

Second Manassas Battlefield: A Driving Tour

This 16-mile driving tour is designed to cover 11 sites that figured prominently in the second battle. Each description is keyed by number to the modern map of the battlefield at right.

Caution: Two heavily traveled highways divide the park. U.S. 29 follows the historical roadbed of the Warrenton Turnpike, an important commercial highway before the war and which played a major part in both battles. The Sudley Road (Va. 234) crosses the turnpike at the Stone House. Use caution in driving across or turning onto and off of these highways.

- 1 Battery Heights In the late afternoon of August 28, 1862, Stonewall Jackson ordered his troops to attack a Union column as it marched past on the Warrenton Turnpike in front of the hidden Confederate position north of the road. As the lead elements of Gen. Rufus King's Union division emerged from the woods to the west, Jackson pushed his infantry forward from the distant ridge into this open field. King's troops swung to meet this attack and for one-and-ahalf hours the two lines fought resolutely, in some places only 80 yards apart. In that short time this opening struggle of the Second Battle of Manassas inflicted casualties amounting to almost one-third of the 7,000 men engaged.
- 2 Stone House Convinced that Jackson was isolated, Pope ordered his columns to converge upon and attack the Confederates. He was sure he could destroy Jackson before Lee and Longstreet intervened. During the fighting on August 30, Pope made his headquarters directly behind this house. The house served as a field hospital during First and Second Manassas.
- 3 Matthews Hill On August 29, Pope's army found Jackson's troops behind the cuts and fills of an unfinished railroad grade west of here. Throughout the day the fields across the road were awash with Union soldiers forming for assaults against the Confederates. Jackson's line was strained, but remained unbroken. Union artillery batteries took position along the ridge across the road, while Pope's headquarters were established on Buck Hill south of here.
- 4 Sudley Throughout the day on August 29, Federal troops made several unsuccessful attempts to smash through the extreme left of Jackson's line, positioned on the knoll just west of here. While the fighting raged here, far to the south

during the Second Battle of Manassas, Union and Confederate cavalry clashed on these field The house was destroyed by fire in late 1862. Overlapping the exposed Union left. Lee urged Longstreet to attack, but "Old Pete" demurred.

The time was just not right, he said.

- 5 Unfinished Railroad Jackson's line covered a front of about one and one-half miles, extending from near the Sudley Church to a point three-quarters of a mile southwest of here. The center of his line rested in this area. The focal point of Jackson's position was the bed of the unfinished railroad. The grade is still visible running into the woods on both sides of the road.
- 6 Deep Cut The morning of August 30 passed quietly. Just before noon, erroneously concluding the Confederates were retreating, Pope ordered his army forward in "pursuit." The pursuit, however, was short-lived. Pope found that Lee had gone nowhere. Amazingly, Pope ordered yet another attack against Jackson's line. More than 5,000 troops under Gen. Fitz-John Porter moved forward across the road into the field and crashed into Jackson's line in the area around the "Deep Cut." There the Southerners held firmly, and Porter's column was hurled back in a bloody repulse. A trail of about one-third of a mile begins at the road and traces the footsteps of Porter's gallant troops.
- 7 Groveton The small, white frame L. Dogan House is all that remains of the wartime village of Groveton and one of only three Civil Warera houses remaining in the park. Nearby Groveton Confederate Cemetery contains the remains of more than 260 Confederate soldiers. The identity of only a handful is known.
- 8 New York Monuments On the afternoon of August 30, seeing the Union lines in disarray following the repulse of Porter, Longstreet pushed his massive columns forward and staggered the Union left flank. A brief, futile stand on this ridge by the 5th and 10th New York Regiments ended in slaughter. In five minutes the 5th New York lost 123 men killed, the greatest loss of life in any single infantry regiment in any battle of the Civil War.
- Ohinn Ridge Stretched along this ridge, Union troops desperately struggled on August 30 to delay Longstreet's counterattack upon Pope's

vulnerable left flank long enough for Pope to form a rearguard on Henry Hill. The stone foundation is all that remains of Hazel Plain, the house of Benjamin Chinn. A trail leads to the boulder marker for Col. Fletcher Webster, eldest son of Sen. Daniel Webster, killed leading the 12th Massachusetts Infantry into battle.

From tour stop 9 turn right on Va. 234. At the traffic light, turn left on Battleview Parkway and follow signs to tour stop 10.

- Portici The plantation house of Francis Lewis stood atop the ridge to the east. Massive brick chimneys flanked the frame house, which had served as Confederate headquarters during the First Battle of Manassas. On August 30, 1862, during the Second Battle of Manassas, Union and Confederate cavalry clashed on these fields. The house was destroyed by fire in late 1862.
- Stone Bridge Finally, under cover of darkness, the defeated Union army withdrew across Bull Run in this vicinity toward Centreville and the Washington defenses beyond. Lee's bold and brilliant Second Manassas campaign opened the way for the South's first invasion of the north and possible European recognition of the Confederate government.

Manassas National Battlefield Bull Run - Manassas, Virginia

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
5.3 mls	Ŷ	\$	*	*	N/A
Elev. Gain:	3 hours with a half hour for lunch 350 ft Manassas National Battlefield Park				
Directions from DC: Take I66 west to Manassas exit 47B VA234, north on VA234 for 0.8 miles, turn right into the Manassas National Battlefield Park entrance and park at the visitors center					

Mapped Driving Directions

From the visitors center parking area walk over to the statue of General Thomas J. Jackson. This is where Brigadier General Barnard E. Bee, trying to rally his troops, pointed to General Thomas J. Jackson's line where the cannons now stand, and shouted 'There stands Jackson like a stone wall! Rally behind the Virginians!' From this point walk past to the cannons and line of trees where the main section of the blue blazed First Manassas Trail loop starts.

The Manassas Battlefield Park has many side trails, so remember, when you get to an intersection just follow the blue blazed (blue disks on posts) trail. Once entering the tree stand you will pass a clearing on the left in 0.2 miles, cross a wooden footbridge, and arrive at the first intersection in 0.5 miles.

Turn left following the blue marked trail and cross a small stream in 0.3 miles. Walk through the first of several fields before you cross US29 in another 0.3 miles. Shortly after crossing US29 the yellow blazed trail turns left, remain straight for another 0.1 miles to the top on the rise and the site of the Van Pelt House.

The blue blazed trail will now makes a hairpin turn to the right towards the Stone Bridge. After descending slightly, veering back to the left, then turning to the right again the trail passes through a low lying area and crosses a 0.2 mile wooded foot walk before arriving at the Stone Bridge and Bull Run.

Do not cross the Stone Bridge, but turn left along Bull Run for 0.3 miles before the trail turns left uphill and exiting into another field. Continue to follow the trail as it passes through the field then enters a tree stand again and passing the Carter family cemetery in 0.2 miles. From the cemetery junction continue on the blue trail as it exits into another field in another 0.5 miles. Continue straight to the top of Mathews Hill and line of cannons.

Turn left downhill past the canons through two fields before descending to the intersection of US29, Sudley Road and location of the Stone House which served as a field hospital in both battles fought here.

Cross US29 at the intersection following the trail over a wooden footbridge and uphill past the Henry House before arriving back at the National Park Service visitors center.