



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

March – April, 2020

www.franklin-stfb.org

**Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection, and Promotion of
Civil War Sites in Williamson County, Tennessee**

Battlefield Parcel Threatened

In February, it came to our attention that a piece of Prime Battlefield Property was about to have a Thrift Store built on it. This property is very near to the ground where Todd Carter fell mortally wounded, and within a hundred yards of where 3 of 6 Confederate Generals fell during the battle. Save The Franklin Battlefield, along with several other Preservationists attended the March 3rd Planning Commission Meeting in support of keeping this property as park land. Discussions are ongoing with Williamson County, which owns the property, in an effort to ensure that this vital Battlefield Property remains as it is.

See the [following newspaper](#) article reprinted with permission for details of the Planning Commission Meeting.

Our Thrift Store can't go on a piece of land behind the library. So where will they go now?

*Reprint from the Tennessean
By Emily R. West*

FRANKLIN - With Our Thrift Store unable to use county land on Granbury Street, the group is now looking for another place to go.

Originally, the group wanted to use a piece of county land behind the library and the Franklin Housing Authority homes to construct a 16,000 square feet building, according to documents submitted to the city of Franklin. The Franklin Board of Zoning Appeals voted unanimously that the thrift store was retail, rather than civic institutional. Civic and institutional zoning is typically used for places of public assembly, rehabilitation center, funeral homes, community gardens or charitable and social organizations.

An update from The Battle of Franklin Trust

*This is a summary of a recent Battle of Franklin
Trust announcement*

I am happy to report that starting today (Monday, May 4) we begin a phased re-opening. We will not be giving guided house tours for a short while, but you can purchase grounds tours and even take a brief self-guided tour of the house.

Our gift shops will also re-open to limited guest traffic. Tickets will be available online and onsite. We will closely follow the guidelines laid out in Governor Bill Lee's Tennessee Pledge and hope you will come out and visit.

Because guest traffic will be limited there might be short waits. We look forward to seeing you again and helping to return a bit of what is normal to everyone's lives. Keep following Carnton and Carter House on Facebook, or online for the most up-to-date information.

For almost 200 years Carter House and Carnton have been witness to the great epochs in American history. While we have been unable for the past few weeks to welcome you to the sites, the Trust has continued its research, hosted live virtual tours, as well as launched new Tenn in 20 podcasts and Hidden Stories. Within the next few days, members and donors will also begin receiving the most recent edition of The Dispatch.

See boft.org for additional details.

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The group is on a month-to-month lease with H.G. Hill Center on Columbia Avenue. H.G. Hill leasing agents told the group they would need to eventually vacate the property. The strip center previously held AutoZone and Piggly Wiggly as tenants. The nonprofit has been in the same location for the last 15 years.

We have been going across town for anything we can think of," landscape architect Greg Gamble said. Gamble was working with the group on the potential building project. "They do make money, and can afford a lease. We just have to have the economics that make sense for their business. We have our eyes open and we were paying attention."

Likewise, the Williamson County Budget Committee deferred the issue until May to see what the BZA chose to do.

"I am sure everyone agrees that this institution needs to stay and flourish," Williamson County Commissioner Brian Beathard said. "Lives are enriched by Our Thrift Store's contribution the community."

Most recently, the group has packed clothing and organized garments for Midstate tornado victims. A week ago, 24 people died in the night after a 60-mile path of a tornado tore across from Davidson to Putnam County.

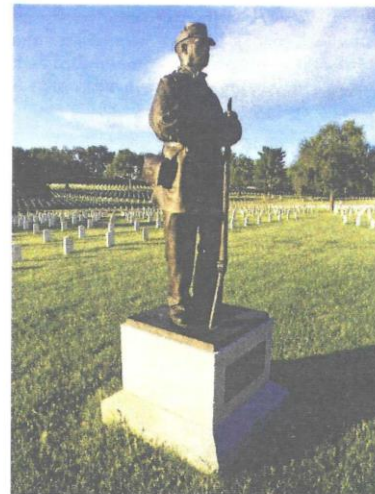
"If building owners want to contact us, Our Thrift Store for ideas, that would be welcomed," Gamble said. About Our Thrift Store.

Per its federal tax form in 2018, the nonprofit grossed \$1.03 million in revenue and spent that same amount in program services. The CEO and director don't receive compensation from the nonprofit, according to its tax form.

Our Thrift Store is owned and operated by the GEAR Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to providing work experiences for individuals with disabilities, enabling them to develop their characteristics and achieve the highest degree of independence and self-respect. To learn more about Our Thrift Store, contact David Krikac at (615) 473-1386.

Reach Emily West at merwest@tennessean.com or 615-613-1380 and on Twitter at @emwest22.

Come Be A Part of History!



