

ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE

A Resource Assessment

may 2004



NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

STATE
OF THE
PARKS®

THE ANDERSONVILLE ASSESSMENT



Thirteen thousand marble headstones commemorate the soldiers who died at Andersonville Prison.

Andersonville National Historic Site, officially known as Camp Sumter during the American Civil War, held captive more than 45,000 prisoners of war and was one of the largest and most notorious Confederate military prisons. Beginning in 1864, and throughout the camp's 14-month existence, 12,912 Union soldiers died within Andersonville's walls as a result of poor sanitation, disease, malnutrition, exposure, and overcrowding.

Located in southwestern Georgia, Andersonville National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1970 to "provide an understanding of the Civil War prisoner of war (POW) story, to

interpret the role of prisoner of war camps in history, and to commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps..." (Public Law 91-465). The site consists of Andersonville Prison, the National Prisoner of War Museum, and the national cemetery. The museum opened at Andersonville in 1998, and it is dedicated to all brave men and women of the United States who have suffered captivity. More than 18,000 soldiers and their families are buried in the cemetery at Andersonville. Today, this 515-acre historic site is a tribute to the prisoner of war experience. Etched on memorials throughout the park, and throughout the prisoner of war experi-

Former inmate Thomas O'Dea completed this drawing of Camp Sumter in 1885.

ence in American history, is the phrase, "Death Before Dishonor," symbolizing the American resolve to uphold the value of freedom and liberty in the face of adversity. The importance of Andersonville in today's global context inspired the National Parks Conservation Association's State of the Parks program to complete an assessment of the condition of park's resources and the staff's ability to care for and share these resources with the public.

The State of the Parks program was launched in 2000 to assess the condition of natural and cultural resources in the National Park System. This report conveys the findings of a cultural resources and stewardship capacity assessment of Andersonville National Historic Site.

The current overall condition of **cultural resources** at Andersonville rates a "fair" score of 61 out of 100. The park has only 680 square feet of space to store its priceless museum objects, mining operations mar the historic landscape of Camp Sumter, and the historic wall around the national cemetery is in disrepair. The park's ability to care for its resources, also known as its **stewardship capacity**, rates a "fair" score of 67 out of 100. The park has more than \$600,000 in unfunded deferred maintenance and rehabilitation needs. In addition, the park's general management and resource management plans are out of date.



ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

FIVE HUNDRED MEN MOVED SILENTLY
TOWARD THE GATES THAT WOULD
SHUT OUT LIFE AND HOPE FOR MOST
OF THEM FOREVER. QUARTER OF A
MILE FROM THE RAILROAD WE CAME
INTO A MASSIVE PALISADE WITH GREAT
SQUARED LOGS STANDING UPRIGHT IN
THE GROUND. FIRES BLAZED UP AND
SHOWED US A SECTION OF THESE AND
TWO MASSIVE WOODEN GATES WITH
HEAVY IRON HINGES AND BOLTS.
THEY SWUNG OPEN AS WE STOOD
THERE AND WE PASSED THROUGH
INTO THE SPACE BEYOND.

