

BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

Newsletter of the American Battlefield Protection Program

Fall 1999, No. 74

Remaining \$670,000 of LWCF Funds Awarded

by Hampton Tucker

As reported in the Summer 1999 issue of *Battlefield Update*, late in 1998 Congress earmarked \$8 million from the Land & Water Conservation Fund to assist state and local efforts to acquire land at Civil War battlefields. The appropriating legislation stated that each grant must be matched on a two-for-one basis using non-Federal dollars. Congress assigned \$7,330,000 of the fund to specific acquisition projects in 10 states, leaving \$670,000 to be awarded by the National Park Service in accordance with the priorities established by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's (CWSAC) 1993 *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*.

In June the American Battlefield Protection Program issued a request for proposals for funding assistance to the battlefield preservation community to expend the remaining funds. The ABPP evaluated the proposals it received based on three main criteria: 1) Significance of the site based on the CWSAC Priority Listing; 2) Location of the proposed acquisition in proximity to the "core" area of the battlefield; and 3) Status of the required non-Federal matching share.

Of the thirteen proposals received, the ABPP selected seven for funding. Each of these applicants was deemed highly significant in the 1993 *Report* of the CWSAC. Each proposed acquisition fell within the boundaries of the battlefield's "core"

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The NPS awarded \$350,000 in LWCF funds to the critically endangered Kernstown battlefield near Winchester, Virginia.

Rev War/War of 1812 Study Update

by Tanya Gossett

The National Park Service's Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study is now underway. The ABPP, NPS Regional offices, parks, and 29 State Historic Preservation Offices have started to compile data on battlefields and other historic sites associated with the two early-American wars. The NPS is currently designing a methodology for identifying, surveying, and evaluating the different types of historic resources. Also under discussion is the appointment of an advisory panel of scholars with expertise in the military, social, and political histories of the two wars.

To date, the ABPP has entered into, or is negotiating, agreements with Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia to undertake battlefield surveys. These State Historic Preservation Offices will oversee the surveys, which will follow guidelines established by the ABPP. Data from the surveys will then be used to evaluate the current condition of the sites and identify threats to the sites. The ABPP hopes to establish surveys in at least 15 states by the end of FY2000.

The project recently received a boost from Congress. In the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2000, Congress included \$250,000 for the historic preservation study.

ABPP Plans 2000 Conference

The American Battlefield Protection Program is pleased to announce that the Fifth National Conference on Battlefield Preservation will be held in historic Baltimore, Maryland, during the Fall of 2000. The exact dates and venue will be announced in the next issue of *Battlefield Update*. As in years past, we expect this conference to attract battlefield site managers and staff, community planners, non-profit organizations, state and local government officials, historians, and battlefield enthusiasts. However, with this conference, the ABPP is making a concerted effort to develop a curriculum that will attract and meet the varied needs of representatives from all wars/battlefield sites fought on American soil. The City of Baltimore is an ideal location for the event, as a number of Civil War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812 sites are within a few hours' drive.

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CAPITAL WATCH

Washington, DC

Department of the Interior Appropriations Act

The **Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2000, Public Law: 106-113**, was signed by the President on November 29, 1999. The bill provides the operational budget for the National Park Service and makes appropriations for numerous special projects that concern battlefields. The Appropriations Act includes the following instruction regarding FY2000.

- \$250,000 for the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study, which is currently administered by the ABPP.
- Capital improvement and planning projects at Colonial National Historic Park (\$714,000); Fort Stanwix National Monument (\$1,350,000); Fort Sumter National Monument (\$8,250,000); Gettysburg National Military Park (\$1,100,000); Harpers Ferry National Historic Park (\$800,000); Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial (\$200,000); Shiloh National Military Park (\$1,860,000 to mitigate shore erosion and \$1,000,000 for the Corinth Visitor Center); Washita Battlefield National Historic Site (\$250,000); and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (\$500,000).
- \$500,000 for studies on the preservation of certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.
- Land acquisition at Antietam National Battlefield (\$2,000,000); Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark (\$500,000 contingent on a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match); Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (\$2,000,000); Gettysburg National Military Park (\$1,600,000, in part for acquisition of the Tower); Manassas National Battlefield (\$400,000); Monocacy National Battlefield (\$500,000); Paoli Battlefield (\$1,250,000 contingent on a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match); Stones River National Battlefield (\$1,500,000); and War in the Pacific National Historic Park (\$500,000).

The Committee Report also provides guidance to the National Park Service on several topics related to Civil War battlefields. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to encourage Civil War battle sites within the National Park System "to recognize and include in all public displays and multi-media educational presentations the unique role that the institution of slavery played in causing the Civil War and its role, if any, at the individual battle sites." In addition,

the committee managers also strongly encouraged that the National Park Service and the Virginia Department of Transportation resolve the traffic issues at the well-known intersection of Routes 29 and 234 in the Manassas National Battlefield and finalize plans for construction of improvements to begin by March 2000. The Committee Report acknowledges the need for a new visitors facility at Gettysburg National Military Park and supports the public-private partnership proposed in the park's new General Management Plan as "a unique approach to the interpretive needs of our National Parks." Finally, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Interior "to pursue designation of Midway Atoll as a National Memorial to the Battle of Midway."

Act to Help Protect Paoli and Brandywine

On November 1, 1999, the President signed the **Pennsylvania Battlefields Protection Act of 1999, Public Law: 106-86**. This Act authorizes \$1.25 million for the purchase of approximately 40 acres at the Paoli Battlefield, and authorizes \$3 million for the purchase of easements on roughly 426 acres of the Brandywine Battlefield along the Meetinghouse Road corridor. Each federal dollar must be matched by non-federal sources. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Valley Forge Historical Society to construct and operate a museum within the boundary of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Fallen Timbers and Fort Miamis Act

Both houses of Congress have passed the **Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historical Site Act of 1999**. The bill now awaits the President's signature. This legislation, if signed, will establish an affiliated area of the National Park System that includes 194 acres of the Fallen Timbers battlefield and memorial, and the Fort Miamis Park. The National Park Service will provide technical assistance to the management entity of the new site to ensure that the site is fully documented, interpreted, and preserved.

