



General George C. Marshall House

Reconnaissance Survey

Leesburg, Virginia | 2022



Front Cover Photo: *Dadona Manor*; Photo provided by GCMIC.

Back Cover Photo: *Gen. George Catlett Marshall, 1880-1959, half-length portrait in uniform, seated, facing left, March 3, 1944.*
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2005680095/>.

Executive Summary

The National Park Service (NPS) prepared this reconnaissance survey at the request of US Representative Jennifer Wexton, US Senator Mark R. Warner, and US Senator Tim Kaine. Reconnaissance surveys are used to offer preliminary assessments of whether proposed resources are likely or not likely to meet established criteria for a new unit of the national park system if further evaluated in a full special resource study. Reconnaissance surveys have been undertaken for other types of national designations such as wild and scenic rivers, national historic trails, and affiliated areas. This report is a preliminary evaluation of the George C. Marshall House in Leesburg, Virginia, to determine the likelihood that this site would qualify for designation as an affiliated area. Affiliated areas are owned and operated by nonfederal organizations that maintain a formal relationship with the National Park Service. Via this partnership, affiliates can gain access to technical resources, historic preservation expertise, and branded graphics from the National Park Service. To be considered as an affiliated area, a site must meet criteria for national significance and suitability and demonstrate a need for special consideration by the National Park Service, and the affiliate organization must agree to manage the resources according to the policies of the National Park Service. The conclusions in this survey are not final or definitive. This report includes a description of the George C. Marshall House, an evaluation of its national significance, identification of similar sites within and outside of the national park system, a preliminary comparative analysis of sites with similar resource types and national themes, and recommendations for future action.

General George Catlett Marshall Jr. was one of the country's most distinguished leaders of the 20th century. As a soldier and statesman, he played a pivotal role in US contributions to the Allied victory in World War II and in America's transition to a world power as it entered the Cold War. As a soldier, Marshall served as US Army chief of staff (1939–1945) during World War II to Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S Truman. As a statesman, Marshall held three positions: Special Ambassador to China (December 1945 to January 1947), Secretary of State (January 1947 to January 1949), and Secretary of Defense (September 1950 to September 1951) under President Truman. During World War II, Marshall oversaw the largest military expansion in US history and is considered the designer and organizer of the Allied victory that contributed to the United States becoming a world power. Thereafter, during the Cold War, Marshall was best known as one of the architects and the principal advocate of the European Recovery Act, commonly known as the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan is considered the most significant foreign policy initiative in American diplomacy, in which the United States contributed more than \$13 billion of assistance to provide much-needed relief to a war-ravaged Europe. The formalized political and economic alliances that resulted stabilized western economies, halted the spread of communism, and triggered political divisions in Europe and Asia. Notably, General Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953, the only professional soldier so honored, for his leadership and contributions to Europe's postwar economic recovery. He is one of only five individuals to serve the United States as a five-star general of the US Army and the only individual to serve as general of the US Army, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense. Beyond his decades of public service and significant military and diplomatic achievements, General Marshall is respected and remembered for his integrity and his selfless sense of duty to his country.

Survey Finding - Criterion 1: National Significance. The Secretary of the Interior designated the General George C. Marshall House, historically known as Dodona Manor, as a National Historic Landmark on June 19, 1996, for its close association with General Marshall. The area established in the National Historic Landmark nomination includes the house, the associated outbuildings, and the gardens, which all maintain historic integrity for the period of Marshall’s ownership and residency (1941–1959).

Because National Historic Landmark designation recognizes properties as being nationally significant, no further work is required to affirm the national significance of the Marshall House as part of this reconnaissance survey. However, the study team, including members of the National Historic Landmarks program, reviewed the 1996 National Historic Landmark nomination form and recommended updates including further evaluation and documentation of the following NPS Thematic Framework (1996) themes: “shaping the political landscape,” “developing the American economy,” and “changing role of the United States in the world community.” These recommendations are detailed in the suitability criterion analysis and conclusion of this report.

The George C. Marshall International Center carried out an extensive six-year, \$3 million restoration of Dodona Manor from July 1999 to November 2005. Work included exterior structural repairs, interior restoration of finishes and furniture, and replacement of wiring, plumbing, and heating and cooling systems. In addition, the Center pursued research and restoration of the landscape, hiring qualified specialists and craftspeople to research the history, reproduce and repair historic features, and complete archeological investigations. These restoration efforts should also be documented in an updated National Historic Landmark form.

Survey Finding - Criterion 2: Suitability. A preliminary determination of suitability finds the site likely to meet the criteria as a resource underrepresented in the national park system or protected by other agencies for public enjoyment. As an affiliated area, the Marshall House would expand on and enhance interpretive programming found at the Eisenhower National Historic Site and visitor use opportunities found at comparably managed areas. Furthermore, it may offer interpretive or educational opportunities on the history of American diplomacy from the unique perspective of chronicling Marshall’s rise and expansion of his roles on national and world stages as his career mirrored America’s rise as a world power. Adding the Marshall House as an affiliated area seems likely to fill the underrepresented theme of “changing role of the United States in the world community” and the topic of US diplomacy.

Survey Finding – Criterion 3: Assessing the Need for Special Consideration. The George C. Marshall International Center has demonstrated a desire to manage resources in accordance with NPS *Management Policies 2006* and Secretary of the Interior standards via the extensive phased restoration of the home, gardens, and collections. It is likely that the Center would benefit from a stronger and more formalized affiliation with the National Park Service. Designation as an affiliated area could give the staff and volunteers of the organization access to curatorial, preservation, and interpretive expertise of the National Park Service and use of NPS branding.

Survey Conclusion: The National Park Service concludes that the George C. Marshall House would be appropriate for designation as an affiliated area based on the preliminary analysis of this reconnaissance survey.



*General George Catlett Marshall Jr., 1880–1959,
half-length portrait in uniform, seated, facing left, March 3, 1944. www.loc.gov/item/2005680095.*

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Introduction

In November 2019, US Representative Jennifer Wexton and US Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine requested that the National Park Service conduct a reconnaissance survey of the George C. Marshall House in Leesburg, Virginia, to evaluate its eligibility as an affiliated area of the national park system (appendix A).

Reconnaissance surveys are preliminary resource assessments that are most often requested to investigate additions to the national park system, but they have been undertaken for other types of national designations such as wild and scenic rivers, national historic trails, and affiliated areas. The result of this survey is a preliminary determination based on congressionally defined criteria (appendix B); however, the conclusions are not considered final or definitive. In this case, the congressional request for the George C. Marshall House specifically directed a reconnaissance survey to evaluate the site as an affiliated area. Thus, the evaluation does not include analysis of the site as a potential new unit of the national park system. Likewise, the survey conclusion does not recommend future investigation through a special resource study but instead determines eligibility for designation as an affiliated area.

Affiliated areas preserve nationally significant properties outside the national park system and are recognized by acts of Congress or can be designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

Affiliated areas are owned and operated by nonfederal organizations that maintain a formal relationship with the National Park Service. Via this partnership, affiliates can gain access to technical resources, historic preservation expertise, and branded graphics of the National Park Service. By designating an area as an affiliate, the area's importance to the nation is recognized without requiring or implying ownership or management by the National Park Service. To be designated as an affiliated area, a property must meet the following criteria:

- Meet the same standards for significance and suitability that apply to units of the national park system.
- Require some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available via existing NPS programs.
- Be managed in accordance with the policies and standards that apply to units of the national park system.
- Be assured of sustained resource protection, as documented in a formal agreement between the National Park Service and the nonfederal management entity.

This report uses *NPS Management Policies 2006* (§1.3 “Criteria for Inclusion”) for national significance and suitability (appendix B). According to the criteria, a resource is considered nationally significant if it meets the following four criteria:

- It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.
- It offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study.
- It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

An area is considered suitable for addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies, tribal, state, or local governments, or by the private sector.

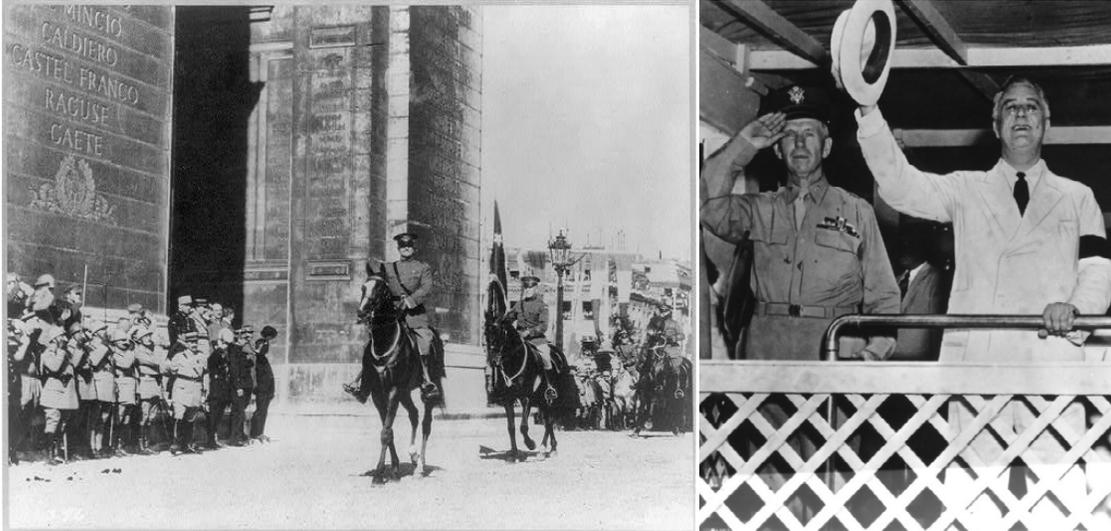
Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential addition to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. To evaluate suitability, this report includes a preliminary comparative analysis that documents rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the study area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

Staff from the NPS National Capital Area Office, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the Washington Office of Park Planning and Special Studies visited the George C. Marshall House in June 2021 and met with staff and volunteers of the George C. Marshall International Center to discuss the operation and management of the site.

Historical Context

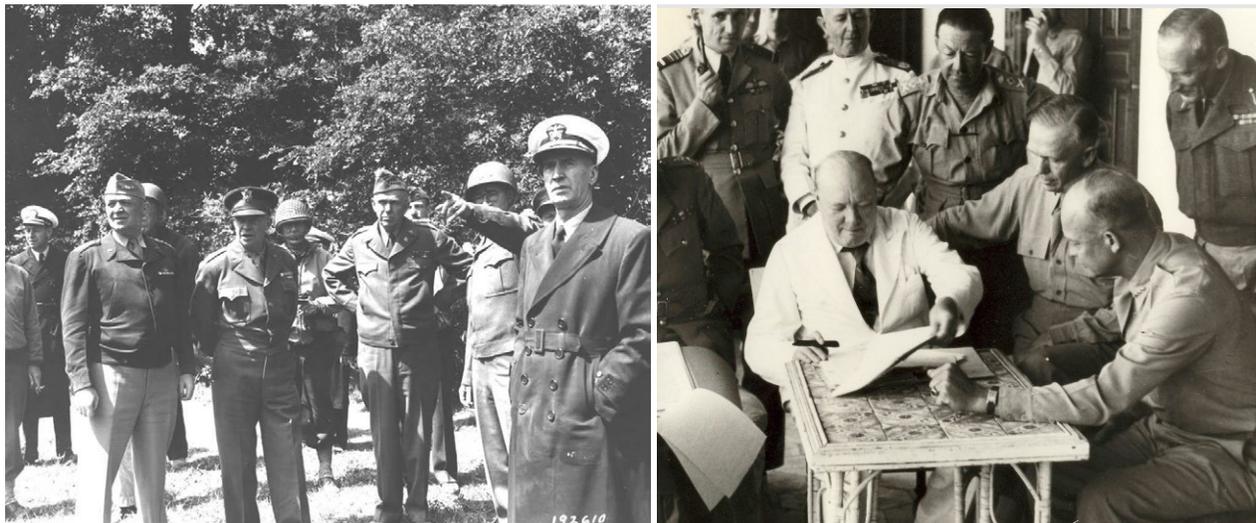
General George Catlett Marshall Jr. was one of the country's most distinguished leaders of the 20th century. As a soldier and statesman, he played a pivotal role in US contributions to the Allied victory in World War II and in America's transition to a world power as it entered the Cold War. As a soldier, Marshall served as US Army chief of staff (1939–1945) during World War II to Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S Truman. As a statesman, Marshall held three positions: Special Ambassador to China (December 1945 to January 1947), Secretary of State (January 1947 to January 1949), and Secretary of Defense (September 1950 to September 1951) under President Truman. During World War II, Marshall oversaw the largest military expansion in US history and is considered the designer and organizer of the Allied victory that contributed to the United States becoming a world power. Thereafter, during the Cold War, Marshall is best known as one of the architects and principal advocate of the European Recovery Act, commonly known as the Marshall Plan, considered the most significant foreign policy initiative in American diplomacy, in which the US contributed more than \$13 billion dollars of assistance to provide much-needed relief to a war-ravaged Europe. The formalized political and economic alliances that resulted stabilized western economies, halted the spread of communism, and triggered political divisions in Europe and Asia. Notably, General Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953, the only professional soldier so honored, for his leadership and contributions to Europe's postwar economic recovery. He is one of only five individuals to serve the United States as a five-star general of the army and the only individual to serve as general of the US Army, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense. Beyond his decades of public service and significant military and diplomatic achievements, General Marshall is respected and remembered for his integrity and his selfless sense of duty to his country.

