

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

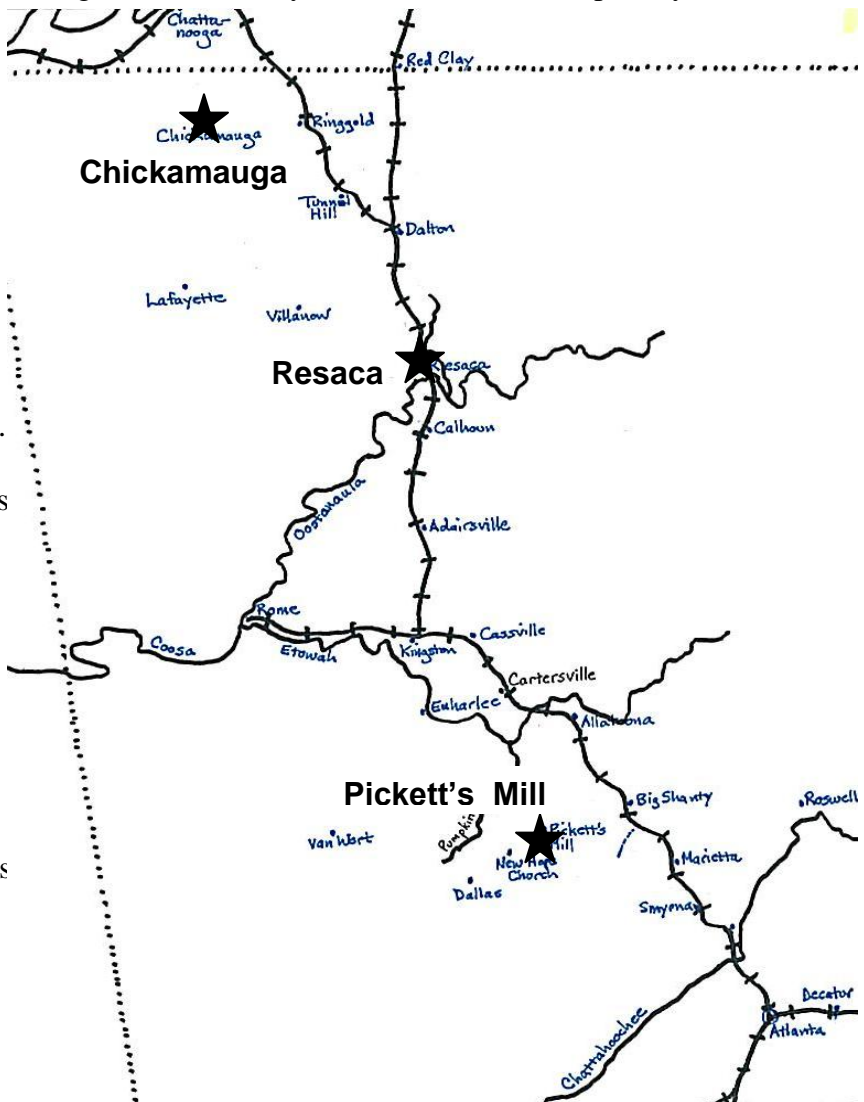
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Annual most endangered list

On 13 May, Civil War Preservation Trust announced its 2010 list of endangered Civil War sites (www.civilwar.org/history-under-siege). In Georgia, Pickett's Mill State Historic Site was among the 10 most endangered, while Chickamauga National Military Park and Resaca were among the 15 additional at risk sites.

During the nominating period last October, GBA mentioned to CWPT that rezoning hearings for development at Civil War sites had decreased to near zero over the last two years: Instead, the current problem was the lack of funding for sites already within state and local park systems.

Evidently hearing this same assessment from other states, CWPT adjusted the criteria to include lack of maintenance for and reduction of public access to sites. By these criteria, Pickett's Mill was among the most endangered because the state budget has forced the site to close four days a week and reduced the staff to only one employee (July 2009 newsletter). The threat to Chickamauga comes from multiple applications for cell phone towers that would affect the viewshed. GBA has responded to the call for comments on the tower applications (December 2009 newsletter). For Resaca, the issue is the state government's inability to install any interpretation (visitors center, markers) or provide public access (roads, pedestrian entry points) even though the property was purchased ten years ago (April 2010 newsletter).



