

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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GBA designs historic marker for Inman Park Village

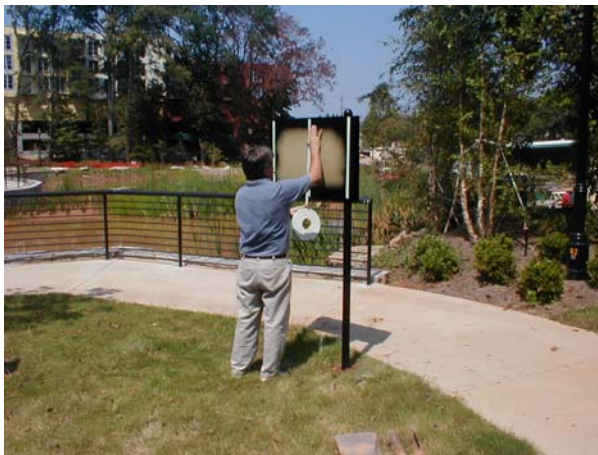
Inman Park Village (www.inmanparkvillage.com) is a development of houses, townhouses, offices, and retail shops on the site of the former Mead Paper Plant between Lake Avenue and Highland Avenue in East Atlanta. In part because of GBA's success in placing two Battle of Atlanta historic markers in July 2004 (August 2004 newsletter), the developers of Inman Park Village agreed to pay for a historic marker on their site. To avoid damage during construction, installation was delayed until 12 September 2005, when the marker was placed in the southeast corner of the site. Here is an extract from the marker text:

About 3:30 p.m. (on 22 July 1864), Cheatham's leftmost division, under General Henry Clayton, advanced towards this spot. Major General William T. Sherman was on Copenhill and observed Cheatham's advance across what Sherman described as "a gentle but cleared valley." Sherman ordered as much artillery as possible to be assembled on the hill to fire into Cheatham's troops.

Most of Clayton's division was directed to exploit a breakthrough achieved by two brigades of Brigadier General John C. Brown's division about a half mile east of here. Baker's Alabama Brigade, temporarily under the command of Colonel John Higley, advanced to this area to protect the left flank of the Confederate attack. General Clayton wrote: "I ordered (Colonel Higley) to change his front obliquely to the left and attack. This he did in good style and, together with the artillery, checked the (Federal) movement from that direction."

Baker's Brigade was protecting the Confederate left by threatening the right of two Federal brigades counterattacking southward. Still, Federal skirmishers and artillery fire from Copenhill kept Baker's Brigade in this area until the main Confederate attack was driven back. General Clayton wrote: "All the other troops having left the field except Colonel Higley, who was a few hundred yards to my left and still skirmishing with the enemy, I ordered him to withdraw." Baker's Brigade retreated from this ground to the city's inner line.

Come see the complete text and accompanying maps on the marker in the park on the northeast corner of Lake Avenue and Hale Street, about a half mile south-southwest of the Carter Center.



Left: David Larson of Atlanta Creative Graphics prepares the mounting face. In the background to the right of the marker is Copenhill, from which Federal artillery fired into this area.

Right: The finished marker. Portions of the battle site were first developed in the 1870s and have been built over ever since. What we can do is let the residents know they live on historic ground.

One Cobb county rezoning withdrawn

Cobb County rezoning application Z-58, which affected part of the Brushy Mountain Line just north of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (August newsletter), was withdrawn by the developer. While this is a temporary respite for the site, future development attempts are likely. GBA will work with area residents to seek a long term solution to preserve the site.

GBA continues negotiations with River Line developers

Many recent newsletters have addressed the increasing threat to the River Line in southeast Cobb County. Walton Communities plans to build over 100 houses and townhouses along Fort Drive. While two Shoupades and artillery redan will be preserved, anyone standing in the earthworks will see townhouses within 50 feet. Representatives from GBA and River Line Historic Area also met with representatives of Easlan Capital, which is redeveloping property immediately south of Fort Drive. Easlan plans to tear down the current apartments and build 156 townhouses. The back of one Shoupade and part of the only surviving artillery redan are on the north edge of this property. Easlan Capital has shown interest in preserving the earthworks and developing a park around them. Because the fortifications are on the property boundary, cooperation between Walton and Easlan will be critical. GBA hopes to facilitate just such cooperation.

GBA also learned of a plan to build houses along Henderson Road, just west of Nickajack Creek and north of Veteran's Memorial Highway. This development will further damage the Federal line, a part of which was destroyed by the construction of a Publix shopping center (Nov 2003 newsletter). The current plan reflects the preservation of artillery and infantry earthworks in the development, but GBA and other preservation organizations are asking the developer to preserve more space in front of the earthworks so the view will be something other than houses. A continuation of these trenches on an adjacent parcel was preserved by Cobb County using Greenspace Funds (January 2005 newsletter).

Lovejoy's Station battlefield may be saved by Henry County

Lovejoy's Station was the site of a fight between Federal cavalry and Confederate cavalry and infantry on 20 August 1864. While the Federal cavalry successfully fought its way through the encircling Confederates, the raid was ultimately unsuccessful in cutting the rail links to Atlanta.

On 20 September, the Henry County Commission initiated condemnation proceedings on the property that contains the core of the battle site. The county had been negotiating with a developer who plans to build almost 400 houses on 200 acres. A county commissioner said negotiations broke down when the price went to near \$10 million. GBA inquired about the property in early 2003, before the site was bought by the developer for more than we could offer.

Hurricane damage to historic sites

Addressing the human cost of the recent hurricanes is rightfully our nation's first priority. The lives and livelihoods of millions of people if not all Americans will be disrupted for a long time. But among the other injuries to the nation is the damage to historic sites. The War of 1812 Chalmette Battlefield(www.nps.gov/jela), just downriver from New Orleans, was under as much as 12 feet of water that left a contaminated sludge as it receded. Beauvoir, the Mississippi post war home of Jefferson Davis, suffered heavy damage (www.beauvoir.org). The Old Capitol Museum in Jackson lost a portion of its roof, exposing many artifacts to heavy rain. Vicksburg National Military Park had many downed trees and mudslides but reopened the week after the storm. The coastal forts suffered extensive damage: Fort Jackson, guarding the Mississippi river approach to New Orleans, was completely submerged at one point.

Repairs to many of these sites will take months if not years, and some damage is permanent. If you plan a trip to any sites in the area, check the internet or call ahead. An interactive forum for information about damage to Civil War sites is <http://thepresentpast.blogspot.com>.

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