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Baltimore City seeks tenant for landmark President Street Station

Preservationists hope to restrict use of Civil-war era train depot

By Julie Bykowicz, Baltimore Sun, May 26, 2009

Baltimore is set to designate President Street Station, an 1850s train depot with chapters in the histories of both the Underground Railroad and the Civil War, as a city landmark. But the city's plan to also seek a long-term tenant to revitalize the vacant building has a group of history buffs fearful that the building's past will get swallowed up in any future use.

This summer, the Planning Department expects to issue a request for proposals on how to reuse what is believed to be the oldest surviving urban train station in the country. The small, red-brick structure at 601 President St. stands out among the gleaming and still-growing Inner Harbor East hotel and retail district.

"We want to be able to more effectively share this treasure with the public, and we want the building itself to be cared for," said Kathleen Kotarba, director of Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, which will review the proposals. "We feel that by proceeding with the RFP, we're going to be so much more effective in both areas."

But the Friends of President Street Station, a group that helped save the building decades ago, wants the city to hold off on finding a new tenant. It says the only appropriate use of the building is as a museum, and it's frantically trying to attract the interest of National Park Service.

The storied site was part of the Underground Railroad, a passage to freedom for slaves from the South. Then, in April 1861, Massachusetts troops arriving at the station were greeted by angry Southern sympathizers - the several soldiers and residents killed marked the first bloodshed of the Civil War. City-owned for decades, the station has several times come close to its demise.

In the 1980s, it sat crumbling and vacant amid blighted warehouses. In the 1990s, it was reborn as a Civil War museum but, hard up for visitors and money, closed in late 2007. Soon after, the city announced it would seek a new tenant. Preservationists and the Friends halted the process, worried that a developer would snatch it up and raze or radically renovate the structure.

While the city considered its options, officials allowed the Waterfront Partnership, a trash and safety crew, to use the station as its base. On the weekends, the Friends offer anyone who wanders in a tutorial of the few remaining exhibits.

"There's no question that building can be better used," Kotarba said. Now, the city landmark designation process is nearly over. CHAP, the preservation commission, held the necessary public hearings and needs only the approval of the mayor and the Baltimore City Council. A council committee is scheduled to take up the matter May 28.

As a city landmark, the building's exterior cannot be altered without CHAP's permission. But Kotarba said the RFP will require the tenant to abide by even stricter rules: Any plan must include a museum component. Any commercial use, she said, "must be subordinate to the history."

The ideal applicants would be a partnership of groups that can fully use the building, she said. She gave Westminster Hall and Edgar Allan Poe's burial grounds as an example. CHAP operates the Poe museum, but the University of Maryland law school has stewardship of the property, which can be rented for events. The Friends of President Street Station remain skeptical.

"The question in our minds is who and just exactly what are they going to do in there," founding member Ralph Vincent said. "What we're trying to do is not only preserve the structure physically, but preserve those stories that made it important to save the building."

Vincent's group would prefer the station become part of the National Park Service.

It's a "very exciting idea," Kotarba said, but it can take years and an act of Congress. The station, she said, deserves a tenant sooner.

Gettysburg Electric Map may have found a home

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,

Gettysburg Times, May 12, 2009

A nonprofit group is working with the National Park Service to keep the historic Electric Map in Gettysburg. Historic Gettysburg-Adams County is talking to the park about obtaining the map and featuring it in a new museum, possibly along Steinwehr Avenue.

"It's quite possible that it could be coming out of storage," HGAC President Curt Musselman said Monday morning.

Musselman's group has been working to obtain the map for "about a year," and the group has set up a task force to acquire it.



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"We're going to build a museum — a map museum — making the Electric Map a centerpiece for that," said Judi McGee, chairwoman of the HGAC task force.

"The map itself will be restored," McGee said. "We'll also be able to preserve and restore some other period maps along the way and some artifacts."

