

Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site

Creating Functional Interpretive Documents

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When interpreting the Lost Cause, it is essential to understand that the idea is not just defined as Confederate veterans seeking to justify their efforts in the war, but also continuing the idea through future generations to “reconcile” the past. The United Confederate Veterans of the Civil come to the Joseph E. Johnston Camp No. 94 right outside of Mexia, Texas to discuss the past, have fun, have religious gatherings, and hold meetings from the 1880s well into the 1940s. So how does a site, such as the CRG interpret that history?

Interpretive Master Plan

The Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) for Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site (CRG) identifies the site’s inherent cultural resources as well as opportunities and techniques to make those resources more relevant to the public. The plan is intended to support Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff members as they work to reach new audiences, offer meaningful encounters with historic resources, and preserve the history of CRG.

The Confederate Reunion Grounds is a cultural landscape with much history coming from time periods other than the Reunion Period.

Recognizing this not only in the documentation but also the site’s interpretation is important, since it opens opportunities for visitors to make personal connections to the site. The primary theme for this landscape is **“A Gathering Place”**.



1902 Dance Pavilion

The goal of this project was to create a living document for the staff at the CRG to use as a guide for their interpretive programs. While the historic site currently has an IMP, it is outdated, and the site has seen a change in staff. Staff also have transitioned to relying on volunteers for interpretive activities, so an updated Docent Manual with a site history and a tour script are companion pieces for this project.

This project serves two purposes:

- 1) Staff have goals and objectives to help the site successfully implement the IMP.
- 2) Volunteers have updated research and guidance to help them give successful tours.

Suggested Sources

“Core Standards for Museums,” American Alliance of Museums, <https://www.aam-us.org/programs/ethics-standards-and-professional-practices/core-standards-for-museums/>
Management Plans - National Heritage Areas (U.S. National Park Service), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/management-plans.htm>.
Wolf, Thomas. *Managing a Nonprofit Organization: Updated Twenty-First-Century Edition*. Revised and Updated. 2012.