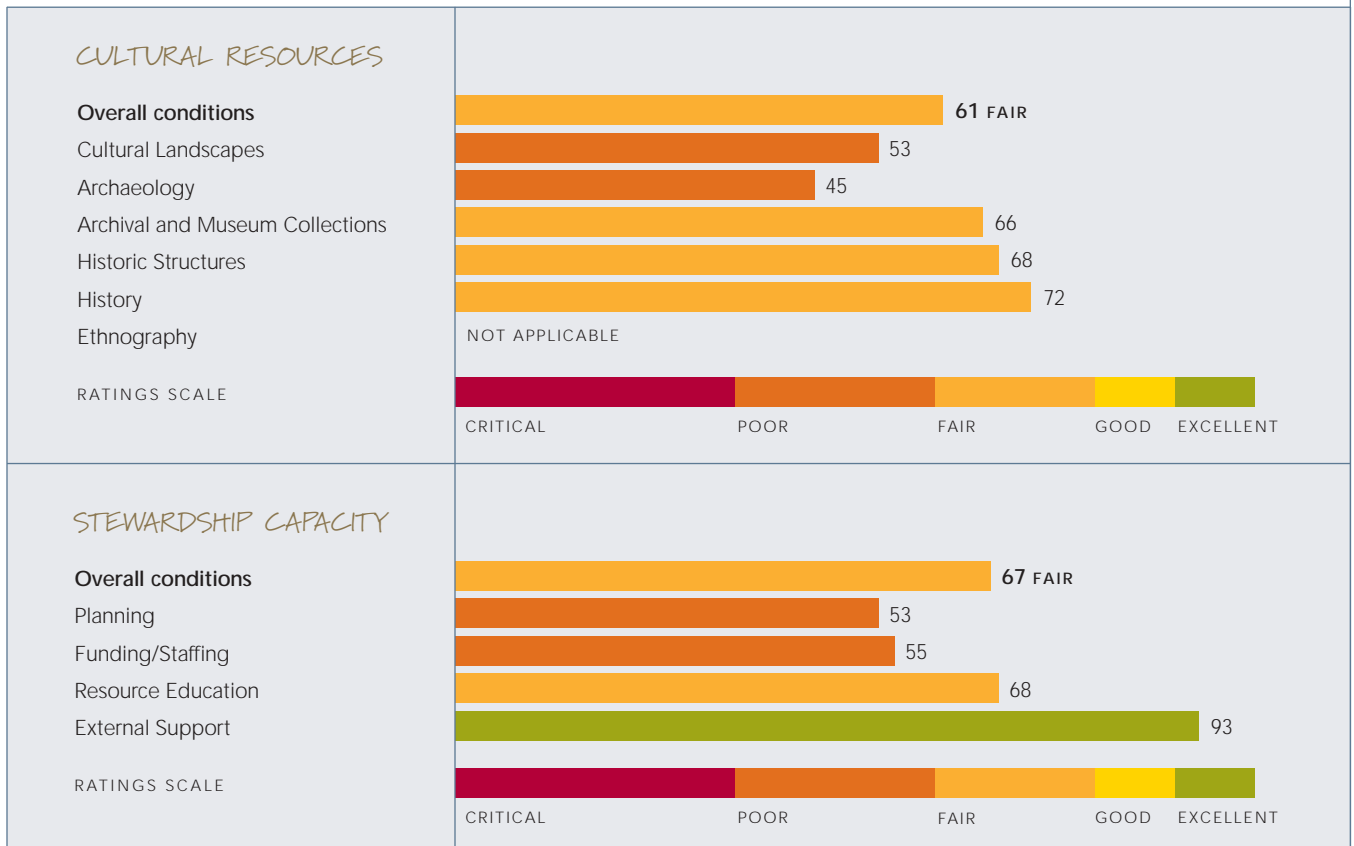
WE WERE AT ANDERSONVILLE.

— JOHN McELROY, UPON HIS INITIAL
IMPRISONMENT IN 1864



SUSAN ELLIS

Scores of bronze and stone sculptures and memorials pay tribute to the suffering of prisoners of war.



The State of the Parks assessment methodology and other State of the Park reports can be found at <http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/> or contact the State of the Parks program at 970.493.2545

TOP TEN KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Congress and the administration should provide funds for the park to acquire safe, adequate storage space to house the growing archival and museum collection. Funds are also needed to get hundreds of oral interviews from POWs transcribed and transferred onto digital media.
- The Park Service should attempt to acquire adjacent land for the park or work to put a conservation easement on the land. If the neighboring mining company purchases the land, the integrity of the historic landscapes will be greatly compromised. At minimum, a boundary study should determine what the effects on the landscapes will be if the land is eventually developed by the mining company.
- The Park Service should develop a cemetery wall maintenance plan and employ a full-time bricklayer who is knowledgeable in historic materials to assist in wall preservation. A park employee should train to become a preservation specialist so that day-to-day preservation mistakes are avoided.
- The Park Service should document all three of Andersonville's cultural landscapes according to National Register of Historic Places standards and complete all three cultural landscape inventories.
- Congress and the administration should increase funding to the park to support additional staff such as an archivist, museum specialist, historical archaeologist, a bricklayer and an assistant bricklayer.
- The park should consult with the NPS regional office and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office to evaluate Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) structures to determine their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Congress and the administration should fund an acid rain monitoring station at Andersonville to document any changes in deposition of sulfur and other pollutants that can harm natural stone monuments and affect visitor health. Funds should also be appropriated to evaluate the condition of the park's natural resources and provide an interpretation of those resources in the context of Andersonville's history.
- The Park Service should conduct additional research to identify the archaeological remains of the cookhouse, the northwest corner of the prison, and the second and third hospitals. This will enhance Andersonville's interpretation and could be done with an onsite historical archaeologist.
- Congress and the administration should provide funds to support excavation and documentation of the Star Fort. The park should erect signs that instruct visitors to keep off all of the earthen structures that were used to defend the site.
- The management of Andersonville National Historic Site and Jimmy Carter National Historic Site is shared. Each park unit should have dedicated administrators starting at the level of Superintendent through the resource managers, chief of maintenance and rangers. Full-time law enforcement is also needed to protect Andersonville.