She promised that the map will be staying in the Borough of Gettysburg, although she did not name specific sites.

"We're looking at an adaptive re-use of an old building," McGee told Snyder. "We're also looking at building something new. We're looking at a number of sites." Steinwehr Avenue businessman Eric Uberman said Monday that he has land beside his American Civil War Museum to accommodate the group. He called the property an "optimum site" for the Electric Map. "We're cooperating with them — we're not buying the map," said Uberman.

"We have the space," continued Uberman. "It's the spot that has the most visibility, it's in Gettysburg, and it's literally right where the map was before."

Gettysburg National Military Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon confirmed Monday afternoon that the park is talking to the group, but stressed that "it's very early in the process." The park has entertained offers for the map in the past, but nothing panned out.

"Their goals would certainly be in sync with the Park Service's goals, which would be to display the Electric Map once again to the visiting public," said Lawhon. "The goal is to work cooperatively and re-open it to the public."

Uberman's property is located across

the street from the entrance to the old visitor center. He thinks that the map would "do wonders" in revitalizing Steinwehr Avenue, which has seen a dramatic drop-off in commerce since the old visitor center closed.

"It would be a tremendous boost to Steinwehr," said Uberman. "I really hope that the town fathers support this group. It would be a tremendous tax benefit to the area, and maybe pull back some of the revenue that has been lost since the new visitor center opened."

The map was cut into four pieces in March and moved out of the old park visitor center. It is now being stored in a park facility along the Hanover Road, just east of Gettysburg. The map was not incorporated into the plans for the new \$103 million Battlefield Visitor Center, which opened in April 2008 along the Baltimore Pike.

"I just think in their new design, the Electric Map didn't fit in," Musselman said. "Some day again, people will be able to see it."

McGee noted that "there are some issues there with asbestos and construction that we need to address," and that talks are ongoing between the federal government and HGAC.

HGAC has worked with the Park Service on other projects, said Musselman. The group is aiming to have the map on display again in time for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, which occurs in 2013.

"That would sort of be the time-line on the project, so don't hold your breath waiting for it to happen," Musselman said. "Everything would take time. It's not just a little project."

The map entertained millions of tourists over the years, when it was the park's primary attraction. It used 625 flashing Christmas bulbs to

illustrate the movement of troops during the Battle of Gettysburg. Opponents argue that the map's technology is obsolete, while proponents believe that it's an iconic American treasure.

The current map dates back to 1962-63, although the original map dates back to the 1930s.

Long overdue Gettysburg battlefield projects under way

Operational budget increases and stimulus money are allowing Gettysburg National Military Park to catch up on maintenance - and fill nine positions that have been vacant.
By ERIN JAMES, Hanover Evening Sun, May 27, 2009

An orange, handwritten sign that reads "Warning: No floor" hangs cautiously on the door of the Daniel Klingel House, located in the heart of the Gettysburg battlefield.

Occupied by both Union and Confederate troops at some point during the three-day Battle of Gettysburg, the 160-year-old house is an historical gem.

But the Klingel House is also a mess. The logs that hold the structure together are rotting, its foundation may need to be replaced, and Gettysburg National Military Park officials aren't even sure of the building's original footprint. The structure's floorboards were recently removed and replaced with sheets of plywood that balance precariously on the remaining beams.

"It's a structure that hasn't had a lot of care over the years," said the park's chief of maintenance, Marc Pratt.

That's about to change, however.

With a budget that rarely saw increases from year to year, Gettysburg park officials struggled for



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years to keep up with a backlog of necessary maintenance projects. In August 2006, Pratt told USA Today that time and a tight budget were

the Klingel House rehabilitation to be completed in the fall of 2010. Then, the building will again be rented to park employees as a residence.

will cost about \$219,000 when all is said and done.

It's the first time in a long time that significant work has been done to maintain the fence, which once stood on Lafayette Square in Washington D.C., but was given to the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association by Congress to be erected around East Cemetery Hill in 1889. In 1934, it was relocated to the cemetery.

