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Lincoln Train Station sale divides Gettysburg council

By ERIN JAMES, Hanover Evening Sun, May 15, 2008

The Lincoln Train Station is again at the center of growing contention in Gettysburg, but this time the discord is among Borough Council members who disagree on whether or not private entities should still be considered as potential buyers of the historic structure.

At least two council members would like officials to consider selling the station to non-government entities, while several others are actively pursuing a sales agreement with the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Councilman Ted Streeter said Tuesday that he, Council President Dick Peterson and borough Manager John Lawver will be meeting today with park Superintendent John Latschar to review a letter from the Park Service to the borough explaining its intention to purchase the property.

The "letter of intent" would still need to be brought before the full council and voted upon, but Streeter said any potential sales negotiations with other interested parties will no longer be considered if and when that happens.

"Once we sign a letter of intent with the Park Service, then all other bidders are excluded," Streeter said.

At Monday's Borough Council meeting, borough Solicitor Harry Eastman said the council has not taken any official action on the matter and, therefore, there is not yet a contract between the borough and the park.

But the steps taken thus far have drawn opposition from two other council members, both of whom said

Tuesday that the borough's intention should have been made public and other interested parties considered.

"This train station belongs to the community, and I think we have to take into consideration perhaps there are other persons in the community that would be interested," said Councilwoman Caroline Smith. "It's not that I don't want the park service to have it, but I feel the citizens of the community should have the opportunity to have input."

Councilwoman Alice Estrada raised similar concerns at Monday's meeting and said Tuesday that some council members, including herself, "weren't enlightened" to the negotiations between officials from the borough and park.

"I just thought we were going to have the opportunity to entertain other offers," she said. "I just want them to be straight with me. If this is a done deal, then let's disclose that."

The borough's potential sale of the Lincoln Train Station - which opened last July after a \$3 million restoration project - was discussed in public for the first time at Monday's Borough Council meeting since the borough announced in December that it was considering selling the station.

At that time, then-Borough Council President Streeter said the council would entertain proposals from outside the Park Service - a nod to unnamed parties another councilman said had expressed an interest.

But Streeter said Tuesday that no other parties have come forward to formally express interest in buying the property, though he said he had been approached months ago by two entities.

"But I never heard anything further from them," Streeter said. "The Park

Service is the only entity that followed through."

And, he added, the borough's intention to sell the property has been well-known for six months.

"At this point, no one else is being considered because no one else has expressed interest," he said.

Estrada, however, said she knows of several parties interested in buying the station, but that the borough's asking price and criteria for sale have never been publicized. She said private, public and nonprofit entities should be considered.

"I feel like we skipped that step," she said. "I guess I'd like to see all interested parties raise their hands and talk with us."

Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said Tuesday that the park's interest in the train station has been mostly generated by the borough's expressed desire to sell it.

"I know the borough's intention is to transfer ownership as soon as possible," she said.

Lawhon said that if the park acquires the property, the station will be used in much the same way it is being used now - as a museum open to the public.

The 1859 Lincoln Train Station - where President Lincoln arrived on his trip to make the Gettysburg Address - was donated to the borough by the children of the late George Olinger in 1998. Paula and Skip Olinger offered the station building to the borough on the condition that it be restored and reopened as a museum.

Under a previous five-year agreement, Main Street Gettysburg - a nonprofit dedicated to improving the downtown - would have run the building and kept an office there, but Main Street and the borough sparred over how the building should be



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presented, eventually leading to Main Street's departure.

Though officials said in December that it was too early to say what legal conditions could be placed on any sale of the station, they emphasized that the station would probably not be sold to a private company that would turn it into a restaurant "or anything else," Lawver said at the time.

And most, if not all, council members seem to agree that they'd like to see the station in the hands of an individual or an organization that would operate it like a museum.

"We don't want it messed up with selling a lot of cheap souvenirs and that sort of thing," Smith said. "It's a very important part of our history here. I want it to be used in the best use it possibly can."

Gettysburg battlefield: Rehabilitating Cemetery Ridge

By ERIN JAMES, Hanover Evening Sun, May 17, 2008

Map in hand, park ranger Karlton Smith lays an index finger on one rectangular shape he trusts to orient visitors with their historic surroundings.

"This building's actually McDonald's," he says. "That's a good marker."

Seconds later, an outstretched arm points toward the modern-day structure as it stands in real life on Emmitsburg Road - across the street from where Smith stands on Cemetery Ridge, a chunk of land on which hundreds were killed and wounded during the Battle of Gettysburg.

The use of 20th-century developments as reference points is one way Smith said he has been able to help visitors better understand what happened here in 1863.

