



CIVIL WAR TRUST

Saving America's Civil War Battlefields

Civilwar.org

Mississippi

Battlefield Preservation
2015 Potential Funding Sources

www.civilwar.org

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Saving Mississippi's Battlefields	5
State Government Funding Programs	7
Private Funding Programs	7
Mississippi National Heritage Areas	8
Civil War Trust Contacts	11

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 Mississippi's Battlefields

The War of 1812

The state of Mississippi has two historic sites associated with the War 1812. Both the Natchez Trace, extending from Mississippi through parts of north Alabama and Middle Tennessee, and Pitchlynn's Fort, an archaeological site, need further study to determine integrity, condition and threats.

The Civil War

The 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report identified 16 principal battlefield sites in the state of Mississippi. The historic tracts of these battlefields total 194,000 acres. Today, 57 percent of battlefield lands retain sufficient integrity to warrant protection, and 7,940 acres, or 4 percent are protected. Using the priority ranking system of the CWSAC report, these 16 battlefields are:

- Big Black River Bridge (ms010) Class B
- Brice's Cross Roads (ms014) Class B
- Champion Hill (ms009) Class A
- Chickasaw Bayou (ms003) Class B
- Corinth (ms002) Class A
- Corinth (ms016) Class B
- Grand Gulf (ms004) Class C
- Iuka (ms001) Class C
- Jackson (ms008) Class B
- Meridian (ms012) Class C
- Okolona (ms013) Class B
- Port Gibson (ms006) Class B
- Raymond (ms007) Class B
- Snyder's Bluff (ms005) Class D
- Tupelo (ms015) Class B
- Vicksburg (ms011) Class A

The 2010 CWSAC update for Mississippi's Civil War sites found that the National Park Service (NPS) manages more than 3,000 acres collectively at Brice's Cross Roads National Battlefield Site, Champion Hill, Okolona and Port Gibson (each as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway); Chickasaw Bayou and Vicksburg (both within the boundaries of the Vicksburg National Military Park and Vicksburg National Cemetery); Corinth and the Siege of Corinth (Shiloh National Military Park); and Tupelo (Tupelo National Battlefield). An additional 600 acres of the Okolona Battlefield is protected within the Tombigbee National Forest, managed by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

At the state level, 83 acres of the Iuka site are within the boundaries of the Divide Section Wildlife Management Area under the authority of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The state's Grand Gulf Military Park Monument Commission manages more than 450 acres of that battlefield site. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), the state historic preservation office, collectively owns 870 acres at Big Black River Bridge, Champion Hill and Port Gibson.

On the municipal level, the City of Jackson owns one acre of Jackson Battlefield within the boundaries of the battlefield park. Additionally, the city manages one acre at the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus. Battlefield lands are also protected by nonprofit organizations Brice's Cross Roads National Battlefield Commission, Civil War Trust, Friends of Raymond and Sid J. Champion Heritage Foundation. An additional 2,700 acres of historic battlefield lands are held in easement.

Of Mississippi's 16 battlefields, 14 retain sufficient acreage with integrity warranting protection. Only Jackson and Meridian were ranked as Priority IV sites, due to loss or fragmentation of battlefields. Thirteen battlefields have been recognized as historically significant; nine are listed on the National Register of Historic Places— Big Black River Bridge, Brice's Cross Roads, Chickasaw Bayou, Grand Gulf, Iuka, Raymond, Synder's Bluff, Tupelo and Vicksburg. Another four battlefields are recognized as National Historic Landmarks: Champion Hill, Corinth, Siege of Corinth and Port Gibson.

The Civil War Trust has been very active protecting battlefields in Mississippi. The organization has worked to save the following acreage at these battlefield sites: Corinth (710 acres), Iuka (58 acres), Brice's Cross Roads (1,334 acres), Tupelo (12 acres), Okolona (77 acres), Port Gibson (623 acres), Raymond (106 acres), Champion Hill (406 acres), Big Black River Bridge (28 acres) and Vicksburg (1 acre). The Civil War Trust has also identified another 11 acres for preservation at Vicksburg that it is currently working to save. Several of these efforts were in partnership with other private and public entities, as noted below.

