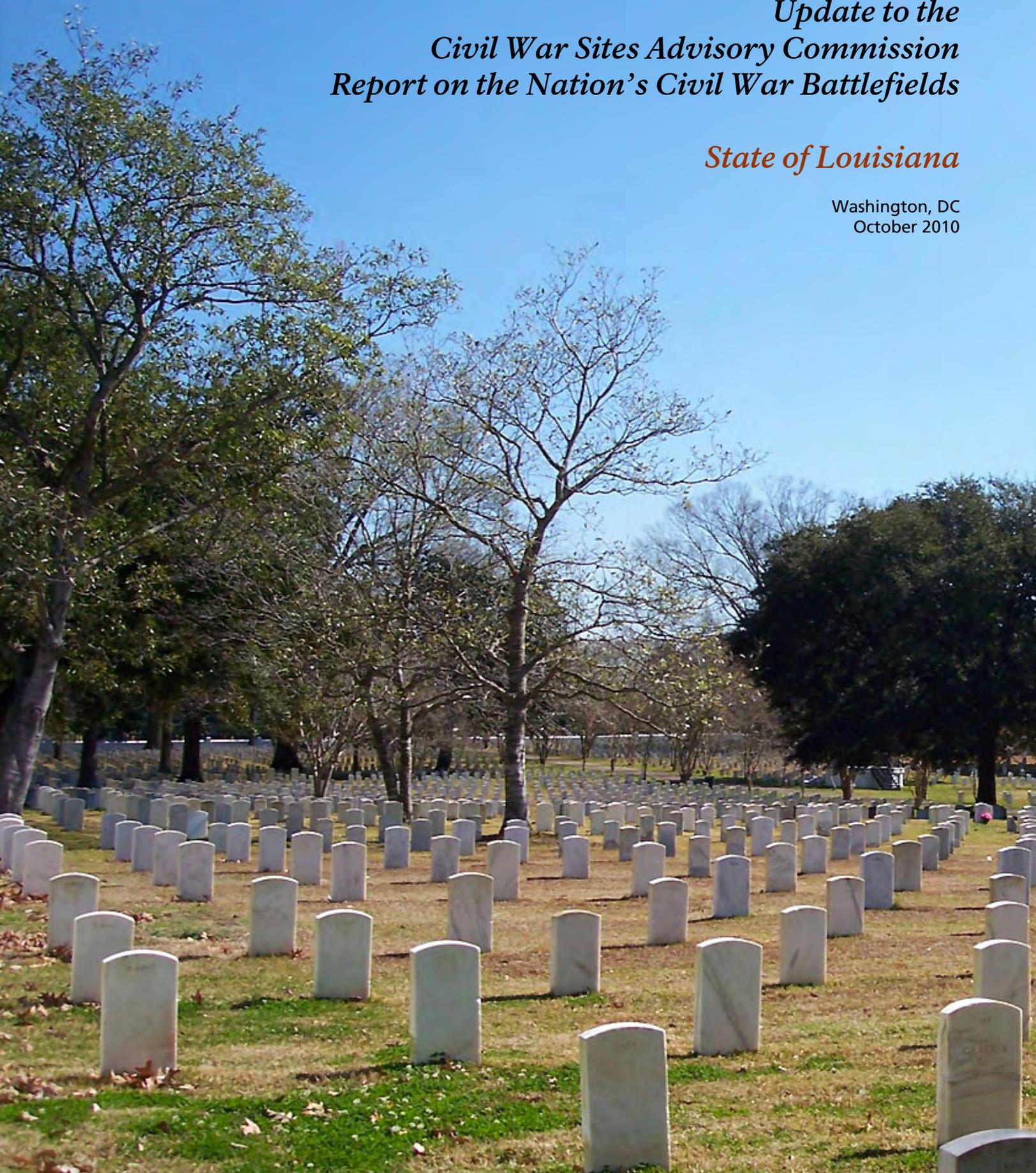




*Update to the  
Civil War Sites Advisory Commission  
Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*

*State of Louisiana*

Washington, DC  
October 2010



# *Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*

## *State of Louisiana*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
American Battlefield Protection Program

Washington, DC  
October 2010

### **Authority**

The American Battlefield Protection Program Act of 1996, as amended by the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016, 17 December 2002), directs the Secretary of the Interior to update the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*.

### **Acknowledgments**

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**Cover: Located at the center of the Baton Rouge battlefield, the Baton Rouge National Cemetery is the final resting place of Union soldiers and sailors who died at Baton Rouge and in other central Louisiana battles. Three Confederate soldiers lie here as well. Photograph by Joseph E. Brent, 2008.**

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## Introduction

The information in this report fulfills, in part, the purposes of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016). Those purposes are:

- 1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and
- 2) to create partnerships among state and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service, to update the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*. The CWSAC was established by Congress in 1991 and published its report in 1993. Congress provided funding for this update in FY 2005 and FY 2007. Congress asked that the updated report reflect the following:

- Preservation activities carried out at the 384 battlefields identified by the CWSAC during the period between 1993 and the update;
- Changes in the condition of the battlefields during that period; and
- Any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.

In accordance with the legislation, this report presents information about Civil War battlefields in Louisiana for use by Congress, federal, state, and local government agencies, landowners, and other interest groups. Other state reports will be issued as surveys and analyses are completed.

**Figure 1. CWSAC battlefields in Louisiana.**



## Synopsis

There are 23 CWSAC battlefields in the State of Louisiana. Historically, these battlefields encompassed more than 190,000 acres.<sup>1</sup> Today, about 79,000 acres, or 41 percent, retain sufficient significance and integrity to make them worthy of preservation.<sup>2</sup> Only 6,100 acres of these battlefields, however, are permanently protected by governments and private nonprofit organizations (see Table 8).

While no battlefield remains completely unaltered since the Civil War, 15 of Louisiana's 23 battlefields have experienced relatively little or only moderate change to their terrain and aboveground battle features in nearly 150 years (see Table 6).<sup>3</sup> Despite this wealth of resources, only land at **Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Fort DeRussy, Mansfield, and Port Hudson** has been permanently protected. All 15 sites should be the focus of national, state, and local preservation efforts during the next decade.

Of the battlefield land already protected in Louisiana, almost all of it has been purchased in fee and placed in public ownership. Many other states provide tax credits for private property owners who donate conservation easements that will permanently protect historic land. Further exploration of this powerful preservation tool may be appropriate in Louisiana.

Along Louisiana's rivers and bayous, land is divided in long, narrow lots that stretch away from the waterways. Known as arpent land divisions,<sup>4</sup> these narrow parcels provide each owner with water access and arable land. Traditional settlement on these parcels has been housing and farm structures built close to the waterway and cultivation of the remaining inland portion of land. The resulting land use pattern is clustered development along the water and open land to either side. Many Civil War battles took place along rivers and bayous, the principle transportation routes at the time. Because of land use associated with the arpent system, battlefield integrity along the water is often impaired by development, but the landscape's integrity beyond this ribbon of development is often excellent. That so many individual property owners hold slivers of the historic landscape also hinders protection efforts; advocates may have difficulty purchasing land or easements from enough willing sellers to create a critical mass of protected land. Long-term, creative solutions will be necessary to protect battlefields where the arpent system is in place.

During its assessment, the CWSAC used a four-tiered priority system that combined historic significance, current condition, and level of threat to determine priorities for preservation among the battlefields. Nationwide, the CWSAC identified 50 first tier or top priority battlefields; one, **Port Hudson**, is in Louisiana. The CWSAC viewed these battlefields as the most historically significant of the war, the most endangered in 1993, and having a "critical need for action."

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<sup>1</sup>Using GIS software, and accounting for overlapping areas, the ABPP calculated that the Study Areas for the 23 battlefields in Louisiana represent 193,327.79 acres (including land associated with **Goodrich's Landing** and **Milliken's Bend** in Mississippi).

