



CIVIL WAR TRUST

Saving America's Civil War Battlefields

Louisiana

Battlefield Preservation
2015 Potential Funding Sources

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Saving Louisiana's Battlefields	5
State Government Funding Programs	6
Private Funding Programs	7
Louisiana National Heritage Areas	8
Civil War Trust Contacts	9

THE CIVIL WAR TRUST

Preserving Our Battlefield Heritage

Every year, hundreds of acres of our nation's most important battlefields associated with the Civil War, the American Revolution and the War of 1812 are threatened by uncontrolled development. Preservationists struggle to save these hallowed grounds so that future generations can experience and appreciate the places where the nation's freedoms were won, expanded, and preserved.

The Civil War Trust (the "Trust") is America's largest nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields. The Trust also promotes educational programs and heritage tourism initiatives to inform the public of the war's history and the fundamental conflicts that sparked it.

To further support our state and local partners, the Trust, through a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), have identified a multiplicity of national and state-level funding sources for the preservation of battlefields across the country recognized by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and the Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States. This information is being made available through both our website and within individual booklets for each of the 30 states with associated battlefields from these three wars. Each booklet offers an in-depth analysis of funding opportunities to save valuable battlefield properties. When available, stories of success are illustrated and past partnerships for funding explored.

This project is part of a collaborative effort in which ABPP relied on the Trust to use its extensive experience to identify a variety of state-centered preservation funding sources both for battlefields associated with the Civil War as well as the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), authorized by Congress and administered by the National Park Service, promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are 1) to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history, 2) to encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management and interpretation of these sites, and 3) to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations. The ABPP focuses primarily on land use, cultural resource and site management planning and public education.

In 1991, Congress established the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The Commission was charged with identifying significant Civil War sites, determining their condition, assessing threats to their integrity, and offering alternatives for their preservation and interpretation. Classification of each battlefield is based on the level of military importance within its campaign and the war. Class A and B battlefields represent the principal strategic operations of the war. Class C and D battlefields usually represent operations with limited tactical objectives of enforcement and occupation. Some 10,500 armed conflicts occurred during the Civil War ranging from battles to minor skirmishes. Of those, 384 principal battles occurred in 26 states.

In 1996, Congress enacted legislation to examine the historical integrity of two of our nation's earliest wars – the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Over the next ten years, the National Park Service identified and documented 677 significant places associated with these conflicts. The study examined the condition of 243 battlefields and 434 associated historic properties in 31 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The identification and assessment of these sites followed the same criteria as that used by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

In addition to these booklets, the Civil War Trust website - www.civilwar.org – provides preservationists with additional up-to-date information on funding in a concise format that we hope will lend guidance to those seeking opportunities for land acquisition and protection. The Trust’s online database, designed to equip preservationists with the essential information needed to pursue these resources, is an important part of our ongoing mission to save significant battlefield properties. On our website you will also find current information on battlefield preservation and other educational materials.

Today, the Civil War Trust is working with national, state and local individuals, organizations and agencies to preserve these nonrenewable historic resources; battlefields. We hope the material provided on our website and in each of these booklets will support your preservation efforts. With your help, we can all make a difference.

Saving Louisiana's Battlefields

The American Revolution and the War of 1812

The *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States* from 2007 identified battlefield sites from both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. In the state of Louisiana, there is one Principal Revolutionary War battlefield. This is at Baton Rouge and has only commemorative preservation opportunity. There is one additional historic site associated with the Revolutionary War in the state.

In Louisiana, there are seven Principal War of 1812 battlefield sites. Of these, two are Priority I sites: Villere's Plantation and Chalmette both in New Orleans; three priority II sites: Rodriguez Canal (New Orleans), Fort St. Philip and Barataria Island; Lake Borgne needs further study, and the USS *Carolina* (New Orleans) has only commemorative opportunity. There are 12 additional historic sites associated with the War of 1812 in the state.

