

# GEORGIA

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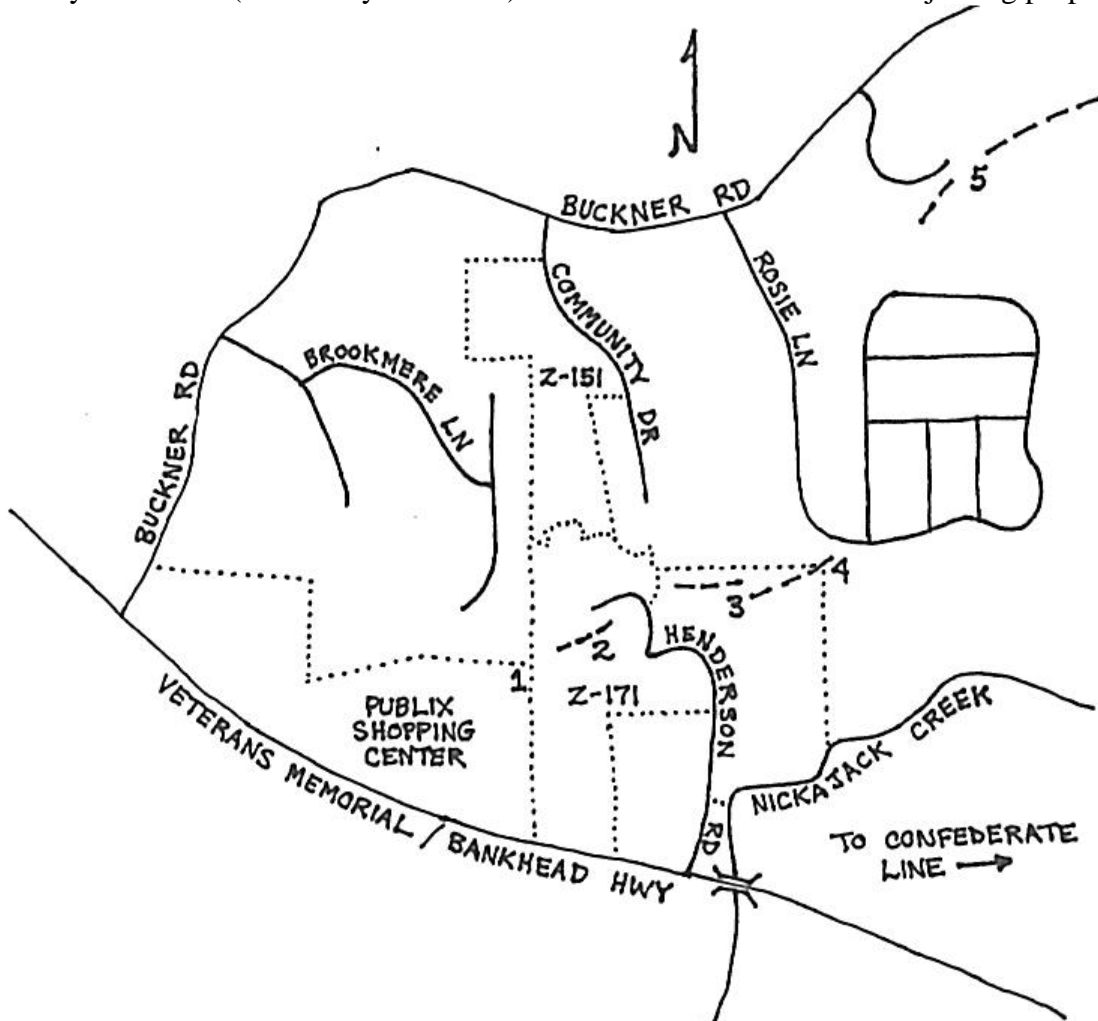
# BATTLEFIELDS

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Published by Georgia Battlefields Association, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of Georgia's Civil War history and sites. Contact newsletter editor by e-mail: [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Update on River Line site – Henderson Road

GBA spoke at the Cobb County Planning Commission meeting (1 November) and Board of Commissioners meeting (15 November) regarding rezoning application Z-171 (November newsletter). As shown by the map, the parcel contains the remnant of a Federal artillery and infantry earthwork (marked by number 2) that relates to earthworks on adjoining properties.



Key to Federal earthworks: Dotted lines are property boundaries. Dashes show trench lines.