<sup>2</sup>Using GIS software, and accounting for overlapping areas, the ABPP calculated that the Potential National Register Boundaries for the 23 battlefields in Louisiana represent 79,450.03 acres (no land in Mississippi associated with **Goodrich's Landing** or **Milliken's Bend** retains integrity).

<sup>3</sup>The condition of archeological resources within the battlefields was not assessed. Future studies are needed to determine the degree of archeological integrity associated with subsurface battle deposits.

<sup>4</sup>Derived from *arpentage*, the French term for land surveying, the arpent is a unit of measure used to describe both linear distance and area. In Louisiana, a linear arpent equals approximately 191.8 feet, and a square arpent equals approximately 0.8445 acre. Russ Rowlett, "A Dictionary of Units of Measurement," University of North Carolina, <http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units/dictA.html> (accessed June 30, 2010).

The CWSAC assigned five more Louisiana battlefields to the second tier, those considered “opportunities for comprehensive preservation.” These were battlefields “in relatively good condition, [and] face few threats, but are relatively unprotected....”

The third tier included battlefields “that already have substantial historic land under protection and face limited threats,” but that needed “some additional land protection.” Two were in Louisiana.

The CWSAC’s fourth and lowest tier was for “fragmented” battlefields. The CWSAC explained, “While some lost battlefields are truly obliterated, important remnants of others still exist....” Although these sites “to varying degrees no longer convey an authentic sense of the sweep and setting of the battle, they often remain important areas suitable for interpretation, museums, and commemoration.”<sup>5</sup> In 1993, the CWSAC determined that 12 Louisiana battlefields had been substantially compromised by post-war development.

Louisiana’s only top priority from 1993, **Port Hudson**, remains severely threatened. Although about 900 acres of the surviving historic landscape are protected by the state historic site, more than 5,000 acres are privately owned and under increasing development pressure. Land protection efforts need to continue to save this nationally significant landscape.

| <b>Table 1. CWSAC Preservation Priorities from 1993 – First Tier</b> |                     |                                  |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>CWSAC Priority</b>  | <b>Battlefield</b>  | <b>Parish</b>                    |
| I Critical Need<br>1 Battlefield                                     | Port Hudson (LA010) | East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana |

Four of the five battlefields in the second tier, battlefields with “comprehensive preservation” opportunities in 1993, remain good preservation opportunities today. These four battlefields, **Fort DeRussy**, **Irish Bend**, **Mansfield**, and **Mansura**, are in good condition but development has spread onto each landscape. Most severely threatened are **Mansfield** and **Mansura**, the former by lignite mining activities and the latter by sprawl associated with the growth of Marksville. Both battlefields need immediate and coordinated attention from federal, state, and local preservation advocates. The fifth battlefield, **LaFourche Crossing**, has been severely affected by development; only the eastern quarter of the battlefield retains integrity. Undisturbed land in the eastern Core Area and along the railroad should be the target of preservation activities at this battlefield.

| <b>Table 2. CWSAC Preservation Priorities from 1993 – Second Tier</b> |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>CWSAC Priority</b>   | <b>Battlefield</b>   | <b>Parish</b>   |
| II Comprehensive Preservation Possible<br>5 Battlefields              | Fort DeRussy (LA017)<br>Irish Bend (LA007)<br>LaFourche Crossing (LA012)<br>Mansfield (LA012)<br>Mansura (LA022) | Avoyelles<br>St. Mary<br>LaFourche, Assumption<br>DeSoto<br>Avoyelles |

<sup>5</sup>Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, *Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields*, Washington, DC: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1993, 22- 23.

The ABPP’s review of the third tier battlefields in Louisiana, **Plains Store** and **Stirling’s Plantation**, found that both survive in good condition but both remain completely unprotected. The ABPP believes these battlefields should be viewed as higher priorities for preservation. The northern portion of the **Plains Store** battlefield retains integrity, but continuing residential construction threatens to overtake it. Within commuting distance of Baton Rouge, the area is growing and already boasts a large golf course community just east of the battlefield. Further development may destroy the remaining historic landscape. Protection efforts are needed immediately.

**Stirling’s Plantation** retains a high degree of integrity. Residential development and oil exploration represent potential, but not immediate, threats. Today, **Stirling’s Plantation** presents one of best opportunities for comprehensive battlefield landscape protection in Louisiana.

| <b>Table 3. CWSAC Preservation Priorities from 1993 – Third Tier</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>CWSAC Priority</b>  | <b>Battlefield</b>                                    | <b>Parish</b>                               |
| <b>III Additional Protection Needed</b><br>2 Battlefields            | Plains Store (LA009)<br>Stirling’s Plantation (LA016) | East Baton Rouge<br>Point Coupee, St. Landy |

Twelve battlefields in Louisiana were placed in the fourth tier, severely fragmented or lost, in 1993. Of these, the ABPP confirmed that six retain greater amounts of integrity to varying degrees, one retains a more modest level of integrity, and the remaining five are beyond hope of meaningful preservation.

Landscapes and historic features within the Study Areas of **Fort Bisland, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Georgia Landing, and Kock’s Plantation** retain integrity to varying degrees and face steady and accelerating threats. In the case of the **Forts Jackson and St. Philip** battlefield, the threats are chronic. Water and wind erosion continues to exacerbate hurricane damage at Fort Jackson, funds are lacking to abate the elements and repair the fort, and unchecked vegetative growth has overtaken the entire site of Fort St. Philip, which is in private ownership. The ABPP recommends all four of the above battlefields be viewed as higher priorities for preservation .

The battlefields of **Goodrich’s Landing** and **Yellow Bayou** also retain good integrity, but are less threatened. Both battlefields offer opportunities for full protection of their remaining landscapes, some 16,000 acres in total.

**Milliken’s Bend**, while having some integrity, does not retain as much as the previous six battlefields. The Mississippi River has altered its course since the time of battle, however, the land portion of the battlefield still has some integrity and offers opportunities for long-term preservation.

The remaining five battlefields in Louisiana have changed dramatically since the Civil War. **Baton Rouge, Donaldsonville I, Donaldsonville II, New Orleans, and Vermillion Bayou** provide opportunities for commemoration, but few opportunities for cultural resource preservation beyond what has been saved and maintained.

**Table 4. CWSAC Preservation Priorities from 1993 – Fourth Tier**

| <b>CWSAC Priority</b>                                  | <b>Battlefield</b>  | <b>Parish</b>   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>II Fragmented/<br/>Destroyed</b><br>12 Battlefields | Baton Rouge (LA003)<br>Donaldsonville I (LA004)<br>Donaldsonville II (LA013)<br>Fort Bisland (LA006)<br>Forts Jackson and<br>St. Philip (LA001)<br>Georgia Landing (LA005)<br>Goodrich's Landing (LA014)<br>Kock's Plantation (LA015)<br>Milliken's Bend (LA011)<br>New Orleans (LA002)<br>Vermillion Bayou (LA008)<br>Yellow Bayou (LA023) | East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge<br>Ascension<br>Ascension<br>St. Mary, St. Martin<br>Plaquemines<br>Assumption, Lafourche<br>East Carroll; Isaquena County, MS<br>Ascension, Assumption<br>Madison; Warren County, MS<br>St. Bernard, Orleans,<br>Plaquemines, Jefferson<br>Lafayette<br>Avoyelles, Point Coupee |

The CWSAC did not collect survey data for **Blair's Landing**, **Monett's Ferry**, or **Pleasant Hill**; therefore these battlefields did not receive Preservation Priority assignments in the 1993 report. As part of the fieldwork undertaken for this update, the ABPP assessed conditions at each battlefield and assigned site boundaries.

**Pleasant Hill** and **Monett's Ferry** both retain a high degree of landscape integrity and face increasing development threats. Both of these Red River Campaign sites should be the focus of coordinated federal, state, and local efforts. Changes in the path of the Mississippi River have substantially altered portions of the historic landscape at **Blair's Landing**. Other areas have been affected by residential and commercial development. Much of the battlefield's Core Area retains integrity, however, and should be the focus of future protection efforts.