General Marshall was born in 1880 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He left his hometown to attend the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, where he prepared for a military career. Marshall rose steadily through the ranks, serving ably in various posts in the United States, Philippines, and China, and in Europe during World War I. Lieutenant Colonel Marshall saw some front-line combat but largely served in the operations section of General John J. Pershing's headquarters in Chaumont, France.



Left: General Pershing riding through the Arc de Triomphe in parade with aide-de-camp George C. Marshall, 1919. (Source: www.loc.gov/item/2016652673.) Right: (General George C. Marshall and President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Washington, DC, Memorial Day parade, May 30, 1942). 42.05.30 GCM & FDR [6831]. (Source: the Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.)

Summoned to Washington, DC, as chief of the War Plans Division in the summer of 1938, Marshall was promoted a few months later to deputy chief of staff. He impressed President Franklin D. Roosevelt with his frankness and won the support of Harry Hopkins, the president's closest advisor, by his appraisal of what was needed for American defense. Marshall received his second permanent star and his four temporary stars when he became head of the army, succeeding General Malin Craig on September 1, 1939. While Craig was on terminal leave (July 1 to September 1), Marshall acted as chief of staff, succeeding to the full title a few hours after Hitler invaded Poland.



Left: Army and navy chiefs visit Normandy beachhead. Shown are Generals Marshall, Eisenhower, Bradley, Arnold and Admiral King, June 12, 1944. 44.06.12--JCS at Normandy[202]. (Source: The Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.) Right: Prime Minister Winston Churchill, General George Marshall, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower at the Algiers conference, June 1943) 43.06.03 CCS, Churchill, Algiers [973B]. Crop. (Source: the Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.)

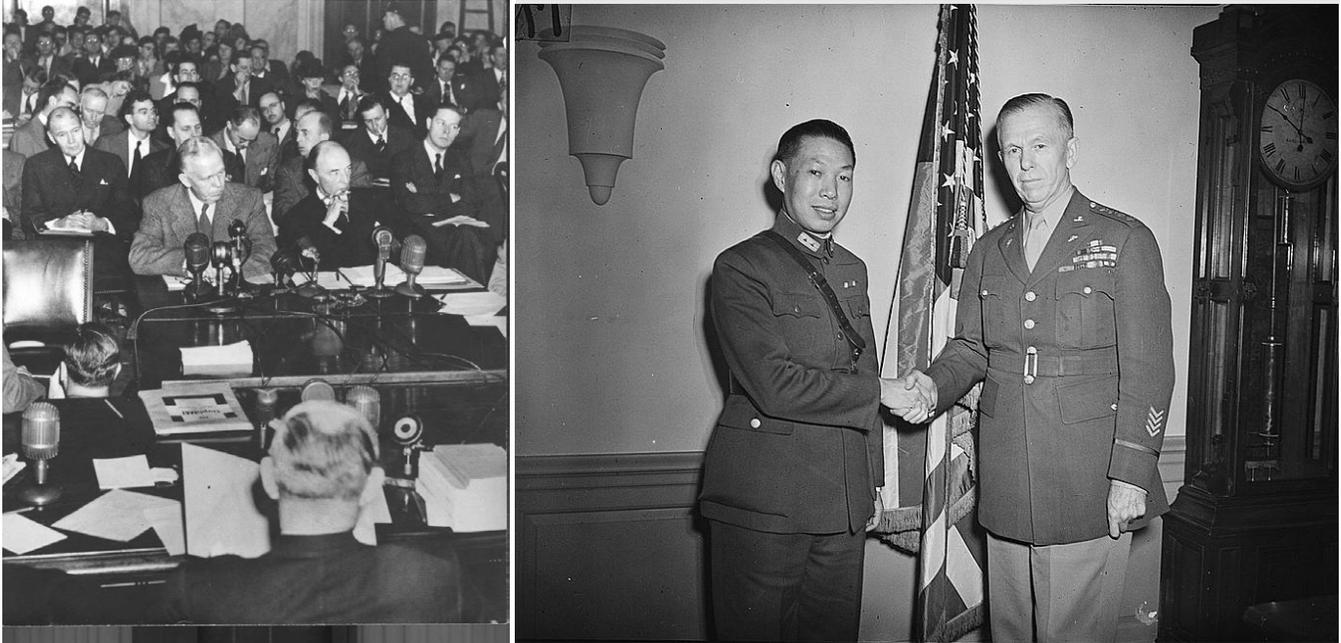
As head of the US Army, Marshall was the only top-level British or American political or military figure to hold the same post throughout World War II. Marshall won the confidence of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, gained the deep respect of Winston Churchill and the British and American chiefs of staff, and enjoyed excellent relations with Congress and the press. *Time* magazine, in proclaiming him Man of the Year in January 1944, declared that he had armed the republic. Indeed, Marshall worked unendingly to shore up US defenses and train the army for action. In the process, the US Army became a military superpower as it grew from less than 200,000 men to several million soldiers, contributing to America's stance as a world power.

Marshall played a leading role in planning military operations on a global scale. In preparation for the invasion of Europe, Marshall placed General Dwight D. Eisenhower in command of American forces in the United Kingdom and he later backed Eisenhower for the chief command of Allied forces in the Mediterranean during the 1944 North African invasion. When Marshall came under consideration for an appointment to command the European invasion in 1944, some political and military leaders argued that he was needed more in his position as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Ultimately, President Roosevelt, who had initially insisted on Marshall's appointment, became disturbed at the thought of not having him in Washington. Roosevelt, saying he could not sleep well at night with Marshall out of Washington, appointed Eisenhower to lead the European invasion.



Left: General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General George C. Marshall share a chuckle at the Algiers Conference, June 1943) 43.06.03 DDE at Algiers [973A]. Right: General George Marshall talks to a group of soldiers in Boccanello, Italy, February 13, 1945). 45.02.13 talks to men, Italy [2069]. (Source for both photos: the Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.

Near the end of the war in Europe, Churchill called Marshall "the true organizer of victory." A few days after Marshall retired from the army on November 20, 1945, President Truman read a citation saying that while millions of Americans had given their country outstanding service, General Marshall had given it victory. Shortly after Marshall retired, Truman appointed him special envoy to China in a failed mission to mediate settlement of the civil war between the Nationalists and Communists. In January 1947, Truman selected Marshall to be his Secretary of State for a momentous two years. These years were marked by key events that shaped world history, such as the establishment of a two-state policy for Israel and Palestine, the Berlin Airlift, ongoing diplomacy between Communist China and Nationalist Taiwan (Formosa), negotiations with Joseph Stalin on Soviet aggressions, and creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).



Left: Secretary of State Marshall, flanked by Undersecretary of State Robert Lovett, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on European Recovery. Others in photo are: Dallas Dorf, William Thorp, Herbert Havlik, Maurice Levy Hawes, Walter Surrey, Carl Marcy, and Ty Wood, November 11, 1947.) 47.11.11 M, Lovett, MP aid [704]. (Source: the Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.

Right: General Hsiung of the Chinese army visiting General George Marshall in Washington, DC, December 1942. (Source: www.loc.gov/item/2017871650.)

Marshall is best known for his role in 1947 and 1948 in developing and securing congressional support for the European Recovery Program that would become known as the Marshall Plan. Devastated by years of conflict during World War II, millions of people had been killed or wounded in Europe. Industrial and residential centers in England, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Belgium, and elsewhere lay in ruins. Much of Europe was on the brink of famine as agricultural production had been disrupted by war. Transportation infrastructure was in shambles. The only major power in the world economy that was not significantly damaged was the United States. The Marshall Plan was primarily intended to rebuild the economies and spirits of western Europe. Marshall believed that the key to restoration of political stability lay in the revitalization of national economies and that political stability in Western Europe was key to blunting the advances of communism in that region. Sixteen nations including Germany became part of the program and shaped the assistance they required, country by country, with administrative and technical assistance provided through the Economic Cooperation Administration of the United States. European nations received nearly \$13 billion in aid, which initially came in the form of shipments of food, staples, fuel, and machinery from the United States and later resulted in investment in industrial capacity in Europe. Marshall Plan funding ended in 1951.¹

¹ Dictionary of American Biography, Supplement Six (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1980), pp 428-432.



Left: A crew of workers clears rubble and prepare for construction in Berlin. Poster referring to the Marshall Plan displayed on building. GCM 179. Right: A Greek man carrying a box with the Marshall Plan shield printed on it. (Source for both photos: the Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.)

Marshall also served as Secretary of Defense (from September 1950 to September 1951) at the start of the Korean War. During this time, he faced intense public criticism, especially from Senator Joseph McCarthy, who pointed to Marshall's failed attempt at diplomacy between Communist China and Nationalist Taiwan (Formosa) and his leadership in the negotiation of the 38th parallel. This was intended as a temporary division of Korea at the end of World War II, but the onset of the Cold War led to the establishment of a US-oriented regime in South Korea and a communist regime in North Korea.



Left: General George C. Marshall boards a B-17B Flying Fortress in civilian attire, Washington, DC, ca. 1940. (Source: www.loc.gov/item/2016877196, Harris & Ewing, photographer). Right: President Harry S Truman confers with General Marshall and Acting Secretary of Defense Robert A. Lovett.. 51.09.12 HST+Lovett [660]. (Source: the Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.)

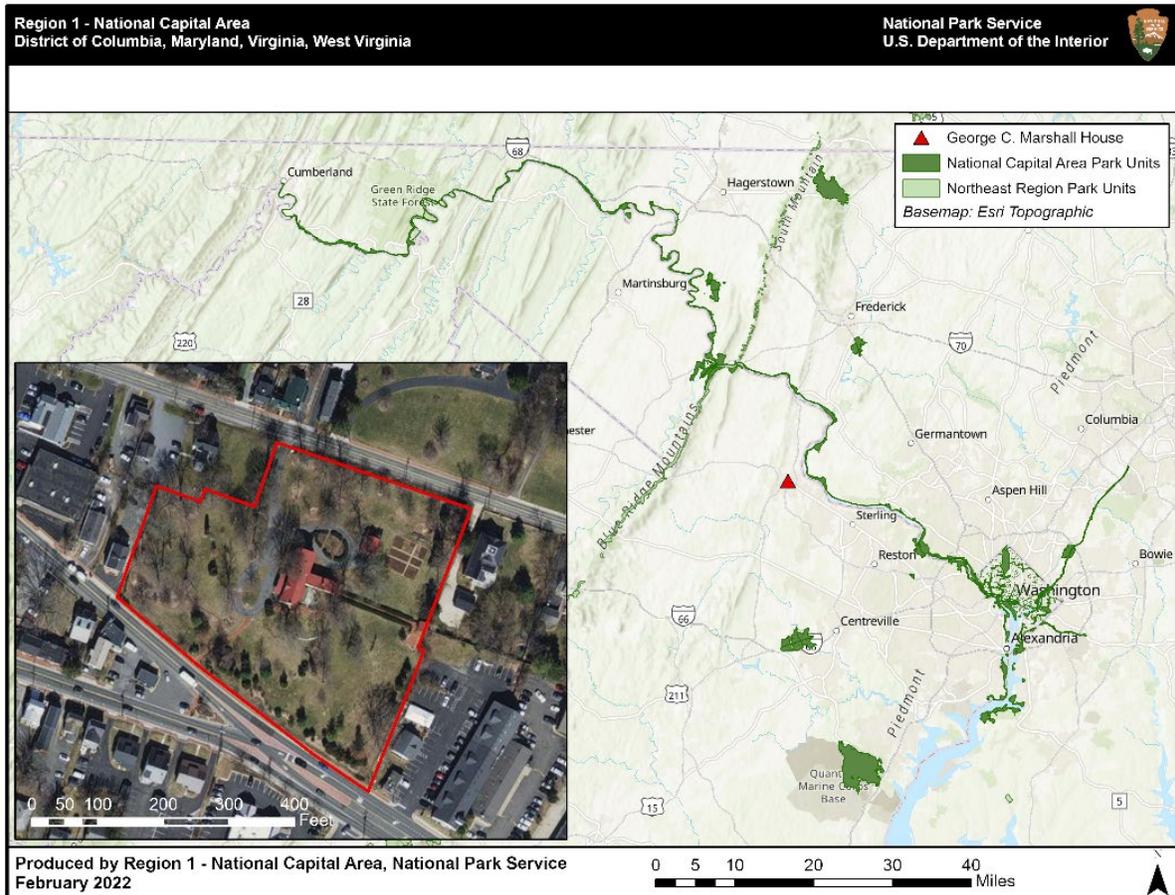
Marshall retired in 1951, following a decorated fifty-year public service career. In 1953, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the only professional soldier so honored, for his leadership and contributions to the economic recovery of Europe following World War II. Beyond his decades of public service and significant military and diplomatic achievements, General Marshall is respected and remembered for his integrity and his selfless sense of duty to country. General Marshall died on October 16, 1959, and was buried in a small, family ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.



