



# Protecting Harpers Ferry

One of the Nation's Ten Most Endangered  
Civil War Battlefields





## Common Vision for Preservation

For 70 years, congressional, state, and local leaders, groups, and individuals have shared a common vision for Harpers Ferry—to create a national park that today is one of West Virginia’s finest treasures.



*Shenandoah River from Murphy Farm*

## **Protecting Vital History**

This vision recently saved the Murphy Farm and forged passage of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2004, affording greater protection of School House Ridge battlefield and the park's skyline.



# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

## The Journal

Serving the Eastern Counties of West Virginia

### Harpers Ferry among end

■ The site is one of the 10 most threatened battlefields according to a recent study.

By BEN EVANS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

# MORNING

134th Year No. 73 Hagerstown, Md. Wednesday

## Harpers Ferry on list of most endangered battlefields

HARPERS FERRY, W.VA.

■ The Civil War Preservation Trust blames pressure by developers.

By DAVE McMILLION  
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Civil War battlefields at Harpers Ferry were listed among the most endangered in the country Tuesday and preservation experts pointed to pressure by developers in the announcement.  
In a press conference in Washington, D.C., the Civil War Preservation Trust said a group of developers laid about 2,000 feet of water and sewer lines across Harpers Ferry National Historical Park last August and left "nearly two acres of taxpayer-owned hallowed ground seriously compromised."

## List: Harpers

Continued from A1

The National Parks Conservation Association, which issued a list of the 10 most endangered battlefields in the country, said a \$200 million office space and hotel project being proposed on private land near the park would allow incompatible, intensive development in the area and undermine millions of dollars in federal, state and private investments made to preserve the park.

"For decades, leaders from West Virginia and across the country have worked together to protect America's Civil War, civil rights, and industrial history at Harpers Ferry. As a result, nearly 3,745 acres of land is protected in a landscape of remarkable beauty," said Joy Oakes, senior regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association.

"But, Harpers Ferry (National Historical Park) is threatened today by an ill-advised proposal to develop approximately 640 acres of private land virtually surrounded by the park," Oakes said.

A Charles Town attorney representing developers who want to build the \$200 million office space and hotel project objected to statements that the proposal is not compatible with the Harpers Ferry area and said about 20 acres along the Shenandoah River is being set aside for public access to the river and boat ramps.