1. Artillery position partially destroyed by construction of Publix shopping center in early 2004.
2. Artillery and infantry position on parcel that is subject of rezoning application Z-171.
3. Infantry trenches saved in June 2004 by Cobb County using Greenspace funds.
4. Artillery position that is partly included in Cobb County tract.
5. Infantry trenches partially filled-in by road and house construction underway since early 2004.

What GBA requested at the respective commission meetings:

- Protective fencing around earthwork #2 so that it is not damaged during construction. Developer's (The Columns Group) representative agreed to this request.
- Appropriate signs and markers after the site is developed. Developer's representative agreed to this request.
- Guaranteed public access to the site (rather than leaving it under control of a homeowner's association that might subsequently restrict access). Cobb County Commission Chairman Sam Olens agreed and suggested that the County hold a conservation easement on the site. Developer's representative agreed to this request.
- Walking trail that links earthwork #2 directly to earthwork remnants (#1 and #3) on properties to east and west. Developer had already modified plan to add parking spaces for people who wanted to visit the earthworks, but the proposed pedestrian route linking the sites was circuitous and reduced a visitor's ability to understand the relationship among the earthworks.
- Less-obstructed viewshed from earthwork #2. Developer had modified site plan to remove one of the four houses planned for the area immediately in front (south) of the earthwork. GBA continues to seek relocation of the remaining three houses.

Property covered by rezoning application Z-151 (north of Z-171) contains a long depression along its western boundary, but GBA has been unable to associate this with any wartime trench.

County Commissioner Annette Kesting, in whose district the property lies, proposed that the rezoning application be held for 30 days so she could gather more information. Commissioner Kesting informed GBA that she intends to host a discussion of the issues. The more direct walking trail and the less obstructed viewshed will be GBA's key concerns. The development will almost certainly occur, but we'll continue to press for as much preservation as possible.

## Update on site near Lovejoy's Station

The 204 acre site near Lovejoy's Station (November and October newsletters) was the subject of a 15 November Henry County Commission meeting. To review, the historic land was bought for \$4.3 million in January 2005. Henry County later appraised the site at \$6 million. By the date of the county commission meeting, the developer wanted \$14 million to sell the property.

A condemnation hearing featured sharp questioning from the developer's attorney and led to Commissioner BJ Mathis recusing herself from the rezoning vote. Still the county commission refused the rezoning application. Subsequently, a special master ruled that the land was worth a little over \$8 million. The county government has indicated it may be willing to pay \$8 million for the land. If the developer will accept this price, the site may yet become a park.

## Whitfield County to develop master plan for preserving sites

Whitfield County has provided the example for cooperative effort by local government, chamber of commerce, convention and visitors bureau, historical society, non-profit groups, and citizens to preserve historic sites. Recently, the county secured a \$26,000 Federal grant and \$8,200 from local donors to develop a master plan for preserving sites near Tunnel Hill and on Rocky Face Ridge. The county selected the Jaeger Company to develop specific proposals. Among other projects, the Jaeger Company wrote a preservation plan for Resaca Battlefield in 1995.

The new master plan will specify:

- Where to put parking, walking trails, fences, interpretive signs, and other visitor facilities near Tunnel Hill. Previous newsletters reported the opening of the Tunnel Hill Heritage Center ([www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com](http://www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com)) and the Holcomb family's donation of the Clisby Austin House and 85 acres of land just west of the famous railroad tunnel.
- How to make Rocky Face Ridge more accessible by adding trails and more understandable by adding signs and markers. The county purchased parts of Rocky Face Ridge in late 2001.
- How to guard historic sites from damage resulting from the increased public access.
- Where to create national register historic districts relating to Tunnel Hill and Rocky Face Ridge.

Because of its continuing efforts to save historic sites, Whitfield County was designated a Preserve America Community in 2004 ([www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html](http://www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html)).

## GBA tour with Ed Bearss set for 2-5 March 2006

GBA's annual tour led by Ed Bearss will begin Thursday evening and end at noon Sunday. Focus will be on Cobb County sites. Reserve a spot by sending a check for \$350 per person, payable to GBA, to Frank Chew, 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309. **Note: Each registrant must be a GBA member.** See [www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org) for a membership application.

Tour hotel is the Holiday Inn Express at 2485 Busbee Parkway, Kennesaw GA 30144, accessible from I-75 exit 269 (Barrett Parkway). Call 770 427 5210 and ask for GBA rate (\$75 plus tax).

**Georgia Battlefields Association**  
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