


# Gazette

## New Signs Added to Civil War Trails

In 2001 the National Trust for Historic Preservation identified the Civil War Trails program—a multistate initiative that identifies, interprets, and creates driving tours of both great Civil War campaigns and lesser-known battle sites—as one of the most successful and sustainable heritage tourism programs in the nation. The Civil War Trails program uses maps, directional signs, and wayside markers to orient travelers through Civil War sites, many of them not otherwise interpreted. Signs are currently in more than 900 locations throughout the United States.

In early 2009, two new signs were added to the Trail: one at the entrance to the Gettysburg National Military Park on Emmitsburg Road in Cumberland Township, and another outside the Cashtown Inn, the headquarters for Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill during the Battle of Gettysburg. The signs placed in Adams County help complete the “Gettysburg: Invasion & Retreat Trail.” For more information about the Civil War Trails program, visit [civilwartrails.org](http://civilwartrails.org).



A wayside marker stands outside the Cashtown Inn in Cashtown, Pa. The marker is one of two placed recently to mark the national Civil War Trails program, which includes 900 signs in six states.

## History Under Siege

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) annually compiles a list of their 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields in the nation. Their 2009 report, released in March, includes:

**Gettysburg, Pa.:** Expansion of commercial development.

**Wilderness, Va.:** Proposed Wal-Mart super center less than a quarter mile away.

**New Market Heights, Va.:** The entire battlefield is currently unprotected by any preservation organization, including the National Park Service.

**Cedar Creek, Va.:** Expansion of limestone mining operations and a proposed network of high-voltage electric transmission lines.

**Monocacy, Md.:** Proposed \$527 million trash facility that would burn 1,500 tons of garbage a day.

**South Mountain, Md.:** Proposed construction of a natural-gas compression plant.

**Sabine Pass, Texas:** Damage from hurricanes Rita and Ike severely damaged the site, and funding is currently unavailable.

**Fort Gaines, Ala.:** Waves from the Gulf of Mexico reclaim an average of 10 feet of land each year (400 feet of historic battlefield have already been lost).

**Spring Hill, Tenn.:** Possibility of commercial development.

**Port Gibson, Miss.:** The Mississippi DOT has proposed widening the main road—Highway 61—that runs through the town.

Sites were nominated by CWPT members, and final decisions were made—with the assistance of historians, other preservation groups, and CWPT’s board of trustees—based on geographic location, military significance, and preservation status. For more information about each site, visit [civilwar.org/historyundersiege](http://civilwar.org/historyundersiege).

## Reagan Is Hall’s Newest Member

The U.S. Capitol’s National Statuary Hall Collection features statues donated by individual states to honor significant persons celebrated in their state. This past June, a statue of former President Ronald Reagan was unveiled in the Hall by former first lady Nancy Reagan, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Minority Leader John Boehner, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Reagan served as president from 1981 to 1989; in June 2004 he died at the age of 93.

## Education Bill Introduced

Earlier this year, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.)—along with co-sponsoring Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.)—introduced bill S. 659, the “Improving the Teaching and Learning of American History and Civics Act of 2009.” The bill is intended “to promote the teaching of traditional American history in elementary schools and secondary schools as a separate academic subject (not as a component of social studies).”

The bill would authorize 100 summer academies for students and teachers of U.S. history at locations within the National Park System and double the funding of the “Teaching American History” program to \$200 million. Additionally, states would be required to develop and implement standards for student assessments in U.S. history.