Harpers Ferry was includ-

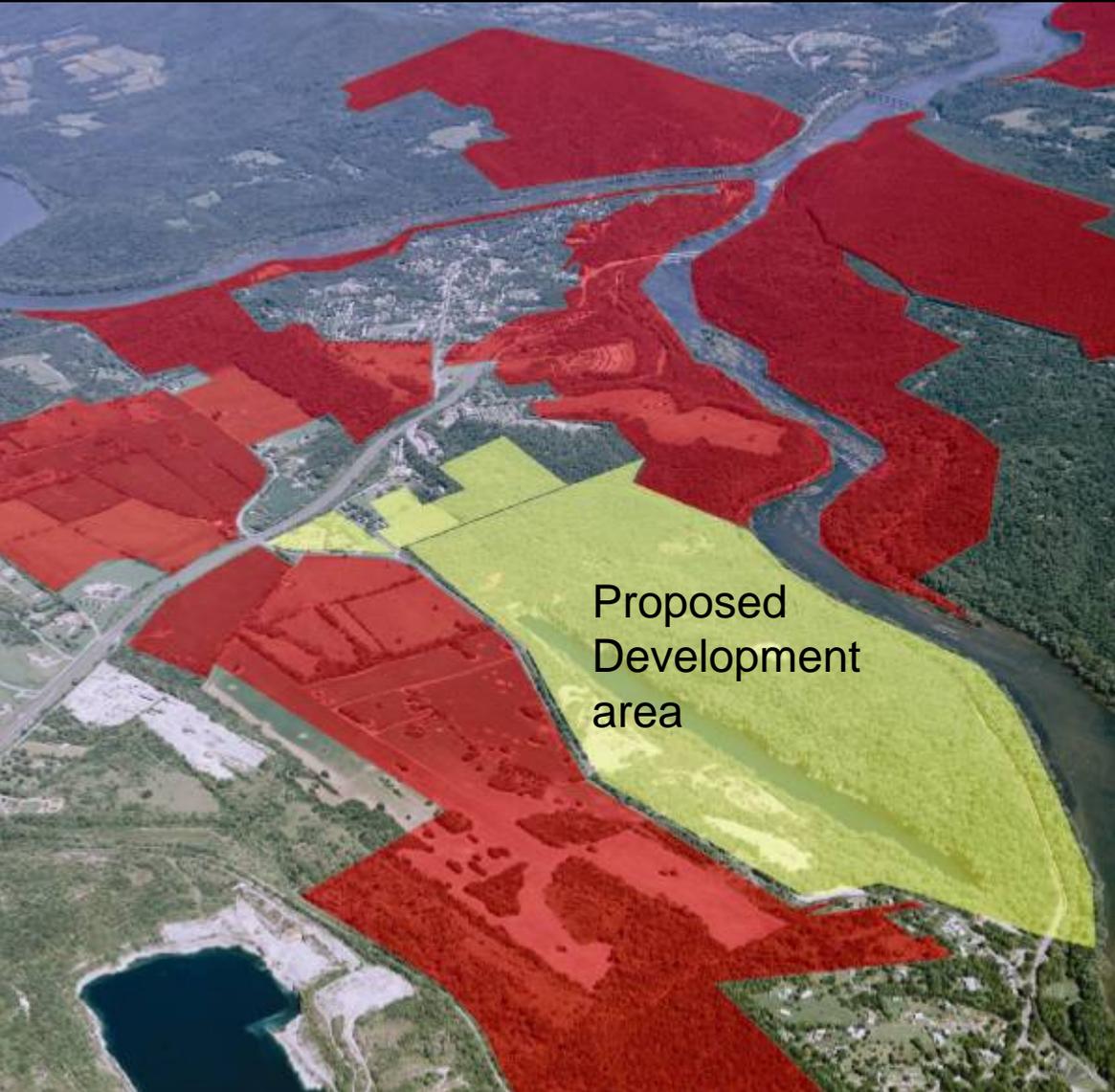
## Old Standard LLC's development raises new concerns

The Civil War Preservation Trust on March 13, 2007 declared Harpers Ferry to be one of the ten most endangered battlefields due to *Old Standard's* development and annexation.

The National Park Conservation Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have also voiced their objections.

Click here to read full article from [The Journal, March 14, 2007](#)

Click here to read full article from [The Morning Herald, March 14, 2007](#)