"From a distance, the fence looks like it's not in bad shape," Pratt said. "As you get up close, you can certainly see some of the flaws."

But many more millions of dollars are needed if the park is to truly catch up on its backlog.

Standing on the corner of Table Rock and Biglerville roads is a building that can only be described as decrepit.

The metal roof of the John Blocher Farm house is deteriorating and the mortar is crumbling. The structure's floor is covered with rotted wood and paint that has flaked from the walls and ceilings.

Just to stabilize - not rehabilitate - the building would require more than \$117,000. After a quick glance around the building, Pratt said he wouldn't be surprised if rehabilitation cost more like \$150,000.

"But I think you could easily double that," he said.

For now, Pratt said, all the park can do is let the building breathe through screened-in windows until the funding is available to work on it.

The same is true of the Josiah Benner Barn, located on Old Harrisburg Road.

Acquired by Gettysburg National Military Park in 2001, the barn was in the line of advance by Gen. Jubal Early's Confederate division on the afternoon of July 1. The walls and height of the building provided cover for skirmishers on both sides during



Gettysburg National Military Park Chief of Maintenance Marc Pratt walks through the house at the John Blocher Farm last week. Its position near the junction of two roads north of town placed it in the center of part of the battle on July 1, 1863. The house is one of several park structures in need of serious rehabilitation. (Evening Sun Photo by James Robinson)

taking a toll on the battlefield's historic structures and monuments.

"You start to look around, and there's work everywhere that needs to be done. We just don't have the money or people to do those things," Pratt said at the time. "It's a red flag that we're getting behind, and it appears to be getting worse."

But since 2006 - the year Pratt recently described as the park's "low" point in terms of funding shortages and backlogged projects - Gettysburg National Military Park's operating budget has increased by \$1,651,000. That includes \$935,155 in the 2008 budget specifically for repair and rehabilitation - up from only \$35,570 in 2006.

Add to that another \$700,000 in stimulus money that the park will use to repair the Klingel House and replace 5,000 feet of deteriorated water line at the McMillan Woods Scout Camp on West Confederate Avenue, and things are finally starting to turn around. Pratt said he expects

Another indication of change is the park's intention to fill nine permanent positions - currently vacant - before October. Those positions include a facilities operations specialist, preservationist, historic preservation maintenance worker, engineering equipment operator supervisor, law-enforcement park ranger, preservation worker, park guide, biologist and tractor operator.

Because the park's operating budget flat-lined for many years, officials said they had no choice but to leave a position vacant when an employee moved on - another reason why projects backlogged.

Slowly but surely, however, officials say they are beginning to chip away at the project list.

For example, work is almost complete on a rehabilitation of the Lafayette Square Memorial Fence, which, since 1934, has surrounded part of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. The project to remove lead-based paint and repair broken parts of the fence



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various portions of the conflict, and the building was later used as a hospital.

Before the park could even embark on a \$485,521 rehabilitation project, officials need to complete a \$85,000 historic structures report.

Each year, the park submits its list of projects in need of funding - which currently number about four dozen - to the National Park Service for consideration. Park Service officials at a regional and national level then decide which parks and which projects receive funds.

Even if enough funding becomes available in the future to do all of the projects, Pratt said old structures are in constant need of attention. Regular maintenance, however, is the key, he said.

"I think we're making progress, but the list keeps growing," he said. "It's always in a constant decline. But you have to get the structure in a good condition again and try to maintain them."

