

# G E O R G I A

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# 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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Road projects and battlefields

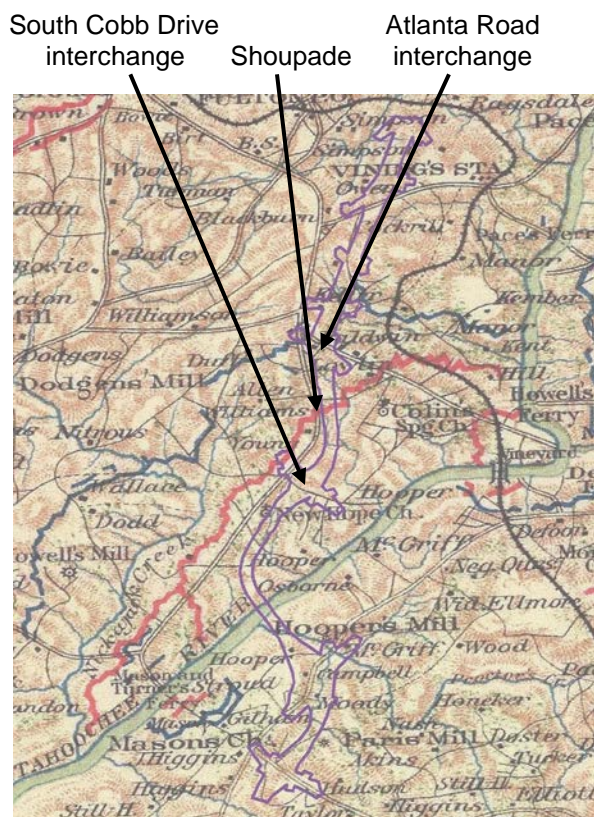
Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) has requested the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) include GBA as a consulting party on three road projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal and state transportation departments examine the effect on historic properties within the area of proposed projects.

The Westside Express Lane project involves widening I-285 on the west side of Atlanta. Most affected are remnants of Johnston's River Line, occupied by the Confederates 5-9 July 1864. Road and building construction effects on the River Line have been the subject of many articles in the Georgia Battlefields newsletter over the last 20 years. In this case, one of the best preserved of the nine remaining (of the original 36) unique fortifications known as Shoupades is on private property but is very close to the fence that marks the boundary of the I-285 Right Of Way. Our primary concern is not that GDOT will purchase or take the private property but that excavation may cause a slope failure that will destabilize the ground beneath the earthwork. A GDOT archaeologist has assured GBA that the GDOT design team is aware of the significance of the Shoupade and is working to avoid any impact on the site.

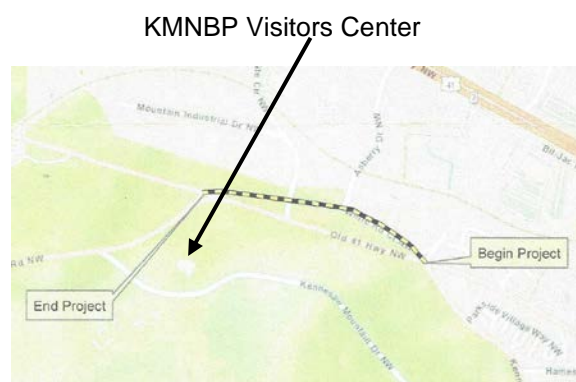
The Old Highway 41 project is within Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP), just northeast of the Visitors Center. Since KMNBP is the most visited national battlefield park in the U.S., traffic on Old Highway 41 is often heavy. The project includes a new four lane divided highway connecting two new roundabouts at Old Highway 41 intersections, one at Stilesboro Road and one at Kennesaw Avenue. A pedestrian tunnel would be built under the new highway.

The third project is in Paulding County on part of the late May 1864 battlefields just east of Dallas. The multiple intersections of E. Memorial Drive S.R. 6/61/381, Merchants Drive S.R. 6/61, Legion Road, and E. Memorial Drive S.R. 381 would feature two new roundabouts and realignments to allow free flow traffic lanes.

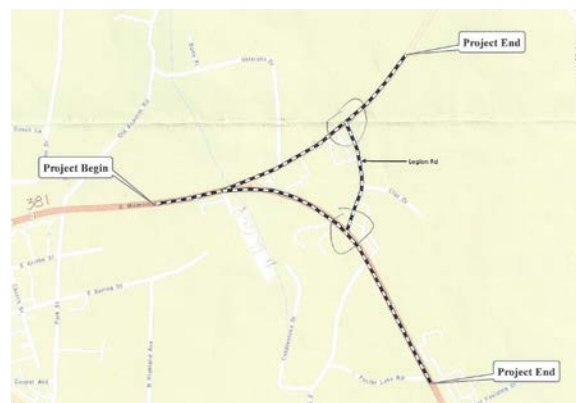
All these areas have already witnessed extensive road and, in some areas, commercial building construction, but GBA still monitors projects near battlefields.



Westside Express Lane project (purple outline) superimposed on Official Records map showing Confederate lines in red and Federal lines in blue.



Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park project.



Paulding County project. Dallas is to the left.

## McPherson monument site vandalized

In the first few days of August, the fence around the McPherson monument in East Atlanta Village was purposely damaged. See photos below. Major General James McPherson was a U.S. Army officer killed at this site during the Battle of Atlanta on 22 July 1864.

As was the case with the June vandalism to the statue of Colonel Hans Heg in Madison, Wisconsin, the perpetrators' motives are hard to figure. Heg was an abolitionist before the Civil War and was killed fighting for the Union at Chickamauga in September 1863.



## More Kennesaw Mountain National Park facilities now open

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park visitor center has reopened. The number of visitors at any one time will be limited, and the film will not be shown. The Mountain Road will be open to vehicles and bicycles only on weekdays, and no shuttle buses will run due to inability to social distance on the bus. As noted in last month's newsletter, fee operations have resumed, but park passes may now be purchased at the visitor center site in addition to online.

## Using PayPal through the Georgia Battlefields Association web site

We've had periodic problems when people try to use PayPal to pay membership dues and tour registration fees through the GBA web site. If you already have a PayPal account, the PayPal link we are required to use will not allow you to pay other than through your already established account. If you do not have a PayPal account, you should be able to pay with a credit card as a guest. In either case, if your payment is successfully completed, you should receive a confirming e-mail from PayPal within minutes. If you do not receive a confirming e-mail, please try again later. PayPal's system sometimes clogs with so many people ordering online because of concerns about going to a store during the pandemic. If you try a second time and still don't receive confirmation or if you receive an error message, you can send a check to GBA at P.O. Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066, or you can e-mail GBA treasurer Bill Gurry at [billgurry@bellsouth.net](mailto:billgurry@bellsouth.net). Bill will contact you and try to resolve the issue.

## 150 years ago articles compiled

From February 2006 to July 2020, Georgia Battlefields Association published 150 years ago articles relating to the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. We've compiled all the articles into one 65-page publication. If you already have a log-in for the secure section of our web site [www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org), you can access the compilation towards the bottom of the listing of Maps & Documents under the GBA Activities tab. If you are a member but do not have access to the secure section, contact the webmaster [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org).

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