

# “Virginia’s ‘unclaimed’ Civil War Battlefields”

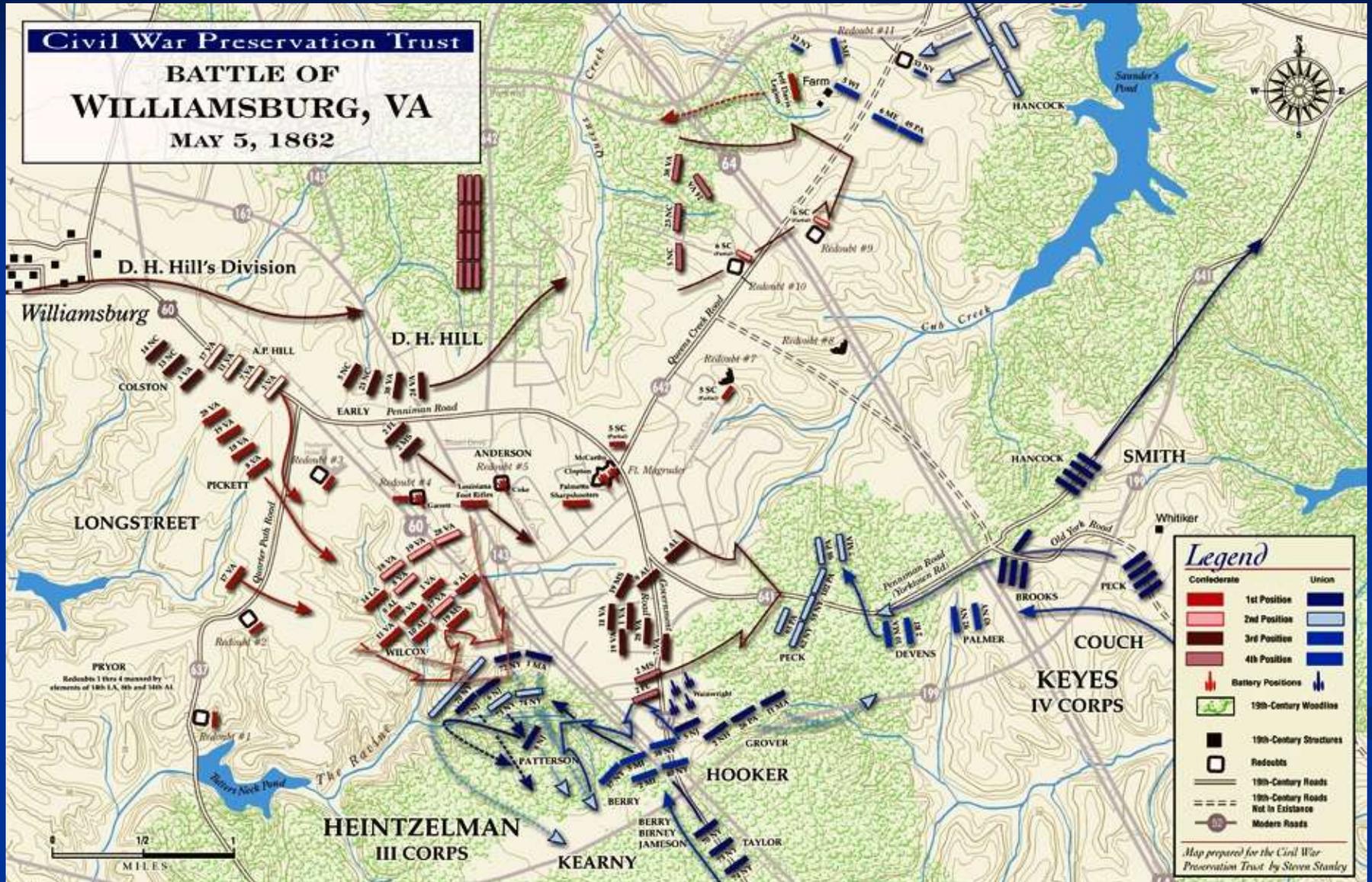
## *The Lifecycle of Battlefield Organizations- Part 1*



The Williamsburg Battlefield Association

*Drew A. Gruber*

# Williamsburg 101



# Identification & Evolution

## Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC), 1993

- Class “B”
- Approx. 2,000 undeveloped acres

## Civil War Trust, “At Risk,” 2005

- In response to a 250 acre rezoning of “Core” battlefield
- Gave rise to the ‘Williamsburg Battlefield Trust’