*General Marshall receiving the Nobel Prize from Committee President Gunnar Jahn, Oslo University.
53.12.10 getting Nobel Prize [1326]. (Source: the Marshall photo collection, the George C. Marshall Foundation of
Lexington, Virginia.)*

Description of Study Area

The reconnaissance survey study area is identical to the area of the General George C. Marshall House National Historic Landmark, which includes the house, the associated outbuildings, and the gardens, which have historically and collectively comprised the four-acre Dodona Manor and that maintain historic integrity to the period of General Marshall’s ownership and residency (1941–1959).



(Source: National Park Service.)

Further description of the site and site resources are provided in the national significance evaluation below.

Evaluation of Affiliated Area Criteria

To be eligible for designation as an affiliated area of the National Park Service, a property must meet the following criteria:

- Meet the same standards for significance and suitability that apply to units of the national park system.
- Require some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available via existing NPS programs.
- Be managed in accordance with the policies and standards that apply to units of the national park system.
- Be assured of sustained resource protection, as documented in a formal agreement between the National Park Service and the nonfederal management entity.

CRITERION 1: NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

National significance for cultural resources is evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmark criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65. National significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, and that also possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Finally, they must meet one of the following six National Historic Landmark criteria:

1. Be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to and are identified with or outstandingly represent the broad national patterns of US history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained (National Historic Landmark criterion 1).
2. Be associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States (National Historic Landmark criterion 2).
3. Represent some great idea or ideal of the American people (National Historic Landmark criterion 3).
4. Embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style, or method of construction, or that represents a significant, distinctive, and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction (National Historic Landmark criterion 4).
5. Be composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture (National Historic Landmark criterion 5).
6. Have yielded or may likely yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures or by shedding light on periods of occupation across large areas of the United States. Such sites are those that have yielded or that may reasonably be expected to yield data affecting theories, concepts, and ideas to a major degree (National Historic Landmark criterion 6).

Historical significance for any historic property is determined by placing the resource in a historic context that thematically links the resource to important historic trends. In this way, historic contexts

provide a framework for determining the significance of a property and its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The national significance of the General George C. Marshall House in Leesburg, Virginia, was recognized via its designation as a National Historic Landmark under criterion 2 by the Secretary of the Interior on June 19, 1996. According to the National Historic Landmark nomination:

[General Marshall] rose from being an army officer held in professional respect, but without celebrity, to one of the most important and respected world figures of the 20th century. Winston Churchill, recalling the years of World War II, said that the only individual on whom all leaders conferred unqualified praise and admiration was General Marshall.

In military affairs, Marshall will be remembered as the individual who above all others built the US Army and Army Air Force that contributed heavily to victory in World War II. No wartime commander so long enjoyed the trust and standing he held with the White House, with Congress, and with the public. His strength lay in his candor with Congress and the press, his refusal to play politics with military matters, and his firm insistence that the civilian power be superior to that of the military . . . As Secretary of State, Marshall gave his name and his strong backing to legislation that undertook to set Europe on the road to economic recovery. Although aware that such reconstruction was in the best interests of the United States, his first consideration was the defeat of hunger and misery in Europe. In his postwar career, he tried to combine a policy of firmness toward the Soviet Union with an effort to promote peaceful relations. He embodied a happy combination of military and political leadership in one of the most violent decades in world history.

While he served in several major capacities after the war, including Secretary of State, it was his [creation] of the Marshall Plan for rebuilding war-torn nations of Europe that won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. He was the only victorious general in history to design a humanitarian, virtually selfless program for rebuilding what war had destroyed.

A career military man, Marshall lived in numerous homes throughout his life and career. The National Historic Landmark nomination compares the house primarily to two other Marshall residences: Quarters One and Liscombe Lodge. In August 1939, the Marshalls resided in Quarters One (National Historic Landmark, 1972) in Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia. Although the site mirrors the critical years of Marshall's World War II life, it also served as the residence of all US Army chiefs of staff who resided here, beginning in 1908. In December 1944, the Marshalls bought a cottage called Liscombe Lodge in Pinehurst, North Carolina, as their winter home. The cottage is a contributing resource of the Pinehurst Historic District (National Historic Landmark, 1966) designated for its recreational significance. It is not closely associated with Marshall's work and has since been remodeled. The nomination concluded: "Dodona Manor was his residence for the last eighteen years of his life, coinciding precisely with his years of national and international achievement . . . From here he commuted to Washington while in residence, first for the military, and later as Secretary of State."²

² Recent scholarship indicates that Marshall, as Secretary of State, also spent weeknights at the residences of other family and associates in Washington, DC.

CRITERION 1: NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE – ANALYSIS

The national significance of the General George C. Marshall House is recognized via its designation as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on June 19, 1996, for its association with Marshall's rise from an army officer to one of the country's most important and respected figures of the 20th century. The National Historic Landmark area includes the house, the associated outbuildings, and the gardens that have collectively and historically been known as Dodona Manor and that maintain historic integrity to the period of General Marshall's ownership and residency (1941–1959).

CRITERION 1: NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE - DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK RESOURCES

Dodona Manor

Located approximately thirty-five miles northwest of the District of Columbia in Leesburg, Virginia, the home of General Marshall and his wife Katherine occupies a hilltop site flanked on the south by East Market Street (Highway 7) and on the north by Edwards Ferry Road, which unite to the west to form Market Street and enter the old section of Leesburg, Virginia. During Marshall's residency, the front yard on the west overlooked Leesburg's downtown, which lies beyond. Today, the large arterial road and surrounding low-density commercial uses are well-screened by stands of trees along the four-acre property's perimeter.



Dodona Manor exterior. (Source: the George C. Marshall International Center.)

The NHL nomination notes Dodona Manor is a multi-part, late-federal style house of painted brick with dark green shutters and a red-painted metal roof. Built in phases starting in the 1820s and extending through the 1850s, certain elements including the main entrance porch were added in the early 20th century by successive owners. According to the George C. Marshall International Center, the name Dodona Manor was bestowed on the home by its former owners, Northcutt and Marica Ely. The ancient Greek author Homer described Dodona as a location where an oracle of Zeus would use the rustling of white oak leaves to interpret messages from Zeus. The Elys noted the prolific white oaks on the property and thought the name was appropriate.

General Marshall made relatively few alterations to the home; these included improvements to the grounds and gardens. He lived here as general of the US Army under President Roosevelt and as Secretary of State under President Truman. In its rooms and among the furrows of its vegetable garden, he pondered the great events in which he was involved. The Marshalls purchased the property in

October 1941, two months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Marshalls usually lived quietly at Dodona Manor, but General Marshall was in demand, so callers often came to the house. At Dodona Manor, the Marshalls entertained Winston Churchill, President Truman, and a succession of politicians, military luminaries, industrialists, and diplomats. Periodically, Marshall addressed a crowd of newsmen on his lawn; this continued into his later years after the war and the Marshall Plan, when the public became fascinated by details of his life. However, the real purpose of the place was as a home, detached from public life.

Little has changed over time; even the storm windows survive. Following the death of General Marshall in 1959, his wife Katherine moved to their second home in Pinehurst, North Carolina, giving Dodona to her oldest daughter Molly and Molly's husband James Winn. The George C. Marshall Home preservation fund purchased the property from Molly and James Winn in 1995. Acquisition costs for the home and adjacent properties exceeded \$3.3 million. Later the fund would be reorganized as the George C. Marshall International Center, which raised more than \$3 million for restoration of the home, furniture, books, and gardens between 1999 and 2005. On Veterans Day in 2005, Dodona Manor was opened to the public as a house museum.

Interior and Collections

Dodona Manor's interior has been restored by the George C. Marshall International Center to be consistent with the period of General Marshall's ownership and residency (1941–1959). Grants from the NPS Save America's Treasures Fund and the Department of Housing and Urban Development underwrote interior restoration. Work included exterior structural repairs, interior restoration of finishes and furniture, and replacement of wiring, plumbing, and heating and cooling systems. In addition, the Center pursued research and restoration of the landscape, hiring qualified specialists and craftspeople to research the history, reproduce and repair historic features, and complete archeological investigations. The Center provided details of the restoration effort to the National Park Service and the National Historic Landmark Program. Details of the restoration efforts should also be documented in an updated National Historic Landmark form.

The collection boasts more than 6,000 objects, ninety percent of which belonged to George and Katherine Marshall. The George C. Marshall Home Preservation Fund acquired much of the home's original furnishings and memorabilia, by gift and permanent loan, from Molly and James Winn. Where possible, original furniture, art, rugs, lamps, and books were used, but where irreversible deterioration occurred, new custom rugs, draperies, and curtains were reproduced based on original artifacts. From furniture to letters, artwork, and textiles, the story of the Marshalls lives on in the objects preserved or recreated and in the history connected to those objects.



Dodona Manor interior. (Source: NPS photos taken on site visit.)

Associated Outbuildings

In addition to the house, the four-acre site, largely as the Marshalls knew it, has a brick two-car garage with an upper half-story storeroom. There is also a small wooden tool shed to the far east of the property, once approached by a boxwood-lined walk.



Dodona Manor exterior. (Source: NPS photo taken on site visit.)

Gardens

George and Katherine Marshall put much of their remodeling efforts into the outdoor area. The Marshalls enjoyed gardening, finding pleasure in the vegetable and flower gardens that they developed on the grounds. The old trees they loved are intact, except for one large white oak that was taken down because of disease in 1994.

Reconstruction of the gardens strove to balance historical accuracy with the natural aging of the landscape. As William Seale noted, as found in the recommendations to the George C. Marshall

International Center for restoration of the gardens, “Garden restoration is quite different from that of buildings. Gardens are living things. Trees grow large, larger than they were in the relevant historical period; they block or interfere with original paths. Plantings, once controlled, spread to cover large areas . . . The usual restoration process common to buildings, of returning the structure to the way it was at a time in question, is somewhat more complicated with gardens. There is the issue of beauty, and the question of original plant material. Should the tree be cut, original though it is, simply because it has grown large? The answer to historic gardens is usually in symbolism. A garden like Marshall’s should appear much as it did.”

The Garden Club of Virginia adopted the Dodona Manor grounds as an official project in May 2002 and underwrote the conceptual and working plans for grounds restoration. A Department of Transportation Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act Grant and a Burpee Foundation donation provided major funding for landscape restoration. Burpee sent a box of seeds and tomato plants matching Marshall’s 1940 order for the restoration. The Rust Foundation donated \$50,000 for restoration and maintenance of Katherine Marshall’s rose garden.



*Dodona Manor exterior. (Source for photo on left: NPS photo taken on site visit.
Source for photo on right: the George C. Marshall International Center.)*

CRITERION 1: NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE - CONCLUSION

The George C. Marshall House is nationally significant for its association with General Marshall. The 1996 designation of the site as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior confirms its national historical significance and high degree of integrity. The National Historic Landmark area includes the house, the associated outbuildings, and the gardens that have historically and collectively been known as Dodona Manor and that maintain historic integrity to the period of General Marshall's ownership and residency (1941–1959).

No further work is required to affirm national significance of a designated National Historic Landmark as part of this reconnaissance survey. However, the study team, including members of the National Historic Landmarks program, reviewed the 1996 National Historic Landmark nomination form and recommends some updates, including further evaluation and documentation of the following NPS thematic framework (1996) themes: “shaping the political landscape,” “developing the American economy,” and “changing role of the United States in the world community.”

This recommendation is detailed in the suitability criterion analysis and conclusion below. In addition, the team recommends that when the National Historic Landmark documentation is updated, it include a description of the restoration work completed by the George C. Marshall International Center since the 1996 National Historic Landmark nomination.³

³ The team reaffirms the National Historic Landmark national significance; however, after 26 years there are new stories and new scholarship: The National Park Service feels that interpretations of the story can be broadened. There are factual corrections to the National Historic Landmark form, including how much time was spent at Pinehurst and elsewhere. The significant reconstruction work for the property itself should also be updated and documented.

CRITERION 2: SUITABILITY

To be eligible for designation as an affiliated area of the national park system, a site that is found to be nationally significant must also meet the criterion for suitability. An area is considered suitable for addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system or that is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies, tribal, state or local governments, or the private sector. Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential addition to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The comparison results in a determination of whether the study area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor-use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

CRITERION 2: SUITABILITY - IDENTIFYING RESOURCE TYPE AND THEMES

The type of resource represented by the General George C. Marshall House is the home of an important historical figure. In this sense, the Marshall House represents the home of an eminent soldier and statesman who played a pivotal role in US contributions to victory in World War II, the country's emergence as a world power, and postwar European economic recovery.

