Quaker community that largely made up the Brandywine Valley community at the time of the battle. Quakerism is an intriguing story that has become more of a recent focus, particularly in light of the increased interest in the Underground Railroad in the region with the creation of the First State National Historical Park and its related sites. This narrative could include information about Quaker settlement in the Brandywine Valley, their philosophy including Testimony of Peace and Quaker 'sufferings', and the enduring Quaker presence in the area.

Celebration of committed and ongoing local efforts and stewardship in land conservation and historic resource protection Thematic Narration:

This narrative would stress that the persevering incredible stewardship by property owners and local entities in the area is what has enabled the battlefield landscape, including historic buildings, roads, agriculture, and open lands, to endure to this day. This has occurred through an ethos of commitment to ongoing preservation efforts. Examples of historic resource preservation, sensitive building reuse, and land conservation efforts, and recognition of parties who have been involved would be cited. Important to this narrative is the battlefield's NHL information that states: "The significance of the Battlefield...is increased as a consequence of the degree to which the area has remained unchanged."

Thematic Narration Treatment Example for this Area

A thematic treatment is needed for each of the interpretive themes and related thematic narrations identified in this plan. This thematic treatment supplements Heritage Tour, Viewing Corridors/Site, Interpretive Site, Heritage Center, and Gateway concepts by developing the specific means by which to inform viewers about themes. These means would form the basis for future educational material, outreach, signage, etc. As thematic treatments would need to be vetted and developed once thematic narrations are decided upon, this section only provides an example of how this could work using one of the thematic narrations addressed above.

Impact of two invading armies on the local community Thematic Narration Treatment:

The introduction of around 30,000 soldiers into the Brandywine Valley impacted the largely Quaker community. Because of their religious belief of pacifism, they were confronted with two invading armies – British and American – and hostility and mistrust of both compounded by the direct impact of seizure of property in lieu of service in the Chester County Militia or through looting. But even so, following the battle, Quakers provided much of the medical care to the wounded of both armies.

Concepts/Topics to be provided as part of interpretation:

- Families and community members and their lives and properties before the battle.
- Troops seizing goods and property, both formally as an army and informally individually.
- Plundering's impact on property, business, and the longer lasting effects on agriculture and industry.
- Quaker pacifism in the field of battle, from a religion and economic viewpoint, (e.g. due to their pacifist stance and Peace Testimony, they were affected economically before, during, and after the battle).
- While Quakers as a community did not support the war effort and therefore neither side, many individual Quakers did take up arms, which resulted in having to leave their Meetings.
- Quakers today still do not honor warfare including the battle.

Locations:

- Three eastern battlefield Heritage Centers: As anchors and starting points for further information and areas that have nearby amenities of shops, restaurants, etc.
- Heritage Tour into the surrounding countryside: Appendix C's proposed themed heritage tour features 'Four Hills and a Hollow' that follows Gen'l Howe's Divisions advance from Strode's Mill village south into combat with terrain as a key feature.

Outreach and communication:

- Audience: Local and Regional Visitors; Heritage Visitors, Residents, School Children.
- Brochure on 'Four Hills and a Hollow' Heritage Tour (Appendix C) and/or on one or more thematic narrations suggested in this plan.
- Webpage on the same as the bullet point above with the additional audience of Virtual Visitors.
- In-person or virtual visitation of designated locations in the tour via developing a smart phone app along with, or, incorporating information from the brochure and/or webpage, to provide visitors with the experience of the site.
- Interpretive signage at designated locations under the Brandywine Battlefield Interpretive Signage Project.
- Interpretive panels that explore the lesser-known story of the inherent impact of battle on the community.

Interpretive Tour & Interpretive Signage Project

Interpretive themes are explored through Heritage Sites (Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites) and Viewing Corridors/ Sites in the area as featured/viewed on Heritage Tours.

