

Preserving the land is the first step.
Restoring it to its wartime appearance is the next
crucial piece of the process.

If we work together, we can finish the job.
Help restore six battlefield sites with one gift.



Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

When you look out across the battlefield landscape at Chancellorsville, you might try to imagine tens of thousands of Confederate troops, erupting from the woods and sending the astonished federals reeling. “Along the road it was pandemonium,” recalled a Massachusetts soldier, “and on the side of the road it was chaos.”

But today, if you stood along the original Orange Plank Road, you’d see a non-historic structure blocking your view ... built with no regard for the historic land on which it sits, disrupting the integrity of the hallowed ground ...

Sadly, this unpleasant visual is not only the reality at Chancellorsville — the same thing is true at battlefield locations across the country, many of which you have worked hard to protect.

At ***Gettysburg***, at ***Chancellorsville***, at ***Seven Pines***, and two other hallowed battlefields of the Civil War, vacant buildings now stand on the lands where men fought and died. Most of them are eyesores, and none of them belong there.

These structures need to be removed so our country’s historic lands can be restored as nearly as possible to their Civil War-era condition, and so we can tell the full story of what transpired there.

I know you believe that our nation’s battlefields represent some of the **most hallowed ground** in the country. Beyond their sacred nature as historic sites where soldiers consecrated the ground with their blood, America’s battlefields are the **very best outdoor classrooms** to teach present and future generations about the formative events of our first century.



Seven Pines, VA

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Without a doubt, restoration is a key component of preserving our shared history. **But here’s the reality** — while we often have state and local partners to help with the cost of acquiring and preserving land — *which allows us to match your gift and multiply the impact* — for these urgently needed restoration projects, **we often stand alone.**

It is up to us to remove out-of-place structures like the ones I’ll be telling you about today. You and I must finish the job of restoring the lands we have fought to save.

I’m hoping I can count on your help. If we can raise the funds needed for these restoration projects in the next 30 days, we will be able to tear down six non-historic structures built long after the battles were over. It’s the final touch, the icing on the cake — the moment when you can step back, see the battlefield, and say at last, ***“We did it!”***

Please support our newest restoration efforts at Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Seven Pines, and more with your best gift now. We cannot begin the demolition and restoration until we have the funds in hand, so I hope you’ll be as generous as you can.

What’s it going to take? **We need to raise \$213,800.** I know it’s a lot. But as I often tell my kids, “Many hands make light work.” **If we can get 4,000 members to respond with a gift of \$53.45, we’ll reach our goal.** And if you’re able to send \$70 or \$100 or more, we’ll raise the money we need even faster. When you see where these structures are on the enclosed maps, ***I know you will agree*** that we must make their removal our highest priority!

Unfortunately, the restoration process requires more than simply bulldozing the structures and clearing the debris. There are wells that need to be filled, septic fields to be cleared and decontaminated, overhead and underground wires that must be removed ... *And then the land needs to be regraded and returned to its wartime appearance.*

That's why each property can cost \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000, or even more to fully restore. But *when you experience the hallowed ground as it once was — when you can stand where soldiers once stood and see where the smoke would have risen during battles past — then you know you have made a deeply important investment in preserving American history.*



Gettysburg, PA

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Let me assure you that none of these post-war structures we have the chance to remove today have historic value. You can see all the properties on the brochure I'm enclosing, and learn more about the details of each one, but for now, let me tell you about some of the most **critical** examples ...

Two are at Gettysburg. They stand on the Baltimore Pike and disrupt the historic landscape. As you know, troops moved up and down the Baltimore Pike before, after, and during the battle. On July 2, Union cannons were positioned just west of the thoroughfare and sent shells screaming overhead to support forces on nearby Culp's Hill. Both structures are within the interior lines of the battlefield, on lands that you have fought to save. *They must be removed!*

Another structure is in the heart of Jackson's flank attack at Chancellorsville. Now, after decades, we have the chance to *remove it and restore that portion of the battlefield.*

Perhaps the most glaring need involves Seven Pines. The post-war structure there is — to be frank — a decrepit hazard. Part of it is falling down. It's dangerous and needs to come down before it becomes a liability or becomes a target for vandalism and illicit activities.

And what's more, for some of the structures we are working to remove, we have contractual obligations and deadlines that were part of the terms of our land acquisition. Those deadlines are coming up fast!

But for all of these buildings, I believe we have a moral obligation to remove them. These modern structures shouldn't stand atop lands consecrated by blood and valor!

It must be done. To do the best job we can telling the stories of our past, we must take the next crucial step and remove these structures and restore the battlefields. To do anything but would miss the point of preserving the battlefield in the first place!

And we must do it. We saved the land. Now we need to finish the job!

You have played a crucial role in acquiring and preserving the lands we have protected, all across the country. I am forever grateful to you! And now, knowing you are as dedicated as I am to preserving the stories that unfolded on these fields of battle, I'm asking for your help again. Our task is not complete. We must keep fighting — until the land is fully restored to its wartime appearance.

For this final duty, I am counting on you. You truly are the heart and soul of the American Battlefield Trust, and I want you to know that through your gift today, you are doing something valuable and enduring for your country.

Please help me raise \$213,800 in the next 30 days by sending \$53.45 (or more if you can) so we can finish what we've started and leave these lands in a condition fit to honor our military heroes. **Thank you so much for being our partner!**



'Til the battle is won,

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. The sooner we can raise the needed dollars with your help, the sooner we can ***“finish the job”*** and restore these hallowed grounds to their wartime appearance. We owe it to the soldiers who fought and died shaping America's history. Please help see these preservation projects to their conclusions by sending your most generous gift now. If you would prefer to give online, you can make your secure donation at battlefields.org/restore2024. Thank you for your dedication to this noble cause!