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CULTURAL RESOURCES

Andersonville National Historic Site 6



Smokestacks from a nearby mining operation detract from the park's cultural landscapes.

ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS—STAFF AND MORE SPACE NEEDED

SCORE: FAIR, 61 OUT OF 100

Andersonville's state-of-the-art National Prisoner of War Museum is designed to lead visitors on an emotional journey through the POW story. The massive brick building has imposing granite 'guard towers' and walkways lined with an immense iron gate. The stark, cold, empty feel-

ings of being forcibly held at the mercy of your captors are evoked by the building's bold architectural stature.

On display within this fortress are the revolving highlights of the park's archival and museum collection—a holding of more than 42,049 objects. The collection includes war memorabilia, canteens and correspondence, artwork made by captives, historical photographs, more than 900 oral histories, and other objects. World War II is the most well represented POW era in the

collection, but Civil War diaries, personal effects, and photographs provide insight into the historical conditions at Andersonville Prison.

As a result of commendable resource stewardship efforts, more than half of Andersonville's collection is maintained in good condition. The park recently met nearly 87 percent of standards set forth on the NPS Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections, and only 24 percent of the collection has yet to be catalogued. The systemwide average catalog backlog is 66 percent. In addition, the national historic site was awarded re-accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM) in December of 2003, an acknowledgment of the museum's high quality standards. Only ten national park units have earned this recognition.

Despite these positive trends, the park's archival and museum collections face challenges. The park needs a museum specialist to assist the curator with object preservation and stewardship. Additional staff, including an archivist, are needed to provide ample stewardship of the collections into the future. There is one NPS regional archivist, but this person cannot provide the level of assistance required to address all of Andersonville's needs while serving 74 other park units.

Safe, adequate storage space is needed to house the park's growing collection. Items displayed in the museum are secure, but the rest of the collection is housed in a 680-square foot area that lacks working temperature and humidity controls, and it could flood if the water pipes should break. The current space is too small to appropriately accommodate the existing collection, not to mention staff and research workspace. Since the collection is expected to grow as much as 30 percent in the next few years with increasing donations from World War II and Korean War POWs, additional storage space is critical. The American history that Andersonville preserves is too important to risk as a result of insufficient congressional support.

ANDERSONVILLE NHS'S COLLECTION NEEDS

- An Archivist and Museum Specialist are needed to provide artifact and archival conservation treatment (\$110,00 annually unfunded)
- Two years of archival cataloging and one year of museum object cataloging needed (\$170,000 unfunded)
- Upgrade museum storage area or provide a new facility (\$10,000 to \$500,000 unfunded)
- Training for curatorial collection care and media migration (\$4,500 annually per museum staff member unfunded)
- Install conservation lab for media migration (\$12,000 unfunded)

The park's museum possesses Civil War diaries that provide insight into the conditions at Andersonville Prison.



SUSAN ELLIS

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES—MINDING THE LANDSCAPE OR MINING THE LANDSCAPE?

SCORE: POOR, 53 OUT OF 100

Andersonville National Historic Site contains three cultural landscapes: the Andersonville Memorial Landscape (all of the park's memorials), Andersonville National Cemetery (cemetery grounds), and Camp Sumter (Andersonville prison and its accompanying Confederate fortifications). All three landscapes are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and should be documented as such. All of the landscapes also need completed cultural landscape inventories.

