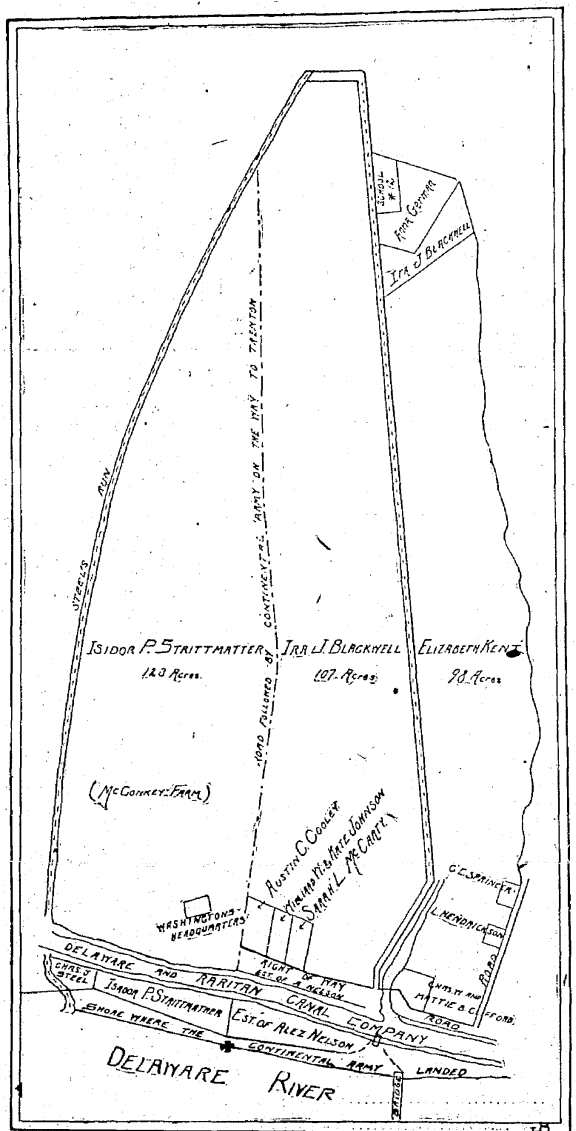


# READY TO IMPROVE LANDSCAPE AND COMPLETE MEMORIAL WORK AT WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK



## SITE OF WASHINGTON'S CROSSING PARK

THE CROSS IN THIS DESIGN SHOWS EXACTLY WHERE WASHINGTON LANDED AND NEARBY IS INDICATED THE LOCATION OF THE BUILDING WHICH SERVED AS HIS TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS. CLOSE TO THIS BUILDING IS THE ROAD WHICH THE CONTINENTALS FOLLOWED ON THEIR MARCH TO TRENTON. ALL OF THE PROPERTY INCLUDED IN THIS DESIGN ARE TO BE ACQUIRED FOR PARK PURPOSES.

With the greater part of its pioneer work having been accomplished, the Washington's Crossing Park Commission will meet with Governor Wilson at the State House this afternoon to consider plans for the completion of the project.

Charles W. Leavitt, Jr. the noted landscape and park engineer, who has been in charge of the development will be present and submit his ideas for the finishing of the work. A descriptive narration of plans and problems will be given by William L. Doyle, of this city, who as vice chairman of the commission, has assisted materially in bringing the park scheme to success. Governor Wilson is chairman of the commission but the actual head is Mr. Doyle who has devoted a great deal of time and thought to the work in hand.

At today's session the commission will take definite action toward obtaining legislative action to carry into effect the park development.

Mr. Doyle stated yesterday that the plans embraced the establishment of a national park as a memorial to the crossing of the Delaware by General Washington and the Continental troops previous to the epoch-making battle of Trenton. He said that the park would be completed within three or four years and that he was extremely hopeful that the State of Pennsylvania would take action to establish a similar park memorial on the opposite side of the river. He conferred with two Pennsylvania legislators several days ago and they stated that they would back the project in that State, especially in view of the fact that Pennsylvania historical societies are giving their support to the scheme.

