

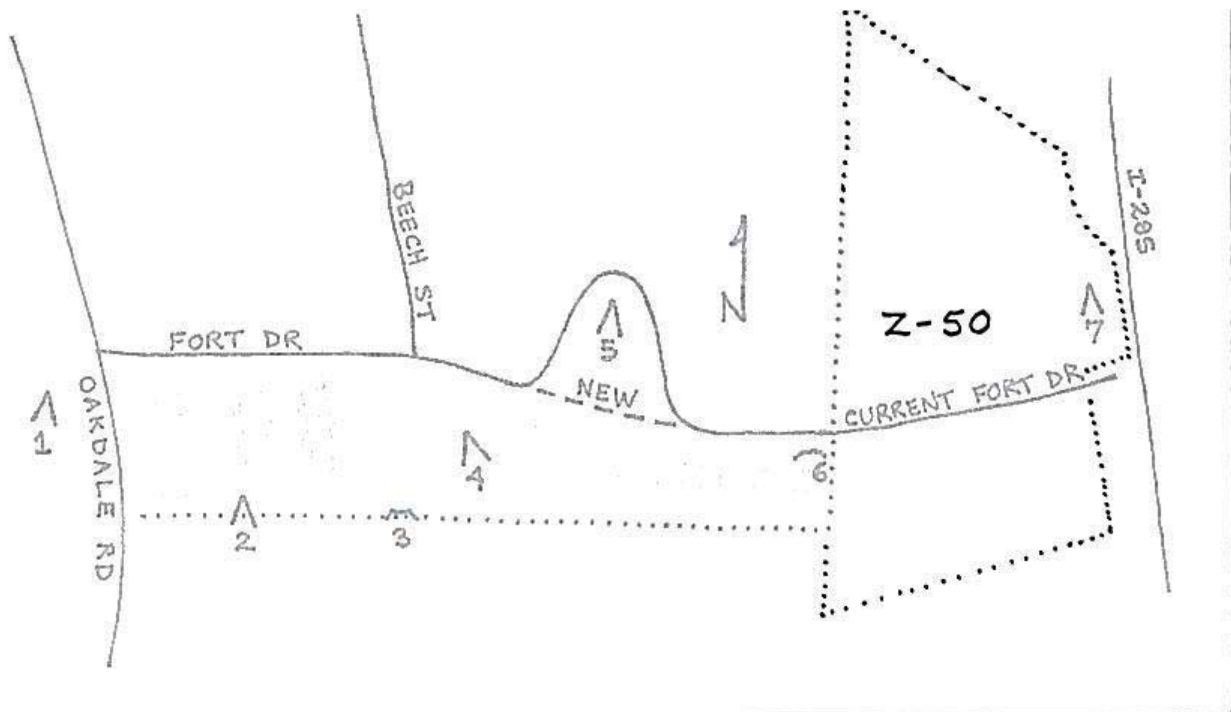
GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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Threat to the River Line: Fort Drive update

The easternmost parcel along Fort Drive (see April and January newsletters) was the subject of Cobb County rezoning application Z-50. The developer included preservation of a Shoupade (item 7 on the map) in the site plan, while GBA proposed a larger viewshed and incorporation of this Shoupade into a Cobb County park that will include two other Shoupades (items 2 & 4) and an artillery redan (item 3) farther west along Fort Drive. At the 16 May meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the rezoning was approved largely as the developer proposed in a 4-1 vote.



Almost all the trees have been cleared from the adjacent property that was approved for redevelopment last July: This area is bordered by Oakdale Road on the west and a gas pipeline that runs along the Z-50 boundary on the east (see photo below). The only remaining trees are around the fortifications (2, 3, 4) that will become a park. The site of a second artillery redan (item 6 on the map) was heavily overgrown, and we hoped that some remnants of that fortification might be discovered when the brush was cleared. However, the clearing method involved grading by heavy equipment, so no evidence of the redan could possibly remain (see photo below). The former Highland Terrace apartments on adjoining property to the south (below the horizontal dotted line on the map) have been razed in preparation for the construction of 154 townhouses. The 47 townhouses on the Z-50 parcel will be joined to this development.



Looking west from current curve in Fort Drive. Looking south at former site of redan (item 6). Beech Street runs south to north across photo.

Beginning 18 May, Fort Drive was closed to traffic so that the road could be straightened (see section labeled NEW on map). The easternmost section of the road (labeled CURRENT FORT DR) will be removed with the approval of rezoning application Z-50.

State budget includes funds for marker maintenance

On 8 May, Governor Perdue signed the state fiscal year 2007 (1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007) budget without exercising his veto over any portion. Thus, \$50,000 was included for historical marker maintenance (see May newsletter).

Some markers are missing altogether, and damaged and worn markers have been accumulating in the facility at Panola Mountain and around the state since the maintenance program was suspended in October 2003. Further, the state has disposed of the repair equipment, so any maintenance will have to be done under contract by private companies. Before 2003, the annual marker maintenance budget was usually over \$150,000, so \$50,000 will not clear the backlog. The Department of Natural Resources' State Parks & Historic Sites Division is in the process of determining the order in which markers will be repaired and replaced.

Governor's award in the humanities goes to GBA trustee

On 11 May, GBA trustee and former president Charlie Geiger was honored with a Governor's Award in the Humanities. Geiger received the award for his efforts with Georgia's Civil War Heritage Trails and GBA and for his unrelenting advocacy for preservation in any forum.

Civil War Preservation Trust conference news

The Civil War Preservation Trust (www.civilwar.org) held its annual conference 20-23 April in Memphis. As usual, GBA provided volunteer staff, and several GBA members attended.

Among the relevant news: The National Park Service budget for the coming year includes only \$9 million for land acquisitions: \$5 million is marked to buy land for the Flight 93 memorial in Pennsylvania, and \$4 million is marked to buy Civil War sites, though the latter amount must be matched by non-federal funds before it is spent.

Predicted trends include secession

Last December, the Trends Research Institute released its 15th annual report "Top Trends 2006." Most of the trends did not qualify for coverage in this newsletter; but one item caught our eye: Citizen-driven movements for states to break away from the union will arise. Oh, boy.

150 years ago this month – June 1856

In June 1856, both the Democratic and Republican Parties hold their national conventions. In Cincinnati, the Democrats reject the sitting president, Franklin Pierce, and instead select James Buchanan of Pennsylvania as their nominee. Buchanan is chosen in part because he has been out of the country for the last three years as minister to Great Britain, so he is less associated with one side or the other of the sectional conflict. John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky is nominated for vice president. In Philadelphia, the newly formed Republican Party (incorporating many former Whigs and Free-Soilers) nominates renowned explorer and former Senator John Fremont of California for president and former Senator William Dayton of New Jersey for vice president.

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