Camp Sumter is maintained in good condition. The historic landscape of the prison site contains the stockade reconstruction, deadline markers, nine earthen fortifications, historic wells, Providence Spring House, and several 1930s CCC improvements. To minimize damage, weed-eaters are used to cut vegetation on the earthen fortifications, and mowing, pruning, and daily custodial work are religiously executed

throughout the park. Staff actively monitor landscape threats including fire ants, visitors walking on the earthen fortifications, invasion of non-native flora, and increased mining around the park's perimeter. In addition, the skills of the maintenance crew are continuously advancing. Staff recently learned how to preserve the bronze monuments by nutshell blasting and using cold and hot waxing methods. The bronze monuments are particularly well cared for, and Andersonville's cleaning plan and techniques exist as a good model for other parks to follow.

Natural resources management is also important to maintain the historic character of the park's landscapes. Park staff struggle to eliminate non-native plants such as khaki weed and bamboo that were not present there during the Civil War. Armadillos damage park landscapes by digging and rooting. It is not known at this time whether or not these animals are non-native or a naturally migrating species. Park staff must decide how to deal with armadillos and the damage they cause. Water quality and wetland monitoring are also needed at Andersonville.

Andersonville contains three cultural landscapes: the Andersonville Memorial Landscape, Andersonville National Cemetery, and Camp Sumter.





The special sense of place that park staff work to maintain is threatened by mineral extraction adjacent to the park boundary. A mining company owns approximately 50 percent of the property bordering Andersonville, and mullite used in many refractory and ceramic products is the primary mineral extracted. Smokestacks and mining operation buildings are visible from the Prison Site and the Prison Site Memorials, compromising the integrity of Andersonville's cultural landscapes. Pollution streams steadily from nearby flues, and open pit mines, dust, noise, and traffic disrupt visitor experience and pose safety concerns adjacent to the park's entrance. The effects of mining pollution on visitor health, park structures, and surrounding vegetation have not been well studied.

A private citizen owns much of the remaining land around Andersonville. The Park Service should attempt to acquire this land for the park or get the land put into a conservation easement. If the mining company purchases the land, the integrity of the historic landscapes will be greatly compromised. At minimum, a boundary study should determine what the affects on the landscapes will be if the land eventually goes to the mining company.

ETHNOGRAPHY (PEOPLES AND CULTURES)—MORE THAN 900 POW VOICES OF CAPTIVITY

According to the National Park Service's definition, there are no readily apparent traditionally associated people connected with Andersonville National Historic Site. Consequently, the State of the Parks assessment did not assess ethnography. Still, an ethnic overview and assessment would provide baseline research and examine the possibility of the presence of decedents of former residents of the area and cultural connections between military organizations at the site. The park does have a magnificent collection of POW oral histories, which date from World War I through the Persian Gulf War. As of January 2004, Andersonville possesses nine hundred and six interviews of POWs that relate their experiences in captivity. These oral histories have been recorded on audiotapes, VHS tapes, and in transcripts. Individuals and/or their families donated some interviews, while others were obtained from institutions such as the Veterans Administration medical centers.

The park is racing against time to add to its collection of POW oral interviews, but is hindered monetarily. Many World War II and Korean War veterans are now in their 70s and 80s. Once these soldiers pass away, so do their stories and remembrances. This makes it important for the park to gather as many interviews with these veterans as possible. The park hopes to develop a POW database that will identify all POWs in American history, estimated to be about 800,000 people, and provide a brief background on each. This project would be a valuable contribution to the National POW Museum, but has not begun due to a lack of funding.

Although they are infinitely valuable, stewardship of the oral histories is costly and complicated, and the recordings are difficult for researchers to use. In order to preserve the interviews into the future, they must be transferred from unstable magnetic media such as VHS and audiotapes, to digital media such as D2 or DVDs. This kind of transfer is expensive and requires special equipment and skills. More importantly, all interviews should be transcribed and placed in the park's archive. Transcription will allow researchers to search electronically by various topics.