See the Individual Battlefield Profiles for detailed condition assessments and preservation recommendations. The National Park Service will issue updated priorities after all CWSAC battlefields nationwide have been surveyed and all state reports have been completed.

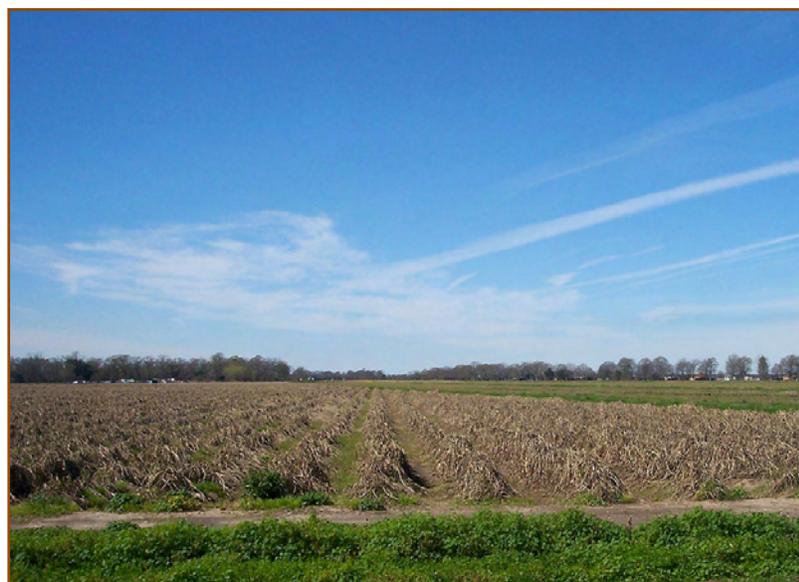


Figure 2: Rural farmland within the **Kock's Plantation** battlefield. Photograph by Joseph E. Brent, 2009.

## Method Statement

Congress instructed the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), to report on changes in the condition of the battlefields since 1993 and on “preservation activities” and “other relevant developments” carried out at each battlefield since 1993. To fulfill those assignments, the ABPP 1) conducted a site survey of each battlefield, and 2) prepared and sent out questionnaires to battlefield managers and advocacy organizations (see Appendix B).

The 1993 significance rankings for each battlefield stand. Significance was assigned by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and the ABPP sustains the CWSAC’s opinions as to the relevant importance of each battle within the larger context of the war.

## Research and Field Surveys

The ABPP conducted the field assessments of Louisiana battlefields in February 2008 and in September 2009. The surveys entailed additional historical research, on-the-ground documentation and assessment of site conditions, identification of impending threats to each site, and site mapping. Surveyors used a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to map historic features of each battlefield and used a Geographic Information System (GIS) program to draw site boundaries. The ABPP retains all final survey materials. Each battlefield survey file includes a survey form (field notes, list of defining features, list of documentary sources, and a photo log), photographs, spatial coordinates of significant features, and boundaries described on USGS topographic maps. The surveys did not include archeological investigations for reasons of time and expense.

## Study Areas and Core Areas

The CWSAC identified a Study Area and a Core Area for each principal battlefield in Louisiana (see Figure 3 for definitions) except for **Blair’s Landing, Monett’s Ferry, and Pleasant Hill.** ) The CWSAC boundaries have proven invaluable as guides to local land and resource preservation efforts at Civil War battlefields. Since 1993, however, the National Park Service has refined its battlefield survey methodology, which include research, working with site stewards, identifying and documenting lines of approach and withdrawal used by opposing forces, and applying the concepts of military terrain analysis to all battlefield landscapes. The ABPP’s *Battlefield Survey Manual* explains the field methods employed during this study.<sup>6</sup> The surveys also incorporate the concepts recommended in the National Register of Historic Places’ *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, which was published in 1992 after the CWSAC completed its original assessments of the battlefields.<sup>7</sup>

Using its refined methodology, the ABPP was able to validate or adjust the CWSAC’s Study Area and Core Area boundaries to reflect more accurately the full nature and original resources of the battlefields (see Table 5). For **Blair’s Landing, Monett’s Ferry, and Pleasant Hill**, the ABPP researched and delineated new boundaries. For the other Louisiana battlefields, the refined methodology resulted in significant increases in the size of Study Areas, Core Areas, or both. It is important to note, however, that the Study Area and Core Area boundaries are simply historical boundaries that describe where the battle took place; neither indicates the current integrity of the battlefield landscape, so neither can be used on its own to identify surviving portions of battlefield land that may merit protection and preservation.

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<sup>6</sup> American Battlefield Protection Program, “Battlefield Survey Manual,” (Washington, DC: National Park Service, revised 2007).

<sup>7</sup> National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, 1992 , Revised 1999 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division).

### **Potential National Register Boundaries**

To address the question of what part of the battlefield remains reasonably intact and warrants preservation, this study introduced a third boundary line that was not attempted by the CWSAC: the Potential National Register boundary (see Figure 3).

Looking at each Study Area, the surveyors assigned PotNR boundaries where they judged that the landscape retained enough integrity to convey the significance of the historic battle. In a few cases, the PotNR boundary encompasses the entire Study Area. In most cases, however, the PotNR boundary includes less land than identified in the full Study Area.

In assigning PotNR boundaries, the ABPP followed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) guidelines when identifying and mapping areas that retain integrity and cohesion within the Study Areas.<sup>8</sup> Because the ABPP focuses only on areas of battle, however, the Program did not evaluate lands adjacent to the Study Area that may contribute to a broader historical and chronological definition of “cultural landscape.” Lands outside of the Study Area associated with other historic events and cultural practices may need to be evaluated in preparation for a formal nomination of the cultural landscape.

Most importantly, the PotNR boundary **does not constitute a formal determination of eligibility by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.**<sup>9</sup> The PotNR boundary is designed to be used as a planning tool for government agencies and the public. Like the Study and Core Area boundaries, the PotNR boundary places no restriction on private property use.

The term integrity, as defined by the NRHP, is “the ability of a property to convey its significance.”<sup>10</sup> While assessments of integrity are traditionally based on seven specific

### **Figure 3: Boundary Definitions**

The **Study Area** represents the historic extent of the battle as it unfolded across the landscape. The Study Area contains resources known to relate to or contribute to the battle event: where troops maneuvered and deployed, immediately before, during, and after combat, and where they fought during combat. Historic accounts, terrain analysis, and feature identification inform the delineation of the Study Area boundary. The Study Area indicates the extent to which historic and archeological resources associated with the battle (areas of combat, command, communications, logistics, medical services, etc.) may be found. Surveyors delineated Study Area boundaries for every battle site that was positively identified through research and field survey, regardless of its present integrity.

The **Core Area** represents the areas of fighting on the battlefield. Positions that delivered or received fire, and the intervening space and terrain between them, fall within the Core Area. Frequently described as “hallowed ground,” land within the Core Area is often the first to be targeted for protection. There may be more than one Core Area on a battlefield, but all lie within the Study Area.

Unlike the Study and Core Areas, which are based only upon the interpretation of historic events, the **Potential National Register (PotNR) boundary** represents ABPP’s assessment of a Study Area’s current integrity (the surviving landscape and features that convey the site’s historic sense of place). The PotNR boundary may include all or some of the Study Area, and all or some of the Core Area. Lands within PotNR boundaries should be considered worthy of further attention, although future evaluations may reveal more or less integrity than indicated by the ABPP surveys.

<sup>8</sup> For general guidance about integrity issues and National Register of Historic Places properties, see National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, revised 1997). The survey evaluations described above do not meet the more stringent integrity standards for National Historic Landmark designation. See National Park Service, *How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1999), 36-37.