But it's a teaching method that could someday be considered passé.

For several years now, the Gettysburg National Military Park has been carrying out plans to "rehabilitate" some of the land within its 6,000-acre boundary.

Trees have been removed from places they didn't exist in 1863, when Civil War soldiers fought on open land. Telephone poles and utility lines have been relocated underground so as not to impede on a history student's perspective.

The overall goal is to make the battlefield again look as it did in 1863 - or, at least, as close as possible.

Next on the project list is 43.5 acres of land where the former Visitor Center and Cyclorama building are located.

Smith stands on a small piece of the entire project area, situated between Taneytown and Emmitsburg roads. It includes

Ziegler's Grove, several historic structures and part of Cemetery Ridge.

Because of the restaurant's proximity to the battlefield, Smith could actually be using McDonald's as a landmark for many more years. The restaurant is located in the borough of Gettysburg, outside the park's boundary, and not included within the project area. Park officials have said there is no intent to stretch "rehabilitation" into the borough.

But other modern structures will soon be removed from Smith's repertoire of visitor-orienting landmarks.

Plans call for the demolition of both the Visitor Center and Cyclorama building and their parking lots, the underground relocation of 6,700 feet of power lines and a restoration of the landscape as it once was.

Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon calls the upcoming rehabilitation

project the most "comprehensive" and "complex" of all.

But before anything changes, the Gettysburg National Military Park needs for Congress to allocate more than \$2.5 million in federal project funds. The total cost of the project is estimated at more than \$9.5 million, but the Gettysburg Foundation has committed \$7 million from fundraising efforts.

The park is relying on Congress to make up the balance, and it's requesting that the funds be included among the 2009 allocation of Centennial projects for parks nationwide.

Almost \$25 million in federal funds were committed to the initiative this year for a total of 110 improvement projects at 76 different parks.

Gettysburg is not on this year's list, but officials have requested that the Cemetery Ridge area be included on the 2009 list.

If the Gettysburg battlefield is going to return to a look more 1863 than 2008, Congress needs to pay up, Lawhon said.

"We couldn't do it without funding," she said.

Preservation, demolition

Almost 145 years ago, men in blue uniforms stood and fought for three days on this land, in defiance of a Confederate Army that lined a distant tree line and the town below.

The northern part was considered the key to the Union line, though that's difficult to discern with all the modern development.

"This area has seen a lot of action," Smith says while standing on the northern end of Cemetery Ridge, just west of the Cyclorama building.

Nearby stands the statue of Union Gen. Alexander Hays, whose brigade fought on this land, much of which was transformed into parking lots and



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Military Park, protecting the historically significant site from private development.

The 80-acre farm — bounded by Granite Schoolhouse Lane and Blacksmith Shop Road, between Taneytown Road and Baltimore Pike — is located at what was the logistical center of the Union battle line during the three-day Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. During and after the battle, the site also served as a field hospital, treating Union and Confederate wounded alike and providing the grounds for temporary interment of deceased soldiers. It was at the George Spangler Farm that Confederate General Lewis Armistead died of the wounds he suffered at the High Water Mark on July 3. He also was buried there. Foundation President Robert C. Wilburn says the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service at Gettysburg plans to rehabilitate the historic property, including its farm buildings, for use in connection with educational programming and outreach activities of the two organizations.

"Many of the fields, buildings and boundary lines associated with the Civil War-era George Spangler farm are still intact," Wilburn noted. "Purchase of this historic site is in keeping with our ongoing mission to enhance the preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Gettysburg." In addition to providing a venue for programming and outreach, Wilburn noted that the Foundation's purchase of the property also will ensure preservation of historic woodlands and field patterns, as well as the historic buildings on the site. The Foundation paid owners Ronald, Richard and Clarence Andrew approximately \$1.9 million for the

historic tract of land. Wilburn acknowledged the Williams Family Foundation of Georgia, whose lead matching gift made the acquisition possible.

"This is another important step in preserving lands within the park boundary," said Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent John A. Latschar.

A significant amount of rehabilitation will be needed before the site is able to support programming, Wilburn noted.

The Gettysburg Foundation, www.gettysburgfoundation.org, is a private, nonprofit educational organization working in partnership with the National Park Service to enhance preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Gettysburg.

