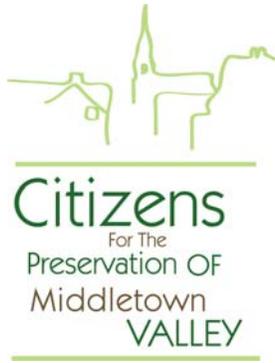


Media Release



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National Civil War Preservation Trust Includes South Mountain, Maryland on Annual List of Nation's Most Endangered Battlefields

Academy-Award® Winning Actor Richard Dreyfuss Helps Unveil "History Under Siege" Report in Washington

(Washington, D.C.) – At a news conference this morning, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) included South Mountain in its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlegrounds. The report, entitled *History Under Siege: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields*, identifies the most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to rescue them.

South Mountain was included in the report due to a \$55 million natural gas compression station planned for the historic Fox Inn property along Marker Road in Middletown, MD. Local citizens and preservationists have expressed opposition to the proposal because of its potential impact on the historic region. "The Battle of South Mountain was waged in the surrounding hills and fields. The proposed industrial development will forever change the character of this historic property", said CPMV board member Elizabeth Bauer.

"In town after town, irreplaceable battlefields that help to define those communities are being lost to development," said CWPT president James Lighthizer at the report's unveiling. "As we approach the Sesquicentennial of the bloodiest conflict in our nation's history, we need to be more aware than ever of the importance of preserving these sacred places for generations to come."

Joining Lighthizer at the news conference was Academy Award-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss, an avid student of history. Reflecting on the importance of historic preservation, Dreyfuss said, "These hallowed battlegrounds should be national shrines, monuments to American valor, determination and courage. Once these irreplaceable treasures are gone, they're gone forever."

CPMV member Curtis Older, a direct descendent of George Fox who owned the historic Inn in the early 1800's, has written two books about the endangered battlefield. According to Mr. Older, "The location of this property along the old Sharpsburg Road meant that in addition to housing wounded troops from the Battle of South Mountain, it was also a witness to the history of Presidents and Generals from the mid 1700's. Losing this land to industrial development will lessen us all."

Citizens for the Preservation of Middletown Valley (CPMV) is a grass-roots, non-political, citizen's action organization seeking responsible and appropriate land use in Maryland's agricultural and historic Middletown Valley. CPMV is dedicated to protecting the rich local history, rural landscapes, and the environment in Frederick County Maryland. CPMV has organized opposition to the Dominion Transmission (DTI) planned Middletown gas compressor facility since the project was first announced in late 2007.

The Civil War Preservation Trust is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promoting appreciation of these hallowed grounds through education and heritage tourism. *History Under Siege* is composed of two parts; one identifying the 10 most endangered battlefields in the nation, and a second section lists 15 additional "at risk" sites also facing serious threats. The full report can be viewed online at www.civilwar.org.

In addition to South Mountain, other sites profiled in History Under Siege include:

Cedar Creek, Virginia, Oct. 19, 1864: Preservationists continue fighting to overturn a recent zoning decision that opens 394 acres of critically important battlefield land to an expanding limestone quarry.

Fort Gaines, Alabama, August 5-8, 1864: Dredging practices in the Gulf of Mexico have greatly sped the erosion of the Dauphin Island, which could someday be cut in half by the water.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1-3, 1863: Significant portions the battlefield lay outside the boundaries of the National Park, leaving them open for development.

Monocacy, Maryland, July 9, 1864: A trash incinerator proposed along the Monocacy River would be just a few hundred yards outside Monocacy National Battlefield. The plant would include a 350-foot smokestack.

New Market Heights, Virginia, September 29, 1864: Although one of the war's most significant engagements featuring African-American troops, New Market Heights has not yet seen any land preserved.

Port Gibson, Mississippi, May 1, 1863: En route to his eventual capture of Vicksburg, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant famously called Port Gibson a town too beautiful to burn. Historic neighborhoods are threatened.

Sabine Pass, Texas, September 8, 1863: During the war a handful of Confederate gunners at Sabine Pass turned back an entire Union fleet, but damage sustained by Hurricane Rita has kept the site closed.

Spring Hill, Tennessee, Nov. 29, 1864: General Motors is seeking to sell approximately 500 acres of unused land surrounding the battlefield. Plans call for high-density development on approximately 400 acres.

Wilderness, Virginia, May 5-6, 1864: Preservationists are trying to block Walmart from building a 138,000-square-foot supercenter just a quarter mile from the edge of the national park.