To determine relevant context for evaluating the suitability of cultural resources within or outside the national park system, the National Park Service uses the NPS Thematic Framework, an outline of major themes and concepts that help to conceptualize American history. Its eight themes are:

1. peopling places
2. creating social institutions and movement
3. expressing cultural values
4. shaping the political landscape
5. developing the American economy
6. expanding science and technology
7. transforming the environment
8. changing role of the United States in the world community

The theme most applicable to the Marshall House is "changing role of the United States in the world community." This theme emphasizes people and institutions, from the principals who defined and formulated diplomatic policy such as presidents and secretaries of state, to private institutions, such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, that influenced America's diplomatic, cultural, social, and economic affairs. While the National Historic Landmark nomination identified this theme, the nomination could be strengthened and made more useful by further developing and expanding the topic of international relations in the 1996 National Historic Landmark nomination. The narrative should chronicle the coinciding rise of and expansion of Marshall's roles on the US and world stages with America's rise as a world power.

Other themes from the framework may also apply to aspects of the Marshall House and its history. "Shaping the political landscape," a theme recognized in the nomination, applies to federal, political,

and governmental institutions that create public policy and those groups that shape policies and institutions. The context for this theme is not fully developed in the nomination. The theme of “developing the American economy” also may apply to the Marshall House for the impact that the Marshall Plan made on economic growth during the Cold War. Should the National Historic Landmark nomination be updated in the future, these themes should be further evaluated.

CRITERION 2: SUITABILITY - COMPARATIVE SITE ANALYSIS

This reconnaissance survey evaluated several properties for the purposes of suitability. The six most relevant of these sites include three NPS units that were the homes of US presidents associated with Marshall’s military or civic career and that convey, to some degree, the history of US diplomacy. The remaining three sites are non-NPS units comprising library and museum buildings that interpret individual historical figures. Although not the same resource type as the home of an important leader, these sites provide varying levels of interpretive programming on Marshall’s vital role in America’s transition to a world power. No other homes where Marshall lived during World War II or the Cold War are compared here because the National Historic Landmark nomination concluded that the Marshall House is the residence most closely associated with his productive life and significant accomplishments.⁴ Following is a list of the six sites used for comparative analysis:

A. NPS Units

- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site in Hyde Park, New York
- Harry S Truman National Historic Site in Independence, Missouri
- Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

B. Non-NPS Units

- Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York; managed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
- Harry S Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri; managed by NARA
- George C. Marshall Library and Museum in Lexington, Virginia; managed by the George C. Marshall Foundation

Following is a summary evaluation of how the Marshall House property compares to these six properties.

⁴ General George C. Marshall House National Historic Landmark documentation compares the house to two other Marshall residences: Quarters One and Liscombe Lodge. In August 1939, the Marshalls resided in Quarters One (National Historic Landmark, 1972) in Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia. Although the site mirrors the critical years of Marshall’s World War II life, it served as the residence of all US Army chiefs of staff since 1908. In December 1944, the Marshalls bought a cottage called Liscombe Lodge in Pinehurst, North Carolina, as their winter home. The cottage is a contributing resource of the Pinehurst Historic District (National Historic Landmark, 1966) designated for its recreational significance. It is not closely associated with Marshall’s work and has since been remodeled.

NPS Units

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York

Under President Roosevelt, Marshall served as US Army chief of staff from 1939 until Roosevelt's death in 1945. It was during World War II that Marshall organized the largest military expansion in US history, which contributed to victory and America's emergence as a world power. While serving in the president's administration, Marshall never visited the house until Roosevelt's funeral.



Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site in Hyde Park, New York. (Source: National Park Service.)

According to the foundation document overview, the purpose of this national historic site is “to preserve and interpret the birthplace, lifelong home, and memorial gravesite of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, so that current and future generations can understand the life and legacy of the longest-serving US president—a man who led the nation through the Great Depression and World War II.” Its resources include 772 acres of the historic Roosevelt family estate along with secondary support buildings, gardens, grounds, orchards, woodlands, and former agricultural lands. The home itself contains furnishings and objects of historical value. These “comprise the setting where President Roosevelt developed policies and undertook political and diplomatic consultations that . . . helped redefine the role of the federal government and profoundly increased American involvement in world affairs,” according to the overview.

One of the four interpretive themes, “leadership amidst crises,” described in the unit’s 2017 foundation document relates to the context of American diplomacy: “President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the United States through the crises of the Great Depression and World War II, championing a vision of economic security for all and world peace and using the power of government to achieve these goals.” Marshall is referenced with regard to his military role in planning and executing operations in the Pacific and an expeditionary force invasion of Europe.

Similar to the Marshall House, this unit represents the same resource type: the home of an important leader. It is a comparably managed area. Its interpretive programming on Marshall as US Army chief of staff, his role as a key military advisor to Roosevelt, and his congressional and international accomplishments are smaller in scope than that presented at the Marshall House. Affiliated area status for the Marshall House could expand the ability of the National Park Service and its external partners to communicate the history of American diplomacy, especially in the post-World War II period.

Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Independence, Missouri

Under President Truman, Marshall served as US Army chief of staff (through November 1945), special ambassador to China (December 1945 to January 1947), Secretary of State (January 1947 to January 1949), and Secretary of Defense (September 1950 to September 1951). According to its foundation document, the purpose of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site “is to preserve and protect President Truman’s home and related properties in Independence, and the Truman Farm in Grandview, Missouri, including all related artifacts, in order to interpret Mr. Truman’s life in both communities as well as his legacy.” This unit contains multiple resources. The two primary resources are the Truman Home and the Truman Farm Home, along with three other family homes. All have cultural landscapes and secondary buildings.



Harry S Truman National Historic Site in Independence, Missouri. (Source: National Park Service.)

The 2017 foundation document overview describes three interpretive themes. One theme related to the context of American diplomacy is “political and social legacy and memorialization.” As president, Truman “led the United States from isolationism into the age of international involvement and, in retirement, resisted memorialization, while still working to shape his legacy as president by writing his memoirs, and opening his library,” according to the overview. The remaining themes of “character and leadership’ and “retirement and independence” relate to how Truman’s traits were grounded in the community and his life after leaving office.

At the Truman National Historic Site, the National Park Service operates a comparably managed area as the Marshall property that protects and interprets resources. It also has a diplomatic theme similar to what the Marshall property could offer as an affiliated area. However, because the Truman National Historic Site focuses on Truman’s home life and community, designation of the Marshall House as an affiliated area could expand on the rise of the United States as an international power.

Eisenhower National Historic Site (Dwight D. Eisenhower Farmstead, National Historic Landmark), Gettysburg, Pennsylvania



Eisenhower Farmstead in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. (Source: National Park Service.)

Eisenhower is directly associated with Marshall during World War II, after Marshall appointed him to head American forces in the United Kingdom. They served as iconic figures in their military partnership during the war. After the war, Eisenhower succeeded Marshall as chief of staff of the army.

General Eisenhower and his wife bought this farm in 1950 and rehabilitated it in 1955. During Eisenhower's presidency (1953–1961), the farm served as a retreat from Washington, DC, and as his principal residence during his retirement. Beyond the Eisenhower farm, the unit preserves three additional farms: two formed in partnership with an associate and one donated to the government to preserve the historic setting.

According to the foundation document overview the purpose of this unit “is to preserve and interpret the home and farms of the Eisenhower family as a fitting and enduring memorial to the life, work, and times of General Dwight David Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States, and to the events of far-reaching importance that occurred on the property.”

Some interpretive themes in the 2016 foundation document overview are consistent with those of the Marshall House. These include Eisenhower as a key architect of the Allied victory in World War II, his legacy of leadership, and the international tensions associated with the Cold War. The document also lists “sense of home and personal refuge” as a value important to the unit’s planning and management process, an attribute that applies to the Marshall House. However, the interpretation differs in its timeframe and positions. Eisenhower served as commander in the field during the war while Marshall served in Washington, DC, and Marshall’s accomplishments occurred in the early Cold War era when he devised the Marshall Plan, while Eisenhower followed immediately thereafter with the strategy of containment under the plan.

At the Eisenhower National Historic Site, the National Park Service operates a comparably managed area that protects and interprets some resources, values, and themes similar to what the Marshall property could offer as an affiliated area. However, significant site access issues allow visitors only enough time for a tour of the house and grounds. Thus, interpretation focuses on the Eisenhowers in Gettysburg while Marshall plays a limited role in most programs. Development of a new reception center at the site may present the opportunity to expand interpretation related to Marshall. The addition of the Marshall property as an affiliated area would enhance important interpretive themes in the national park system.

Non-NPS Units

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, New York



Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, New York. (Source: National Park Service.)

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Museum and Library is part of the presidential libraries system administered by NARA. Located on the Roosevelt estate, it was opened to the public in 1941. Although the library shares a visitor center with the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, it is not within the park boundary.

According to its website, the Library’s mission is to “foster research and education on the life and time of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their continuing impact on contemporary life.” The library carries out its mission in the four major areas of archives, museum, education, and public programs. Exhibits include the story of the Roosevelt presidency during World War II.

World War II features on the museum’s website cover the lend-lease program to arm Europe and the Atlantic Charter that expressed the war aims between America and Britain. A permanent wartime exhibit in the map room contains interactive tables that highlight key countries and meetings occurring during the war, along with correspondence and maps employed by Roosevelt and his military advisers. As US Army chief of staff, Marshall attended all the president’s wartime conferences.

At this library and museum, to some degree NARA already protects and interprets the theme of “changing role of the United States in the world community” and the context of American diplomacy. Affiliated area status for the Marshall House could enhance the history of US diplomacy by highlighting an important military and diplomatic figure and the impacts of his actions.

Harry S Truman Presidential Museum and Library, Independence, Missouri



Highsmith, Carol M, photographer. The Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum in the 33rd U.S. president's hometown of Independence, Missouri. United States Jackson County Independence Missouri, 2021. -03-31. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021756204/>.

This museum and library building, established in 1957, is a contributing resource to the Harry S Truman Historic District (National Historic Landmark, 1971) and is part of the presidential libraries system administered by NARA. According to its website, the museum and library “preserves and provides access to President Truman’s historical materials. Through engaging exhibits and programs, the Library aspires to reach a broad and diverse audience in a continuous effort to keep President Truman’s life and legacy alive, emphasizing his ideals of citizenship, learning, and service.”

Marshall’s lengthy career under Truman is reflected in two exhibits related to the history of US diplomacy and the United States’ role as a world power during the Cold War. One exhibit interprets the Berlin Airlift (1948–1949), the Truman Doctrine (1947), the Marshall Plan (1948), and the formation of NATO (1949). The second exhibit, entitled “Architects of Containment,” highlights the roles that Marshall and other policy advisors played in the creation of Truman’s policy of containment for fighting the Cold War.⁵

At this museum and library, to some degree NARA already protects and interprets a history of American diplomacy. However, it is not a relevant comparative example of an NPS-affiliated area that protects and interprets resources associated with the home of a preeminent soldier and statesman.

⁵ [Origins of the Cold War | Harry S Truman \(trumanlibrary.gov\)](https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/origins-of-the-cold-war).

George C. Marshall Library and Museum, Virginia Military Institute Historic District (National Historic Landmark, 1974), Lexington, Virginia



George C Marshall Library and Museum. (Source: George C. Marshall Library and Museum.)

On January 17, 1953, at the end of his term, President Truman issued a presidential directive establishing the George C. Marshall Foundation to be housed in a building to be known as the George C. Marshall Research Center at the Virginia Military Institute, where Marshall received his military education (1897–1901). The building is situated in the midst of the sixty-acre Virginia Military Institute National Historic Landmark district.

Much as the George C. Marshall International Center is associated with the Marshall House, the Marshall Foundation website notes that the foundation “exists to promote the values of selfless service, dedicated effort, and strength of character exemplified by Marshall’s life and leadership in war and peace and to inspire new generations to follow his example.”⁶ The foundation supports Marshall’s legacy via its educational programs, world-class archives, and a research library. In January 2021, the foundation closed its museum exhibition program due to limited resources. Nevertheless, its extensive online resources describe Marshall’s accomplishments and his influence on international US policy. Website topics include the history of the Marshall Plan, including its need, background, and impact. Overall, certain resources duplicate those of the Marshall House interpretive program. The library and archives are open by advance appointment only.

At this library, the foundation already protects and interprets a history of American diplomacy associated with Marshall. However, it does not offer a museum experience, nor does the building have any direct association with Marshall during his lifetime. Although the building is located at Marshall’s alma mater, it was erected after his death, so he never lived or worked there. Thus, the addition of the Marshall House as an affiliated area would significantly enhance visitor opportunities to experience a historic property directly associated with Marshall, along with important interpretive themes.

