

The Civil War in our National Park System – the Parks

By David Kroese

Session #1: Prelude to War

Slide #7: National Mall, Washington, DC, oldest federally protected NPS unit dating to 1797

Slide #8: West Point from Trophy Point, in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Slide #9: Hampton NHS, north of Baltimore, MD, Ridgely home dating to 1790 was country's largest upon completion

Slide #10: Charles Pinckney NHS, South Carolina Lowcountry, Snee Farm left by his father, one of seven homes he owned in the Charleston area, extant home dates to late 1820s after Pinckney's 1824 death.

Slide #11: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHP, Central Kentucky, Thomas Lincoln's cabin location at Abe's February 12, 1809 birth.

Slide #12: Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Southern Indiana, Abe's home from 1816 to 1830, Thomas Lincoln's southern Indiana homestead.

Slide #13: Cane River Creole NHP, Central Louisiana, Oakland Plantation dates to 1785, its home Bermuda pictured dates to 1821, park includes Magnolia Plantation dating to 1835.

Slide #14: Natchez NHP, Southwestern Mississippi, Melrose home built in 1840s by Natchez lawyer John McMurran, park also includes William Johnson home. Johnson kept his diary on daily life in Natchez from 1835 to his death in 1851.

Slide #15: Martin Van Buren NHS, Hudson River Valley, New York, Lindenwald was his Kinderhook, NY home from 1839 until his death in 1861.

Slide #16: Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NHP Cambridge, Maryland Eastern Neck 1822-1849, Tubman, "Moses of her people" returned to bring over seventy friends, relatives, and others to freedom.

Slide #17: New Bedford Whaling NHP, Southern Massachusetts Coast, Sailor's Chapel hosted whalers like Herman Melville

Slide #18: Frederick Douglass NHS, Washington, DC East of the Anacostia River, writing desk at home overlooking the Anacostia River 1877-1895, published slave narrative in 1845, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Slide #19: Palo alto Battlefield NHS, South Texas near Brownsville, May 8-9, 1846 Artillery dominated battle on broad plain of Palo Alto and five miles south, Resaca de la Palma, only major engagements in the Mexican-American War that took place on present-day US soil.

Slide #20: Fort Vancouver NHS, Southwestern Washington state on the Columbia River, reconstructed 1825 Hudson Bay Company outpost to support fur trade, site of Columbia Barracks (renamed Fort Vancouver in 1853). Grant served here before resigning his commission, September 1852 – December 1853

Slide #21: Ulysses S. Grant NHS, St. Louis, Missouri, Dent Home White Haven, From 1854 to 1859, Grant and Julia occupied a part of the property they called “Hardscrabble.” Aborted attempts at farming, rent collector. Sold chords of wood cleared from land in downtown St. Louis to make ends meet.

Slide #22: Fort Scott NHS, Southeast Kansas, built as part of the 1820s “Permanent Indian Frontier,” only NPS site featuring Bleeding Kansas. 1854-1856

Slide #23: Gateway Arch NP, St. Louis, MO, Old Courthouse dating to 1840s site of initial Dred Scott decision, 1857’s *Sanford v. Dred Scott* SCOTUS decision eliminated the possibility of compromise through judicial branch.

Slide #24: Dry Tortugas NP, Florida Keys, Fort Jefferson on Garden Key, began 1846, never completed, largest masonry constructed fort in US

Slide #25: Fort Point NHS, San Francisco, constructed 1853-1861 as part of the Third System of US Coastal Defenses

Slide #26: Alcatraz Island (San Francisco) in Golden Gate NRA has Fort Alcatraz, constructed 1853-1859

Slide #27: Original casemate from Civil War era fortress became a dungeon under Federal Penitentiary

Slide #28: Fort Washington Park, Maryland south of DC along the Potomac, built 1824, only existing defensive fortification protecting Washington, DC at inception of Civil War

Slide #29: San Juan Island NHP, West of Seattle, Washington, English Camp at San Juan Island NHP, 1859’s “Pig War” permanently resolved with 1871 Treaty of Washington

Slide #30: Harpers Ferry NHP, Junction of Maryland, West Virginia, and Maryland, view of Shenandoah River before its confluence with the Potomac, Harpers Ferry changed hands six times during the war but is best known as the site of John Brown’s 1859 raid on the armory.

Slide #31: Lincoln Home NHS, Central Illinois, Mary and Abe Lincoln’s home from 1844-1861, the only home they ever owned.

Slide #32: White House, Washington, DC, NPS unit includes Lafayette Park and the Ellipse

Slide #33: Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, Arlington, VA, Lee’s home from 1831-1861, Greek Revival home built by his father-in-law, George Washginton Parke Custis between 1802-1808