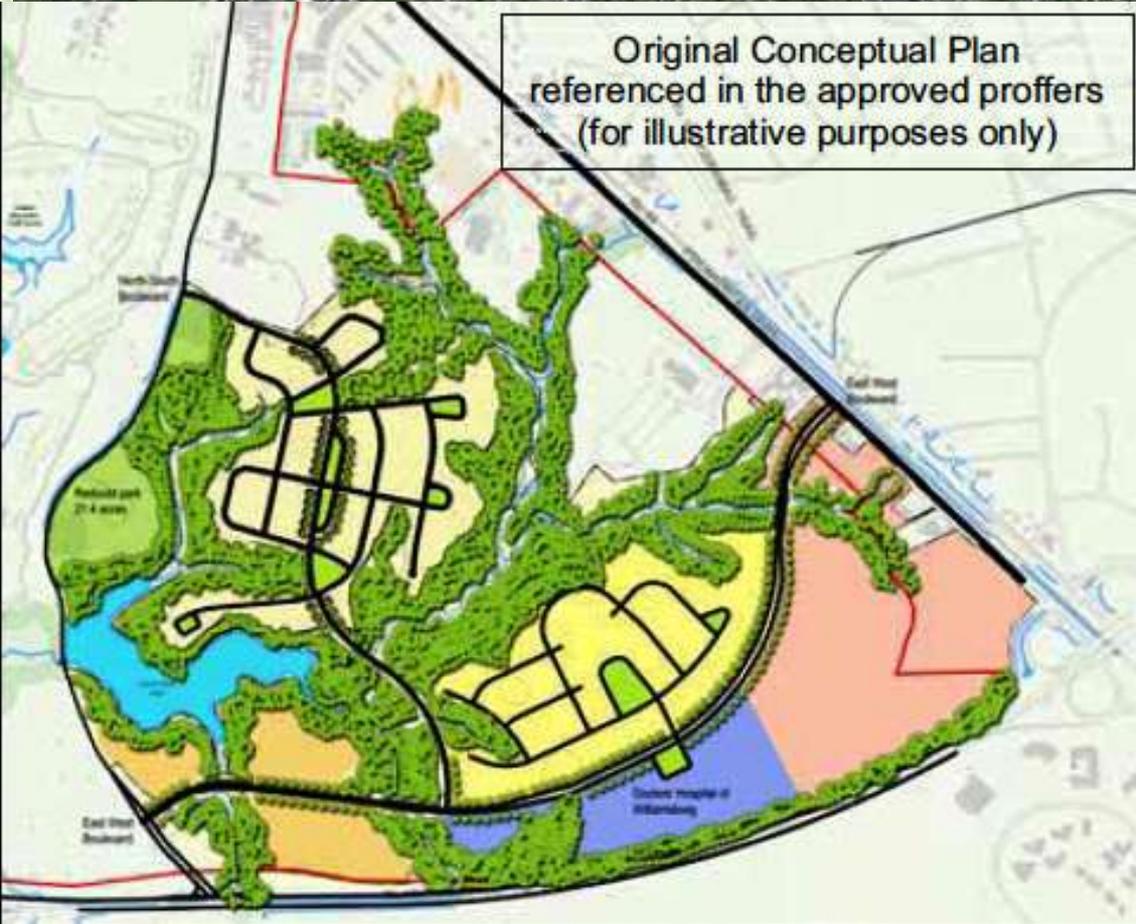
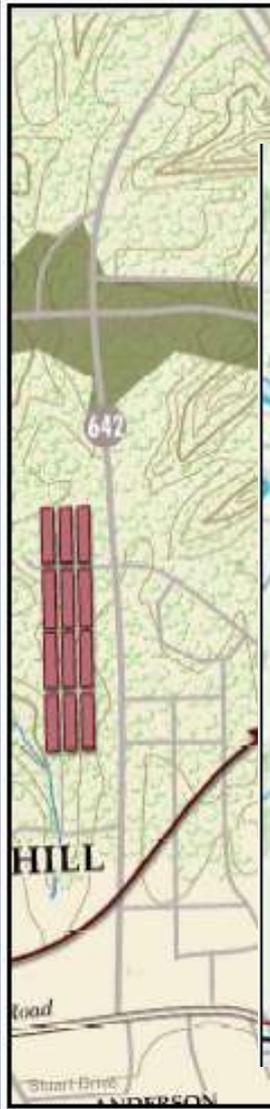
## CWSAC Update, 2009

- 1075 acres eligible for National Register (zero listed)
- 342 acres protected
- 732 acres undeveloped

## Civil War Trust, “At Risk,” 2010 *(yes... again...)*

## Preservation Virginia, “Most Endangered Sites in Virginia,” 2014

- Williamsburg Battlefield Association (501 c3) is official
- In response to 250 acres rezoning of “Core” battlefield
- Approx. 400 acres (discontinuous) are undeveloped today



# 'SWOT' Analysis

## ■ Strengths

- Historical Commissions & Interested Citizens
- Several notable publications and historians
- Friends and Heritage Groups

## ■ Weaknesses

- Ignorance of the resource
- One extremely large and influential property owner
- Other historic sites/periods of influence
- Lack of zoning, overlays or protective clauses
- Almost complete loss of original landscape

## ■ Opportunities

- Preservation of undeveloped sites
- Interpretation of developed (lost) sites
- Partnerships !!!
- Grant monies

## ■ Threats

- Continued development
- No comprehensive plan or tourism support
- Few documentary (archaeological, etc.) requirements
- Little interest in conservation and green space

# The WBA

- Mid 1990s (Williamsburg Line) *Unincorporated*
- Early 2000s (Williamsburg Battlefield Trust) *Unincorporated*
- By January 2014 the Williamsburg Battlefield Association had incorporated
  - *“The Williamsburg Battlefield Association is committed to the advocacy, education, preservation and interpretation of regional Civil War events and places.”*

Online  
Presence

Partnership  
s



Education  
Outreach

Community  
Engagement

# Questions & Contact

Drew Gruber – [Drewagruber@gmail.com](mailto:Drewagruber@gmail.com)

WBA- [info@williamsburgbattlefieldtrust.org](mailto:info@williamsburgbattlefieldtrust.org)

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Single tree about 1500 feet from Fort, which is about 300 feet from the west side of the...

**Williamsburg Battlefield Association**  
Non-Profit Organization

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"The Battle of Williamsburg has received less importance in history than it has merited."  
*Edwin Brown 1st Massachusetts Infantry*