This structure was built in 1901 to memorialize Providence Spring and the hope it gave to prisoners at Camp Sumter.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES—1879 BRICK CEMETERY WALL IN DISREPAIR

SCORE: FAIR, 68 OUT OF 100

Various historic structures enhance the visceral experience at Andersonville. These structures range from nine earthen fortifications and a 19th century brick wall that encircles the national cemetery, to 13,000 marble Civil War cemetery markers, the Sexton's house, twenty massive marble and granite memorials that are embellished with bronze statuary and/or plaques, and other historic structures.

One structure commemorates a sense of hope that persevered in the face of despair. The Providence Spring House marks the place where a natural water spring erupted in 1864 as the result of heavy rainfall. Water available within

Andersonville Prison was scarce and polluted. The new spring was a sight to behold and considered an answer to prayer. The spring, however, was located just beyond the deadline—a line drawn around the perimeter of the prison yard that prisoners were forbidden to cross, on penalty of death. Captain Henry Wirz, the Confederate officer in charge of the prisoners, allowed the men to channel the water inside the prison. Moved by the miracle of it all, prisoners named the water source Providence Spring. In 1901, a structure was built to memorialize the spring, and it provides a place for visitors to reflect on the sacrifices made by both Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the Civil War.

Of the 38 structures that are listed in the park's official List of Classified Structures, 87 percent of them are in good condition. The more

than 13,000 white marble headstones, erected in 1878, are generally in good condition, but suffer some staining and structural deterioration due to algae growth. Park monuments are cleaned and waxed on a regular cycle, but additional training is needed to educate staff in the removal of stains and the stabilization of white marble monuments. The park also has a collection of structures built in the 1930s by the CCC. These New Deal era walls, gates, bridges, plaques, markers, and drainage systems are not listed in the park's official List of Classified Structures, nor do they have National Register documentation, which could help guide decisions about their management.

The largest and most vulnerable historic structure at Andersonville is the cemetery wall. Since its construction in 1879, its mortar and brick has suffered significant deterioration. Due to its size (4,780 linear feet,) park staff are faced with an endless task of repairing defective or deteriorating portions of the wall. But overall, the wall is in fair condition. Improper preservation methods used in the past caused discoloration and even contributed somewhat to deterioration. Fortunately, today's maintenance personnel do an excellent job of identifying and repairing problem areas. However, additional staff, training, and resources are needed to aug-



SUSAN ELLIS

ment current repair and on-going maintenance efforts. A separate wall maintenance plan, with a full-time bricklayer and assistant, both knowledgeable in historic materials, should be employed to assist with preserving the wall. The new bricklayer or another of the maintenance staff should become a preservation specialist so as to avoid preservation mistakes in the future.

Pollutants from nearby mining operations also pose a physical threat to Andersonville's historic structures. The mining company uses coal-fired kilns that emit sulfur dioxide, a pollutant that contributes to acid rain and acid deposition on the landscape. Although there are currently no

The 125-year-old cemetery wall requires constant attention to repair damage and prevent further deterioration.

Algae stains many of the marble headstones in the cemetery.



SUSAN ELLIS

Confederate soldiers used cannons to defend Andersonville Prison.

visible effects of pollution on Andersonville's historic structures, acid rain can damage monuments, particularly those made from limestone and marble. Such damage to structures has been documented in the region. Because Andersonville is located next to a mining operation that uses coal-fired kilns, and because the park houses thousands of stone monuments, Congress should fund an acid rain monitoring station at the site to document any changes in deposition of sulfur and other pollutants.

HISTORY—CCC ACTIVITY LARGELY UNDOCUMENTED

SCORE: FAIR, 68 OUT OF 100

The cultural resource manager at Andersonville is a trained historian, but most of his time is spent fulfilling administrative duties. Andersonville staff's exemplary efforts are reflected in the quality of the site's interpretation, but the park still has some outstanding research needs. For example, CCC activities at the park are largely overlooked,

probably because staff has not found a way to combine this story with the prisoner of war story. However, the CCC's architecture is distinctive and historically important. CCC activity should be incorporated into a new Historic Resource Study.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES—CONFEDERATE'S STAR FORT UNDER SIEGE

SCORE: POOR, 37 OUT OF 100

Archaeology at Andersonville is not the park's top stewardship priority, but the resources hold valuable information. The historical archaeology of the site helped guide a partial reconstruction of the prison stockade and north gate. Archaeological work also allowed park staff to locate and mark 32 wells dug by Andersonville prisoners. Prisoners dug these wells because of the scarcity of clean water in the camp. Those who successfully struck water sold it to their fellow prisoners; others dug for purpose and sanity; still others as a means of escape—though few





Visitors damage Star Fort's earthen fortifications by climbing on them and causing erosion.

were successful. These important geographical markers lend tangible support to interpretations of 1864-65 prison conditions. Additional research to identify the archaeological locations and remains of the cookhouse, the northwest corner of the prison, and the second and third hospitals would enhance interpretation of Andersonville prison.