‘Four Hills and a Hollow’ Heritage Interpretive Tour

This tour covers just a portion of the eastern Battlefield in/near the Battlefield National Historic Landmark area and centered around the second stage of combat in the Battle of Brandywine. This driving tour (See Appendix C) starts at Strode’s Mill Village Heritage Center linking with Thornbury Heritage Center and ending at Dilworthtown Village Heritage Center. This tour is 5th in the series¹ developed as part of strategic landscapes projects, and as such it is also referenced as “tour #5”. While strategic landscape planning includes proposed Heritage Tour concepts as a starting point for local interpretation, additional Heritage Tours ideas, such as exploring the American approach from Delaware into Pennsylvania, battle at Chadds Ford and other Fords defense areas, or Rearguard Last-Stand area could be considered.

Heritage Interpretive Signage Marker Project

The Heritage Interpretive Signage project is a joint endeavor between BBTF, the 15 battlefield municipalities (that are also a part of BBTF), CCPC, DCPD, Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA), South River Heritage, and Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and Its Color Guard (Sons). The project is truly collaborative and a regional planning and implementation effort. It is a BBTF project coordinated through a BBTF Subcommittee, facilitated by CCPC with assistance of DCPD, vetted for correct history by BBPA and South River Heritage, approved and (sign markers) installed and maintained thereafter by battlefield municipalities, and marker fabrication funded with a \$45,000 grant from the Sons resulting in \$3,000 per municipality. Sign locations are shown on the Heritage Interpretive Network map.

Project Background

The signage project ties together Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Sites/Corridors, and is proposed to serve as a foundation for a battlefield-wide visitor experience heritage tour, which is been partly developed via the five heritage tour concepts from Phase 1, 2, and 3 projects and that should be further developed into a holistic visitor experience, e.g. through a digital interactive tour, as a follow up to strategic landscapes phased projects.

BBTF as the regional planning body for the battlefield 15 municipalities developed the Signage Marker initiative, for at least one historic marker to be installed in each municipality at key battlefield sites for visitors who following the tour concepts or otherwise exploring in the battlefield.

As of 2024, all 15 sign markers have been ordered and 14 have been installed, including several municipal organized dedication ceremonies. Each municipality – often led by municipal Historical Commissions - worked in concert with BBTF’s project Subcommittee to determine an appropriate location for the sign and accurate battlefield history wording for the location. Given the sign marker size and for readability, around 89 words maximum are possible. A project goal is for signs to be located near/in publicly accessible places so as to be readily visible as part of Heritage Tours, Heritage Centers, Interpretative Sites, and/or Viewing Sites/ Corridors. Gateways, as primary visitor centers, often have their own signage in place, so this project did not focus on Gateways as a location. Another goal was for sign markers to be within the public right-of-way; however this is not always possible and when signs are located on privately held property, such as the case with E. Marlborough’s sign that was on the former Galer Winery property, a project suggestion is for the municipality to receive a letter

¹ The other four tours were developed as part of northern battlefield strategic landscapes planning in Behind the Lines Plan, Breaching the Fords and British Advance Plan, and Preparing for Battle Plan, and southern battlefield strategic landscapes planning in The Army Marches at Dawn Plan.

from the property owner granting municipal permission and access, as needed, which was done for the E. Marlborough sign. Each municipality front costs of sign marker fabrication and applies for reimbursement at 50% (after the approved sign marker including wording was ordered by the municipality) and 100% (after the sign marker was installed by the municipality). Each municipality enters into an agreement with the Sons/grant funder that the municipality would take responsibility for the sign/maintenance going forward.

Signage Prototype

The project sign prototype was installed in 2016 in historic Trimbleville near the battle-era J. Trimble House in the northern battlefield. A sign template design, funded through a private entity, was created, the design of which generally reflects in color scheme BBTF's longstanding 2001 Battlefield Gateway Signage System Design Guide. As well, in an effort for compatible historic sign marker appearance, the sign template design follows the size and shape of the well-recognized PA Historical and Museum Commission historic marker, but is designed with slight differences to avoid PHMC copyright infringement and to acknowledge it as a different project. To this end, the sign template has cream color typeface, logo for the sponsoring municipality featured in the red circle at the top of the sign, and the name of the funding entity of Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and Its Color Guard. Lake Shore Inc, a PA sign company, worked with BBTF representatives and the sign template funder to create a sign template and also fabricated the sign markers, working cooperatively with project entities.