Conference, from page 1

Suggestions regarding session topics, types of sessions, and speakers are welcome. The ABPP is very interested in your feedback, so please let us know if there are aspects of past conferences that you would like to see repeated or omitted. Proposals for field trips or tours to any of the many historic sites in the Maryland region are also welcome.

Please direct all comments and inquiries about the conference to Ginger Carter at (202)-343-1210 or ginger_carter@nps.gov.

ABPP's Year 2000 Grant Competition Currently Underway

by Ginger Carter

The American Battlefield Protection Program's Year 2000 Battlefield Protection Grants competition has begun. Applications, guidelines, and announcement notices were distributed on October 1, 1999, to all *Battlefield Update* subscribers and Native American tribes and organizations.

This year's application requirements differ slightly from those of previous years. Applicants familiar with previous guidelines should review the following list of revisions closely before completing this year's application.

Changes in grant application requirements:

- The deadline for the ABPP to receive completed applications is Friday, January 14, 2000.

The deadline was extended from the December 31 deadline to accommodate those applicants who may experience Y2K problems.

- The 2000 grant application emphasizes that proposals for projects on battlefield lands held in sympathetic ownership, for the purpose of preserving it as a battlefield, will be assigned a low level of threat and evaluated accordingly. Park Service lands are not eligible for ABPP funding.

*The primary objective of the ABPP is to assist states and local communities in the protection of **threatened** battlefield land.*

- Proposals must directly affect the protection of one or more specific battlefields.

The objective of the grants program is to assist directly in the protection of battlefield land. The objectives of individual grant proposals will therefore need to relate to the protection of specific battlefield sites. No longer will projects such as conferences, for example, be eligible for funding, as they do not have a direct and measureable effect on a specific battlefield(s).

- Applicants must include a site map identifying the specific location of the project battlefield(s).

A site map will help the ABPP more easily discern the location of the battlefield affected by the proposed grant project.

- If a project is related to a battlefield not included in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's Priority I or Priority II lists, and is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the applicant must supply three sources of reference describing the site's significance and a letter from the appropriate State

Historic Preservation Office declaring the site's potential eligibility for listing in the National Register.

This requirement will help expedite the review of a battlefield's significance if the project is related to a battlefield not yet determined significant by the National Park Service.

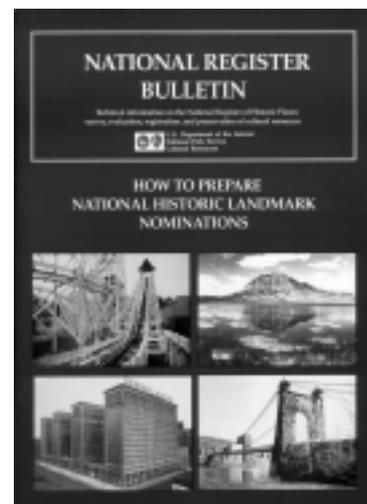
- Administrative costs must be 15% or less of the total project budget.

If you have any questions about the ABPP's Year 2000 Grant's please contact Ginger Carter at (202)-343-1210 or ginger_carter@nps.gov. Copies of the ABPP Grant application and guidelines can be found on the ABPP's website at www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp/.

Guide on Nominating National Historic Landmarks Released

The National Register of Historic Places has released its newest Bulletin, *How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations*. The publication provides readers with an overview of the National Historic Landmarks Program as well as the necessary criteria and the procedure used to designate National Historic Landmarks (NHL's).

Like National Register of Historic Places designation, NHL designation is largely an honorary distinction that recognizes the most significant sites in American history. The process of designating a property as a National Historic Landmark, however, differs substantially from listing a property in the National Register. The criteria used to evaluate NHLs are considerably more demanding than those used to evaluate properties for the National Register. A property nominated as an NHL should not only be nationally significant, but should also be exceptionally important compared to similar properties within a historical theme. As stated by Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service, "...the almost 2,300 properties designated as National Landmarks are the most significant places in American history—they illustrate and commemorate our collective past and help us to understand our national identity. National Historic Landmarks outstandingly represent and interpret the best and brightest and the most tragic aspects of our history. Through these Landmarks, all Americans



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area as defined by the CWSAC. Finally, each applicant had raised the required matching funds, or demonstrated a commitment of funds from partner organizations. In addition, it was determined that each proposed acquisition faced considerable threats in the immediate future and that acquisition of the property would contribute significantly to integrity of the battlefield. The remaining \$670,000 from the Land & Water Conservation Fund grants for Civil War battlefield land acquisition will be awarded to the following seven battlefields:

Mine Creek, Kansas - \$40,000
Fort DeRussy, Louisiana - \$70,000
Fox's Gap, Maryland - \$20,000
South Mountain, Maryland - \$112,000
Cedar Mountain, Virginia - \$28,000
Kernstown, Virginia - \$350,000
Petersburg, Virginia - \$50,000

Questions about these grants should be directed to Hampton Tucker at 202-343-3580, or hampton_tucker@nps.gov.

can better understand and appreciate the broad trends and events, important persons, great ideas and ideals, and valuable accomplishments in the arts and sciences, and humanities, that are truly significant in our history.”

To obtain a copy of “How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations” write to National Register, History and Education, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW (NC400), Washington, DC 20240, or send an email message to nr_reference@nps.gov.