The Conservation Fund has been involved since 1985 in protecting Civil War battlefields, totaling 8,000 acres, in the state of Mississippi:

The Fund purchased 28 acres at the Big Black River Battlefield at Vicksburg National Military Park, using its Battlefield Revolving Fund established by grants from the Gilder Foundation. The purchase was in partnership with the Civil War Trust and the State of Mississippi, which provided state funds to match 2-1 the federal funds for the acquisition. Another Conservation Fund/Civil War Trust/State of Mississippi partnership was accomplished at Champion Hill. The Fund negotiated the purchase of an easement of more than 200 acres, matching state and federal funds.

The Conservation Fund launched the preservation of the Corinth Battlefield with the purchase of Battery F. Grants from partners Ringier America, the National Geographic Society and Mr. and Mrs. John L. Nau, III, made possible the donation of the battery to the Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth. The Fund also donated adjacent land that had been a gift from Harold and Peggy Isbell at this strategic site. After the capture of Corinth in May 1862, the U.S. forces built an arc of fortifications, including Battery F, to prevent the Confederates from retaking the critical intersection of the railroads between the industrial and shipping facilities at Memphis and the ports at Mobile and Charleston.

Another multipartner project was accomplished for the Port Gibson site. In partnership with the Civil War Trust, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and National Park Service, the Conservation Fund secured a 623-acre conservation easement on important buffer lands in the Port Gibson Civil War Battlefield, site of the first major battle of the critical Vicksburg Campaign. After their rapid march from the Mississippi River on May 1, 1863, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 24,000 troops engaged 8,000 Confederates in a hard fought, 18-hour battle. The U.S. victory gave Grant his first victory in his successful Vicksburg Campaign.

Through the 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. Ten Civil War battlefields in Mississippi have received funding from this program: Big Black River Bridge, Brice's Cross Roads, Champion Hill, Corinth, Siege of Corinth, Iuka, Okolona, Raymond, Port Gibson and Tupelo. For the purchase of 2,612.18 total acres, \$4.3 million were matched with \$2.4 million in leveraged funds. Since 1993, the American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded more than \$362,277 among several Mississippi Civil War battlefields for preservation planning projects.

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING SOURCES

Mississippi Landmark Grant Program

In 1999, the Mississippi Legislature created the Mississippi Landmark Grant program, to be administered by the Department of Archives and History (MDAH). Funding for the program is derived from interest earned on \$10,000,000 of the balance of the Abandoned Property Fund in the state Treasury. The grant funds may be used to pay the cost of acquisition, preservation, restoration, operation, administration and support of Mississippi Landmark properties. The Board of Trustees of the MDAH will review the applications and award grant funds to eligible projects when the Mississippi Landmark Grant Program has enough of a balance to award grants. Due to the lack of funding, most grants that are awarded are for emergency repairs only.

To be eligible to participate, a historic property must be designated a Mississippi Landmark under the provisions of the Antiquities Law of Mississippi prior to application. Eligible applicants include state agencies, county or municipal governments, school districts, nonprofit organizations that have been granted Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or private owners of Mississippi Landmark properties. The grant request may not exceed \$300,000 per project. Applicants must provide evidence of cash matching funds (private, local or federal) at the time of application. Nonprofit and governmental applicants must provide a cash match not less than 20 percent of the grant award while all other applicants (i.e., for-profit, private property owners, etc.) must provide a cash match not less than 50 percent of the grant award.

Grant awards will be paid to the grantee by the department on a reimbursable basis upon the successful completion of the project. Applicants receiving grant awards should be prepared to cover all project costs prior to receiving reimbursement. For more information contact:

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<http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/preserve/grants/mississippi-landmark-grant/>

PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES

Mississippi Land Trust



The purposes of the Mississippi Land Trust are: (1) to improve the fish, wildlife and plant resources of Mississippi; (2) to acquire and hold title to land and conservation interests in land in Mississippi; this may be done in cooperation with other land trusts and government agencies to ensure the benefits of land protected from industrial, commercial and residential development by private landowners; (3) to educate the public about the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants and encourage them to become responsible stewards of Mississippi's natural resources; (4) to develop incentive-based conservation programs; (5) to work with the major conservation agencies that affect Mississippi to pinpoint problems and target strategies so that these agencies have effective and cost-efficient programs to improve Mississippi's environment; and (6) to educate the public and private landowners about the conservation options available to landowners.

Founded in 1998, the Mississippi Land Trust currently holds easements on 83,968 acres.

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East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust

The East Mississippi Foothills Land Trust's (EMFLT) mission is to conserve, promote and protect the open spaces and green places of ecological, cultural or scenic significance in East Mississippi. The organization was established in November 2003. It will consider easements on any property with significant conservation or historic preservation values, including forests, wetlands, farms, sensitive habitat, scenic and historic sites and other areas.

