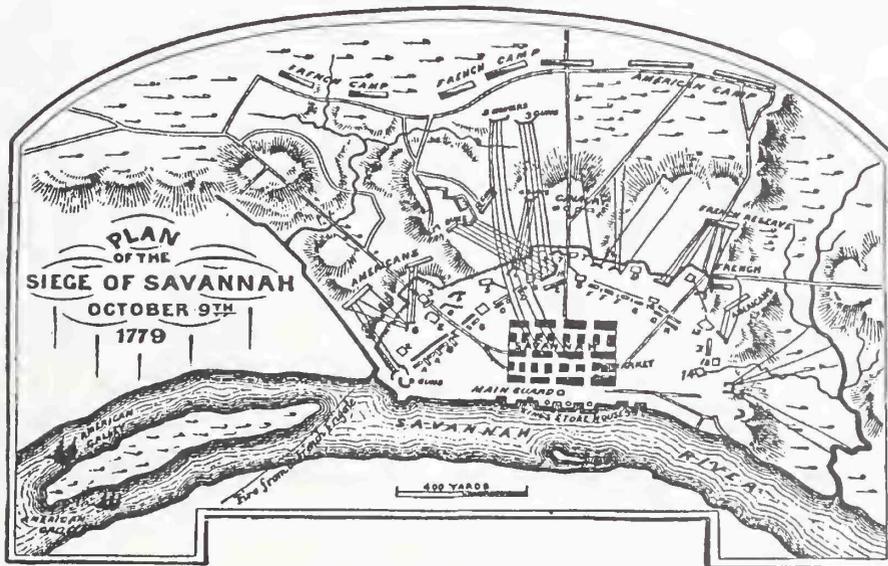


BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

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SAVANNAH BATTLEFIELD FROM 1779 ENDANGERED



Negotiations are continuing between the Norfolk Southern Corporation and the Trust for Public Land on the potential acquisition of land in Savannah, GA, that was the site of Spring Hill Redoubt, a noted Revolutionary War battle.

Concern about the future of the approximately 20-acre National Historic Landmark site escalated this fall when a developer made a purchase offer to Norfolk Southern for the property. The railroad reportedly is asking \$1 million for the land.

A retail complex and fast-food restaurant are proposed for the site of Spring Hill Redoubt, which is known as the second bloodiest battle of the

Revolutionary War. The October 9, 1779, battle resulted in the death of more than 1,000 American and French soldiers.

Local opposition to the development plan has been led by the Coastal Heritage Society, which envisions a battlefield park and memorial commemorating the battle of Spring Hill Redoubt on the site. The Historic Savannah Foundation and other organizations have expressed "grave concerns" to the city council about the possible loss of the Revolutionary War site, says foundation executive director Stephanie Churchill.

The battle is notable for many reasons, including such facts as the

participation of a 572-soldier regiment from Haiti, which was the largest contingent of black soldiers to fight in the Revolutionary War.

The battle also resulted in the mortal wounding of Count Casimir Pulaski, the Polish freedom fighter. The property is located within Savannah's Historic Railroad District, which is one of the nation's most intact historic railroad complexes.

The Central of Georgia Railroad complex, built from 1860 to 1876, contains a number of structures including the Train Shed, which is now the Savannah History Museum, and the Head House, which houses the Savannah Visitors' Center.

The L-shaped Spring Hill Redoubt site is bordered by the historically significant former railroad carpentry shop, which also could be endangered if the proposed development is constructed.

Savannah Historic Preservation Officer Beth Reiter says a general archaeological investigation of a portion of the Spring Hill Redoubt property was conducted in 1981. The site is now filled land, which resulted during the construction of the 19th-century railroad complex, according to Reiter.

On December 6, the Savannah Planning Commission requested a planning study of the city's Martin Luther King Boulevard because of the proliferation of fast-food restaurants along the road. The boulevard is the western boundary of the city's historic district and the eastern boundary of the railroad district.

CIVIL WAR TRUST PROTECTS CROSS KEYS IN VIRGINIA

Cross Keys, the site of an intense 1862 Civil War battle in the Shenandoah Valley, now is protected in perpetuity thanks to an easement purchased recently by the Civil War Trust. The 40-acre site is owned by Peter Svenson, the author of *Battlefield: Farming a Civil War Battleground*. Svenson brought current renown to the site by describing his discovery and appreciation of the site's history. More than 16,000 soldiers assembled along a mile-long battle line at Cross Keys. Svenson's 40-acre farm is located near Harrisonburg, VA.

"The lethal din of June 8, 1862, a singular day of destiny, continues to echo across the peaceful fields, and now, thanks to the foresight and determination of the Civil War Trust, the sounds of battle will echo in perpetuity," says Svenson, who lives and works on the property. It pleases one to know that future generations of Americans will be able to see this land --see it and contemplate it and hear these same sounds--and be reminded of their unique, hard-won heritage. For when people can look upon fields such as these, they are prone to renew their commitment as citizens of a great and grateful nation."

"Acquiring the Cross Keys easement fulfills the ultimate goal of preservation--not to wait until there is a crisis to begin to acquire a historically significant site," says Matt Andrews, the Trust's executive vice president. Andrews handled the negotiations that led to the protective easement. Also involved were a Harrisonburg bank, a private donor, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Although the Cross Keys battlefield has been evaluated as "97-98 percent pristine," according to

the Trust, "recent changes in the community around it and frequent local inquiries by developers had made the threat of encroachments an abiding threat to its integrity."