<sup>9</sup> See 36 CFR 60.1-14 for regulations about nominating a property to the National Register of Historic Places and 36 CFR 63 for regulations concerning Determinations of Eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>10</sup> National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, 1992, Revised 1999 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields

attributes – location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association – battlefields are unique cultural resources and require special evaluation.” Generally, the most important aspects of integrity for battlefields are location, setting, feeling and association,” and the most basic test for determining the integrity of any battlefield is to assess “whether a participant in the battle would recognize the property as it exists today.”<sup>11</sup>

Other conditions contribute to the *degree* of integrity a battlefield retains:

- the quantity and quality of surviving battle-period resources (e.g., buildings, roads, fence lines, military structures, and archeological features);
- the quantity and quality of the spatial relationships between and among those historic resources and the landscape that connects them;
- the extent to which current battlefield land use is similar to battle-period land use; and
- the extent to which a battlefield’s physical features and overall character visually communicate an authentic sense of the sweep and setting of the battle.

The degree to which post-war development has altered and fragmented the historic landscape or destroyed historic features and viewsheds is critical when assessing integrity.

Changes in traditional land use over time do not generally diminish a battlefield’s integrity. For example, landscapes that were farmland during the Civil War do not need to be in agricultural use today to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP so long as the land retains its historic rural character. Similarly, natural changes in vegetation – woods growing out of historic farm fields, for example – do not necessarily lessen the landscape’s integrity.

Some post-battle development is expected; slight or moderate change within the battlefield may not substantially diminish a battlefield’s integrity. A limited degree of residential, commercial, or industrial development is acceptable. These post-battle “non-contributing” elements are often included in the PotNR boundary in accordance with NRHP guidelines.<sup>12</sup>

Significant changes in land use since the Civil War do diminish the integrity of the battlefield landscape. Heavy residential, commercial, and industrial development; cellular tower and wind turbine installation; and large highway construction are common examples of such changes. Battlefield landscapes with these types of changes are generally considered as having little or no integrity.

The PotNR boundaries therefore indicate which battlefields are *likely* eligible for future listing in the NRHP and *likely* deserving of future preservation efforts. If a surveyor

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Division), <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/NRB40.pdf>. Archeological integrity was not examined during this study, but should be considered in future battlefield studies and formal nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>11</sup> National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, 1992, Revised 1999 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division).

<sup>12</sup> The ABPP looks only at the battle-related elements of a cultural landscape. Post-battle elements, while not contributing to the significance of the battlefield, may be eligible for separate listing in the National Register of Historic Places on their own merits.

determined that a battlefield was entirely compromised by land use incompatible with the preservation of historic features (i.e., it has little or no integrity), the ABPP did not assign a PotNR boundary.<sup>13</sup>

In cases where a battlefield is already listed in the NRHP, surveyors reassessed the existing documentation based on current scholarship and resource integrity, and, when appropriate, provided new information and proposed new boundaries as part of the surveys. As a result, some PotNR boundaries will contain or share a boundary with lands already listed in the NRHP. In other cases, PotNR boundaries will exclude listed lands that have lost integrity (see Table 7 for boundary comparisons.)<sup>14</sup>

The data from which all three boundaries are drawn do not necessarily reflect the full research needed for a formal NRHP nomination. PotNR boundaries are based on an assessment of aboveground historic features associated with the cultural and natural landscape. The surveys did not include a professional archeological inventory or assessment of subsurface features or indications. In some cases, future archeological testing will help determine whether subsurface features remain, whether subsurface battle features convey important information about a battle or historic property, and whether that information may help to confirm, refine, or refute the boundaries previously determined by historic studies and terrain analysis.

The ABPP survey information should be reassessed during future compliance processes such as the Section 106 process required by the National Historic Preservation Act<sup>15</sup> and Environmental Impact Statements/Environmental Assessments required by the National Environmental Policy Act.<sup>16</sup> Likewise, more detailed research and assessments should take place when any battlefield is formally nominated to the NRHP or proposed for designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). New research and intensive-level surveys of these sites will enlighten future preservation and compliance work. Agencies should continue to consult local and state experts for up-to-date information about these battlefields.

Four Louisiana battlefields—**Baton Rouge, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Mansfield, and Port Hudson**—are already listed in the NRHP or are designated as National Historic Landmarks (see Table 7). The ABPP believes, however, that the **Mansfield** NRHP listing and the **Port Hudson** NHL designation should be reevaluated. The existing documentation for these two important battlefields does not express accurately their size or current integrity. In addition, the ABPP has identified 16 other battlefields in Louisiana that are likely eligible for listing in the NRHP.

## Questionnaires

While the ABPP maintains data about its own program activities at Civil War battlefields, most preservation work occurs at the local level. Therefore, to answer Congress's directive for information about battlefield preservation activities, the ABPP sought input from local

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<sup>13</sup> National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields*, 1992, Revised 1999 (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/NRB40.pdf>), offers recommendations regarding "Selecting Defensible Boundaries." While this document indicates that "generally, boundaries should not be drawn to include the portion of the route taken to the battlefield where there were no encounters," the *Guidelines* also state that "a basic principle is to include within the boundary all of the locations where opposing forces, either before, during or after the battle, took actions based on their assumption of being in the presence of the enemy." The ABPP interprets this latter guidance to mean all military activities that influenced the battle. See the individual battlefield profiles for information about military actions taken along the routes included. In accordance with the methodology of this study, if routes included in the Study Area retain integrity, they are included within the Potential National Register boundary for the battlefield landscape.

<sup>14</sup> The ABPP's surveys and PotNR assessments do not constitute formal action on behalf of the office of the National Register of Historic Places. PotNR assessments are intended for planning purposes only; they do not carry the authority to add, change, or remove an official listing.

<sup>15</sup> 16 USC 470f.

<sup>16</sup> 42 USC 4331-4332.

battlefield managers and advocacy organizations. The ABPP distributed questionnaires designed to gather information about the types of preservation activities that have taken place at the battlefields since 1993. The Questionnaire is reproduced in Appendix B.

In Louisiana, representatives of seven organizations completed and returned questionnaires. Their responses, combined with the survey findings, allowed the ABPP to create a profile of conditions and activities at Louisiana's Civil War battlefields.



Figure 4. Natural threats endanger many battlefield features in Louisiana. Here, the parapet and bombproof at **Fort Jackson** are overgrown with mature trees. Root systems will slowly break apart the masonry and, if the trees blow over in a storm, dislodge chunks of parapet. Photograph by Joseph E. Brent, 2008.

# Summary of Conditions of Louisiana’s Civil War Battlefields

## Quantified Land Areas

Using Geographic Information Systems software, the ABPP calculated the amount of land historically associated with the battle (Study Area), the amount of land where forces were engaged (Core Area), and the amount of land that may retain enough integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and that remains to be protected (Potential National Register boundary).

As noted above, Study Areas and Core Areas have been revised in many cases. In particular, the original CWSAC surveys did not consistently include routes of approach and withdrawal or secondary actions that influenced the course or outcome of the battle. The revised boundaries take these movements and actions into account.<sup>17</sup> In some instances, new or additional research has sharpened historical understanding of battle events. Therefore, the ABPP determined that additional lands belong appropriately in the Study and Core Areas because they lend additional understanding to the battle story. The individual battlefield profiles at the end of this report provide additional information about the extent of and reasons for any revisions to the CWSAC Study Area and Core Area boundaries.

Table 5 lists the size of the three boundaries, as determined by the ABPP, for each battlefield. Because Civil War armies waged numerous battles in Louisiana over the same ground, the total number of battlefield acres in Louisiana is lower than a straight tally would indicate. Calculating for the overlapping areas of the battlefields, there are approximately 193,000 total Study Area acres (including 15,900 acres in Mississippi), 46,000 total Core Area acres, and 79,000 total acres likely eligible for listing in the NRHP in Louisiana.