The Civil War

The 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) Report identified 23 principal battlefield sites in the state of Louisiana. The historic tracts of these battlefields total more than 190,000 acres. Today, 41 percent or 79,000 acres, retain sufficient integrity to warrant protection. Of these, 6,100 acres of land are protected by public or private entities. Using the priority ranking system of the CWSAC report, these 23 battlefields are:

Baton Rouge (1a003) Class B
Blair's Landing (1a020) Class C
Donaldsonville (1a004) Class D
Donaldsonville (1a013) Class D
Fort Bisland (1a006) Class D
Fort De Russy (1a017) Class B
Forts Jackson & St. Phillip (1a001) Class A
Georgia Landing (1a005) Class C
Goodrich's Landing (1a014) Class D
Irish Bend (1a007) Class C
Kock's Plantation (1a015) Class C
LaFourche Crossing (1a012) Class D
Mansfield (1a018) Class A
Mansura (1a022) Class C
Milliken's Bend (1a011) Class C
Monett's Ferry (1a021) Class D
New Orleans (1a002) Class B
Plains Store (1a009) Class C
Pleasant Hill (1a019) Class B
Port Hudson (1a010) Class A
Stirling's Plantation (1a016) Class D
Vermillion Bayou (1a008) Class D
Yellow Bayou (1a023) Class C

The 2010 CWSAC update for Louisiana's Civil War sites reported that 15 of Louisiana's 23 battlefields remain relatively unchanged since the time of battle. However, only four battlefields—Forts Jackson & St. Phillip, Mansfield, Fort De Russy and Port Hudson— have had some portions of land placed under protection. Almost all these

protected lands have been purchased in fee and placed under public holding. The Civil War Trust has worked to protect land at three important battlefields in Louisiana. With assistance from the organization, 256 have been saved at Port Hudson, 73 acres at Fort De Russy, and 135 acres at Mansfield.

Nationwide, Port Hudson is among the CWSAC's top 50 Priority I battlefields. Priority II battlefields in Louisiana are Fort De Russy, Mansfield, Irish Bend and Mansura, which remain in good condition. A fifth Priority II battlefield, LaFourche Crossing, has been badly fragmented, with only its eastern quarter retaining integrity. Portions of the Port Hudson and Mansfield battlefields are state historic sites under the Louisiana Office of State Parks (see below).

The Port Hudson Battlefield was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974; Mansfield, in 1973. The nonprofit organization Friends of Mansfield Battlefield supports the preservation efforts of the Office of State Parks. The Mansfield State Historic Site consists of more than 100 acres of the historic 6,000-acre battlefield. A lignite mine threatens important sites on the battlefield.

The CWSAC report also notes that Louisiana's settlement pattern, with long narrow strips providing numerous landowners access to rivers, hinders a comprehensive preservation effort, as a substantive grouping of tracts for preservation would require the participation of many willing landowners. However, with many of the battlefields in Louisiana located along rivers, these historic lands may find protection under one of the state's water/land conservation programs, if not a typical battlefield preservation protocol.

Through the Land and Water Conservation Fund's Civil War Battlefield Acquisition Grants Program, Congress has appropriated \$38.9 million to this program, protecting 16,600 acres in 67 battlefields in 14 states. Only one Civil War battlefield in Louisiana has received funding from this program. At Fort DeRussy, a Priority II site, 54.56 acres were purchased with \$70,000 from the CWBAG program and \$144,000 in leveraged funds.

In January of 2013, the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program announced the awarding of more than \$1.8 million in grants for the acquisition of battlefield land at five sites in Virginia and one in Louisiana. The grant money was made available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, which provided almost \$9 million for battlefield land purchase, according to a press release. The Louisiana State Parks Department will receive the grant for the purchase of just less than one acre at the Mansfield site.

Since 1996, the American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded \$101,000 among several Louisiana Civil War battlefields for preservation planning.

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING PROGRAMS

Natural Areas Registry Program

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries administers the Natural Areas Registry Program, created in 1987. In 1988, the Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Trust Fund was established to acquire land in order to conserve critical habitat for wildlife and unique natural areas. These funds are derived from a severance tax on offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. The tax also funds the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Trust Fund for the development and implementation of a program to help conserve and restore state coastal vegetated wetlands.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program staff works with landowners who have high-quality natural plant communities to help them manage and protect their property through the Natural Areas Registry Program. This program is designed to honor and recognize landowners of outstanding natural areas for their commitment to the protection of the state's natural heritage.

