

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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

Good news on River Line site – Henderson Road

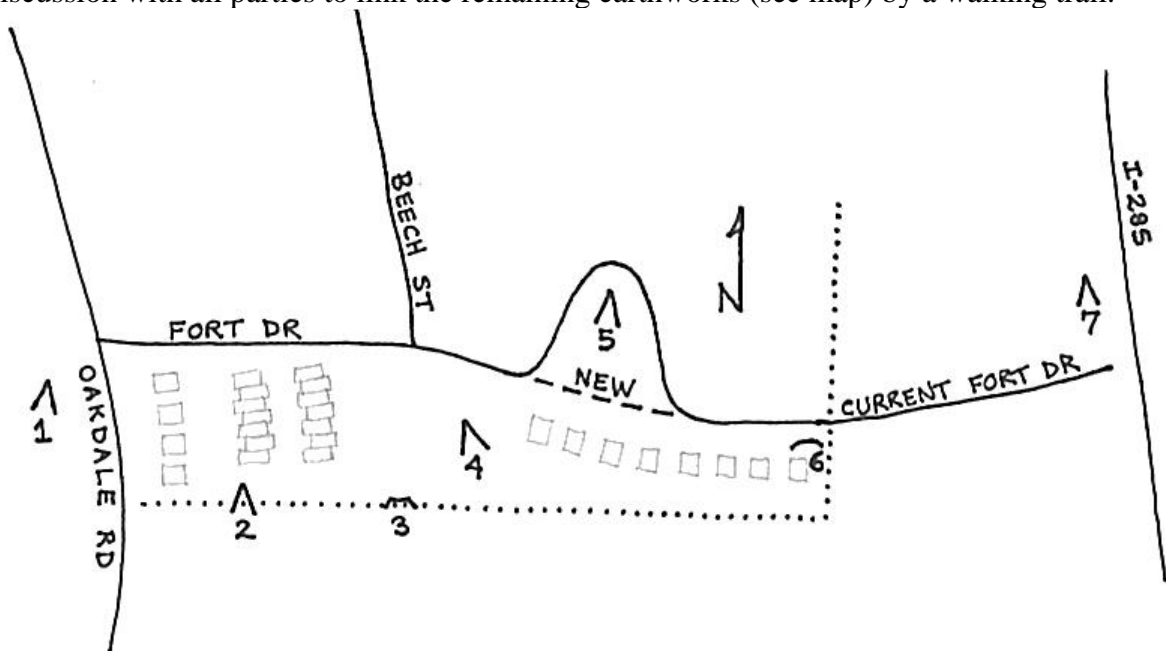
At a 20 December meeting, the Cobb County Commission again considered rezoning application Z-171 (see December newsletter). Prior to the meeting, The Columns Group (site developer) agreed to all of GBA's requests except clearing of the view in front of the earthwork, so a GBA representative again spoke in opposition. Subsequently, the County Commission voted to require a revised site plan that eliminated the two remaining houses from the viewshed.

While preservation of the land in a wooded state would have been preferable, we're happy to report GBA's successful efforts to reduce the impact of the site's development.

Update on River Line site – Fort Drive

Regarding the Confederate earthworks along Fort Drive: Pulte Homes bought the properties owned by Walton Communities along the western portion of Fort Drive and by Easlan Capital south of the former Walton parcel. Houses along Fort Drive are being prepared for demolition.

As reported in the November newsletter, Easlan Capital is acquiring the properties along the eastern segment of Fort Drive and has agreed to preserve the Shoupade in this area. GBA is in discussion with all parties to link the remaining earthworks (see map) by a walking trail.



Key to remains of Confederate earthworks in vicinity of Fort Drive: Dotted lines show property boundary. Developer will soon begin grading to realign Fort Drive, which will be straightened as indicated by dashed line labeled NEW in center of map. Easternmost segment of Fort Drive—labeled CURRENT FORT DR—will be removed.

1. Shoupade destroyed more than 20 years ago so owner could establish a garden.
2. Shoupade straddling property line: Developers have agreed to preserve the earthwork, but the view from the Shoupade will be of four detached houses (shown in gray, fronting on Oakdale Road) and 14 townhouses (also in gray).
3. Artillery redan on property boundary: Developers have agreed to preserve the earthwork.
4. Shoupade that developers agreed to preserve.
5. Shoupade destroyed over 50 years ago for pasture.
6. Artillery redan almost totally destroyed over 50 years ago for pasture. Construction of eight detached houses (in gray) will remove any remnants of this earthwork.
7. Shoupade immediately adjacent to I-285 right-of-way fence. This Shoupade is arguably in the best condition of the nine remaining Shoupades.

Cobb County has directed that Shoupades 2 and 4 and redan 3 be incorporated into a park that will be open to the public. Historical markers will be installed, and developer proposes to put a replica canon in redan 3.

Make reservations now for 2-5 March tour with Ed Bearss

The bus is filling up for GBA's annual tour led by Ed Bearss. 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 for a membership application, and see the November 2005 newsletter for more info on the tour.

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).

Henry County buys site near Lovejoy's Station

On 28 November, the Henry County Commission voted to buy a 204 acre site near Lovejoy's Station for the special master-set price of \$8,077,00 (see December, November and October newsletters). The County is appealing the price, but all indications are the County will establish a park on the site regardless of the eventual amount paid. Thanks to County Historian Mark Pollard, who worked so hard to bring attention to the site, a piece of history has been saved.

Chick-Chatt superintendent Pat Reed moves on

Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park superintendent Pat Reed will be the new superintendent at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. Pat has been a supporter of preservation efforts well beyond Chick-Chatt, where he has served for the past 14 years. GBA will miss Pat, but we thank him for his efforts and wish him well in his new assignment.

Park Service management policies available for review

The National Park Service has issued a proposed update of Management Policies that provide guidance on how to conserve park resources while providing for their enjoyment by the public.

Kennesaw Mountain Park provides a good example of the NPS's dilemma: It is one of the most visited sites, but the bulk of the visitors come to the park for recreation or purposes other than gaining historical knowledge. In 2000, a study of Kennesaw Mountain lamented the park's primary use as a recreation facility (and the consequent affects, such as traffic, damage to fields, etc.) but did not indicate how to address the issue without appearing to discourage public use.

Other factors, such as increased homeland security requirements (e.g., protecting the Statue of Liberty), technological change (e.g., off-road vehicles), and rising costs affect all units of the park system. A 19 October 2005 *USA Today* article addressed the continuing debate over how to balance the goals of preserving parks and giving the public the chance to enjoy them. The article characterized the proposed draft as giving both objectives equal weight, while the current policy (issued 2001) states conservation is to be predominant when the two goals conflict.

You can comment on the document (until 18 February) through the web site www.nps.gov (click on Draft 2006 NPS Management Policies) or by visiting a park service site.

Postage rates increase: Please consider e-mail

First class postage will increase from 37 to 39 cents on 8 January 2006, so you can help GBA maximize its funds for preservation by receiving the newsletter by e-mail. If you're willing to receive the newsletter electronically, let us know by e-mailing info@georgiabattlefields.org. Thanks to our members who have already agreed to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail.

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