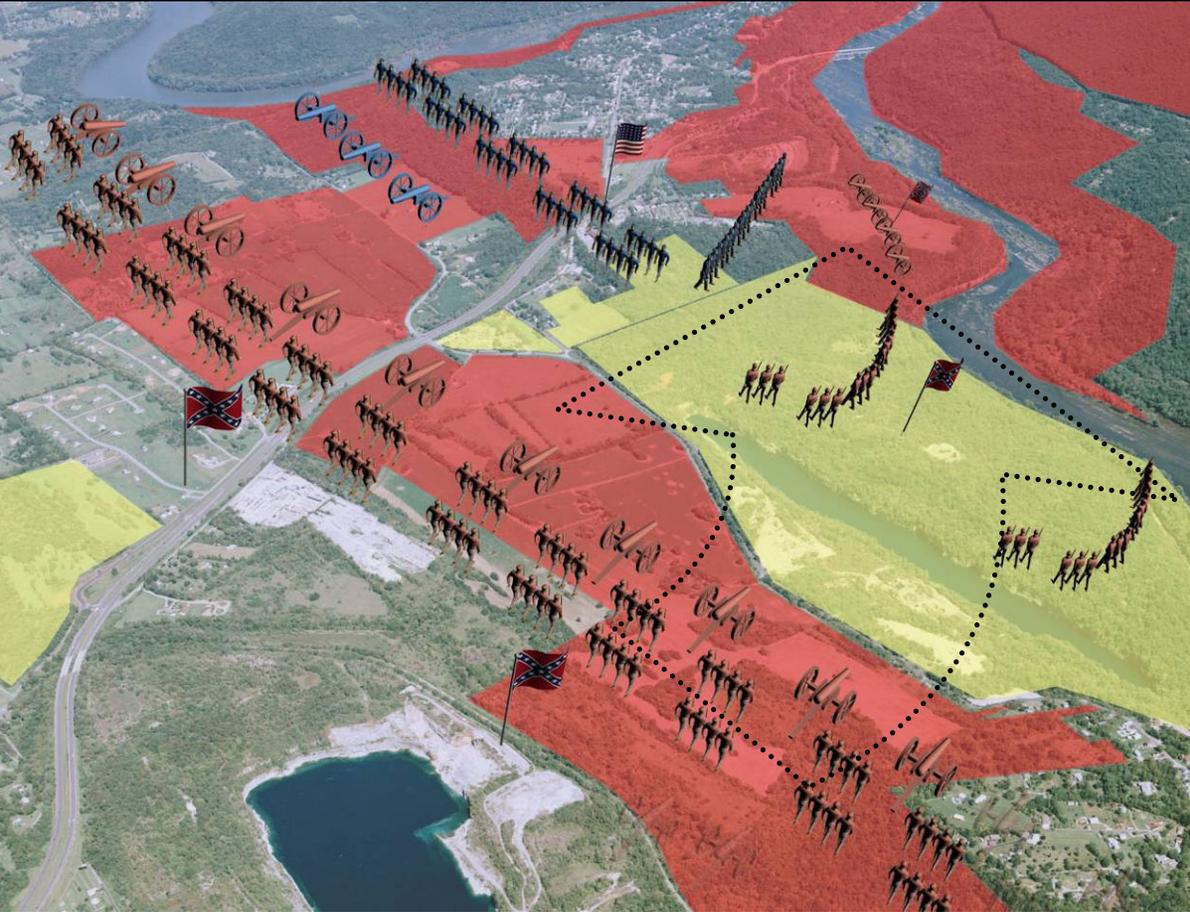
Proposed  
Development  
area

## Development in core of national park

*Old Standard* development, in the core of the park's historic and scenic setting, threatens loss of a Civil War battlefield and desecration of the park's scenery.

*Protected park land in red, proposed development in green*

# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



## Civil War Soldiers shed their blood on this land

In September 1862, 39,000 troops were engaged on the Harpers Ferry Battlefield.

*The enemy occupied a ridge of hills known as **Bolivar Heights**, extending from the Potomac to the Shenandoah...*

*Having first shelled the woods over which my route lay, I moved obliquely to my right until I struck the Shenandoah.*

Report of Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill CSA

*Protected park land in red, proposed development in green*



## **Pivotal Maneuver Across Proposed Development Area**

In the final hours, General AP Hill's flanking maneuver of 5,000 troops swept the southern end of Bolivar Heights, placing 3,000 troops and 20 cannons on the Murphy Farm, effecting the largest surrender of the Union forces during the Civil War.



# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



The park has installed hiking trails and outdoor exhibits throughout the battlefield to help the visitor explore and understand the complexities of the battle.