To qualify for the Registry, a property must contain at least one of the following natural values:

- Habitat for native plants or animals with rare or declining populations in Louisiana
- Plant communities characteristic of the native vegetation of Louisiana
- Outstanding natural features, such as old-growth forests or wetlands

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program

PRIVATE FUNDING PROGRAMS

Coastal Plain Conservancy



The Coastal Plain Conservancy (CPC) is a regional nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the lands that define the coastal plain's distinct landscape. Founded in 2003, the CPC's mission is to acquire, preserve and protect lands of the Coastal Plain region for the conservation and stewardship of natural, historic, cultural and scenic resources for the education and enjoyment of the public. The CPC's membership includes local professionals, businesses and individuals who share the common concern of protecting the environment, sustaining natural and cultural heritage, conserving lands vital to a sound economic future, educating the community and fostering land stewardship.

The CPC works directly with private landowners, government agencies, local leaders and regional and national conservation groups to coordinate local conservation efforts and maximize awareness and educational efforts. This regional effort is critical for protection of key lands within the coastal plain.

Chad Thielen
Chairman
P.O. Box 1447
Lake Charles, LA 70602
Phone: (337) 721-5712
email: info@coastalplain.net
<http://cpc-la.org>



Port Hudson

Land Trusts

There are four land trusts operating in the state of Louisiana. While many land trusts work strictly in nature conservation, some have resources and often partner with other nonprofit organizations, municipalities and small groups to conserve land containing historically significant cultural resources. A full list of Louisiana land trusts can be found here: www.findalandtrust.org/states/louisiana22/land_trusts#statewide

LOUISIANA'S NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

In 1997, the Louisiana Legislature designated a multiparish region as the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area. In October 2006, Congress designated the region as the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The purpose of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to establish interpretive sites that will increase public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational resources of the national heritage area. This area encompasses 10,400 square acres.

The Atchafalaya Trace Commission was charged with assisting local communities within the Area to develop a management plan that both saves important cultural and natural resources and stimulates heritage tourism. In addition to recreational opportunities intrinsic to the landscape, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area possesses exceptional value in linking natural resources to themes of the nation's heritage, including "Adaptation and Survival," "Identity through Culture" and "Influence of Water on the Land and the People." These dominant themes address the blending of several ethnicities into a unique culture. The 14 parishes of south-central Louisiana collectively represent one of the most culturally rich and ecologically varied regions in the United States, with a diverse population of Cajun, European, African, Caribbean and Native American descent.

Louisiana Heritage Areas Program
Atchafalaya Trace Commission
Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism
Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 94361
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9361
Phone: (225) 342-8115, Fax: (225) 219-7770

CONTACT

JIM CAMPI, Director of Policy and Communications
Civil War Trust
jcampi@civilwar.org

As Director of Policy and Communications at the Civil War Trust, Jim Campi is responsible for the organization's government and media relations. He serves as the Civil War Trust's spokesperson with the press as well as its point man with Congress, state legislators, and local elected officials. Jim joined the Trust in September 2000 after 14 years in political communications and administration. He is the author and contributing writer for several books and publications, including *Civil War Battlefields Then and Now*, *The Political Lincoln*, and *The Civil War 150*. Jim is also a member of the board of the *Journey Through Hallowed Ground* and *Franklin's Charge*.

MARK COOMBS, State and Local Relations Manager
Civil War Trust
mcoombs@civilwar.org

As State and Local Relations Manager at the Civil War Trust, Mark Coombs serves as the organization's advocate in historic communities across the United States, cultivating public and political enthusiasm for battlefield preservation and organizing grassroots activists in support of the Trust's mission. A veteran of political and public affairs campaigns at all levels, Mark is a 2008 graduate of Cornell University, where he was Co-President of the Alpha Beta Eta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

PHIL THOMASON, Principal
Thomason and Associates
Thomason@bellsouth.net

Phil Thomason is Principal of the historic preservation planning firm of Thomason and Associates. Founded in 1982, this company provides services such as historic preservation plans, cultural resource surveys, Section 106 review and design guidelines for historic districts. During the past decade the company has completed eight battlefield preservation plans and numerous other studies for the American Battlefield Protection Program in Arkansas, Tennessee, Virginia, Minnesota, Missouri and Georgia.

DAVID CURREY, Principal
Encore Interpretive Design
david@encoreinterpretive.net

David Currey is principal at Encore, a company that specializes in interpretive planning, exhibit design, and media development for historic sites, museums, government agencies and preservation organizations. Encore also produces independent documentaries, including works on Civil War Nashville, the Battle of Parker's Crossroads, the Civil War in Tennessee and, more recently, an hour-long biography on Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus for the National Park Service.



This project was funded in part through a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the National Park Service.

Front cover: Chalmette