⁶ [The Foundation - The Foundation \(marshallfoundation.org\)](http://marshallfoundation.org). The George C. Marshall International Center “is dedicated to translating his ideal of service to country to inspire the leaders of today and tomorrow” and “brings to life the timeless values of selfless service and unwavering integrity to develop visionary leaders worldwide.” [George C. Marshall International Center \(georgecmarshall.org\)](http://georgecmarshall.org).

CRITERION 2: SUITABILITY - ANALYSIS

Adequacy of Representation in the National Park System

The three national historic sites for Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower offer the same general resource type of a soldier or statesman's home whose gardens and outbuildings offer a tangible reflection of personalities, interests, and values. The Roosevelt and Eisenhower units represent the theme of "changing role of the United States in the world community" via World War II and Cold War interpretations. The sites honor pivotal figures in the history of US diplomacy but provide limited interpretation of Marshall. None are places where Marshall lived or worked.

Adequacy of Representation of Non-NPS Sites

None of the three sites in this category represent the same resource type as the Marshall House and they are not sites where Marshall lived or worked. The sites do offer interpretive or educational programming on US diplomacy during World War II and the Cold War and address aspects of Marshall's career, however. The George C. Marshall Library and Museum in particular offers many of the same online resources as those at the Marshall House, but the recent loss of its museum limits the experience that visitors can have at the Marshall Library.

Representation in the National Park Service System Plan

Following the centennial of the creation of the National Park Service, staff at all levels of the agency developed the 2017 NPS System Plan. The plan articulates a vision for the next 100 years of the National Park Service, documents resources and values that are missing or underrepresented, and provides recommendations for evaluation of new park units that will more equitably represent the evolving and dynamic nature of the nation's population and demographics. The 2017 plan notes, "of the 413 units in the system, 135 focus on war and armed conflict. This amounts to 33% of the total units. The vast majority of these 135 units are dedicated to wars and conflicts that occurred before World War II. Two conflicts are the most heavily represented: (1) the Civil War, which accounts for 54 units (13% of total), and (2) the Revolutionary War, which accounts for 20 units (5% of total). Four parks focus on armed conflict after World War II." The report also notes, "Thirty-five units (9% of total) celebrate the lives of US presidents. Some presidents have more than one unit dedicated to their life and accomplishments."

The plan documented fourteen important historical topics underrepresented in the current system, including the history of US diplomacy. The study notes, "The national park system currently does little to address the history of US diplomacy and the changing role of the United States in the world community throughout history. This could include topics such as the history of when and how the United States decide[d] to go to war; issues of peace diplomacy including US relationships with the League of Nations, the United Nations and others; and the influence of existing treaties." In comparison, a cursory review of National Historic Landmarks conducted for this study identified ten properties associated with US diplomacy, including the Marshall House.

The George C. Marshall House represents cultural themes that are overrepresented and underrepresented in the national park system. With approximately one-third of all existing NPS sites representing war or military conflict and more than thirty-five sites representing the lives and careers of American presidents, including the accomplishments of staff serving under their administrations, aspects of Marshall's life and career fall under some of the most-represented cultural themes in the

national park system. However, there are rich opportunities to highlight American diplomacy at the George C. Marshall House, and expanded access to this history would help fill the important historical theme gap related to the history of US diplomacy. This gap could also be filled via expanded interpretation of American diplomacy and updates to exhibits for visitors at the related presidential sites already in NPS ownership, including the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Harry S Truman National Historic Site, and the Eisenhower National Historic Site.

CRITERION 2: SUITABILITY - CONCLUSION

The study team concludes that the Marshall House is likely to meet the requirements for criterion 2: suitability. While visitors to other sites can learn of the Marshall Plan and earlier events, none are directly associated with where Marshall lived or worked, rose from soldier to a preeminent statesman, and conceived of the plan that led Europe into recovery. As an affiliated area, the Marshall House would expand upon and enhance interpretive programming and visitor use opportunities found at the Eisenhower National Historic Site and the presidential libraries. Furthermore, it would offer potential interpretive or educational opportunities on the history of American diplomacy from the unique perspective of chronicling Marshall's rise and expansion of his roles on national and world stages, showing how his career mirrored America's rise as a world power. Adding the Marshall House as an affiliated area would likely aid in presenting the underrepresented theme of "changing role of the United States in the world community" and the topic of US diplomacy.

CRITERION 3: ASSESSING THE NEED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION



Dodona Manor. (Source: NPS photo taken on site visit.)

The George C. Marshall International Center owns and has operated Dodona Manor as a public museum since 2005. The Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a full-time executive director, a seventeen-member board of directors, about forty-five volunteer docents, and about ten maintenance and gardener volunteers. The Center's offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. During the week, volunteers help with gardening and maintenance and special tours can be arranged on request. Public tours supported by volunteer docents are offered Friday through Sunday. The Center also hosts two annual special events on Veterans Day and Independence Day. Other special programs and events have been developed in concert with historical anniversaries, such as the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Marshall Plan. The Center has developed educational materials for an ethical leadership conference held three times per year for high school juniors and seniors and is working towards a shortened program for young professionals. The Center also hosts a book club themed around foreign policy and hosts a speaker series on diplomacy and leadership. Prior to the pandemic, the Center reached around 4,000 people annually, with about seventy-five percent onsite visitation and the remainder via programming.

Affiliated areas require some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available via existing NPS programs. The Center would like access to curatorial, preservation, and interpretive expertise of the National Park Service and use of NPS branding.

One of the largest challenges that the Center faces is technical expertise and capacity. An extensive six-year, more than \$3 million restoration project was carried out in accordance with Secretary of the Interior standards for historic preservation via an architectural contract. When the restoration contract closed in 2005, nearly all historic preservation technical expertise provided by the architect ended. The Center is interested in working with NPS preservation experts on prioritizing preservation needs and

developing a maintenance plan to keep historic structures in good repair. The existing executive director, board of directors, and volunteers also have limited curatorial experience and would likely benefit from a formalized partnership with the National Park Service to support conservation of the approximately 6,000 items in the collection.

Another major site challenge is funding. In the late 1990s, several immediately abutting properties were acquired along with the four-acre estate to develop an education center onsite. The primary way that the Center has kept the house and grounds in exemplary condition has been via sales of these neighboring properties. Only one property remains that could be sold to fund operating and maintenance costs. The organization has no endowment.

Onsite interpretation of General Marshall's story mirrors America's rise on the global stage, but there is more to the story than the celebratory aspects. America becoming a world superpower created lasting geopolitical consequences. The National Park Service recommends interpreting missing parts of the story that acknowledge failures and consequences of war, recovery, and foreign diplomacy. Should this site be designated an affiliated area, the National Park Service feels there could be fuller interpretation at the site and that the National Park Service can provide technical assistance to broaden this interpretation. While the Center has a relationship with school districts, including "Journey Through Hallowed Ground" tours onsite, the National Park Service could assist in developing more formalized partnerships with curriculum supporting tours in Loudoun County and other local school districts to reach audiences. A formal relationship with the National Park Service would provide additional interpretive and educational resources for development of special programs and curriculum activities that could allow for additional school groups to visit the site. The Center is interested in a formal affiliation with the National Park Service in the hopes that it can grow its reach, attracting a wider range of audiences to the site for tours and educational programs.

CRITERION 3: ASSESSING THE NEED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION - CONCLUSION

The George C. Marshall International Center has demonstrated its desire to manage resources in accordance with NPS *Management Policies* and Secretary of the Interior standards by its extensive phased restoration of the home, gardens, and collections. It is likely that the Center would benefit from a stronger and more formalized affiliation with the National Park Service. Designation as an affiliated area would give staff and volunteers of the organization access to curatorial, preservation, and interpretive expertise of the National Park Service and use of NPS branding. Establishing the George C. Marshall House as an affiliated area would guide development of any subsequent formal agreements between the Center and the National Park Service necessary to meet eligibility as an affiliated area.

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

For resources and properties to be eligible for designation as an affiliated area, three criteria must be met. The George C. Marshall House appears to meet all required criteria.

The George C. Marshall House was designated a National Historic Landmark on June 19, 1996. The George C. Marshall House is nationally significant for its association with General Marshall. The 1996 designation of the site as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior is the authority for this determination. The National Historic Landmark nomination noted that the National Historic Landmark area includes the house, the associated outbuildings, and the gardens that have historically and collectively been known as Dodona Manor and that maintain historic integrity to the period of General Marshall's ownership and residency (1941–1959). No further work is required to affirm significance of a designated National Historic Landmark as part of this survey. However, the study team, including members of the National Historic Landmarks program, reviewed the 1996 National Historic Landmark nomination form and recommends its update, further evaluation, and documentation of the following themes: “shaping the political landscape,” “developing the American economy,” and “changing role of the United States in the world community.”

A preliminary determination of suitability finds that the site likely meets the criteria as a resource underrepresented in the national park system or by other agencies for public enjoyment. As an affiliated area, the Marshall House would be able to expand upon and enhance interpretive programming found at the Eisenhower National Historic Site and visitor use opportunities found at comparably managed areas. It may also offer interpretive or educational opportunities on the history of American diplomacy from the unique perspective of chronicling Marshall's rise and expansion of his roles on the national and world stage as mirroring America's rise as a world power. Adding the Marshall House as an affiliated area seems likely to fill the underrepresented theme of “the changing role of the United States in the world community” and the topic of US diplomacy.

The George C. Marshall International Center has demonstrated its desire to manage resources in accordance with NPS *Management Policies* and Secretary of the Interior standards via the extensive phased restoration of the home, gardens, and collections. It is likely that the Center would benefit from a stronger and more formalized affiliation with the National Park Service. Designation as an affiliated area would give the staff and volunteers of the organization access to curatorial, preservation, and interpretive expertise of the National Park Service and use of NPS branding. Any action to establish the George C. Marshall House as an affiliated area would guide the development of any subsequent formal agreement(s) between the Center and the National Park Service necessary to meet eligibility as an affiliated area.

The National Park Service recommends that the Center work with the National Historic Landmarks program to update the National Historic Landmark nomination form with further evaluation and documentation of the following themes: “shaping the political landscape,” “developing the American economy,” and “changing role of the United States in the world community.”

The onsite interpretation of General Marshall's story mirrors America's rise on the global stage, but there is more to the story than the celebratory aspects. America becoming a world superpower created lasting geopolitical consequences. The National Park Service recommends interpreting missing parts of the story that acknowledge failures and consequences of war, recovery, and foreign diplomacy. Should

this site be designated as an affiliated area, there could be a fuller interpretation of the site. The National Park Service could provide technical assistance to broaden this interpretation.

SURVEY CONCLUSION

The National Park Service concludes that the George C. Marshall House would be appropriate for designation as an affiliated area based on the preliminary analysis of this reconnaissance survey.

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The following National Park Service staff were involved in the team preparing this reconnaissance survey:

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The preparers of this reconnaissance survey would like to thank the staff and volunteers of the George C. Marshall International Center for meeting onsite and providing valuable information for the survey.

This survey has been prepared to explore specific resources and to advise on whether these resources merit further consideration as an affiliated area. Publication and transmittal of this report should not be considered an endorsement or a commitment by the National Park Service to seek or support legislative designation of the site. This report was prepared by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Area.

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Appendix A: Reconnaissance Survey Request Letter

CDL

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2019

The Honorable David Vela
Deputy Director, Operations
Exercising the Authority of the Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Director Vela:

We write to urge the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a reconnaissance survey to explore the suitability of designating General George Catlett Marshall's home and gardens, known as Dodona Manor, located at 217 Edwards Ferry Road in Leesburg, Virginia as an affiliated area under NPS. Dodona Manor has great historical and educational significance and NPS's designation would help preserve the property for future generations.

As one of only five individuals to serve the United States as a five-star General of the Army, General George C. Marshall was known for his integrity and selfless service that made him an American visionary and hero. General Marshall's Dodona Manor is rich in history. General Marshall and his wife Katherine purchased Dodona Manor in 1941 and they lived there during the most important period of General Marshall's career. The Marshall family owned the House during General Marshall's tenure as U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Special Envoy to China, Secretary of State, President of the American Red Cross, Secretary of Defense after the onset of the Korean War, and Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Notably, General Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953, the only professional soldier so honored, for his leadership and contributions to the economic recovery of Europe following World War II while living in Dodona Manor.

Dodona Manor is now used to preserve and advance General Marshall's life's work and legacy. The Marshall home has been impeccably restored to museum standards with original Marshall furnishing, which accurately displays a picture of how this American hero lived to the public. It also presents in an educational format how the Marshall family dedicated themselves to public service and supports educational programming based on General Marshall's desire to inspire future leaders. By hosting international exchanges, historical exhibits, and community events, Dodona Manor perpetuates his memory and contributes directly to the character and viability of Leesburg.

General Marshall's House is currently registered with the Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark and has been designated by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Virginia Landmark. Designating the George C. Marshall House as an affiliated area under NPS

would bring increased public interest and awareness of Dodona Manor and would produce additional funds to further assist in its preservation.