The EMFLT may consider property for an easement if it fulfills one or more of the following criteria:

- Provides open space for scenic enjoyment: The land is scenic and easily viewed from roads, water bodies, trails, parks or other land areas open to or used by the public; or development of the property would impair the character of a scenic panorama enjoyed from an adjacent public area.
- Provides significant natural habitat: This is evidenced by its relatively natural state and presence of rare, endangered or threatened species or, it represents a high-quality native terrestrial or aquatic ecosystem.
- Property has historical significance: Property has physical or environmental features that are historically important or has a certifiable historic structure (through the National Register of Historic Places).
- Has value as a public recreation or education area: Land must be attractive and contain resources that provide a significant public recreational or educational use and enjoyment. The public must have regular opportunity for access and use of the property.

Application is available at: www.emflt.org/Landowners_info.pdf

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There are five land trusts operating in the state of Mississippi. 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 Mississippi land trusts can be found here: www.findalandtrust.org/states/mississippi28/land_trusts#statewide

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area



The mission of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area (MDNHA) is to foster partnerships and educational opportunities that enhance, preserve and promote the heritage of the Mississippi Delta. The MDNHA includes all counties in the Mississippi alluvial plain. This unique landscape features a diverse array of cultural, historical, archaeological, natural and recreational resources significant to the region. This inventory guides the heritage area's management plan for historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism and educational projects. The Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area includes several themes, from cotton and agriculture to Blues music, to Civil Rights, to the Civil War, among many others.

Within the Heritage Area, there are several important Civil War sites, including the Vicksburg National Military Park, several historic battlefields and the famous sunken Confederate steamship *Star of the West*. Within the 18-county Area, there are numerous additional Civil War-related historic resources, such as cemeteries and historic sites.

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Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area



The mission of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance is to preserve, interpret and promote the cultural and heritage resources of the Hills region. Its key objectives are to stimulate heritage tourism and economic development within the region. Resources of the Heritage Area are as diverse as the birthplace of Elvis Presley; the nation's largest remaining Civil War earthworks from the largest siege in the Western Hemisphere at the Crossroads of the Confederacy; the place where James Meredith stood, surrounded by National Guardsmen; the unique geographic and cultural landscape that gave birth to William Faulkner's masterpieces; and numerous natural sites and magnificent antebellum mansions.

Within the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area is the "Crossroads of the Confederacy," where two vital railroads converged and two armies clashed in almost record numbers. It was here, during the period between the Battle of Shiloh and the Siege of Corinth in 1862, that the largest-ever amassing of troops in the Western Hemisphere occurred. Nathan Bedford Forrest led a decisive late-war victory at Brice's Cross Roads, while Ulysses S. Grant blundered in stretching his Union army from Holly Springs to Oxford, succumbing to a surprise Confederate assault. Administered by the Natchez Trace National Parkway, the site began by preserving only a single acre of the battlefield and has expanded to the current 1,400-acre site. With its panoramic setting adding a real sense of time and place, Brice's Cross Roads features an auto tour, two battlefield trails, five markers, a cannon, two cemeteries with nearly 100 gravesites and the Brice's Cross Roads Visitors and Interpretive Center.

Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance

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Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area



The mission of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area is to promote understanding of and conserve and enhance the heritage resources of the six counties of the Mississippi Gulf Coast by telling the area's nationally significant story to residents and visitors through activities and partnerships that celebrate the area's unique history, people, traditions and landscapes.

There are two major Civil War–related sites on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Fort Massachusetts is a well-preserved brick defensive fortification on Ship Island. The fort was abandoned by Confederate forces in 1861 and was then occupied by Union troops for the remainder of the war. In 1862, Union admiral David Farragut used Ship Island as a staging area for the capture of Mobile and New Orleans. In addition to the fort and its garrison, portions of Ship Island were used during the Civil War for holding prisoners of war and as a base for an African American regiment of the Louisiana Native Guards.

The second Civil War site on the Mississippi Coast is Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis, the only president of the Confederate States of America. Although Davis lived at Beauvoir after the Civil War, much of the interpretation at the site is devoted to the Confederacy and Davis's role as its leader. At the site is also a Confederate cemetery that includes the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier.

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<http://www.msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

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CONTACT

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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
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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.

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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
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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.



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Front cover: Vicksburg