It is Mr. Doyle's idea to make the New Jersey tract an historical shrine and to restore the ground and buildings as nearly as possible to their condition in Revolutionary days. The park will not be marked by the characteristics of the modern park or playground but efforts will be made to emphasize the historical features and natural beauties of the tract. The land to be acquired will naturally lend itself to the beautification scheme. The reclamation process will include the reforestation of barren areas that were thickly wooded in Revolutionary times.

The Commission has already acquired the Blackwell tract of over 100 acres and will obtain the Strittmatter tract of over 120 acres and also about 50 acres of the lands skirting the Bear Tavern road to the south of the Blackwell property. The strip of land at the foot of the Blackwell and Strittmatter places and bordering the Delaware river will also be bought. This shore-front land marks the place where

the Continentals landed after crossing the ice-filled river. Several smaller parcels necessary to continuing the main site will also be purchased.

### RESTORE OLD TRAILS.

Among those owning properties in the vicinity are Harry L. Morgan, Charles W. Clifford, E. Rowley, Jedediah G. Coleman, W. Scott Taylor, Austin C. Cooley, Willard W. Johnson, Sarah L. McCarty, Charles J. Steel, Alice B. Boice, Carrie B. Snook, Amos F. Harbourt, William H. Harbourt, Jane C. Hoff, Charles H. Hunt and Mary R. Parker. Adjoining the proposed park is the 80-acre farm of J. Spencer Voorhees.

One of the features of the development is to restore the old pathway or trail between the Blackwell and Strittmatter tracts which was traversed by the American troops on their march to Trenton. The trail, which will probably be known as the Washington road, will be made into a pathway for pedestrians. The route will be marked with statuary and tablets commemorating some of the incidents of the army's march.

The old McConkey house still standing on the Strittmatter farm and which is a part of the old McConkey farm, will be restored. This home was oc-

cupied by General Washington while his troops were disembarking. The building is in a good state of preservation. The old rough hewn shingles and the hand-made nails are still intact. The original lock that was on the door has been traced and will be obtained. Other articles that were in the old house when Washington occupied it will be put back in their original position. The structure is one and one-half stories high and is of frame construction.

The Blackwell homestead will be restored, too. This building is of the Colonial type of architecture, two and one-half stories high. It will probably be used as a museum and visitors' headquarters. Colonial gardens and a mall will be laid out around the old house. In this vicinity a splendid view can be had of the Washington trail, the landing place of the Continentals, the Delaware river where the crossing of the troops occurred and the hills of Pennsylvania beyond.

A short distance back from the canal on the Blackwell tract is the beginning of a grassy plateau from which it is said one can obtain the view which it is said one can obtain the view. Back of this plateau is a stretch of barren lands that will be reforested.

The famous Bear Tavern Road is on the southerly side of the Blackwell tract and is rich in historical incident. From the plateau can be seen the small island alongside of which Ferryman McConkey assembled his boats for the troops. McConkey's Ferry, as it was then known, was chosen by Washington for the crossing because of the known loyalty of McConkey himself.

The whole park will be skirted by a 15-foot road for vehicular traffic. This road will be constructed by the proposed State boulevard running from Trenton to Phillipsburg. Running parallel with the wagon road will be a footpath six or eight feet wide. Other footpaths will traverse the park in various directions.

A wall will be erected in front of the Blackwell home and also a stone railing and steps leading to the house. The picturesque ravine fronting the Blackwell place will be additionally beautified. Steps leading to the bottom of the ravine will be constructed. Young trees and shrubbery will be set out along the paths and walks. Thousands of trees will be planted. The Blackwell tract was formerly a nursery and many of its fine trees and shrubbery still remain. These will pass into possession of the State with the rest of the property.

The completion of the National Park will mean a great deal to the neighborhood. The Pennsylvania railroad company intends to erect a substantial station and better train service will be had when it becomes the mecca for visitors from all parts of the country. It is quite likely that a trolley line will be constructed. On the Pennsylvania side a trolley line is already in operation in close proximity to the lands that would be used for the park project in that State.

Mr. Doyle asserted that the furniture and historical objects for the buildings on the New Jersey tract would be donated. Historical records and data would most likely come into the hands of the Park Commission. The old tablet erected by the Society of the Cincinnati, and now marking the spot where Washington's troops landed will be moved to a more prominent place.