Dodona Manor has a clear historic value to our nation. To honor General Marshall's life and legacy, it would be fitting for Dodona Manor to become an affiliated area under NPS to ensure its preservation for future generations. Therefore, we would appreciate your consideration of our request to conduct a reconnaissance survey. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

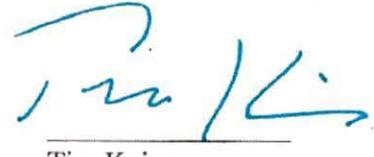
Sincerely,



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Appendix B: *NPS Management Policies 2006* (§1.3 “Criteria for Inclusion”)

1.1 The National Park Idea

The world's first national park—Yellowstone—was created in 1872, at which time Congress set aside more than one million acres as “a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” The legislation assigned control of the new park to the Secretary of the Interior, who would be responsible for issuing regulations to provide for the “preservation, from injury or spoliation, of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders, within the park, and their retention in their natural condition.” Other park management functions were to include the development of visitor accommodations, the construction of roads and bridle trails, the removal of trespassers, and protection “against the wanton destruction of the fish and game found within the park” (16 United States Code 21-22).

This idea of a national park was an American invention of historic consequences, marking the beginning of a worldwide movement that has subsequently spread to more than 100 countries. However, when Yellowstone National Park was created, no concept or plan existed upon which to build a system of such parks. The concept now described as the national park system, which embraces, nationwide, a wide variety of natural and cultural resources, evolved slowly over the years—often through the consolidation of federal land management responsibilities.

As interest grew in preserving the great scenic wonders of the West, efforts were also underway to protect the sites and structures associated with early Native American culture, particularly in the Southwest. The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorized the President “to declare by public proclamation [as national monuments] historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled” by the U.S. government (16 USC 431).

In 1916 Congress created the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior to promote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations (16 USC 1). (As noted in the Introduction, the terms “National Park Service,” “Park Service,” “Service,” and “NPS” are used interchangeably in this document.)

1.2 The National Park System

The number and diversity of parks within the national park system grew as a result of a government reorganization in 1933, another following World War II, and yet another during the 1960s. Today there are nearly 400 units in the national park system. These units are variously designated as national parks, monuments, preserves, lakeshores, seashores, wild and scenic rivers, trails, historic sites, military parks, battlefields, historical parks, recreation areas, memorials, and parkways. Regardless of the many names and official designations of the park units that make up the national park system, all represent some nationally significant aspect of our natural or cultural heritage. They are the physical remnants of our past—great scenic and

natural places that continue to evolve, repositories of outstanding recreational opportunities, classrooms of our heritage, and the legacy we leave to future generations—and they warrant the highest standard of protection.

It should be noted that, in accordance with provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, any component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that is administered by the Park Service is automatically a part of the national park system. Although there is no analogous provision in the National Trails System Act, several national trails managed by the Service have been included in the national park system. These national rivers and trails that are part of the national park system are subject to the policies contained herein, as well as to any other requirements specified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or the National Trails System Act.

1.3 Criteria for Inclusion

Congress declared in the National Park System General Authorities Act of 1970 that areas comprising the national park system are cumulative expressions of a single national heritage. Potential additions to the national park system should therefore contribute in their own special way to a system that fully represents the broad spectrum of natural and cultural resources that characterize our nation. The National Park Service is responsible for conducting professional studies of potential additions to the national park system when specifically authorized by an act of Congress, and for making recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress. Several laws outline criteria for units of the national park system and for additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and the National Trails System.

To receive a favorable recommendation from the Service, a proposed addition to the national park system must (1) possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources, (2) be a suitable addition to the system, (3) be a feasible addition to the system, and (4) require direct NPS management instead of protection by other public agencies or the private sector. These criteria are designed to ensure that the national park system includes only the most outstanding examples of the nation's natural and cultural resources. These criteria also recognize that there are other management alternatives for preserving the nation's outstanding resources.

1.3.1 National Significance

NPS professionals, in consultation with subject-matter experts, scholars, and scientists, will determine whether a resource is nationally significant. An area will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following criteria:

- ◆ It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- ◆ It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.

- ◆ It offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study.
- ◆ It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

National significance for cultural resources will be evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmarks criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65 (*Code of Federal Regulations*).

1.3.2 Suitability

An area is considered suitable for addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector.

Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential addition to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The comparative analysis also addresses rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

1.3.3 Feasibility

To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be (1) of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries), and (2) capable of efficient administration by the Service at a reasonable cost.

In evaluating feasibility, the Service considers a variety of factors for a study area, such as the following:

- ◆ size
- ◆ boundary configurations
- ◆ current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands
- ◆ landownership patterns
- ◆ public enjoyment potential
- ◆ costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation
- ◆ access
- ◆ current and potential threats to the resources
- ◆ existing degradation of resources
- ◆ staffing requirements
- ◆ local planning and zoning

- ◆ the level of local and general public support (including landowners)
- ◆ the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system

The feasibility evaluation also considers the ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected availability of funding and personnel.

An overall evaluation of feasibility will be made after taking into account all of the above factors. However, evaluations may sometimes identify concerns or conditions, rather than simply reach a yes or no conclusion. For example, some new areas may be feasible additions to the national park system only if landowners are willing to sell, or the boundary encompasses specific areas necessary for visitor access, or state or local governments will provide appropriate assurances that adjacent land uses will remain compatible with the study area's resources and values.

1.3.4 Direct NPS Management

There are many excellent examples of the successful management of important natural and cultural resources by other public agencies, private conservation organizations, and individuals. The National Park Service applauds these accomplishments and actively encourages the expansion of conservation activities by state, local, and private entities and by other federal agencies. Unless direct NPS management of a studied area is identified as the clearly superior alternative, the Service will recommend that one or more of these other entities assume a lead management role, and that the area not receive national park system status.

Studies will evaluate an appropriate range of management alternatives and will identify which alternative or combination of alternatives would, in the professional judgment of the Director, be most effective and efficient in protecting significant resources and providing opportunities for appropriate public enjoyment. Alternatives for NPS management will not be developed for study areas that fail to meet any one of the four criteria for inclusion listed in section 1.3.

In cases where a study area's resources meet criteria for national significance but do not meet other criteria for inclusion in the national park system, the Service may instead recommend an alternative status, such as "affiliated area." To be eligible for affiliated area status, the area's resources must (1) meet the same standards for significance and suitability that apply to units of the national park system; (2) require some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available through existing NPS programs; (3) be managed in accordance with the policies and standards that apply to units of the national park system; and (4) be assured of sustained resource protection, as documented in a formal agreement between the Service and the nonfederal management entity. Designation as a "heritage area" is another option that may be recommended. Heritage areas have a nationally important, distinctive assemblage of resources that is best managed for

conservation, recreation, education, and continued use through partnerships among public and private entities at the local or regional level. Either of these two alternatives (and others as well) would recognize an area's importance to the nation without requiring or implying management by the National Park Service.

(See *National Significance 1.3.1; Suitability 1.3.2*)

1.4 Park Management

1.4.1 The Laws Generally Governing Park Management

The most important statutory directive for the National Park Service is provided by interrelated provisions of the NPS Organic Act of 1916 and the NPS General Authorities Act of 1970, including amendments to the latter law enacted in 1978.

The key management-related provision of the Organic Act is as follows:

[The National Park Service] shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified... by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. (16 USC 1)

Congress supplemented and clarified these provisions through enactment of the General Authorities Act in 1970, and again through enactment of a 1978 amendment to that act (the "Redwood amendment," contained in a bill expanding Redwood National Park), which added the last two sentences in the following provision. The key part of that act, as amended, is as follows:

Congress declares that the national park system, which began with establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, has since grown to include superlative natural, historic, and recreation areas in every major region of the United States, its territories and island possessions; that these areas, though distinct in character, are united through their inter-related purposes and resources into one national park system as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage; that, individually and collectively, these areas derive increased national dignity and recognition of their superlative environmental quality through their inclusion jointly with each other in one national park system preserved and managed for the benefit and inspiration of all the people of the United States; and that it is the purpose of this Act to include all such areas in the System and to clarify the authorities applicable to the system. Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System, as defined in section 1c of this title, shall be consistent with and

founded in the purpose established by section 1 of this title [the Organic Act provision quoted above], to the common benefit of all the people of the United States. The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress. (16 USC 1a-1)

This section 1.4 of *Management Policies* represents the agency's interpretation of these key statutory provisions.

1.4.2 "Impairment" and "Derogation": One Standard

Congress intended the language of the Redwood amendment to the General Authorities Act to reiterate the provisions of the Organic Act, not create a substantively different management standard. The House committee report described the Redwood amendment as a "declaration by Congress" that the promotion and regulation of the national park system is to be consistent with the Organic Act. The Senate committee report stated that under the Redwood amendment, "The Secretary has an absolute duty, which is not to be compromised, to fulfill the mandate of the 1916 Act to take whatever actions and seek whatever relief as will safeguard the units of the national park system." So, although the Organic Act and the General Authorities Act, as amended by the Redwood amendment, use different wording ("unimpaired" and "derogation") to describe what the National Park Service must avoid, they define a single standard for the management of the national park system—not two different standards. For simplicity, *Management Policies* uses "impairment" (or a variation thereof), not both statutory phrases, to refer to that single standard.

1.4.3 The NPS Obligation to Conserve and Provide for Enjoyment of Park Resources and Values

The fundamental purpose of the national park system, established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values. This mandate is independent of the separate prohibition on impairment and applies all the time with respect to all park resources and values, even when there is no risk that any park resources or values may be impaired. NPS managers must always seek ways to avoid, or to minimize to the greatest extent practicable, adverse impacts on park resources and values. However, the laws do give the Service the management discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, so long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values.

The fundamental purpose of all parks also includes providing for the enjoyment of park resources and values by the people of the United States. The enjoyment that is contemplated by the statute is broad; it is the enjoyment of all the people of the United States and includes enjoyment both by people who visit parks and by those who appreciate

Appendix C: 1996 George C. Marshall House National Historic Landmark Nomination

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL HOUSE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 1
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

VLR Listed: 12/4/1996
NRHP Listed: 6/19/1996
NHL Listed: 6/19/1996

Historic Name: MARSHALL, GENERAL GEORGE C., HOUSE

Other Name/Site Number: Dodona Manor

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 217 Edwards Ferry Road

Not for publication: N/A

City/Town: Leesburg

Vicinity: N/A

State: Virginia

County: Loudoun

Code: 107

Zip Code: 22075

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

3
1
4

Noncontributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ Entered in the National Register _____
- ____ Determined eligible for the National Register _____
- ____ Determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- ____ Removed from the National Register _____
- ____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
Current: WORK IN PROGRESS Sub:

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late Federal

MATERIALS:

Foundation: Brick, Stone
Walls: Brick
Roof: Tin
Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The home of General George Catlett Marshall occupies a hilltop site flanked on the south by East Market Street (Highway 7) and on the north by Edwards Ferry Road, which unite as Market Street and enter the old section of the town of Leesburg, Virginia.

During Marshall's residency the front yard on the west overlooked Leesburg's quaint old downtown, which lies beyond a sweeping dip of land on a rise only a bit lower than the hill on which the Marshall house stands.

General Marshall did little to this house other than to live in it and cherish it as home. He lived here as General of the Army under President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of State under President Truman. In its rooms, and among the furrows of its vegetable garden, he pondered the great events in which he was involved, from the World War II to the peacetime Marshall Plan for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

When he bought the house it had undergone expensive renovations, beginning in 1929, under the ownership of Northcut and Marica Ely of California. Ely had been an attorney for the Hoover administration. They had kept the house through the thirties thinking President Hoover would return to the White House. After Roosevelt's re-election in 1940, the Elys put the house on the market, and the Marshalls (in reality Mrs. Marshall) purchased it in October 1941, two months before Pearl Harbor. Little has changed over time; even the storm windows survive.

Dodona Manor is a rambling old Virginia house of painted brick with green-shutters and a red-painted tin roof. It is considered Virginia vernacular. If one were to attach a style to it, judging entirely on form, perhaps it could be called "late Federal." The very spare ornamentation is Greek Revival.

The house was begun in the late 1820s and brought to completion externally by about the time of the Civil War, with two major additions, one to the south, ca. 1850, and a slim, long rear service wing built within the following decade. The three blocks form a T shape, with the crossbar to the west, forming the main facade.

On this western side, a lanky union of the first two episodes of building creates a long facade of nearly a hundred feet which is basically two rectangular structures joined end to end. The gable roofs are of standing seam tin and slope to the east and west. The structure to the north is the oldest and tallest of the two being a full three stories. The ca. 1850 addition, to the south, stands only two stories, but the pitch of its gable roof is substantially steeper than that of the north block, providing an ample attic story which is pierced by a pediment with a half-moon window.