**Table 5. Battlefield Area Statistics**

| <b>Battlefield</b>                   | <b>Study Area</b> | <b>Core Area</b> | <b>PotNR Boundary</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Baton Rouge (LA003)                  | 15,564.21         | 5,187.80         | 0.00                  |
| Blair's Landing (LA020)              | 2,547.77          | 995.07           | 1,237.97              |
| Donaldsonville I (LA004)             | 3,610.11          | 456.54           | 3,272.14              |
| Donaldsonville II (LA013)            | 4,980.91          | 1,338.27         | 0.00                  |
| Fort Bisland (LA006)                 | 9,895.80          | 2,648.92         | 2,487.84              |
| Fort DeRussy (LA017)                 | 1,475.19          | 575.52           | 813.16                |
| Forts Jackson and St. Philip (LA001) | 14,619.32         | 5,005.22         | 13,693.59             |
| Georgia Landing (LA005)              | 3,140.48          | 582.14           | 469.32                |
| Goodrich's Landing (LA014)*          | 29,203.48         | 1,241.11         | 12,795.73             |
| Irish Bend (LA007)                   | 7,772.88          | 2,787.41         | 4,990.88              |
| Kock's Plantation (LA015)            | 4,270.76          | 1,984.17         | 1,402.34              |

<sup>17</sup> National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields* (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/NRB40.pdf>), offers recommendations regarding “Selecting Defensible Boundaries.” While this document indicates that “generally, boundaries should not be drawn to include the portion of the route taken to the battlefield where there were no encounters,” the guidelines also state that “a basic principle is to include within the boundary all of the locations where opposing forces, either before, during or after the battle, took actions based on their assumption of being in the presence of the enemy.” The ABPP interprets this latter guidance to mean all military activities that influenced the battle. See the individual battlefield profiles for information about military actions taken along the routes included. In accordance with the methodology of this study, if routes included in the Study Area retain integrity, they are included within the Potential National Register boundary for the battlefield landscape.

|                               |           |          |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| LaFourche Crossing (LA012)    | 3,572.68  | 412.87   | 864.64   |
| Mansfield (LA018)             | 10,960.15 | 4,105.58 | 9,347.42 |
| Mansura (LA022)               | 7,402.21  | 4,350.24 | 2,887.09 |
| Milliken's Bend (LA011)**     | 17,395.21 | 1,538.96 | 2,037.71 |
| Monett's Ferry (LA021)        | 7,293.24  | 2,979.55 | 6,819.62 |
| New Orleans (LA002)           | 24,610.77 | 534.16   | 0.00     |
| Plains Store (LA009)          | 3,718.62  | 1,158.52 | 1,307.60 |
| Pleasant Hill (LA019)         | 4,180.28  | 1,711.34 | 4,038.41 |
| Port Hudson (LA010)           | 11,949.48 | 4,275.56 | 6,315.21 |
| Stirling's Plantation (LA016) | 3,732.69  | 1,311.22 | 3,292.29 |
| Vermillion Bayou (LA008)      | 2,480.76  | 289.34   | 0.00     |
| Yellow Bayou (LA023)          | 5,067.51  | 1,318.55 | 3,240.31 |

\*The Goodrich's Landing Study Area includes 8,263.91 acres in Mississippi.

\*\* The Milliken's Bend Study Area includes 7,644.83 acres in Mississippi.

## Condition Assessments

Using field survey data, the ABPP assessed the overall condition of each battlefield's *Study Area*. While no battlefield remains completely unaltered since the Civil War, 15 of Louisiana's 23 battlefields have experienced relatively little or only moderate change to their terrain and aboveground battle features in nearly 150 years.<sup>18</sup>

The 15 sites in the best condition should be the focus of sustained and coordinated national, state, and local preservation efforts (see Table 6). Most of these places remain rural and relatively unscathed. The topography, viewsheds, and character defining features of these landscapes convey the significance of the battles that unfolded across them.

Several other battlefields have been altered to varying degrees, but each still presents opportunities for land and resource protection. Changes in the course of the Mississippi River have wiped away swathes of the **Blair's Landing** and **Milliken's Bend** landscapes, but in areas where the topography remains unaltered, the land is rural and open. At **LaFourche Crossing**, the growth of the City of Thibodaux has destroyed all but the easternmost portion of the battlefield.

The remaining five battlefields have lost integrity, overwhelmed by development of various kinds. Within these now-urban battlefields—**Baton Rouge**, **Donaldsonville I**, **Donaldsonville II**, **New Orleans**, and **Vermillion Bayou**—archeological investigations may uncover important subsurface battle features, and protected but isolated features such as Forts Pike and Macon in New Orleans will continue to need care, but the opportunity to save the landscapes of battle is gone.

<sup>18</sup> The condition of archeological resources within the battlefields was not assessed. Future studies are needed to determine the degree of archeological integrity associated with subsurface battle deposits.

**Table 6: Battlefield Condition Summary**

| <b>Condition</b>  | <b>Battlefield</b>  |
|---|---|
| <b>Land use and terrain is little changed (3)</b>   | Irish Bend, Pleasant Hill, Stirling’s Plantation  |
| <b>Portions of landscape have been altered, but most essential features remain (12)</b>           | Fort Bisland, Fort DeRussy, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Georgia Landing, Goodrich’s Landing, Kock’s Plantation, Mansfield, Mansura, Monett’s Ferry, Plains Store, Port Hudson, Yellow Bayou |
| <b>Much of the landscape has been altered and fragmented, leaving some essential features (5)</b> | Blair’s Landing, LaFourche Crossing, Milliken’s Bend, New Orleans, Donaldsonville I*  |
| <b>Landscape and terrain have been altered beyond recognition (3)</b>                             | Baton Rouge, Donaldsonville II, Vermillion Bayou  |

*\*Only water features retain integrity at Donaldsonville I.*

**Registration**

The nation’s official method for recognizing historic properties worthy of preservation is listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). As of June 2010, more than 6,100 acres at four Louisiana Civil War battlefields have been listed in the NRHP.<sup>19</sup> Of those 6,100 acres, approximately 5,900 reflect a single listing, **Port Hudson’s** National Historic Landmark boundary.

The ABPP believes the **Port Hudson** designation and the **Mansfield** NRHP listing, both of which are based on documentation from the early 1970s, should be reevaluated. The existing documentation does not express accurately the size or current integrity of these two important battlefields. (For a comparison of the listed land and the ABPP’s recommended boundaries, see the maps in the Individual Battlefield Profiles for **Mansfield** and **Port Hudson**.)

In addition, the ABPP also found that portions of 16 other battlefields, encompassing nearly 52,000 acres, may also be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Registered battlefields meet national standards for documentation, physical integrity, and demonstrable significance to the history of our nation. Federal, state, and local agencies use information from the NRHP as a planning tool to identify and make decisions about cultural resources. Federal and state laws, most notably Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, require agencies to account for the effects their projects (roads, wetland permits, quarrying, cell towers, etc.) may have on listed and eligible historic properties, such as battlefields. Listing allows project designers to quickly identify the battlefield and avoid or minimize impacts to the landscape.

Properties listed in the NRHP may also be eligible for federal and state historic preservation grant programs. Recognition as an NRHP listed battlefield can advance public

<sup>19</sup> National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, DC. The exact sum of listed lands is 6,140.83 acres. Note that some National Register of Historic Places lands may have lost integrity since they were listed.

understanding of and appreciation for the battlefield, and may encourage advocacy for its preservation.<sup>20</sup>