New Lincoln letter added to archives collection

By NATASHA T. METZLER,

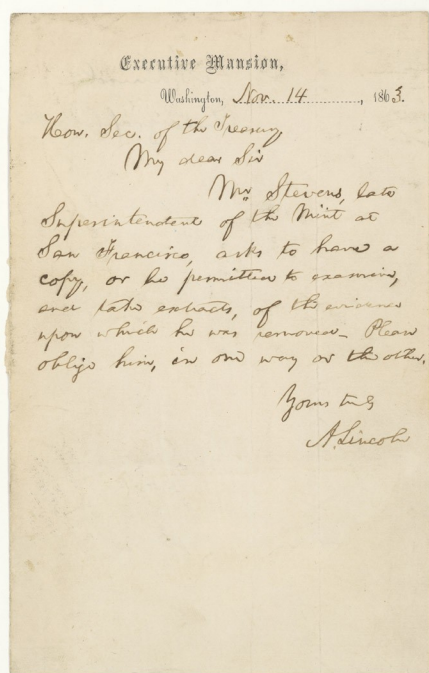
Associated Press, May 28, 2009

WASHINGTON — The National Archives on Thursday added to its collection a short letter written by President Abraham Lincoln to help an ousted U.S. Mint director, who was a friend of a fellow Republican.

In the new letter, Lincoln asked his treasury secretary, Salmon Chase, to allow the fired head of the U.S. Mint in San Francisco, Robert Stevens, to review the charges that led to his removal. Lincoln had appointed Stevens as a favor to Oregon Sen. Edward Baker, the ousted director's father-in-law.

"This letter, while seemingly routine, is an extremely important key to understanding President Lincoln's

relationship with Sen. Baker," said James Hastings, director of access programs at the archives. "It shows his interest, even in the midst of the Civil War, in political issues on the West Coast."



This letter from President Lincoln to Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase has been returned to the government. Image from the National Archives and Records Administration.

The letter is written on yellowed stationery simply marked Executive Mansion, Washington, with a dashed line where the date — Nov. 14, 1863 — was filled in by hand.

The archives says it was torn years earlier from a bound volume of Chase's correspondence with government officials. The removal occurred before the book of letters was inducted into the archives.

Specialists at the archives will reattach the letter to the place it was torn from the book.

"We will have this piece of the puzzle now where it belongs and scholars

can now interpret its importance to this critical period," Hastings said.

The letter was donated to the National Archives by Lawrence Cutler, a private collector from Scottsdale, Ariz.

Cutler said he bought the letter at auction about three years ago. He was contacted the following year by the archives, which believed the letter belonged in its custody. He said he waited until Lincoln's bicentennial to donate the item.

Battle of Franklin Soldier's bones remain in limbo

By Kevin Walters, THE TENNESSEAN, May 25, 2009

FRANKLIN — The bones of a Civil War soldier will stay buried at a site on Columbia Avenue until city officials and developers can further discuss what to do next.

Franklin aldermen discussed the matter during a work session Tuesday but made no decisions about the city's role in the matter.

Mayor John Schroer and city aldermen want to learn where the bones — likely a Union soldier buried in late 1864 — could be reburied in Franklin and what the possible costs of exhuming the skeleton would be.

Work crews for Wolfe Development Co. of Jackson, Tenn., unearthed the remains of the skeleton in mid-May while digging a trench. State law requires landowners who discover a grave on their property to either exhume the remains and rebury them elsewhere or leave them in that location and create a buffer around the site.

The prevailing opinion among city leaders and local historians is that the bones should be reburied away from the site, which is set to become a



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mixed-use development that will include a Chick-fil-A restaurant.

"It just doesn't seem right . . . to have him where he may rest forever next to a fast-food restaurant," said Alderman Mike Skinner.

Developer Wesley Wolfe did not attend the meeting Tuesday and did not return a call or e-mail for comment for this story.

Skinner said he spoke to Wolfe about the matter and said the developer is receptive to moving the body to another site for reburial. The city might oversee finding the new burial plot and filing a motion in court to have the body reburied.

Some want the body placed in the city's Rest Haven Cemetery, where Union officers are buried. Local historian Rick Warwick told aldermen that there appears to be unused land available at that site.