The west facade would appear to be little more than two buildings joined, were it not for a very dominant four-column "Doric" porch of about 1910, added to the south block. Its proportions have no aesthetic connection with the late Federal ones of the house, and the handsome fan-lighted, side-lighted entrance doorway on the house may be of the period of the porch. The west facade has orderly rows of eight six-over-six windows and nine over

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six windows on the first two floors, interrupted by the obtrusive porch, and crowned by the pediment on the roof, which may also date from the early 20th century.

The west facade is the most closely associated with General Marshall as it is the part of the house so often pictured in *Life* and *Time*, as well as publications throughout the world during the post war years and when the Marshall Plan was new. It is the symbolic Dodona Manor.

The three other facades of the house resemble the main front very little. On the north side, the automobile approach, one sees the end of the earliest part of the house. It has two windows to a floor and a plain one-story porch running the full width of the facade which shelters a doorway leading into the side hall of the house. Here the Marshalls' close friends entered when they came to call. Stepped back from this end of the house is the rear or east wing, which is long and narrow and was the last constructed of the three blocks. It has orderly rows of six over six windows and two doorways, one of which has a small porch entirely glazed with window sash. This was probably a storm entrance to the service wing.

The south side could have been called the garden front. It appears as General Marshall knew it in footage of Movietone News and also in picture magazines in the late 1940s. Change is seen only in the advance of nature. The south facade presents somewhat the same ell-shape as the north facade, but the connection between the front and rear block is more intimate, embracing a partially roofed flagstone area the general called the "patio." The same white-painted iron chairs and tables used by the Marshalls stand beneath the shelter. The fish pool is still dry, drained in about 1950 for the safety of Mrs. Marshall's grand children.

The patio area with the high walls of the house on two sides has the tucked-away charm of a French Quarter garden. A door from the rear of the entrance hall gives on to the roofed area. French doors from the breakfast room in the east wing give access to the terrace area. Otherwise the yellow-painted brick walls present a staccato of shuttered windows, six over six, in regular rows. The south wall of the c. 1850 part of the house contains an oriel window that rises to the second floor.

The east facade or back of the house faced the vegetable garden and tool shed. Across the rear of the east wing is a potting shed and porch which is enclosed on the sides and painted dark blue-green. It is surmounted on the second floor by two windows.

Beyond the broad front door beneath the fan-light is a stairhall with a large room on the right and one on the left. At the end of the hall is the east door to the patio. The simple late Federal stair on the left side of the hall is beautiful, trim, and intelligent in its carpentry, rising to the second floor from a broad landing with a window. It continues on to the partially finished attic. The halls of the wall have layers of gray Kem-Tone paint, on which the shadows of pictures, gifts of Bernard Baruch, remind one of former furnishings.

To the south or right of the entrance hall is the living room, the most decorative room in the house. It is a large room with windows on three sides and a bay on the east side of the fireplace located on the south wall. The room's heavy, very provincial ornamentation includes a decorative fireplace mantel with pillars, reeding and overdoors. Flat entablatures are supported by the door surrounds with broad overhanging cornices, and the six over six windows have cornerblocks and panels beneath. All of these details give the impression of a carpenter's designs, vaguely reminiscent of Asher Benjamin. Original morning-glory wallpaper hangs on one wall, while the other walls have been painted white.

Across the hall to the north is the dining room, an altogether simpler space, which no longer has its original Marshall wallpaper. The dining room has three doors, one from the hall, one to the east to the service rooms, and a third to the north giving access to the side hall and door. The same corner block woodwork appears here as in the living room, but the mantel,

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over the fireplace located on the north wall, is a very simple Federal type with flat pilasters and panels. General Marshall loved the legend that this room was remodeled in 1824 to receive General Lafayette on his American tour. The floor was said to have been replaced to be better for dancing. Broad, 8 inch tongue and groove pine in this room seems no different than that in the rest of the house, and it is unlikely the house was here in 1824.

Departing this room by the north door, one enters the north or side hall, which runs the entire front of the earliest part of the house and ends in the side door to the north porch. It contains stairs, located on the west side, with railings more associated with the 1850s work on the house than those on the front stairs. The most important room in this original part of the house is the study located to the right at the extreme north end of the hall, which is generally as Marshall knew it. A rectangular room, approximately 19 feet x 12 feet with a 10 foot high ceiling, it has two windows on the east wall and one on the north. The windows are surrounded by bookcases containing Marshall's rather extensive library. He was an avid reader of history, military history, and western novels.

The study's walls remain painted as he had them. A simple, tall mantel of panels and pilasters frames a south wall fireplace that is small, but nevertheless the fireplace the Marshalls used the most as this study was the room the Marshalls loved best. Its furnishings, a slipcovered sofa, club chairs, and the general's red leather recliner, patched many times, survive. The alcove for his television is fitted into a former doorway to the left of the fireplace.

To the south of the study, entered by a door to the west of the study fireplace, was an office and a bath. The bath was remodeled by the Marshalls in 1955 with pink tile and paint.

This old or north section of the house has transverse halls on all three floors with two rooms opening off of them on each floor. Upstairs, directly above the study, is General Marshall's bedroom, which is approximately half the size of the study. It has one window on both the north and east walls. The bedroom has had bookcases added since his time. Otherwise it is much the same, containing a bureau, mirror, bed, floor lamp, and chair that he used. Also present are two Chinese rugs, which were the general's. Mrs. Marshall's bedroom is located to the south and is connected to General Marshall's room by a shared bathroom, which remains as they had it.

The third floor of this section had one room used for quarters for the general's aide and another for storage of clothes and household things.

On the second and third floors in the south section of the house behind the front porch are four rooms, a bath, closets, and a small dressing room, in addition to the hall and attic. The house has four bathrooms, all installed by the Elys in 1929/30.

The east wing consists of three rooms and a potting shed on the first floor. In order, moving from west to east, the rooms were used as a breakfast room (with access to the patio), a kitchen, and a separate laundry. The potting shed extends beyond the end of the house. There is a back stair which leads to the second floor where there are two servants' bedrooms along with a bath and a linen closet.

Other rooms of the house are similar to General Marshall's study and bedroom in their simple trim, with some having corner blocks, and a few being mitred. The walls are all wet plaster on wood lath, and the floors are the 8 inch pine boards. In most rooms, they are stained a walnut color.

In addition to the house, the 4-acre site, intact as Marshall knew it, has a brick two-car garage with a half-story store room. There is also a small wooden tool shed to the far east of the property, once approached by a boxwood lined walk. Automobile entrance gates once

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opened from East Market Street and Edwards Ferry Road. The press of the curious caused the Marshalls to close the former gate and develop the one on Edwards Ferry Road, which is the present entrance.

The Marshalls were garden people more than house people. Their gardens survive to an extent beneath turfs of weeds. The old trees they loved are intact, except for one mighty white oak which was taken down because of disease in 1994. Research is underway on the garden including an inventory of plants and an extensive study of air views of the site toward a re-creation of the grounds as the Marshalls knew them from 1941 to 1959.

The George C. Marshall International Center at Dodona Manor is undertaking the restoration of the house and grounds and its opening as a historic house museum. On adjacent property, a conference center and visitors' center will be built, together with parking facilities. Research is presently underway on the house's history, structure, interior furnishings, and grounds. Inventories of all kinds are being assembled, including plants for propagation. Furnishings, now scattered, are being located with remarkable success. The architectural recording of the house is about complete. Stabilization of the house is about to begin. It is estimated that the project for the house will take about two years.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: X Statewide: ___ Locally: ___

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A ___ B X C ___ D ___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):

A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G X

NHL Criteria: 2

NHL Criteria Exceptions: 8

NHL Theme: [1987]

- VIII. World War II
 - A. War in Europe, Africa, and the Atlantic, 1939-1945
 - C. Politics and Diplomacy During the War

IX. Political and Military Affairs After 1945

[1994]

- IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
 - 3. Military Institutions and Activities

- VIII. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community
 - 1. International Relations

Areas of Significance:

Military
Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance:

1941-1959

Significant Dates:

Significant Person(s):

George C. Marshall (1880-1959)

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

General George Catlett Marshall, Jr. (1880-1959), who enjoyed eighteen years here from 1941 until his death in 1959, called his house in Leesburg, Virginia, Dodona Manor, after the Greek oracle of the whispering oak leaves on the Hill of Dodona. During these years, Marshall rose from being an Army officer held in professional respect, but without celebrity, to one of the most important and respected world figures of the twentieth century. Winston Churchill, recalling the years of World War II, said that the only individual on whom all the leaders conferred unqualified praise and admiration was General Marshall.

General Marshall was born in 1880 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania and attended the Virginia Military Institute to prepare for a military career. He rose steadily through the ranks, serving ably in various posts in the United States, Philippines, and China, and in Europe during World War I.

Summoned to Washington, D.C., as Chief of the War Plans Division in the summer of 1938, Marshall was promoted a few months later to deputy chief of staff. He impressed President Franklin D. Roosevelt by his frankness and won the support of Harry Hopkins, the president's closest advisor, by his appraisal of what was needed for American defense. Marshall received his second permanent star and his four temporary stars when he became head of the army, succeeding General Malin Craig on Sept. 1, 1939. While Craig was on terminal leave (July 1-September 1), Marshall acted as chief of staff, succeeding to the full title a few hours after Hitler invaded Poland.

As head of the U.S. Army until Nov. 20, 1945, when he asked to be relieved, he was the only top-level British or American political or military figure to hold the same post throughout World War II. Six feet tall, aloof, soft-spoken...Marshall won the confidence of Presidents Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, gained the deep respect of Winston Churchill and the British and American chiefs of staff, and enjoyed excellent relations with Congress and the press. *Time* magazine, in proclaiming him Man of the Year in January 1944, declared that he had armed the republic.

...In preparation for the invasion of Europe, Marshall was responsible for the appointment of General Dwight D. Eisenhower...to head American forces in the United Kingdom. He backed him for the chief command of Allied forces in the Mediterranean at the time of the North African invasion in November 1942. But it was assumed that Marshall would command the European invasion in 1944. At the Cairo and Tehran conferences in 1943, Roosevelt, who had initially insisted on Marshall's appointment, became disturbed at the thought of not having him in Washington....Roosevelt, saying he could not sleep well at night with Marshall out of Washington, appointed Eisenhower.

...Near the end of the war in Europe, Churchill called Marshall "the true organizer of victory." A few days after Marshall's retirement on Nov. 20, 1945, President Truman read a citation saying that while millions of Americans had given their country outstanding service, General of the Army George Marshall had given it victory.

...He is best known for his role in developing the European Recovery Program, known as the Marshall Plan. He gave credit to a number of individuals for their contributions, suggestions,

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or actual drafting of the speech in which he set forth the plan during the day of the Harvard commencement, on June 5, 1947, but correctly believed that his nonpartisan stance and speeches given across the country had aided in the passage of the legislation.¹

Dodona Manor was purchased by attorney Northcut Ely and his wife Marica Ely in 1929. They were in Washington with the Hoover administration, were intimate with President Hoover, and wanted a country retreat. This house was in very poor condition when they acquired it, and Mrs. Ely, a decorator by avocation, expended her skills in converting it into an ample, stylish, and comfortable part time home. When the Hoover administration ended, they decided to return to California, but "being certain that the Republicans would return," they kept the house. After FDR's second inaugural in 1937, they began to think of selling the property and by 1940 had put it on the market.

Mrs. Marshall, in her post-war memoir, *Together*, tells of how she had been searching for a place in the country. The Marshalls lived in Quarters One at Fort Myers, a "fishbowl," and General Marshall, burdened with work as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, needed physical exercise. He was a horseman, as were most Army men of his generation, and he loved gardening. Katherine Marshall, with money of her own, found this house and bought it in 1941. Some time later, out on a drive, she took her husband to the house and told him she had made the purchase. He looked it over and said: "After years of wandering, a real home at last."

At the time of the Civil War, the house had been called Oak Hill; earlier it had been known as both Fruit Hill and Georgia. The name, Dodona Manor, seems to have come from General Marshall, who likened the wind-rustling sound in the leaves of the giant white oaks to the ancient Greek oracle of Zeus that spoke through the oak forest of Dodona grove in Epirus.

General Marshall took great pleasure in his "Dodona Manor." At first, there was barely enough furniture to fill it, as the Elys had removed their possessions at the time of the sale. In the beginning of spring, Mrs. Marshall would quietly pack an army truck and several trailers with furnishings from Quarters One and transport them to Leesburg to supplement the skeletal contents of Dodona Manor. Eventually, more furniture was added. Friends gave tables and lamps. A relative of Katherine Marshall married and donated the entire contents of her New York apartment. The house never pretended to "period" correctness, but was simply their home, where books were everpresent and a variety of rooms served their informal manner of living. They were more gardeners than "house-people." Their greatest pleasures were found in the vegetable and flower gardens that they developed on the four-acre grounds.