The park continues to request money to conduct archaeological excavations of the guard camps, but none has been requested for the Confederate Star Fort, which served as the military headquarters at Andersonville. The confederate officers who dwelled at the Star Fort likely had more material goods than the prisoners in the nearby stockade. Remnants of these possessions could provide information about the officers' and guards' daily lives, further contributing to the overall archaeological documentation of Confederate troops. Excavation and documentation is increasingly important at Star Fort due to visitor traffic,

which is damaging its fragile earthen fortifications. The park needs a full-time historical archaeologist on staff to incorporate a new philosophy of archaeological research into the park's research, planning, and stewardship program.

Earthen fortifications were built for protection when defending Andersonville Prison from Union forces. Seized Federal guns sat upon their ridges and could be turned abreast to quell prisoners, if necessary. Andersonville's earthen fortifications are threatened by social trails made by unaware park visitors who walk on top of the mounds to obtain sweeping views of the historic prison camp landscape. Trails alter the shape of the earthen fortifications and expose their subsurface strata. In order to maintain their integrity, this activity must be stopped. Park rangers and volunteers verbally warn visitors that they are prohibited from walking on the fortifications, but there are not enough NPS staff and volunteers to stop the activity. Funds for signs that prohibit walking on earthen structures are needed to improve the stewardship of Andersonville's archaeological resources. Furthermore, a platform should be erected for the public to view the fort and the surrounding landscape, while protecting the fragile feature.

Due to competing priorities and a lack of staff, only part of Andersonville has been surveyed for archaeological resources, even though federal mandates such as Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act require such inventories. The park staff understands NPS stewardship requirements, but is unable to meet them because of funding and staffing shortfalls.

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STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

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Andersonville National Historic Site



SUSAN ELLIS

Volunteers provide thousands of hours of service at Andersonville. Some devote time to cleaning stains from the 13,000 marble headstones.

FUNDING AND STAFFING—MORE THAN \$600,000 NEEDED FOR MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION

SCORE: POOR, 55 OUT OF 100

Andersonville has an operating budget of just \$1.1 million, and there are more than \$600,000 in unfunded deferred maintenance and rehabilitation needs that are preventing excellent resource stewardship. Additionally, the park possesses a staff of only 17 full-time employees. Despite the 38 historic structures and more than

13,000 marble headstones in the park, there are no permanent law enforcement officers to protect these resources from vandalism or theft. In addition, Andersonville's managers from the Superintendent down the line are responsible for not only Andersonville National Historic Site, but also the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site. This means that neither resource gets 100 percent of the Superintendent's or resources managers' attention. A strong volunteer program supplements park staff. In 2003, 319 volunteers donated more than 9,500 hours to park operations.

PLANNING—KEY PLANS OUTDATED

SCORE: POOR, 53 OUT OF 100

Two principal management documents—the General Management Plan (GMP) and the Resource Management Plan—are more than ten years old. Since the GMP was written 16 years ago, the Prisoners of War Museum was built and has become a main attraction and a key resource. On the positive side, the park has up-to-date land protection, collection management, and fire management plans, and it is developing an archaeological overview and assessment to help better protect resources.

RESOURCE EDUCATION—STAFF PROVIDE EXCELLENT VISITOR SERVICES

SCORE: FAIR, 68 OUT OF 100

Only three permanent interpretive rangers work at the park, and volunteers help to significantly increase the level of service. These rangers provide information and programming to an average of 170,000 visitors each year. The staff offers tours twice a day for the public and provides additional tours for groups making reservations. As part of the National Park Service's "Parks as Classrooms" program, staff presented more than 100 student groups with tours in 2003. These school programs were developed with local teachers for use on-site and provide for a ranger to visit the classroom to present special programs to reinforce their on-site experience. The

Andersonville has a dedicated staff to provide resource protection and visitor education.



ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- **Support or become a member of groups helping to protect Andersonville:** Friends of Andersonville, American Ex-Prisoners of War organization (www.axpow.org), NPCA (www.npca.org/support_npca), and other regional organizations.
- **Volunteer in the Parks.** Many parks are looking for dedicated people who can lend a helping hand. To learn about opportunities at Andersonville National Historic Site, please visit www.nps.gov/volunteer/ or contact the park at 229.924.0343.
- **Become an NPCA activist.** When you join our activist network, you will receive *Park Lines*, a biweekly electronic newsletter with the latest park news and ways you can help. Join by visiting www.npca.org/takeaction.

park's exhibits and audio-visual presentations are up-to-date, however, funds for replacement of equipment is a concern. The visitor center is one of the more impressive centers in the park system. The park could benefit, however, from a comprehensive interpretive plan. Additional staff training for certification and funding in some areas are also needed.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT—PARK BENEFITS FROM COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

SCORE: EXCELLENT, 93 OUT OF 100

The park has important citizen support groups as allies. The Friends of Andersonville, started locally in 1985, is a valuable partner. Their membership throughout the country includes descendants of prisoners of Camp Sumter as well as former POWs and their families. Recently they raised \$50,000 to purchase 20 acres of land adjacent to the park and testified before Congress for the land donation to be added to the park. These lands allow for improved security of the park when the



WHEN I WAS CAPTURED MY
WEIGHT WAS 225 POUNDS AND
WHEN DISCHARGED I WAS REDUCED
TO A LITTLE OVER 100 POUNDS
AND MY CLOTHES WERE SO WORN
THAT THEY HARDLY COVERED MY
BODY AND WHEN I BEHELD MYSELF
IN A LOOKING GLASS I COULD NOT
BELIEVE IT WAS D. M. BARR.

— DAVIDSON M. BARR, COMPANY H,
11TH VERMONT INFANTRY

Prisoners transported the dead to a temporary structure before they were taken to the cemetery. During the prison's 14-month existence, 12,912 Union Soldiers died there.

site is not open to visitors while providing a more visually appealing approach to the park.

Similarly, the 40,000-member American Ex-Prisoners of War Association was critical to the fund-raising and planning for the park's National Prisoner of War Museum and visitor center dedicated in 1998. They continue to support the park's efforts to document and interpret the POW experience.

In a unique effort, the Friends of Andersonville and the ex-POW community have helped to create a financial trust now containing over \$900,000 to support park operations from the interest it generates.

Locally, the park has an important relationship with the Americus-Sumter County Tourism Council. This group advances the park's educational mission by investing over \$500,000 annually to promote tourism, with an emphasis on Andersonville. The park superintendent works closely with this group and has served as president of the local tourism council.

NPCA thanks the staff at Andersonville National Historic Site who reviewed the factual accuracy of information used in this report. We also thank peer reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions.

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ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

STATE OF THE PARKS®

On average, less than 10 percent of the National Park Service's annual budget is earmarked for management of cultural resources and just 20 percent is targeted for natural resources. In most years, only about 7 percent of permanent park employees work in jobs directly related to preservation of park resources.

The National Parks Conservation Association initiated the State of the Parks® Program in 2000 to assess the condition of cultural and natural resources in national parks, forecast future conditions of those resources, and determine how well equipped the National Park Service is to protect the parks. The goal is to provide information that will help policy-makers and the National Park Service improve conditions in national parks and ensure a lasting natural, historical, and cultural legacy for future generations.

State of the Parks® cultural resource assessment methodology is based on National Park Service cultural resource management guideline standards. For information about the methodology, other reports in this series, and the State of the Parks® Program, contact National Parks Conservation Association, State of the Parks® Program, P.O. Box 737, Fort Collins, CO 80522. Phone: 970-493-2545; Fax: 970-493-9164; E-mail: stateoftheparks@npca.org.

The National Parks Conservation Association, established in 1919, is this country's only private, nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System for present and future generations by identifying problems and generating support to resolve them.

- * Nearly 300,000 members
- * 7 regional offices
- * 32,000 activists

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