One option Skinner said could be pursued is burying the soldier in the Assault at the Cotton Gin Park on Columbia Avenue.

That land, the scene of some of the fiercest fighting on Nov. 30, 1864, is where a Pizza Hut restaurant stood until city leaders bought the land and tore the restaurant down with fanfare a few years ago.

West Virginia Church walls reveal treasure

By Naomi Smoot, Martinsburg Journal-News, May 17, 2009

BUNKER HILL - Paint flaked away from the walls of a former Berkeley County church, and suddenly, history emerged.

W. Michie Klusemyer, bishop of West Virginia's Episcopal Diocese, said workmen were called in recently to help renovate a Bunker Hill church known as the Morgan Chapel. What

they found, he said, was beyond anyone's expectations.

"I believe it's quite a find," he said.

As workmen scraped the walls, paint peeled away in chunks, revealing what appeared to be graffiti left behind by soldiers from the Civil War. The more they scraped, the more writings appeared.

The graffiti appears to have been left behind by both Northern and Southern troops who served during the Civil War, he said. It covers much of the inside of the building.

"It appears to be as high as people could reach," Klusemyer said. "It's down low. It's up high. It's just everywhere."

Many of the writings were simply names with dates scribbled nearby. Klusemyer said the dates hailed from the days of the Civil War and they were accompanied by the artists' regiments.

Other comments that lined the walls were more extensive, he said.

Klusemyer said one soldier wrote, "I should not have written on the walls of the house of God. I would not have done so if it had not already been marked up." Another stated, "It's not our rebellion," and a third comment read, "Down with traitors, treason and copperheads."

Klusemyer said some were written by those who appeared to have believed that they might not live much longer. The individuals left behind requests for prayers written on the church's walls.

The writings were accompanied by drawings of pigs, flowers and even a woman being chased by a man with horns, Klusemyer said.

The church building was already known to have ties to local history. The church was established in 1740 and served as the family chapel of

Morgan Morgan, a man reputed to be the first white settler in West Virginia.

Graffiti was previously found inside a smaller room of the chapel, but no one had considered the possibility that it could be scrawled throughout the entire church, Klusemyer said.

Several years ago a historic survey was conducted of the building. Even then, he said no one thought to consider the possibility that the entire building could be covered in graffiti.

"We knew about the writing in the back. We did not know about the writing in the front of the church," he said. "No one thought to consider it."

Some say it makes the church, which has been closed to the public for nearly eight years, a bit of a treasure.

"To me that's very significant. You've got something that was done during the war itself by the people who were there," said Don C. Wood, president of the Berkeley County Historical Society.

Wood said he knows of no other buildings in the area that are lined with graffiti from that period, although several others also were used by troops who were looking for places to use as barracks, hospitals and offices.

Not all churches were used for this purpose. Wood said a United Methodist church in Bunker Hill became a place for soldiers to stable their horses.

Klusemyer said the diocese is continuing to evaluate what to do with the property. When renovations first got under way on the structure, he said the plan was to open it up as a historic site that could be used as a wedding chapel. Those plans are being re-evaluated.

"Now we've discovered history," he said. "I see this as a valuable treasure for Civil War documentation for the state of West Virginia."



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Klusemyer said he has talked with a variety of individuals involved in historic preservation, including the National Park Service. The diocese has yet to determine whether it will retain ownership of the structure, or hand it over to someone else in light of the historic find, he said.

Work on the building has ceased until a way can be found to continue removing the paint without damaging the writings.

Craig Symonds Wins Austin Civil War Round Table's 14th Annual Laney Book Prize

CWi, May 4, 2009

Craig L. Symonds, Professor Emeritus at the U.S. Naval Academy (and Honorary Lifetime BCWRT member – Ed.), has won the Fourteenth Annual Daniel M. & Marilyn W. Laney Book Prize given by the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc. for his important new work, *Lincoln and His Admirals* published by the Oxford University Press.