They left the house much the same as it was when they acquired it, but painted out many of Mrs. Ely's Schumacher wallpapers. Their only addition was a covered terrace they called the "patio," to the rear. Floored in flagstones, and partially sheltered by a tin shed-roof, the patio was the gathering place whenever the weather was mild. Meals were sometimes served here. Otherwise they ate in the dining room, where Marshall liked to tell the story of how the floor had been put in especially so that Lafayette, visiting here on his 1824 American tour, could dance on it. Weekend guests might be handed a garden hoe to help out or might just sit in picket chairs on the lawn enjoying the flowers and the sun. Very often, with prominent guests, General Marshall might take them for a ride through the Virginia battlefields telling the stories of the Civil War.

The general often rode horseback but never kept horses at Dodona Manor. Naturally, any of Loudoun County's numerous stables were open to him, so he either rode borrowed mounts

¹ *Dictionary of American Biography*, Supplement Six (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1980), pp 428-432.

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or on occasion brought a favorite horse from Fort Myer to board with a friend. There were always dogs at Dodona Manor also—dogs in all shapes and forms, trained and untrained, pedigreed and mutts. An especially beautiful bird dog was a gift to him in 1950 from the children of Norway.

Marshall was in demand, so naturally callers came to the house. At Dodona Manor they entertained Churchill and President Truman, and a succession of politicians, military luminaries, industrialists, and diplomats. Now and then Marshall sat on his lawn facing a wall of newsmen; this was to continue into his later years after the war and the Marshall Plan, when the public became fascinated by details of his life. However, the real purpose of the place was as a home, detached from public life. They usually lived at Dodona Manor very quietly.

Mrs. Katherine Marshall had been a widow when she and Marshall married and she brought to her new marriage three children, two boys and a girl. General Marshall, who was childless from his first marriage, held all three in great affection, and they were frequently at Dodona Manor. Allan, the eldest, was killed in World War II, a great tragedy for both the Marshalls. Clifton died of cancer while still a young man in the early 1950s. Molly, who became Mrs. James Winn, was the closest to the general and his wife. She often lived at Dodona Manor with her three children, who grew up to remember General Marshall as a loving grandfather.

This house was a great draw to the Marshalls, who were in residence full-time from April until November. It mirrors the critical years of George C. Marshall's life. It was purchased a few months before Pearl Harbor, at which time, though Chief of Staff of the Army, he was of secondary importance. World War II was to place him in military control of the American involvement in the war, President Roosevelt's right hand. He raised and organized a defense force of millions in uniform. Shrewd about people and sympathetic to innovation, his planning was usually flawless. Interaction with foreign officers and diplomats during the war sharpened his skill as a negotiator and his wisdom as a visionary. While he served in several major capacities after the war, including Secretary of State, it was his origin of the Marshall Plan for rebuilding the war-torn nations of Europe that won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

He was the only victorious general in history to design a humanitarian, virtually selfless program for rebuilding what war had destroyed. As Roosevelt had considered him indispensable at his side in war, Truman gave him all his support in the Marshall Plan. General Marshall, in both cases, led the hour.

No site represents George C. Marshall as well as Dodona Manor. His military house at Quarters One (designated an NHL in 1972) has been altered and is still in use. Moreover, Quarters One is identified with many generals besides Marshall. His house in Pinehurst, North Carolina, is a small cottage, still standing, although remodeled. He and Mrs. Marshall used it occasionally in his later years, and it was in Pinehurst in 1959 that he suffered the stroke that was to prove fatal later in the Presidential Suite at Walter Reed Hospital.

Many military post houses across the United States were occupied by him and his first wife Lilly, or his second wife, Katherine, but never for long. At various times there were rented apartments as, for example, during the war when the Marshalls lived part time in an apartment on Sixteenth Street in Washington; the building is now demolished. Dodona Manor was his residence for the last 18 years of his life, coinciding precisely with his years of national and international achievement. To it he brought his best possessions, notably Oriental rugs purchased on duty in China, and books, which he owned and read in large number. Here he indulged his favorite pastime of tilling the earth and planted his gardens, serving his own tomatoes and cucumbers at his table. From here he commuted to Washington while in residence, first for the military, and later as Secretary of State.

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In military affairs Marshall will be remembered as the individual who above all others built the U.S. Army and Army Air Force that contributed heavily to victory in World War II. No wartime commander so long enjoyed the trust and standing he held with the White House, with Congress, and with the public. His strength lay in his candor with Congress and the press, his refusal to play politics with military matters, and his firm insistence that the civilian power be superior to that of the military....As Secretary of State, Marshall gave his name and his strong backing to legislation that undertook to set Europe on the road to economic recovery. Although aware that such reconstruction was in the best interests of the United States, his first consideration was the defeat of hunger and misery in Europe. In his postwar career he tried to combine a policy of firmness toward the Soviet Union with an effort to promote peaceful relations. He embodied a happy combination of military and political leadership in one of the most violent decades in world history.²

Dodona Manor was the most consistent place in Marshall's life. As he himself said, he had never had a home before this but had considered himself a wanderer. Dodona Manor has survived almost entirely as he left it. No other site provides the opportunity for reflection on the years when Marshall rose to become one of the great figures of the twentieth century.

²ibid., pp. 432.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Walters, Vernon A. *Silent Missions*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1978.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register.
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other (Specify Repository): George C. Marshall International Center at Dodona Manor, Leesburg, Virginia

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 4 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	A	18 278 440	4332 430

Verbal Boundary Description:

The property boundary is that of Lot M 48-A-35-13 on the Loudoun County Tax Map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the house, the associated outbuildings, and the gardens that have historically been known as Dodona Manor and that maintain historic integrity to the period of General George C. Marshall's ownership and residency.

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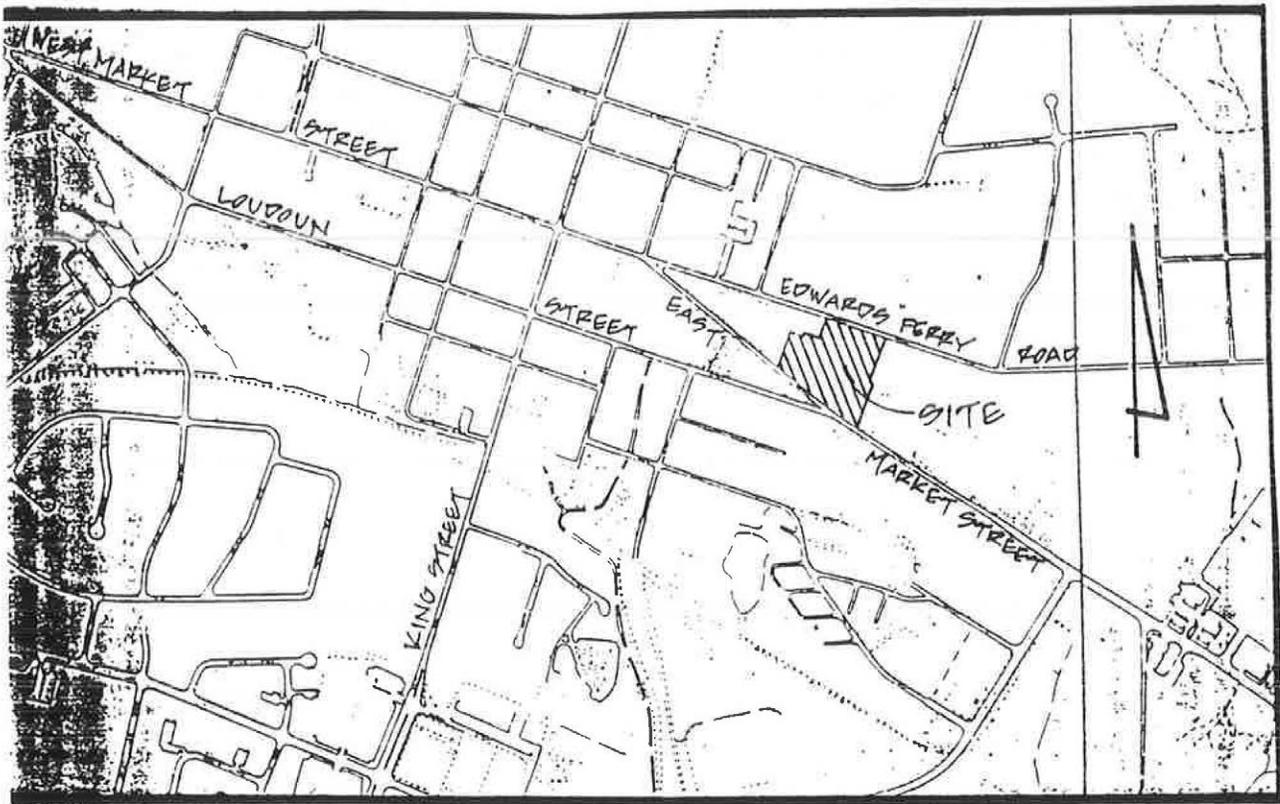
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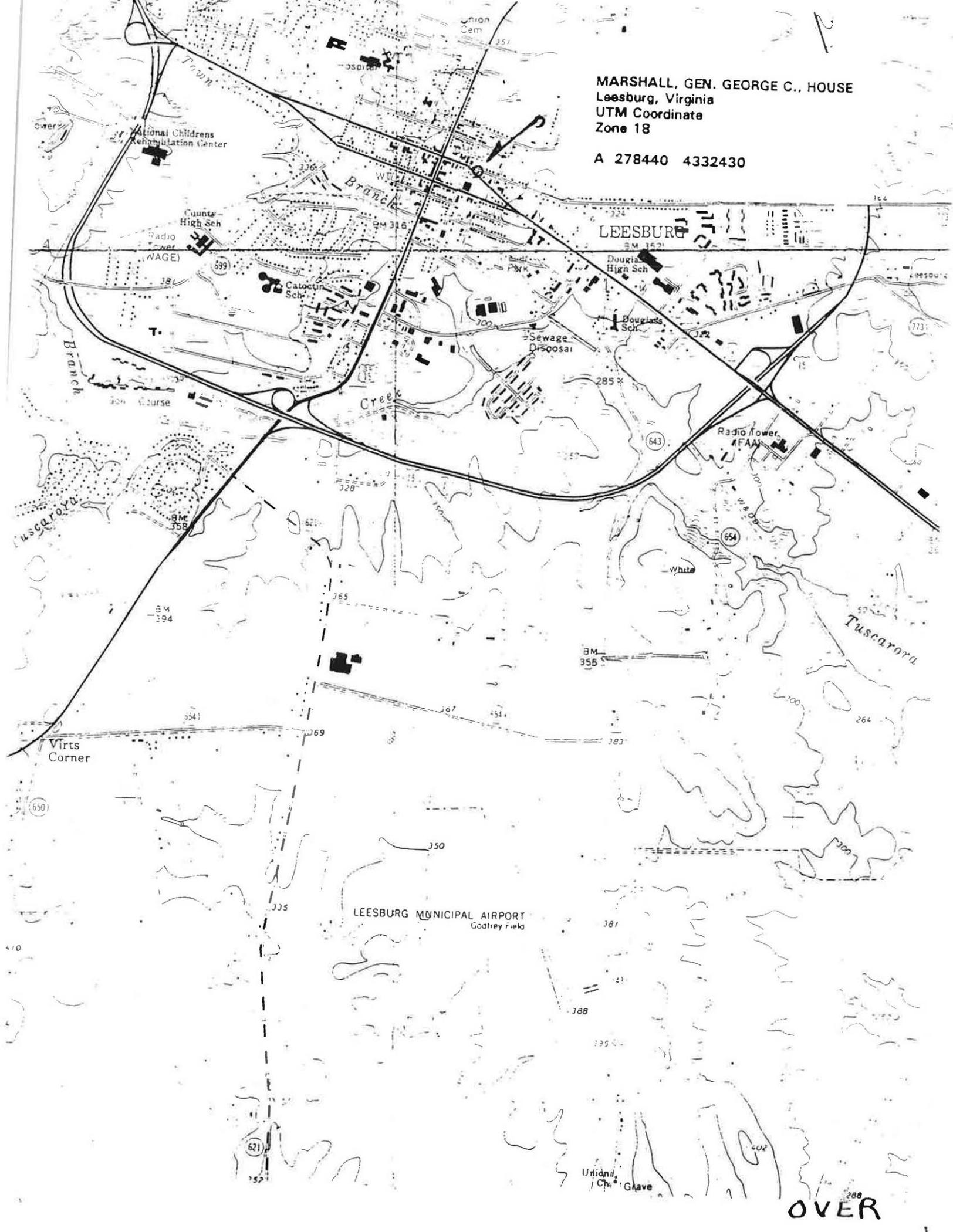
May 10, 1996

LOUDOUN COUNTY MAP SCALE: 1" = 1000'



MARSHALL, GEN. GEORGE C., HOUSE
Leesburg, Virginia
UTM Coordinate
Zone 18

A 278440 4332430



OVER



As the nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under US administration.



General George C. Marshall House
Reconnaissance Survey
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