History and Significance of the George Spangler Farm

During the July 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, the George Spangler Farm was the setting for some of the most significant battle support functions that contributed to the Union victory. The farm, located at the logistical center of the Union battle line, is bounded by two local roads — Granite School House Road and Blacksmith Shop Road. These two were among the busiest of the local roads used to supply troops, artillery and ammunition during the three days of battle. The farm also is connected by Granite Schoolhouse Lane to two major logistical highways — Baltimore Turnpike and Taneytown Road. Because of these factors, the Union command selected the farm as its closest — and most important — artillery and ammunition support facility. Timely artillery support from the Spangler Farm was instrumental in helping the Union Army hold the high ground on July 2 and achieve

victory July 3. Infantry support from the Union 5th and 12th Corps moved across the fields of the farm — and along the local roads that border it — in their hasty rescue of the beleaguered Union battle line on July 2.

The farm also served as a field hospital, both during and after the battle. Before sundown on July 1, 1863, the wounded of the Union's 11th Corps found their way to the farm, where surgeons established the division's hospital. This hospital remained in active use throughout July, treating Union and Confederate wounded and also providing the grounds for temporary interment of deceased soldiers. It was in a small outbuilding on the Spangler Farm that Confederate General Lewis Armistead died of the wounds he suffered at the High Water Mark on July 3. He also was buried on the property.

The selection of the farm as a location for the field hospital was based on the size of the buildings on the property, its relatively protected position from enemy artillery fire, its supply of well water, the large and accessible farm fields, and its proximity to Baltimore Turnpike (the route to Westminster's railroad transportation).

A majority of the fields, buildings and boundary lines associated with the Civil War-era George Spangler farm are intact and retain a considerable degree of integrity. Because of this integrity — and the property's significance to the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg — the Spangler property contributes to Gettysburg National Military Park's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.



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Hunting for history in Westminster

By JIm Joyner, Westminster Eagle,
May 7, 2008

Contest celebrates the sites of
Corbit's Charge

This year marks the 145th anniversary of Corbit's Charge, the Civil War skirmish that took place on the streets of Westminster on June 29, 1863, and Westminster's Historic District Commission is highlighting some of the city landmarks of that fateful day.

That's the goal -- and challenge -- in the commission's second annual Historical Scavenger Hunt, asking residents and visitors to identify 11 historic buildings in downtown Westminster and send in an entry that lists the addresses. The contest is being conducted in May as part of Historic Preservation Month and has a deadline for entries of May 30.

Winners will be chosen at random from all those who identify the addresses correctly.

The commission will have photos of all the historic buildings, a list of "clues," other details and copies of the entry form available at its booth at the Westminster Flower and Jazz Festival on May 10. Copies are also available at The Westminster Eagle, 121 E. Main St., Westminster, during office hours.

Tim Rogers, natural and cultural resources planner for Westminster, said this year the anniversary of Corbit's Charge made it natural to focus on the places in town where Capt. Charles Corbit engaged the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia -- led by Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart.

On that day in 1863, Corbit and members of the Union First Delaware Cavalry engaged Stuart's forces near

the corner of Main Street and Washington Road.

It wasn't a lengthy battle, but during the engagement, several local buildings and families were involved -- and many of those are the subject of the scavenger hunt.

The hunt will include several prizes, including three downtown restaurant gift certificates, the book "Images of America: Carroll County" by Catherine Baty of the Historical Society of Carroll County, and the board game, "Westminsteropoly."

In addition, participants who bring their entries to the city's administrative office 56 W. Main St., or the Longwell Armory during business hours will receive a commemorative poster, "Westminster's Civil War Story," printed by Kohn Creative.

For more information on the work of the commission, call Tim Rogers at 410-848-4628.

Carter House's Cartwright resigns as museum's executive director

Tennessean.com, May 23, 2008

FRANKLIN — Thomas Cartwright has resigned his post as executive director of the Carter House museum. Cartwright served as executive director for little more than 19 years. He announced his resignation Monday during a meeting of the Carter House Association Board of Directors.

David Fraley, who is currently the Carter House historian and assistant curator, will serve as interim executive director while a nationwide search for Cartwright's replacement can be found.

"Thomas will be greatly missed," said Shanon Wasielewski, board president and city preservation officer in a

prepared statement. "He has made an indelible mark on not only the Carter House, but on the interpretation of the Battle of Franklin and on those that have toured the house or had the fortune of hearing him speak during his tenure as executive director."

The Carter House was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the Battle of Franklin which was fought on Nov. 30, 1864.

His resignation comes a few months after plans were announced last year to build a new interpretative center at the Carter House.

Carter House officials got a \$1.2 million state grant to complete on what will one day be a \$4.5 million interpretative center.

Piece of Petersburg's history stolen

BY MARKUS SCHMIDT, Progress-Index, May 17, 2008

PETERSBURG — A relic hunter has been charged with stealing an intact Civil War shell that was embedded in a downtown brick building and was one of the last visible artifacts from the 10-month siege of the city.