Table 7 compares the number of acres already listed in the NRHP with the number of acres that are likely to meet the same criteria, but are not currently part of an existing NRHP boundary. As noted earlier, several Louisiana battlefields overlap in land area. Therefore, the total amount of intact land potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, about 79,000 acres, is lower than a simple tally of the numbers in the table.<sup>21</sup>

| <b>Table 7: Acres Registered Compared with Acres Potentially Eligible to be Registered</b> |                    |                         |                                  |  |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Battlefield</b>   | <b>Designation</b> | <b>ABPP PotNR Acres</b> | <b>Existing Registered Acres</b> | <b>Acres Potentially Eligible to be Registered</b> |
| Baton Rouge (LA003)  | NRHP               | 0.00                    | 18.29                            | 0.00   |
| Blair's Landing (LA020)  |                    | 1,237.97                | 0.00                             | 1,237.97   |
| Donaldsonville I (LA004)*  |                    | 3,272.14                | 0.00                             | 3,272.14   |
| Donaldsonville II (LA013)**  |                    | 0.00                    | 1.00                             | 0.00   |
| Fort Bisland (LA006)   |                    | 2,487.84                | 0.00                             | 2,487.84   |
| Fort DeRussy (LA017)   |                    | 813.16                  | 0.00                             | 813.16   |
| Forts Jackson and St. Philip (LA001)   | NHL                | 13,693.59               | 116.35                           | 13,577.24  |
| Georgia Landing (LA005)  |                    | 469.32                  | 0.00                             | 469.32   |
| Goodrich's Landing (LA014)   |                    | 12,795.73               | 0.00                             | 12,795.73  |
| Irish Bend (LA007)   |                    | 4,990.88                | 0.00                             | 4,990.88   |
| Kock's Plantation (LA015)  |                    | 1,402.34                | 0.00                             | 1,402.34   |
| LaFourche Crossing (LA012)   |                    | 864.64                  | 0.00                             | 864.64   |
| Mansfield (LA018)  | NRHP               | 9,347.42                | 44.61                            | 9,302.81   |
| Mansura (LA022)  |                    | 2,887.09                | 0.00                             | 2,887.09   |
| Milliken's Bend (LA011)  |                    | 2,037.71                | 0.00                             | 2,037.71   |
| Monett's Ferry (LA021)   |                    | 6,819.62                | 0.00                             | 6,819.62   |
| New Orleans (LA002)  |                    | 0.00                    | 0.00                             | 0.00   |
| Plains Store (LA009)   |                    | 1,307.60                | 0.00                             | 1,307.60   |
| Pleasant Hill (LA019)  |                    | 4,038.41                | 0.00                             | 4,038.41   |
| Port Hudson (LA010)  | NHL                | 6,315.21                | 5,990.24                         | 324.97   |
| Stirling's Plantation (LA016)  |                    | 3,292.29                | 0.00                             | 3,292.29   |
| Vermillion Bayou (LA008)   |                    | 0.00                    | 0.00                             | 0.00   |
| Yellow Bayou (LA023)   |                    | 3,240.31                | 0.00                             | 3,240.31   |

*\*Only water features retain integrity at Donaldsonville I.*  
*\*\*The one-acre archeological site of Fort Butler is listed in the NRHP, but the battlefield itself is not.*

<sup>20</sup> There are three levels of federal recognition for historic properties: Congressional designations such as national park units, National Historic Landmarks, and listings in the National Register of Historic Places. Congress creates national park units. The Secretary of the Interior designates National Historic Landmarks (NHL) – nationally significant historic sites – for their exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation’s official list of cultural sites significant at the national, state, or local level and worthy of preservation. Historic units of the National Park System and NHLs are also listed in the NRHP.

<sup>21</sup> Using GIS, and accounting for overlapping areas, the ABPP calculated that the Potential National Register Boundaries (inclusive of existing listings) for the Civil War battlefields in Louisiana represent 79,450.03 acres.

## Stewardship

For the purposes of this update, public lands managed as historic sites in order to preserve battlefield resources are protected. Other public land, not managed for the preservation of the battlefield landscape, still has potential for damaging threats. The land is subject to state and federal preservation law, preventing private development, but its primary use may not be compatible with preservation of the battlefield landscape. It may also be threatened by natural processes.

**Table 8: Summary of Battlefield Stewardship in Louisiana**

| <b>Steward</b>          | <b>Battlefield at Which Land or Development Rights are Owned</b>   | <b>Total Acres Protected</b> |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Federal Government      | Monett's Ferry, New Orleans, Port Hudson   | 1,519.57                     |
| State Government        | Fort Bisland, Fort DeRussy, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, Irish Bend, Mansfield, Monett's Ferry, and Port Hudson | 4,530.71                     |
| Local Governments       | Forts Jackson and St. Philip   | 82.00                        |
| Nonprofit Organizations | None   | 0.00                         |
|                         | <b>Total</b>   | <b>6,132.28</b>              |

Less than eight percent of Louisiana's surviving Civil War battlefield acreage is permanently protected. Most of the protected land is owned by the State. Since 1921, the State has purchased more than 4,500 acres of battlefield land for different purposes—historic preservation, wildlife management, and forest management. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Office of State Parks, and the Agricultural Finance Authority are the agencies responsible for resource stewardship at seven battlefields.

Federal stewardship of Civil War battlefields in Louisiana is limited. Only about 1,500 acres are protected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

The ABPP was able to identify only one local government that has stepped in to protect Louisiana's Civil War past. Plaquemines Parish owns and manages the 82-acre site of Fort Jackson. The hurricane-damaged masonry fort requires repair and restoration funds beyond what the parish can make available. Due to safety concerns, the parish has kept the fort closed to the public since 2005.

The ABPP found no nonprofit organizations that owned land or easements on Louisiana battlefields. This finding is surprising given the active role nonprofits play in protecting historic battlefields in other states. Nonprofits can step in to preserve historic sites when public funding and management for historic preservation are absent. When public funding is available, nonprofits can serve as vital partners in public-private preservation efforts, acting as conduits for public funds, raising critical private matching funds, keeping history and preservation in the public eye, and working with landowners to find ways to protect battlefield parcels. More work is needed to focus the attention of existing nonprofits on battlefield protection in Louisiana, and to develop grassroots organizations that can advocate for the battlefields at the local level.

Landscape preservation efforts in other states have benefited greatly from the purchase of development rights in the form of conservation easements. Used in conjunction with or instead of a traditional fee simple purchase, conservation easements are one of the most successful preservation and stewardship tools available for protecting battlefields. This type of easement allows private property owners to keep their land while receiving tax benefits for donating the easement, and is becoming increasingly popular with landowners who want to restrict future development of their property. The federal government provides income tax credits to private property owners who donate conservation easements that permanently protect historic land. Preservation advocates need to work with land trusts and willing sellers to apply this powerful tool at Civil War battlefields in Louisiana.

The majority of remaining intact battlefield terrain in the state—more than 73,000 acres—is still held in private, unprotected ownership.

Through the development of collaborative partnerships among federal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private individuals, significant protective measures can be effective in Louisiana. Such partnerships are especially necessary in association with the seven Red River Campaign battlefields - **Blair's Landing, Fort De Russy, Mansfield, Mansura, Monett's Ferry, Pleasant Hill, and Yellow Bayou**. The landscapes associated with the 1864 campaign cover more than 30,000 acres, but only 1,600 acres are permanently protected.

For each battlefield, Table 9 compares the amount of land permanently protected from development against the total amount of land that has integrity but remains unprotected.<sup>22</sup> This information may serve planners and preservation advocates as a tool for prioritizing future preservation initiatives.

| <b>Battlefield</b>                   | <b>Permanently Protected Acres</b> | <b>ABPP PotNR Acres</b> | <b>Unprotected, Intact Acres Remaining</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Baton Rouge (LA003)                  | 0.00                               | 0.00                    | 0.00                                       |
| Blair's Landing (LA020)              | 0.00                               | 1,237.97                | 1,237.97                                   |
| Donaldsonville I (LA004)             | 0.00                               | 3,272.14                | 3,272.14                                   |
| Donaldsonville II (LA013)            | 0.00                               | 0.00                    | 0.00                                       |
| Fort Bisland (LA006)                 | 253.85                             | 2,487.84                | 2,233.99                                   |
| Fort DeRussy (LA017)                 | 75.00                              | 813.16                  | 738.16                                     |
| Forts Jackson and St. Philip (LA001) | 269.36                             | 13,693.59               | 13,424.23                                  |
| Georgia Landing (LA005)              | 0.00                               | 469.32                  | 469.32                                     |
| Goodrich's Landing (LA014)           | 0.00                               | 12,795.73               | 12,795.73                                  |
| Irish Bend (LA007)                   | 2,846.57                           | 4,990.88                | 2,144.31                                   |
| Kock's Plantation (LA015)            | 0.00                               | 1,402.34                | 1,402.34                                   |
| LaFourche Crossing (LA012)           | 0.00                               | 864.64                  | 864.64                                     |
| Mansfield (LA018)                    | 178.05                             | 9,347.42                | 9,169.37                                   |
| Mansura (LA022)                      | 0.00                               | 2,887.09                | 2,887.09                                   |
| Milliken's Bend (LA011)              | 0.00                               | 2,037.71                | 2,037.71                                   |
| Monett's Ferry (LA021)               | 1,363.13                           | 6,819.62                | 5,456.49                                   |
| New Orleans (LA002)                  | 159.70                             | 0.00                    | 0.00                                       |
| Plains Store (LA009)                 | 0.00                               | 1,307.60                | 1,307.60                                   |
| Pleasant Hill (LA019)                | 0.00                               | 4,038.41                | 4,038.41                                   |
| Port Hudson (LA010)                  | 986.62                             | 6,315.21                | 5,328.59                                   |
| Stirling's Plantation (LA016)        | 0.00                               | 3,292.29                | 3,292.29                                   |
| Vermillion Bayou (LA008)             | 0.00                               | 0.00                    | 0.00                                       |
| Yellow Bayou (LA023)                 | 0.00                               | 3,240.31                | 3,240.31                                   |

