

Evaluation of the Maryland War of 1812 Resource Base

The Resource Stewardship and Visitor Experience Committee of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission has drafted criteria to assist the Commission and the National Park Service to determine a hierarchy of War of 1812 resources. This ranking system will be used to assist in assigning priority for the finite financial, technical and human resources which will be available for investment during the bicentennial period and beyond. This system may be of help in making determinations of which resources are included on the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Byway as the comprehensive management planning process unfolds later this year.

The ranking system is envisioned as a “snapshot in time” guide. Individual resource owners/managers will be able to request reconsideration of their ranking based upon new conditions or information as they develop over time.

In a process similar to that used for the *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States*, each resource is assigned a significance ranking of A, B or C (1, 2 or 3) with Class A (1) being the most historically significant. Unlike the *Report*, the resources have not been evaluated for short and long term threat (although that could be layered at a later time). Instead, each site is evaluated for integrity (1 through 3) and for accessibility (1 through 3). The resources with the lowest scores thus become the highest priorities for treatment.

Significance- Associated with events that had a demonstrable influence on the course, conduct and results of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake.

1. High significance (associated with nationally significant events)
2. Moderate significance (associated with statewide or regionally significant events)
3. Low significance (associated with locally significant events)

Integrity- Possesses integrity through location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

1. High integrity (all or most significant character defining features possess a high degree of intactness from the period of significance)
2. Moderate integrity (significant character defining features remain intact with some modification, alteration or deterioration)
3. Low integrity (most or all significant character defining features have been substantially modified, altered, deteriorated or destroyed)

Accessibility- Can be readily accessed and experienced by all Marylanders (although public or private ownership are often indicators of accessibility, they are not determinants of accessibility).

1. High accessibility (the significant character defining features of the resource can be accessed and experienced on demand or at frequent regularly scheduled hours)

2. Moderate accessibility (the significant character defining features of the resource can only be accessed visually, from a distance, from public roads, sidewalks, lands, or waterways)
3. Low accessibility (the significant character defining features of the resource cannot be accessed because of ownership, physical conditions, deterioration, destruction or other limiting restrictions)

For the investments of the Bicentennial Commission:

- Resources with total ranking scores of 3 through 6 will qualify for eligibility for capital grant assistance (164 resources or 50% of the 328 identified resources).
- Resources with rankings of 3 through 8 will qualify for eligibility for non-capital grant assistance and interpretive waysides (307 resources or 94% of the 328 identified resources).
- All resources will be considered eligible for inclusion in all print or online inventories, directories and maps and guides.