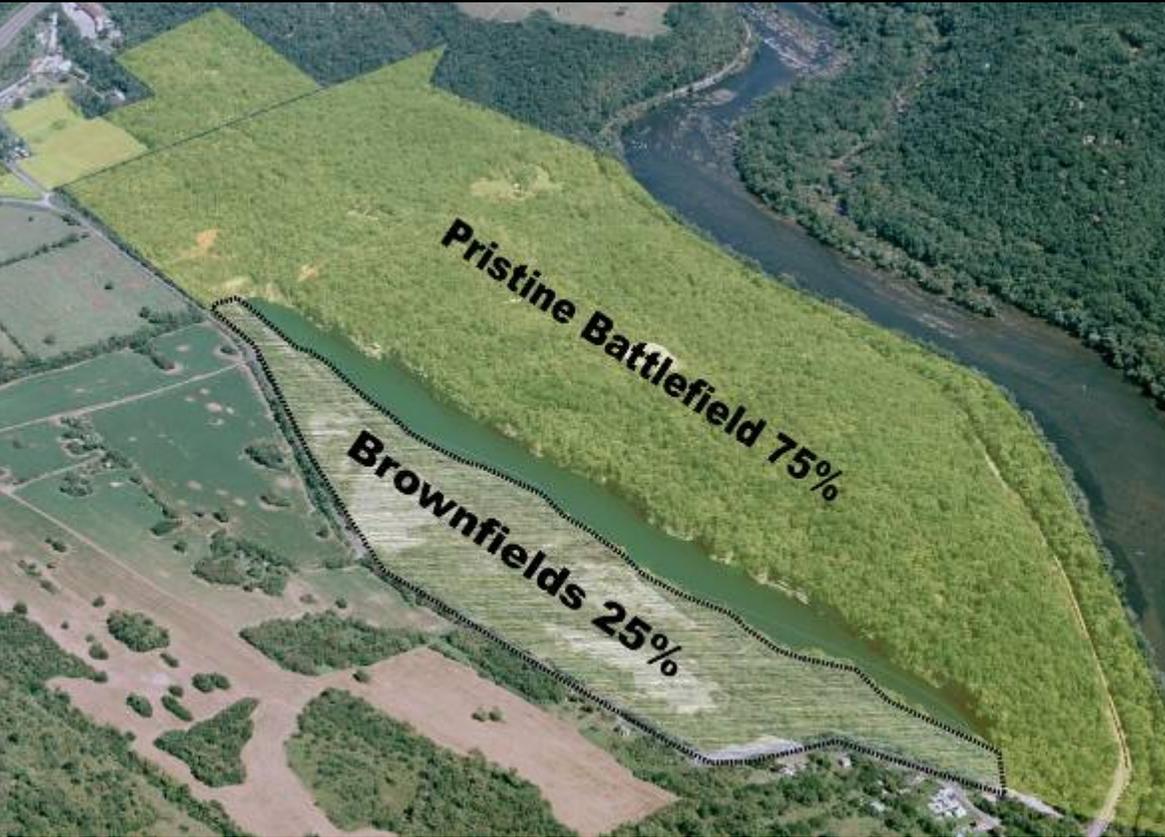
# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



## **Spoiled Landscape**

*Old Standard's* development will destroy the sense of history and the drama of the battle. Views of the historic landscape and park scenery will be obliterated by acres of development.

*Graphic depiction of proposed development areas based on Old Standard LLC presentation 3/16/2007*



## Top Ten Endangered Battlefield

Approximately 75% of the land *Old Standard* proposes to develop is in fact a pristine 1862 Civil War battlefield.

Approximately 25% of the land is a Brownfields site requiring landscape remediation.

*Bolivar Heights South Battlefield*



## **Preservation of Pivotal Civil War Battlefield**

In 2002, the National Park Service conducted a study to determine if public support existed for expanding the park's boundary.

The green area was initially included in the study because of its significant history and scenery however later excluded as the property was tied-up in bankruptcy.



## Extensive Public Outreach

The National Park Service conducted extensive outreach with land owners and citizens including holding 4 public meetings in Jefferson County.

The National Park Service completed its boundary study in 2002. The current owners purchased the battlefield and Brownfields property in 2003, after the conclusion of the National Park Service boundary study.

*3,500 people responded to the park's outreach*



# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



## Economic Benefit of Preservation

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park generates up to \$32.7 million annually in the state and local economy.

Spoiling the park's history and beauty, with *Old Standard's* development dominating the landscape, will drive tourists away, harming the local and state economy. It will waste hundreds of millions of dollars already invested to preserve one of West Virginia's finest treasures.



## Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Charles Town Mayor Peggy Smith has it right—this proposed annexation is too far from Charles Town.

The neighboring communities of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar are against the annexation. The National Park Service opposes this annexation and urges it not be adopted.





# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Commercial and residential development has its place, but not on an American Civil War battlefield or in the heart of one of West Virginia's finest treasures.