<sup>22</sup> The ABPP culled information about permanently protected lands from questionnaire respondents and numerous partner organizations. The data is not necessarily complete but provides an approximate idea of the amount of land protected at each battlefield as of 2010.

## Public Access and Interpretation

In its questionnaire (see Appendix B), the ABPP asked battlefield stewards about the types of public access and interpretation available at their battlefield. The ABPP did not collect information about the purpose or intent of the interpretation and access, such as whether a wayside exhibit was developed for purely educational reasons, to promote heritage tourism, or to boost local economic development.

The ABPP asked respondents to indicate the type of interpretation available at or about the battlefield since 1993. The categories included brochures, driving tours, living history demonstrations, maintained historic features or areas, walking tours and trails, wayside exhibits, websites, and other specialized programs. The results, summarized in Table 10, indicate that only 6 of Louisiana’s 23 Civil War battlefields have been providing public interpretation and educational opportunities since 1993.

| Table 10: Types of Interpretation at Louisiana Battlefields                   |   |
|---|---|
| On-site Interpretation Since 1993*  | Battlefield   |
| <b>Battlefields with public interpretation, including visitors center (4)</b> | Fort DeRussy, Forts Jackson and St. Philip,* Mansfield, Port Hudson   |
| <b>Battlefields with public interpretation, but no visitors center (2)</b>    | Blair’s Landing, Goodrich’s Landing   |
| <b>Battlefields with no public interpretation (17)</b>                        | Baton Rouge, Donaldsonville I, Donaldsonville II, Fort Bisland, Georgia Landing, Irish Bend, Kock’s Plantation, LaFourche Crossing, Mansura, Milliken’s Bend, Monett’s Ferry, New Orleans, Plains Store, Pleasant Hill, Stirling’s Plantation, Vermillion Bayou, Yellow Bayou |

*\*The Fort Jackson visitor center has been closed since 2005 due to unsafe conditions following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.*

Of the 79,000 acres of Civil War battlefield landscapes in Louisiana, only 6,200 acres (a little less than 8 percent) at nine sites are formally accessible to the public. There are state park holdings at **Fort DeRussy**, **Mansfield**, and **Port Hudson**. The Parish of Plaquemines owns **Fort Jackson**, which is usually open to the public but has been closed for the past five years due to hurricane damage. The public may access portions of the battlefields of **Fort Bisland** and **Irish Bend** by boat in the Attakapas Island WMA (major public launches are available). At **Baton Rouge**, the battlefield is an urban landscape, but the Magnolia Cemetery offers ten acres at the heart of the battlefield where visitors may find interpretation about the battle and see Confederate monuments and graves. In **New Orleans**, the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park interprets the history of the city and many of the buildings associated with the 1862 battle. At **Monett’s Ferry**, the public land within the Red River National Wildlife Refuge and the Natchitoches Forest Management Area allow physical access to the battlefield but do not provide interpretation.

## Local Advocacy

Nonprofit organizations play important roles in protecting historic battlefields. These organizations step in to preserve historic sites when public funding and management for historic preservation are absent. When public funding is available, nonprofits serve as vital partners in public-private preservation efforts, acting as conduits for public funds, raising critical private matching funds, keeping history and preservation in the public eye, and working with landowners to find ways to protect battlefield parcels.

Louisiana battlefields have received little attention from national and state nonprofit organizations, and only three local battlefield groups are active in the state: the Plaquemines Historic Association, the Friends of Fort DeRussy, and the Friends of the Mansfield Battlefield. All three groups were established after the CWSAC issued its report in 1993. Similar local organizations are needed to speak for the battlefields that remain in good condition, are unprotected, and are “unclaimed” by their communities.

**Table 11: Active Battlefield Friends Groups**

| <b>Battlefield</b>                   | <b>Friends Group</b>                 | <b>Year Founded</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Baton Rouge (LA003)                  | None                                 |                     |
| Blair's Landing (LA020)              | None                                 |                     |
| Donaldsonville I (LA004)             | None                                 |                     |
| Donaldsonville II (LA013)            | None                                 |                     |
| Fort Bisland (LA006)                 | None                                 |                     |
| Fort DeRussy (LA017)                 | Friends of Fort DeRussy              | 1994                |
| Forts Jackson and St. Philip (LA001) | Plaquemines Historic Association     | 1996                |
| Georgia Landing (LA005)              | None                                 |                     |
| Goodrich's Landing (LA014)           | None                                 |                     |
| Irish Bend (LA007)                   | None                                 |                     |
| Kock's Plantation (LA015)            | None                                 |                     |
| LaFourche Crossing (LA012)           | None                                 |                     |
| Mansfield (LA018)                    | Friends of the Mansfield Battlefield | 2003                |
| Mansura (LA022)                      | None                                 |                     |
| Milliken's Bend (LA011)              | None                                 |                     |
| Monett's Ferry (LA021)               | None                                 |                     |
| New Orleans (LA002)                  | None                                 |                     |
| Plains Store (LA009)                 | None                                 |                     |
| Pleasant Hill (LA019)                | None                                 |                     |
| Port Hudson (LA010)                  | None                                 |                     |
| Stirling's Plantation (LA016)        | None                                 |                     |
| Vermillion Bayou (LA008)             | None                                 |                     |
| Yellow Bayou (LA023)                 | None                                 |                     |



Figure 5: Within the boundaries of Port Hudson State Historic Site , the State of Louisiana preserves Federal earthworks constructed during the 48-day Siege of **Port Hudson**. The last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, the fall of Port Hudson opened the river to Union navigation and control. Photograph by Joseph E. Brent, 2008.

# Appendices

## Appendix A. Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002

Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016, 17 December 2002

Amends the American Battlefield Protection Program Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k)

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An Act

To amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) Findings.--Congress finds the following

(1) Civil War battlefields provide a means for the people of the United States to understand a tragic period in the history of the United States.

(2) According to the Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993, of the 384 principal Civil War battlefields--

(A) almost 20 percent are lost or fragmented;

(B) 17 percent are in poor condition; and

(C) 60 percent have been lost or are in imminent danger of being fragmented by development and lost as coherent historic sites.

(b) Purposes.--The purposes of this Act are--

(1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and

(2) to create partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

### SEC. 3. BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM.

The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended--

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as paragraph (3) of subsection (c), and indenting appropriately;

(2) in paragraph (3) of subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))--

(A) by striking "Appropriations" and inserting "appropriations"; and

(B) by striking "section" and inserting "subsection";

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following

“(d) Battlefield Acquisition Grant Program.--

“(1) Definitions.--In this subsection

“(A) Battlefield report.--The term ‘Battlefield Report’ means the document entitled ‘Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields’, prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993.

“(B) Eligible entity.--The term ‘eligible entity’ means a State or local government.