Michael Parrish, Professor of History at Baylor University and a member of the Laney Prize selection committee, wittily noted that "Symonds has been anchored at the Naval Academy for a long time and delved into a boatload of material that no historian has dived into as thoroughly and carefully as he did. He portrays Lincoln quite accurately as a practical, innovative, and patient commander-in-chief who effectively handled a ton of problems from the Navy Dept. and its admirals. James McPherson, Civil War historian and author of *Battle Cry of Freedom* has said of Symonds work, "We know a great deal about Lincoln and his generals, but until now very little about Lincoln and his admirals.

With a compelling portrait of personalities and a sharp analysis of strategy, Craig Symonds offers a gripping narrative that finally gives the Union navy—and its commander-in-chief—the credit they deserve for the important part they played in winning the Civil War."

The Laney Prize will be presented to Symonds in the amount of \$2,000.00 at the June 18, 2009 meeting of the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc.

The Daniel M. & Marilyn W. Laney Prize is awarded yearly by the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc. for distinguished scholarship and writing on the military or political history of the Civil War.

Established by the membership of the Round Table, the Prize honors the Laney's each year for their splendid efforts on behalf of the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc. and especially, for their many efforts to protect the endangered battlefields of the Civil War.

Confederate flag may end Homestead Florida parade

BY TANIA VALDEMORO, Miami Herald, May 27, 2009
The popular Veterans Day parade in Homestead -- one of the oldest in the county -- may be called off after a controversy erupted over the Confederate battle flag being flown last November.

The board of directors of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce unanimously voted to recommend disbanding the 47-year-old parade after the Miami-Dade chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People launched a campaign against the city and chamber over the flag.

The seven-member executive board of the chamber's military affairs

committee will decide whether to heed the recommendation at its June 4 meeting. The military affairs committee organizes the yearly tribute to military personnel and veterans.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans marched in the Nov. 11 parade for the first time, flying the Confederate battle flag.

The battle flag is a controversial part of American history. Some view it as a symbol of Southern pride, others see it as a symbol of racism, stemming from slavery and the Civil War.

In a statement to the media, the board said, "the parade has been greatly diminished due to the controversy..."

The executive board of the military affairs committee has the final say on the matter. The chamber's recommendation will carry some weight, said Jeffrey Wander, chairman of the military affairs committee.

The chamber said the Homestead event is "Miami-Dade County's oldest and largest Veterans Day parade."

Leaders from the NAACP, which is trying to prevent future displays of the battle flag in city or chamber events, were not assuaged by the chamber board's vote.

The civil rights organization is proceeding with plans for a June 13 protest in Homestead. It also is considering a boycott of chamber businesses.

"Canceling the parade is a head-in-the-sand approach," said Brad Brown, first vice president of the Miami-Dade chapter of the NAACP. "It's a way of trying not to deal with the issue."

He raised some doubt about the parade being disbanded.



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"They've just made a recommendation. It's not a decision. You don't know whether or not it is going to be canceled," Brown said.

President Garfield statue at NE Ohio's Hiram College decapitated

AP/WKYC-TV, May 17, 2009, HIRAM, Ohio -- Hiram police are looking for the vandals who decapitated a 95-year-old sandstone statue of locally born President James A. Garfield overnight Thursday.

The statue of the 20th U.S. president was intact Thursday during the dedication of the college's Garfield Institute for Public Leadership at the Portage County college.

On Friday morning, the head was gone. It is thought that the brittle sandstone head was rocked back and forth until it snapped off.

The school's commencement was held Saturday.

Garfield was born in what is now Moreland Hills in nearby Cuyahoga County and was assassinated during the first year of his term.

A replica of his birth cabin sits on the front lawn of the Moreland Hills Village Hall. His Lake County home as an adult, Lawnfield in Mentor, is open to the public as a historical site.

Garfield attended Hiram as a student and was an English teacher on its faculty 1857-1860.