Timothy Clary, 49, of Chester was arrested Tuesday and charged with three felonies — destruction of property with intent, grand larceny and the use of explosives, according to police and court records. Clary was charged with stealing a federal Hotchkiss shell — roughly 7 inches long and 3 inches in diameter — from an empty building at 127 W. Bank St. The shell was eventually recovered by police, but had to be destroyed.

The Saturday theft of the shell, which had been a Petersburg landmark for more than 143 years, has outraged local historians and others. "This is really a shame," said Lloyd Pugh, a Colonial Heights collector of Civil War



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artillery. "This was an important part of local history, and now it's no longer there."



MANDANA MARSH/STAFF PHOTO. Brian Caldwell holds the remnants of a Civil War-era Hotchkiss shell that was stolen from the outside brick wall of an East Bank St. building he owns in Petersburg

One of the owners of the building witnessed the theft. Margaret Burns, who owns the 1811 rowhouse with her husband Brian Caldwell, was driving by at about 8:30 a.m. Saturday when she noticed a 40-foot ladder leaning against the wall and a man pulling out the shell. Burns said she also noticed a teenager steadying the ladder. She wrote down the license plate number of the vehicle and called police. Authorities identified the man as Clary and the teenager as his 14-year-old son. Clary is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow in Petersburg General District Court. The youth was not charged in the incident. Clary, who declined comment, was described by several people as a relic hunter who was friends with Samuel H. White, 53, a Chester relic hunter who was killed Feb. 18 while trying to

defuse a large Civil War cannonball. Chesterfield County police seized the shell from Clary and destroyed it as part of tighter regulations regarding Civil War ordinance that was implemented after White's death. "Since it was still intact, they had to disarm it and it exploded in the process," Caldwell says. Chris Calkins, chief of interpretation for the Petersburg National Battlefield, believes that the shell was the last of its kind. "I don't know of any building in the city that has any visible explosives still intact," he said. Now all that's left are the shell's fragments and a small hole in the Bank Street building. "The shell belonged to the building. That is what made it special," Caldwell said. Caldwell now has the fragments in a dog dish. "I don't think we can put it back together," he says. "But maybe it can be partly restored and displayed."

Putting it back in its old place is no option for Caldwell. "Who knows, somebody might steal it again, I don't want to take that chance," he said.

Gettysburg Country Club Facing Foreclosure

GETTYSBURG, Pa. —WGAL.com, May 25, 2008

The Gettysburg Country Club may be getting a little smaller. Board members said they may consider selling land to the National Park Service because the club is facing foreclosure. Current and former board members will be responsible for \$30,000 in back taxes if the foreclosure goes through.

A representative from Gettysburg National Military Park said the organization is interested in buying the land, which is inside park boundaries.

Farm Owner Embraces Preservation

Easement Will Protect Against Development, Brings Tax Benefits
By Arianne Aryanpur, Washington Post, May 11, 2008

A land preservation group last week announced an agreement with the owners of a 371-acre farm on the Potomac River near Lucketts that will protect the historic property from development.

The farm, which includes agricultural land, forests, streams, rare wildlife habitat and one mile of undeveloped river shoreline, belongs to Steve Cox and Avis Renshaw, owners of Mom's Apple Pie Co., a bakery chain with stores in Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince William counties.

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, based in Annandale, said Cox and Renshaw have agreed to place the property in a conservation easement held by the trust. The farm is known as the place where the Confederate army forded the Potomac on its way to the Battle of Antietam during the Civil War.

"The Cox Farm easement is a real milestone because it is a property that combines ecological resources with historic resources with sustainability," said trust President Mike Nardolilli. "It has great ecological benefits being on the river, it has a great historical significance because of the march by Lee to Antietam, and it's also important because it preserves a local farm.

The easement, which was finalized last month, is a voluntary agreement between the farm's owners and the trust that permanently limits development on the property. In return for giving up development rights on the land, Cox and Renshaw receive significant tax benefits.



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Civil War Preservation Trust Unveils Website Redesign

CWPT, May 14, 2008 - The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) recently unveiled an initial redesign to its website, including features designed to appeal to both those familiar with the organization's mission and those only just learning about the threat to our nation's hallowed ground. The improvements now being implemented will pave the way for a full overhaul and restructuring set to make its debut this fall.

"We are committed to using 21st-century technology to help us to preserve historic 19th-century landscapes," said CWPT president James Lighthizer. "There is no better way than the Internet for us to communicate with the world the grave threat that our Civil War battlefields and historic sites are facing.