“(C) Eligible site.--The term ‘eligible site’ means a site--

“(i) that is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

“(ii) that is identified in the Battlefield Report.

“(D) Secretary.--The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

“(2) Establishment.--The Secretary shall establish a battlefield acquisition grant program under which the Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the cost of acquiring interests in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those eligible sites.

“(3) Nonprofit partners.--An eligible entity may acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under this subsection in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

“(4) Non-federal share.--The non-Federal share of the total cost of acquiring an interest in an eligible site under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent.

“(5) Limitation on land use.--An interest in an eligible site acquired under this subsection shall be subject to section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-8(f)(3)).

“(6) Reports.--

“(A) In general.--Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection.

“(B) Update of battlefield report.--Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Report to reflect--

“(i) preservation activities carried out at the 384 battlefields during the period between publication of the Battlefield Report and the update;

“(ii) changes in the condition of the battlefields during that period; and

“(iii) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.

“(7) Authorization of appropriations.--

“(A) In general.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide grants under this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

“(B) Update of battlefield report.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out paragraph (6)(B), \$500,000.”; and

(4) in subsection (e)--

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “as of” and all that follows through the period and inserting “on September 30, 2008.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and provide battlefield acquisition grants” after “studies”.

-end-

## Appendix B. Battlefield Questionnaire

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**State**  
**Battlefield**

**Person Completing Form**  
**Date of completion**

**I. Protected Lands of the Battlefield** (“Protected lands” are these “owned” for historic preservation or conservation purposes. Please provide information on land protected since 1993.)

1) Identify protected lands by parcel since 1993. Then answer these questions about each parcel, following example in the chart below. What is the acreage of each parcel? Is parcel owned fee simple, by whom? Is there is an easement, if so name easement holder? Was the land purchased or the easement conveyed after 1993? What was cost of purchase or easement? What was source of funding and the amount that source contributed? Choose from these possible sources: Coin money, LWCF, Farm Bill, State Government, Local Government, Private Owner, Private Non-Profit (provide name), or Other (describe).

| <b>Parcel</b>          | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Owner</b>                     | <b>Easement</b> | <b>Year</b> | <b>Cost</b>      | <b>Source</b>                               |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|---|
| <i>Joe Smith Farm</i>  | <i>194</i>   | <i>Private</i>                   | <i>SHPO</i>     | <i>1995</i> | <i>\$500,000</i> | <i>LWCF/\$250,000<br/>Private/\$250,000</i> |
| <i>Sue Jones Tract</i> | <i>16</i>    | <i>Battlefield Friends, Inc.</i> | <i>No</i>       | <i>2002</i> | <i>\$41,000</i>  | <i>State/\$20,000<br/>BFI/\$21,000</i>      |

2) Other public or non-profit lands within the battlefield? (Y/N)

- If yes, describe
- Name of public or non-profit owner or easement holder
- Number of Acres owned/held

3) Is the information in a GIS? (Y/N)

If yes, may NPS obtain a copy of the data? (Y/N)

## **II. Preservation Groups**

1) Is there a formal interested entity (friends group, etc) associated with the battlefield? (Y/N)

If yes

Name  
Address  
Phone  
Fax  
E-mail  
Web site? (Y/N)

- If yes, what is the URL?
- Does the web site have a preservation message? (Y/N)
- What year did the group form?

## **III. Public Access and Interpretation**

1) Does the site have designated Public Access? (Y/N) (Count public roads if there are designated interpretive signs or pull-offs)

If yes, what entity provides the public access (Access may occur on lands owned *in fee* or *under easement* to the above entities)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Nonprofit organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State government   | <input type="checkbox"/> Private owner                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                          |

Name of entity (if applicable)

Number of Acres Accessible to the Public (size of the area in which the public may physically visit without trespassing. Do not include viewsheds.)

2) Does the site have interpretation? (Y/N)

If yes, what type of interpretation is available?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Center   | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio tour tapes                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brochure(s)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintained historic features/areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wayside exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> Living History                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Tour     | <input type="checkbox"/> Website                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Tour     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                              |

## **IV. Registration**

Applies only to the battlefield landscape, not to individual contributing features of a battlefield (i.e., the individually listed Dunker Church property of .2 acres does not represent the Antietam *battlefield* for the purposes of this exercise)

1) Is the site a designated National Historic Landmark? (Y/N)

If yes, NHL and ID Number

2) Is the site listed in the National Register? (Y/N)

If yes, NRHP Name and ID Number

3) Is the site listed in the State Register? (Y/N)

If yes, State Register Name and ID Number

4) Is the site in the State Inventory? (Y/N)  
If yes, State Inventory Name and ID Number

5) Is the site designated as a local landmark or historic site? (Y/N)  
Type of Designation/Listing

#### **V. Program Activities**

What types of preservation program activities have occurred at the battlefield? Provide final product name and date if applicable (e.g., *Phase I Archeological Survey Report on the Piper Farm, 1994* and *Antietam Preservation Plan, 2001*, etc.)

1) Research and Documentation

2) Cultural Resource surveys and inventories (building/structure and landscape inventories, archeological surveys, landscape surveys, etc.)

3) Planning Projects (preservation plans, site management plans, cultural landscape reports, etc.)

4) Interpretation Projects (also includes education)

5) Advocacy (any project meant to engage the public in a way that would benefit the preservation of the site, e.g. PR, lobbying, public outreach, petitioning for action, etc.)

6) Legislation (any local, state, or federal legislation designed to encourage preservation of the battlefield individually or together with other similar sites)

7) Fundraising  
To support program activities?  
To support land acquisition/easements?

8) Other

## Appendix C. Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (PL 107-359) amended the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 USC 469k) to authorize a matching grant program to assist States and local communities in acquiring significant Civil War battlefield lands for permanent protection. Most recently, Congress showed its continued support for these grants through its reauthorization of this program within the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11).

Eligible battlefields are those listed in the 1993 Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields prepared by the Congressionally-chartered Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC). Eligible acquisition projects may be for fee interest in land or for a protective interest such as a perpetual easement.

Since 1998, Congress has appropriated a total of \$38.9 million for this Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (CWBLAG) Program. These grants have assisted in the permanent protection of more than 16,600 acres at 67 Civil War battlefields in 14 states. To date, only one Louisiana battlefield, **Fort DeRussy**, has received funding through this program. While all of the battlefields listed in this update are eligible for future CWBLAG funding, applications to protect land that retains integrity (within PotNR boundaries) will be the most competitive.

| <b>Battlefield</b> | <b>CWSAC Priority</b> | <b>Total Acres Acquired</b> | <b>Total CWBLAG</b> | <b>Total Non-Federal Leveraged Funds</b> | <b>Total Acquisition Costs</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Fort DeRussy       | II                    | 54.56                       | \$70,000.00         | \$144,334.94                             | \$214,334.94                   |

## Appendix D. American Battlefield Protection Program Planning Grants

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Since 1992, the ABPP has offered annual planning grants to nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, and tribal governments to help protect battlefields located on American soil. The ABPP encourages applicants to work with partner organizations and government agencies in order to integrate their efforts into a comprehensive landscape protection strategy. Louisiana battlefields have received \$101,000 in planning grants.

| <b>Grantee</b>   | <b>Year</b> | <b>Project Title</b>  | <b>Award</b>        |
|--|-------------|---|---------------------|
| <i>Northwestern State University</i>                           | 2010        | Archeological Survey of Deloach's Bluff Battlefield                     | \$41,000.00         |
| <i>Friends of the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail</i>    | 2003        | Guide to the Vicksburg Campaign   | \$25,000.00         |
| <i>Northwestern State University</i>                           | 2000        | Pleasant Hill Battlefield Survey  | \$15,000.00         |
| <i>Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism</i> | 1996        | Inventory and NHL Study of Sites Associated with the Red River Campaign | \$20,000.00         |
| <b>Total ABPP Planning Grants as of FY2010</b>                 |             |   | <b>\$101,000.00</b> |