He was a Civil War hero and a member of Congress before becoming president.

Garfield was assassinated and died from his wounds six months after taking office in 1881 and he and his wife, Lucretia, are buried in a castle-

like monument in Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

Hiram Community Foundation Trustee Martin Paul bought the statue, valued at \$20,000 to \$30,000, at an auction in southern Ohio and gave it to the school earlier this year.

The private foundation supports local projects in Hiram.

Gettysburg's Kinsley Construction contracts under scrutiny

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,
Gettysburg Times, May 26, 2009

Gettysburg Battlefield Supt. John Latschar contends that there's no favoritism at the 6,000-acre park, even though one contractor seems to be landing most of the high-profile jobs there.

Kinsley Construction, led by York area developer Bob Kinsley, is repaving roads at Gettysburg National Military Park, as part of a multi-million dollar contract that was awarded in 2007.

"Kinsley won because he's the best," Latschar said in a previous interview.

"He's amazingly good at what he does. Some folks around here think that's collusion and favoritism. I call it being good at what you do."

Kinsley and a construction company owned by his son have been paid \$8.5 million for their work in building the new \$103 million Battlefield Visitor Center near Gettysburg.

"This guy has made a fortune," said Frank Silbey, an historic preservationist who has criticized the Latschar regime.

Kinsley also serves as chairman of the board that oversees the Gettysburg Foundation, the park's

non-profit fundraising and management partner.

Aside from that, Kinsley's construction firm has worked as a major sub-contractor on two contracts awarded by the Park Service in 2007 to a New Jersey Company, Puente Construction Enterprises. The firm is a minority contractor under a U.S. Small Business Administration Program.

Puente was hired to repair 19 historic roads, a bridge and replace deteriorating water lines, in contracts that were worth about \$4.1 million. According to reports, the minority firm paid Kinsley Construction \$2.5 million as the principal sub-contractor on the park work.

Kinsley has said in published reports that his company's work as a sub-contractor "has nothing to do with the museum." Both he and Latschar have said that the park superintendent played no role in his firm's getting the work for road repairs.

Latschar claims that there is no conflict of interests with the road work, since the contract was not issued by GNMP. The contract was awarded out of the Denver Service Center — the design and construction group for the National Park Service — to Puente Construction. "We had nothing to do with it," explained Latschar. "It was awarded to a small business firm, who subcontracted a lot of the work." Puente then sub-contracted the work to Kinsley. According to Puente's Web site, the firm specializes in general construction, construction management, designing and estimating.

"When it came time to sub-contract the paving, Kinsley was the low bidder. It's not unusual," Latschar said. "They do more paving work for



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PennDOT than anyone else in the Commonwealth, I believe."

Latschar called the roadway project "major," since it involves 19 roads within the park. The project was subsidized with federal highway monies.

A water line bid was released around the time time, also out of the Denver Service Center.

"The bid went to Puente and Kinsley sub-contracted," Latschar said previously.

Latschar has described Kinsley Construction as "one of the most respected firms in the mid-Atlantic region," adding that Kinsley's firm has a "70 percent" return customer rate. He has lauded Kinsley's philanthropy with the new visitor center, as he has personally donated \$8.4 million toward the project, through his family foundation and private funds. The next highest donor to the project gave \$4.5 million. His gifts include cash, forgiven loans, and donated real estate.

"If I had to start this project again," Latschar said regarding the new visitor center, "I wouldn't do it without Bob Kinsley."

The mutual admiration between the two men is no secret — when Gettysburg Foundation President Robert C. Wilburn told the board of directors that he planned to step down last fall, Kinsley approached Latschar to consider leaving the park and taking the job. Latschar accepted, but was later turned down by federal ethics officials. The 15-year battlefield boss is now under investigation by the Dept. of the Interior's Inspector General, although Latschar believes the review will end soon.