Civil War Sites II

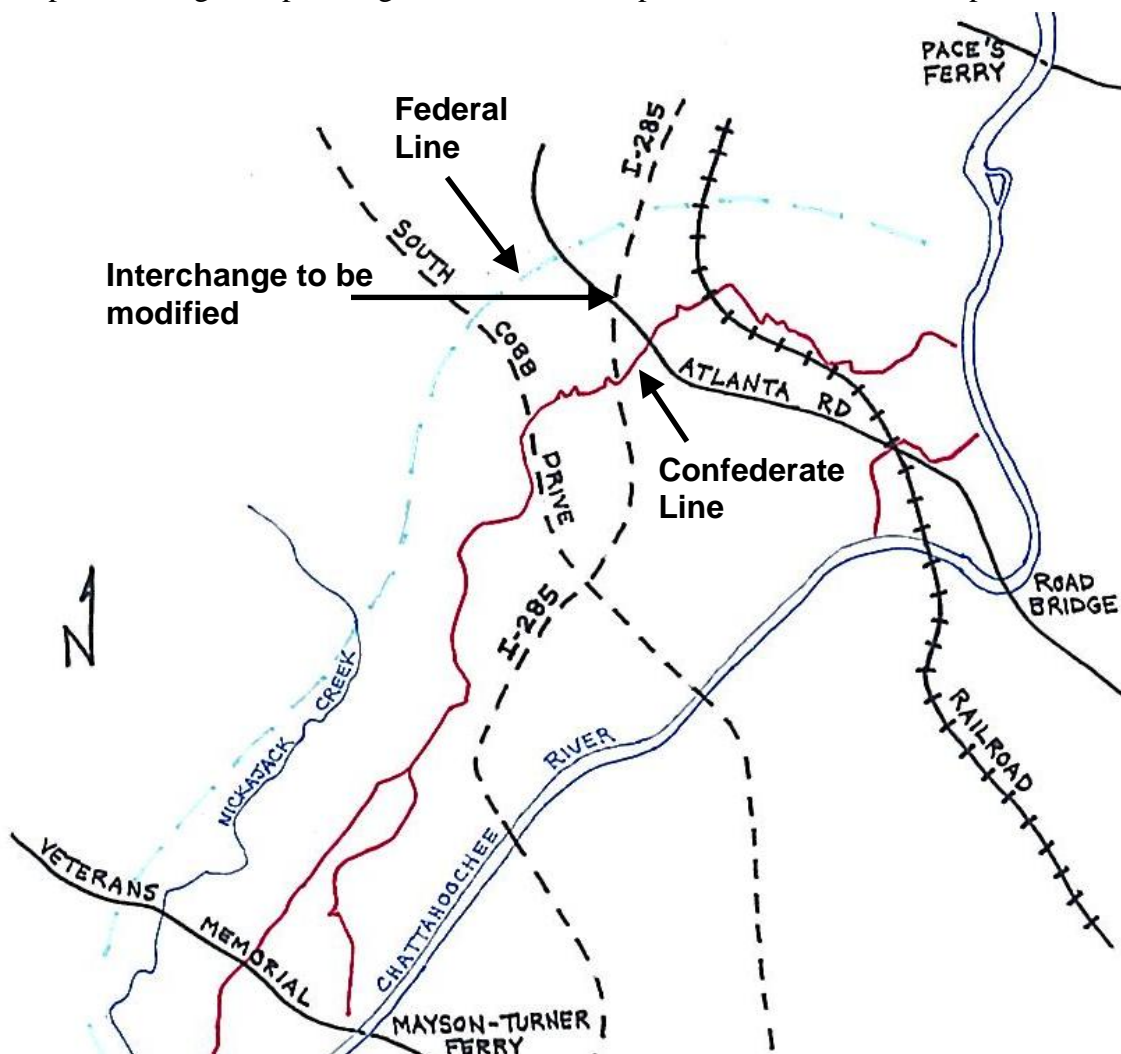
The update to the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report is in its final draft: See June 2009 newsletter and www.nps.gov/history/abpp/CWSII.htm. On 10 May, the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program sent GBA the 112 pages of the Georgia section: GBA responded the same day with four pages of corrections and comments.

State budget has little for preservation

We normally don't report on the state budget until it has been signed by the governor, but the State Fiscal Year 2011 (1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011) budget was passed on the last day of the drawn-out legislative session (29 April), so Governor Perdue is unlikely to sign it before June. Still, the governor won't be adding funds for preservation-related programs, so we know the news is not going to be good. In the budget passed by the legislature, six more Historic Preservation Division positions were eliminated and \$75,000 was cut from contract funds for Regional Commission preservation planning, which is especially important for the Northwest Georgia and Atlanta regions. Certainly, no funds were added to reverse some of the already implemented reductions to operating hours, staff, and maintenance at state historic sites.

Georgia Department of Transportation asks for GBA input

Modifications to the Atlanta Road interchange with I-285 precipitated a Georgia DoT study of the effect on a remnant of Johnston's River Line, occupied by the Confederates in early July 1864. The River Line, often the subject of newsletter articles over the last seven years, crossed what is now I-285 just south of the interchange. GBA recently received the formal request to participate in mitigation planning for the site and responded that we would help.



150 years ago this month

From 18 to 23 June, the Democratic Party convention that had broken up in Charleston in early May reconvenes in Baltimore. Five southern state delegations again walk out over the slavery issue, but the remaining delegates nominate Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois for president and former U.S. senator and Georgia governor Herschel Johnson for vice president.

On 28 June, southern Democrats who left earlier Democratic conventions meet in Baltimore. They nominate Vice President John Breckinridge of Kentucky for president and, in an effort to appeal beyond a regional base, Senator Joseph Lane of Oregon for vice president.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

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