



GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Founded, 1959

P.O. Box 4087, Gettysburg, PA 17325 www.gbpa.org

August 13, 2018

Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association
and the Historic Daniel Lady Farm
1008 Hanover Street; P. O. Box 4087
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Fred E. Kammerer, Chairman
Straban Township Planning Commission
1745 Granite Station Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

RE: Mark Gettysburg Associates, L.P.
Preliminary Subdivision/Land Development Plan (York Road and Hanover Road)

Dear Mr. Kammerer, Chair, and members of the Straban Township Planning Commission:

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA.org), founded in 1959, is the current owner/operator of the historic Daniel Lady Farm on the Hanover Pike. The farm borders Mark Gettysburg Associates Property and the Benner Hill part of the Gettysburg National Military Park. The Daniel Lady Farm is the site of first day skirmishes and a Confederate 2nd Corps field hospital for the battle for Culp's Hill. The Lady Farm buildings are within the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District. Both the Daniel Lady Farm and the Wolf Farm were staging areas for infantry and artillery before and during the Confederate attack. Historic roads and lanes through the farms were again traveled by retreating Confederate troops and later by the transfer of wounded of both sides to "Camp Letterman," the Union Army General Hospital, established after the battle to the east of the holdings of Mark Gettysburg Associates. The entire area is encompassed within the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) Study Area.

The Mark Gettysburg Associates' commercial development plan does not contain an evaluation of historic resources, or significance of the property, slated for commercial destruction. Maps drawn shortly after the battle identified placement of troops and artillery on the property during the battle. The following are areas of initial concern about impact of the above referenced development plans submitted to Straban Township for the historic Wolf Farm along Route 30:

1. The Confederate Line of 2nd Corps, Johnson's Division, the evening of July 1st and morning of July 2nd 1863 extending from the Daniel Lady Farm through the Wolf Farm to the York Pike (see map by the Civil War Trust, now the American Battlefield Trust, entitled "East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill July 2, 1863" with Confederate Line and artillery as they moved into position for the battle. The CWT map is well supported by sources including Bachelder's 1876 map "Second Day's Battle" and the 1863 Hotchkiss Map.
2. Graham's CS Battery was located at the top of the hill on the Wolf Farm possibly near the current water tower (see 1883 ed. of 1876 Bachelder Maps of the Battle on July 1,2,3, 1863 and the 1863 Hotchkiss map with Graham's and Raines' artillery marked in their original positions). Other units of the CS Artillery also used the Wolf Farm as a staging area for all three days of the battle.
3. The east bank of Rock Creek was used to march Ewell's 2nd Corps Troops of Gordon's Brigade into position for the attack on Culp's Hill (see Civil War Trust map above). Later the banks of Rock Creek throughout the battlefield were used as a cool place to leave wounded and dying, an unfortunate kindness as the heavy rain after the battle caused the creek to flood. (It is not known for certain that this portion of Rock Creek was so used.) This portion of Rock Creek was also a 19th Century industrial site.

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4. Proposed roadway access from the commercial development to Route 116 , the Old Hanover Pike. The plans implicitly admit that traffic volume exceeds the roadway capacity along the present commercial buildout along Route 30, west of Route 15. The proposed solution is to empty out traffic onto the Old Hanover Pike in the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District exacerbating traffic difficulties for the Daniel Lady Farm historic site located on both sides of Hanover Road/Rt. 116, and degrading a remaining scenic entrance from the east to the historic Gettysburg town center. This new roadway and intersection is opposed by the Gettysburg NMP and the GBPA.

5. The GBPA has previously stated its concerns about the impact of commercial development bordering the Park and the Daniel Lady Farm. Both the Park and the GBPA are concerned that future plans respect the historic viewshed from the Park and the Historic District and that insensitive development does not close off the opportunity to interpret the sacrifice and contributions made here by soldiers, doctors, nurses and civilians of Gettysburg.

The GBPA remains deeply concerned about commercial and residential development of the land between Rt. 116 and Rt. 30 -- currently owned by Mark Gettysburg Associates and S&A -- as well as Straban Township plans to extend Camp Letterman Drive and provide an additional roadway between Rt 30 and Rt 116. What is needed and required in the land use approval process is great sensitivity to preserving the historic resources present and carefully mitigating any adverse impact on the historic Daniel Lady Farm, the Gettysburg NMP, Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District, and the Rt 116 scenic access to the historic Gettysburg town center. We remain deeply concerned about how these and future planning and zoning decisions affect these identified resources in the submitted plans as well as set the pattern for future development. We must protect and preserve the Confederate 2nd Corps Line preparing for the battle for Culp's Hill, the precious ground that is left of the Camp Letterman General Hospital, field hospitals like Daniel Lady Farm, Confederate placements of artillery reserves and the entire story of the battle of Gettysburg.

This is Hallowed Ground. There are other and possibly more instructive resources (maps and narrative) available to evaluate the historical resources on the Wolf farm. At the very least, the developer and the Township need to complete a serious review of the historically significant events and resources impacted by the development (including the impact onsite, the entire Mark Gettysburg Associates property and adjacent historic properties). As part of that review, the developer should produce a map overlay of historic features and resources and incorporate a plan to preserve, interpret and mitigate damage to those resources.

We expect to have more comments as this process moves forward. Should you have any questions please contact me at bsynnamon@gmail.com or 484-368-2361.

Sincerely,
Brendan Synnamon, President,
and the Board of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA.org)

References:

CWT Map at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/gettysburg-east-cemetery-and-culps-hill-july-2-1863>
1863 Hotchkiss Map at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3824g.cwh00162>
1883 ed. of 1876 John Bachelder Maps of July 1, 2, and 3rd, 1863 at <https://www.loc.gov/item/99447492/>

Attachments:

NPS Map "Gettysburg National Military Park: Boundary and Historic Districts"
Civil War Preservation Trust Map "Battle of Gettysburg: East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill July 2, 1863"

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code and is registered as a charitable organization with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations. Contributions are tax deductible.