Cross Keys is listed among the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's Priority II: Battlefields with Opportunities for Comprehensive Preservation. The commission identified 2,153 acres as the core battlefield area of Cross Keys.

GETTYSBURG TOWER PURCHASE AND RAZING IS SOUGHT BY GROUP

The National Tower, the controversial 310-foot tall steel tower that looms over the Gettysburg National Military Park, may be demolished by the end of 1995 if a Maryland man succeeds with a plan to purchase it.

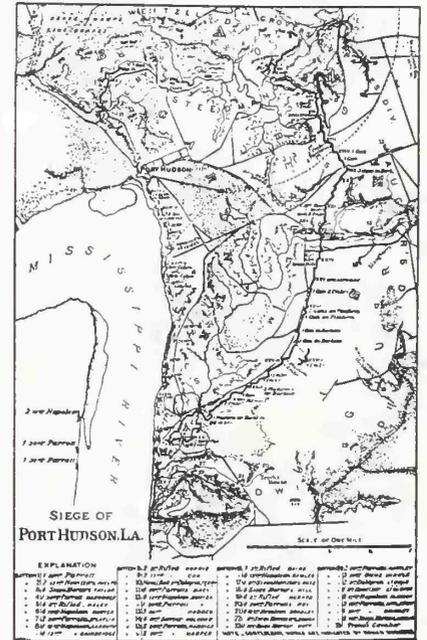
Retired executive James Holechek hopes to negotiate the purchase of the two-decade old tower with funds raised through a nonprofit corporation that he is establishing. Holechek spearheaded a \$200,000 campaign to erect a Maryland memorial at Gettysburg. The monument was unveiled in November. Holechek says the new organization will solicit contributions from a variety of funding sources in order to raise the purchase funds for the tower.

CONSERVATION FUND AIDS 23 CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

With the soon-to-be-completed donation of 256 acres at Port Hudson, LA, the Conservation Fund and its partners will have helped to protect 23 separate Civil War battlefields in just over four years.

The Port Hudson site marks the first major assault by black troops led by black officers during the Civil

War. Historian and *Battle Cry of Freedom* author James M. McPherson has noted that the Port Hudson battle in 1863 emphasized that "the courage of these black men in blue was crucial in establishing the success of what had theretofore been regarded as a dubious 'experiment' --- the recruitment of African Americans to fight for the Union and freedom."



The Conservation Fund's Civil War Battlefield Campaign, which began in 1990, has protected Civil War battlefields as diverse as Glorieta Pass in New Mexico and Fredericksburg in Virginia. Frances H. Kennedy, director of the campaign, noted in making the announcement about the pending donation of the Port Hudson land to the Port Hudson State Commemorative Area, that "Our partners--individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and foundations--are responsible for the success of the campaign. Special thanks go to Freeport McMoRan; J. Aron Charitable Foundation; Georgia Pacific; The Gilder Foundation; Louisiana Public Facilities Authority; RJR Nabisco; Mr. and Mrs. John L. Nau III, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, and the Civil War Trust."

RESACA BATTLEFIELD PLAN PROGRESSES WITH ABPP HELP

Thanks to a \$47,000 cooperative agreement awarded by the **American Battlefield Protection Program** to the Georgia State Office of Historic Preservation, a detailed preservation plan for the Resaca Battlefield is well on its way toward completion.

The Resaca Battlefield, which is located 33 miles south of Chattanooga, was the scene of fierce fighting on May 14 and 15, 1864, during the Atlanta Campaign.

Included in the Resaca preservation plan, which is being prepared by the Georgia-based Jaeger Company, are the battlefield's topography, the existing land-use, and the individual property ownership. During a December meeting in Resaca, Dale Jaeger, the firm's principal, reported on the progress made to date in compiling the preservation plan. The plan will be completed in April. The meeting was attended by local citizens and representatives of the Georgia Civil War Commission, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office, the Trust for Public Land, and the Resaca City Council.

"While the construction of Interstate 75 did destroy some of the Confederate earthworks [at Resaca], the view from the highway toward the west reveals that the Union lines have changed very little in the intervening 130 years," says O.J. Keller, a Georgia Civil War Commission member. "Part of the Confederate forts to the north and east also remain, including the famous four-gun battery, which federal troops captured during severe fighting on May 14.

"After dark, the Federals succeeded in removing four captured cannons from the earthworks by cutting through the parapet," Keller says. "This incident, publicized in *Harpers Weekly*, helped elect Col. Benjamin Harrison as the president of the United States almost 30 years later."

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MAUREEN FOSTER LEAVES BATTLEFIELD PROGRAM FOR NEW PARK SERVICE JOB

Maureen Danaher Foster, who served as an **American Battlefield Protection Program** administrator and historian since the program's inception in 1990, left the program on December 9 to accept the newly created position of communications coordinator of the National Park Service's ongoing restructuring effort.

Foster, who administered the **ABPP's** cooperative agreements, publications, and work plan, said the battlefield program has made excellent progress in implementing the goals set by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. "We now have sponsored more than 35 preservation plans for more than 30 of the priority Civil War battlefields identified in the *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*," Foster says.

"We have seen major land purchases at such important sites as Prairie Grove, Mill Springs, and Perryville with support from the **ABPP**. We have seen Fort Fisher saved from falling in the ocean and we have seen the dedication of hard-working individuals who, with minimal assistance, have seized the opportunity to preserve battlefields. The real credit goes to them."

Foster also says that the **American Battlefield Protection Program** "has helped to show that the Civil War also occurred west of the Mississippi and not just in Virginia."

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