Help us reach our Goal of \$150,000

Tennessee native Joe F. Howard has been selected to sculpt the USCT soldier that will soon stand on our square on the plaza of the Old Court House. Once we reach half of the estimated cost for this project, the initial process of making the statue can begin. All tax-deductible gifts can be made to The Battle of Franklin Trust and earmarked "USCT Statue".

Donations can be made at boft.org/usct-statue or mailed to:

The Battle of Franklin Trust
1345 Eastern Flank Circle
Franklin TN 37064

To Build or Not to Build the Cotton Gin

Many of our members have asked us why haven't we rebuilt the Carter Cotton Gin yet. This has raised several topics that are being considered in-depth by the Franklin preservation community. And it will be most likely a while before any final actions are taken.

Remember, it has taken 150+ years to get the several battlefield parcels we now have, and we need to be very thoughtful and make certain that the interpretive plan we choose is correct and appropriate.

The archeology digs 2009-2017 have located the cotton gin foundation and the main trench line from the cotton gin west to the current Carter House visitor center. On the east side (cotton gin) of Columbia Pike, all of the battlefield maps we had used for 125 years

were off by 20-30 yards. And the sharp angles of the trench that have dominated much of the battlefield interpretative story over the years were actually shallow 'S' curves. So those stories now have to be re-examined and revised to fit the actual facts of the battlefield.

The gin foundation was about 30 yards NE of where the Moscow Carter maps indicated. Thus, it may be close to, or on, the boundary line. Building codes require a setback from the boundary line so any cotton gin structure is on hold for now until we find a work-around. Whatever we do, we want to be good neighbors and not create animosity among our friends toward the battlefield parks we have. That would be an unwise thing to do. So, we just have to be patient for now, but keep working the problem.

Like you, all the locals over the years fully intended to rebuild the cotton gin where it originally stood, maybe even a working cotton gin, once we acquired the necessary parcels. In the glow of success after all these years of effort, we had several serious donors offer large donations to begin construction.

However, once we learned just how difficult and expensive 'acquire the necessary parcels' really can be, we decided to do a bit more thinking about what we should build. Do we really want to spend several hundred thousand, perhaps a million, dollars to build a wooden structure that will require still more expensive maintenance on into perpetuity? That really is a lot of money, and maybe we should use it instead to buy more dirt. Plus, a building eventually attracts derelicts and vagrants and problems. Let's think about it some more.

Also, once we saw the actual stones of the foundation walls, and the actual trenches, it immediately became obvious to us that these were priceless relics of the battle and should be kept as is, forever. We mustn't ever build anything actually on top of them - which would essentially destroy them.

After the archeological digs, the trenches were filled with sifted dirt and covered with large gravel to mark their location. There is some talk of building a section of the trench some distance behind the actual trench line to serve as a visual example of what they looked like, but there are no firm plans just yet. But for now, almost everyone here has come to consider the actual foundation and trench line much like a

grave, not to be desecrated in any way - ever. Likewise, some of our preservation friends out east have suggested we study the examples used in some of those battlefield parks and also at Ben Franklin's home. Rather than building on top on the foundation walls, keep those walls intact as relics and place foundations inside the walls (or outside) and raise vertical I-beams that support an I-beam outline of the cotton gin that is the exact shape, size and location of the original building. This structure would cost just a fraction of a wooden building and the maintenance regime would be to let it rust - rust is free - maybe replace it every 300 years or so - we could do that.

The idea is to have a representation of the cotton gin that can be seen from all points of the battlefield just as the original gin could be seen by most of the soldiers of both sides. Many of them wrote about the visual dominance of the gin that all participants saw. But no firm decision or plans are in place yet.

As we expand the battlefield park over the coming centuries, the outline gin (or wooden) structure would be the one constant visual anchor to locating yourself on the battlefield, just as it was the visual anchor for the soldiers who were in the battle. Almost everyone could see the gin house, and referenced it in their battle memoirs.

Thanks for helping us in the past, and we need you to stay in the ranks. There is much more to do.

Regards

Sam Huffman - Treasurer
Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

News in Review March-April 2020

Spring Hill leaders pause before extending contract with Rippavilla — Williamson—The Tennessean — 3/1/2020 — Spring Hill — In 2017, Spring Hill aldermen agreed to accept the donation of the historic Rippavilla property. Recently, Spring Hill's Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to defer a decision on extending the city's contract with Rippavilla, Inc. The goal of both the city and the Rippavilla board is to reach self-sustainability with little to no subsidization of the operating budget.

Save The Franklin Battlefield

PO Box 851

Franklin, TN 37065-0851

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March – April, 2020

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QTY	Item	Price	Total
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donations: Marker Fund		
	Land Purchase Fund		
	“Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville” ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Perryville” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Shiloh” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Ft. Donelson” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Stones River” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	“Eyewitnesses to the Battle of Nashville” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$20.00	
	New - 125 th Franklin Reenactment Belt Buckle – only a few left	\$25.00	
	FREE Shipping	FREE	
	ORDER TOTAL		

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851
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