Latschar said the review began when he announced that he was leaving the park to take over the foundation,

and that investigators are probing every accusation that has ever been leveled against Latschar since 1994. The scope and price of the project ballooned under Kinsley's watch, from about \$40 million to \$103 million.

Work to start on Uncle Tom's Cabin

ART JESTER, Lancaster Advocate-Messenger, May 18, 2009

LANCASTER, Ky. (AP) — Two-hundred-year-old logs lie in wait on the ground, a Mount Sterling man is making shingles, and construction of a replica of the fictional Uncle Tom's Cabin is expected to begin in Lancaster in mid-June.

The cabin will be built on the grounds of the Gov. William Owsley House on U.S. 27 about a mile south of the Public Square, but it won't be ready for tourists and visitors until summer 2010.

"Once we start, it will go up fairly fast," said Skip Gladfelter, a retired IBM executive who serves as Garrard County's tourism director. "We should have it up in a couple of months." However, it will take many more months to locate furnishings for the cabin as author Harriet Beecher Stowe described them in her classic novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (1852), which aroused strong anti-slavery sentiment as the United States moved steadily toward the start of the Civil War in 1861.

Upon meeting Stowe in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln is supposed to have said, "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this Great War!"

The novel was a best seller in the U.S., England, Europe and Asia, was translated into more than 60 languages and remains one of the most famous works in American literature.

There is some convincing evidence that Stowe was influenced by a visit to a large slave plantation in Garrard County. But literary historians and Stowe's biographers disagree on this point. Some scholars say Stowe never visited the South and that the real Uncle Tom's Cabin was in Maryland or Canada.

Gladfelter said the Garrard countians who are putting up the replica of the cabin are well aware of the dispute and aren't trying to resolve it. Their goal is to be faithful to the novel.

"I only know what is in the novel," and the builders want a cabin that resembles as close as possible the famous but fictional one in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," he said.

"None of us has gotten comfortable that we know the truth," Gladfelter said.

"The goal is to have all of the materials come from Garrard County," he said. "At least everything will come from this region."

The logs came from a house on Danville Street that was torn down last year by the Lancaster Church of Christ.

County leaders believe the replica cabin can increase historical interest in the county and thereby boost tourism and economic growth.

Vintage Find in St. Mary's Landfill: A Civil War Projectile

By Matt Zapotosky, Washington Post, May 20, 2009

A landfill employee sifting through the rubbish yesterday for material that could be recycled by St. Mary's



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

County found a decidedly non-reusable piece of scrap -- a 16-inch-long hunk of metal described as a "projectile" from the Civil War.

The 8:30 a.m. discovery prompted officials to evacuate the landfill and call in the bomb squad, said Karen Everett, a county spokeswoman. Recognizing the projectile as military equipment, state bomb technicians called their counterparts at Andrews Air Force Base. Eventually, the projectile was taken to an undisclosed location in the north part of the county and destroyed with explosives, Everett said.

Investigators were not sure whether the bullet-shaped projectile was live, said Joe Zurolo, a Maryland deputy state fire marshal, but they did not want to take any chances, given its age and condition. He said investigators believed it might have contained gunpowder, making it susceptible to detonation under certain circumstances.

"It was in very bad condition," he said of the projectile. "God knows where it's been, how long it's been wherever it was."

The landfill was closed for about four hours, and no one was hurt.

Everett said authorities are not sure how the projectile got to the landfill or how much it was worth.

"We can speculate that somebody didn't know what it was and said, 'This is old, and I'm going to get rid of it,' " Everett said. "Whether it was of value or not, we don't know."

Plez Bagby, a Civil War collector from Charlottesville, said a projectile like the one found in the landfill on St. Andrews Church Road could be sold for \$300 to \$1,000, depending on its condition.

Zurolo said those wanting to discard old military heirlooms should contact authorities first.

"There's no charge. Nobody gets arrested," he said. "We certainly don't want people to just arbitrarily just have something like that and throw it away in the landfill."