New and emerging technologies make history more exciting to study than ever before. For example, the Internet has allowed CWPT to take a major step forward with its popular battlefield maps – animated versions available online. These detailed diagrams allow visitors to watch the battle unfold while demonstrating the historic significance of properties protected by the Trust. The first in this series of animated maps, depicting the action at CWPT's First Day at Chancellorsville site, is not available at

<http://www.civilwar.org/fdac>.

Additional maps will follow in the coming months.

Although a full redesign is underway and scheduled for debut this autumn, many improved features are available now, including a refined search function, an improved "Get Involved" section and an easier to navigate

homepage. Other new features include a new CWPT photo site highlighting historic and contemporary battlefield photography as well as a new section on Civil War books.

Confederate 'mega-flag' to ripple over West Tennessee

Dyersburg Gazette, May 10, 2008

Construction on one of the most visible promontories in West Tennessee for a massive Confederate flag and plaza is expected to begin in June.

Trimble resident Hamilton Parks, a life member of the heritage group Sons of Confederate Veterans, donated a 50-by-50 foot parcel north of where his great-grandfather's log cabin was located, adjacent to Pierce Cemetery.

The "Parks Cemetery Ridge Memorial Plaza" is planned to be a circular sitting area with the focal point an 85-foot pole with a 20-by-30-foot Confederate flag flying overhead. A granite marker on the plaza, one of four from a former Civil War-era theater in Richmond, Va., will include the SCV charge and other inscriptions dedicated to Confederate soldiers.

The project is part of an effort to place the "mega-flags" on prominent locations across the South. The flag will be lighted at night, said Parks.

Bill Foster, past commander of the SCV camp in Union City, is coordinating the plaza and flag work with Parks.

"We hope it will draw some interest from people who want to know more about the Confederacy," said Foster. "It's about heritage. We don't want to give the wrong impression to anyone. This is about true history and heritage."

Parks said 11 Confederate veterans are buried in the nearby cemetery, which make the place ideal for the monument.

Foster said the flag's location, visible from the future I-69 "and halfway between Canada and Mexico," made it suitable for the national SCV organization to contribute to the construction cost.



Hamilton Parks, at left, stands with Bill Foster, past commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans camp in Union City, near the spot where a massive 'megaflag' will fly atop a lighted 85-foot pole near Trimble. Parks ordered construction of the pavilion behind him to commemorate the location of his great-grandfather's log cabin. The pavilion is designed in the style of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Construction of the new 'Parks Cemetery Ridge Memorial Plaza' is scheduled to begin in June.

Volunteers Needed for New Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center

CWi, May 27, 2008

To support the new Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, and the expected increase in visitation that it will bring, the National Park Service is recruiting



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and training additional visitor services volunteers over the course of the summer and fall of 2008. Work stations for volunteers at the new facility include: Outdoor Plaza Ambassador, Resource Room Attendant, and Gallery Guide. Specific details on the available volunteer positions are:

Outdoor Plaza Ambassador

This is a seasonal position serving summers and some of the fall and spring seasons. Volunteer serves as a visitor contact outside of the building, providing maps and other literature and general guidance on what to see and do.

Resource Room Attendant

A year-round position, Resource Room Attendants assist visitors in the museum's resource room. Volunteer must be extremely reliable to make his/her shift each week, and must be familiar with basic computer keyboard functions as well as a bit about research. Attendant will assist visitors with more in-depth searches of gallery stations, materials, and research programs. This person must be a "people person" as well as fairly computer literate.

Gallery Guide

This position can be seasonal or year-round, and is for the volunteer who has always had a special interest in the Civil War, and who enjoys more informal interactions with visitors. Gallery Guides roam the museum galleries, answering questions and pointing visitors to sources

for more information on specific topics. They also serve as an additional set of "eyes and ears" in the busy galleries, looking for visitors not following rules or respecting the facility. Hands-on

reproduction objects can be used for extra inquisitive and younger visitors.

Anyone who may be interested in these new volunteer opportunities can read more about the job of a Visitor Services volunteer and how to apply by going to the website at www.nps.gov/gett and clicking on the Support Your Park link.

Maryland Group Asking School Board To Ban Confederate Flag County-Wide

Megan Healey, Your4State.com, May 13, 2008

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD - A group of black leaders is going before the Allegany County School Board to request an all-out ban of the Confederate flag.

Back in February, the principal of Fort Hill High School banned the flag from being displayed on school grounds amid major racial tension that led to several student suspensions. Tuesday night, a group of community and church leaders plans to ask the school board for a permanent, county-wide ban of the Confederate flag in all public schools.