Signage Project in Eastern Battlefield

There are six interpretive signs for the eastern battlefield. Westtown, Birmingham, Thornbury (Chester County), Chadds Ford, Thornbury (Delaware County), and Concord Townships. All six signs are installed.

Signage Project in Southern Battlefield

There are five interpretive signs for the southern battlefield. New Garden, Kennett, East Marlborough, and Pennsbury Townships and Kennett Square Borough. Four out the five signs are installed. New Garden is working on property sign location coordination.

Signage Project in Northern Battlefield

There are four interpretive signs for the northern battlefield. Newlin, Pocopson, West Braidford, and East Bradford Townships. All four signs are installed.

Recommendations

Using the analysis undertaken in this chapter, the following recommendations were developed. Parties that may carry out a recommendation are noted after the related recommendation.

Overarching Recommendations: This project recommends building on heritage tourism and interpretation efforts in the region via continued implementation of the Battlefield Heritage Interpretive Network Concept that was developed under the 2013 Plan. The Heritage Interpretive Network Concept was recently expanded countywide via the 2024 Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan for ongoing long-term legacy and in the near term is being “launched” and implemented via Chester County 250th Commission. The Heritage Interpretive Network is a structured and coordinated approach to identify Heritage Sites and their visitor capacity and thematic narratives, provide outreach and education, raise awareness of the role of the battle in the nation's founding and the Battlefield's location in the local community's “back yard”, and strive for economic benefits for the local heritage economy through heritage visitation in appropriate public areas. The following provide recommendations for heritage interpretation.

- 6-1. Work with the Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan, Chester County 250th Commission, and Delaware County 250th Committee to implement the Battlefield Heritage Interpretive Network throughout Brandywine Battlefield. Apply the Network concept for the rest of the Philadelphia Campaign in Chester County as well as for other identified heritage themes/other plans (e.g. Mason-Dixon Heritage Interpretation and Connectivity Plan). (CCPC, DCPD, BBTF, Chester County 250th Commission, Delaware County 250th Commission, local Philadelphia Campaign partners)
- 6-2. Determine how to assist the six planned Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Centers as part of the larger Battlefield Heritage Interpretive Network as denoted in Phase 1 and Phase 2 Strategic Landscapes plans, Plum Run Corridor Plan for Strode’s Mill village, and Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark area Heritage Interpretation and Connectivity Plan. Three Heritage Centers were identified in the Eastern Battlefield under the latter plan. The goal is to have all six Battlefield Heritage Centers built and operational in time for America 250th in 2026 and Philadelphia Campaign 250th in 2027. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Battlefield Municipalities, landowners, Heritage Centers, Chester County 250th Commission, Delaware County 250th Commission)
- 6-3. Consider how to assist identified, and possibly identify additional, Interpretive Sites including heritage themes and interpretation. The goal is to have as many Sites as possible ready for visitation for America 250th in 2026 and Philadelphia Campaign 250th in 2027. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Battlefield Municipalities, landowners, Interpretive Sites, Chester County 250th Commission, Delaware County 250th Committee)
- 6-4. Continue the focus of Brandywine Battlefield Park as the Brandywine Battlefield Gateway of the Heritage Interpretive Network and focus of visitorship. Work with the BBTF partnership to implement 2013 Plan recommendations and other plan recommendations for the Park. The goal is to have the Gateway ready for notable visitation in time for America 250th in 2026 and Philadelphia Campaign 250th in 2027. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Battlefield Municipalities, PHMC, BBPA, Philadelphia Campaign partnership)
- 6-5. Work with Valley Forge National Historic Park as the identified Phila. Campaign northern Gateway of the Heritage Interpretive Network in Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan and focus of visitorship. (Valley Forge, BBTF, Phila. Campaign Partnership, CCPC, Lower Merion Twp, MontCo250)
- 6-6. Work with the BBTF partnership that has expanded for the 250th to a Phila. Campaign Partnership to implement the Heritage Interpretive Network as an ongoing legacy project with the 250th in 2026 and 2027 as the launching goal. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Phila. Campaign partnership)
- 6-7. Build Heritage Center’s historic themes into public events in the Battlefield. (Heritage Centers)
- 6-8. Build Heritage Center themes into the menus of local restaurants and taverns. (Heritage Centers)
- 6-9. Recreate ‘Patriots Highway’ that was developed in the 1920-1930s and for use as an element of America 250th and Philadelphia Campaign 250th. Made the Patriots Hwy an element of a driving tour. (BBTF, CCPC, Battlefield Municipalities)
- 6-10. Create an updated Battlefield visitor experience centering on a driving tour website, app, and marketing. Consider expanding the tour for the local Phila. Campaign. Use the Heritage Interpretive Network as the base for the thematic tour. Apply for heritage interpretation funding to create a ‘Brandywine Battlefield and Phila. Campaign trail’ visitor experience that ties together Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Signs, and Interpretive Sites. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, BBPA, Valley Forge, BBPA, Heritage Sites, Battlefield Municipalities, Phila. Campaign partnership)

- 6-11. Consider linkages between National Historic Landmark and Combat area identified Heritage Sites – Sandy Hollow Heritage Park, Birmingham Hill Preserve, Thornbury Farm - to create an interconnected Park, Preserve, Farm public visitor experience. This takes into account the concept from around 2000 for a Brandywine Battlefield parkland in this area for battlefield preservation, education, and outreach. (BBTF, Birmingham Township, Brandywine Conservancy, Thornbury Township, landowners, Philadelphia Campaign partnership)
- 6-12. Use Battlefield Technical Report’s research and work with the Brandywine Battlefield Gateway, Heritage Centers, and Interpretive Sites, as well as Heritage Sites outside of the Battlefield, to promote public outreach materials (e.g. interpretive panels) reflecting the significant research completed through Phases 1, 2, and 3 projects, (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Brandywine Battlefield Gateway, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, Chester County 250th Commission, Delaware County 250th Committee)
- 6-13. Create a BBTF webpage and social media and develop possible thematic materials for both and to be available at the Brandywine Battlefield Gateway, Heritage Centers, and Interpretive Sites. This could include developing a historic walking, bicycling, and/or driving tour that focuses on the battlefield landscape. (BBTF, Gateway, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites)
- 6-14. Work with Longwood Gardens, First State National Historical Park, and other major cultural sites with battle-era historic resources or landscapes to include on-site battle interpretation. (BBTF, Gateway, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, Cultural Heritage Sites)
- 6-15. Coordinate with organizations in the battlefield to investigate options to maintain agriculture, mills, and other features as key battlefield elements. Take into account the importance of these elements in the battle and for displaying a continued battlefield landscape. For example, farming and milling were early industries in the Brandywine Valley and plunderings, depredation claims, and Quaker Sufferings indicate resources local properties provided for the armies. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Heritage Sites, Battlefield Municipalities, Land Trusts)
- 6-16. Coordinate with land conservancies and other organizations to investigate options to enhance, restore, and maintain natural features as key battlefield elements and take into account the importance of these features in battle strategy and its outcome. For example, Brandywine Creek is a critical natural feature as an obstacle for battle troop maneuvering as well as key terrain as part of the Crown Force flank and Washington’s defense. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Battlefield Municipalities, Land Trusts)
- 6-17. Publicize and celebrate conservation efforts at the Gateway, Heritage Centers, and Interpretive Sites to publicly recognize the inherent relation between battlefield protection and land conservation. (BBTF, CCPC, DCPD, Gateway, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, Land Trusts)
- 6-18. Coordinate with entities in Delaware to recognize and interpret battle-related sites and locations (New Castle County, DNREC, NPS, DHCA, 1st State National Park).