

PWC-Manassas National Battlefield Park Battlefield May Expand

By MIKE RADIGAN
JM Staff Writer

A U.S. District Court jury has cleared the way, temporarily at least, for a 312.5-acre addition to the Manassas National Battlefield Park by recommending that the federal government pay \$4.2 million for the extra space.

Officials at the battlefield and the U.S. Department of Justice say the price tag recommended by the jury is about \$3 million too much.

"I don't think (the cost of the land) reflects just compensation of the property," said Rolland R. Swain, superintendent of the battlefield.

Swain and justice department officials said Friday that the federal government likely will appeal the jury's decision.

The justice department is repre-

senting the battlefield and the United States in the land condemnation suit.

Manassas attorney Tom Underwood represents the heirs of Walker Davis, owners of the 312.5-acre site on U.S. 29-211 north of Manassas.

"Justice was done — I'll put it that way," Underwood said of the jury's finding Friday.

Sources said that a property appraiser for the Davis estate valued the Davis property at just over \$1 million.

An appraisal firm hired by the justice department estimated the property at \$812,000, sources said.

Swain said he thinks the jury may have misunderstood its options when it recommended that the Davises be paid \$4,218,750 for the land, or about \$13,400 an acre.

The current 3,660-acre park is located just north of Manassas along Sudley Road and Lee Highway. The southern edge of the Davis property borders the western section of the park near Stonewall Memory Gardens.

About 3,000 feet of the property's western edge parallels Pageland Lane, according to a map provided by Underwood.

Developers have been buying large parcels of land in that area in recent years. At the same time, federal officials have been trying to protect the park from development by acquiring land there.

The Davis property already appears as part of the battlefield on most county maps, although it had not been officially acquired by the government.

VIRGINIANA FILE Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Virginia

REFERENCE

VIRGINIANA FILE

Battlefield Listed as Endangered VIRGINIANA FILE

By RICHARD LEIGH
JM Staff Writer

The Manassas National Battlefield Park, because of the proposed development of a shopping mall on adjacent land, was named to the Wilderness Society's 10 most endangered national parks list.

George Frampton, president of the Wilderness Society, announced the list Tuesday morning, according to a society spokesman.

The Manassas battlefield was included on the list because "it is a high profile Civil War battlefield, identified around the country as of national significance, and it illustrates the urban encroachment that threatens national parks across the country," said Steve Whitney, director of the national parks program for the society.

The Hazel Peterson Cos. and the Edward J. DeBartolo Corp. jointly plan to build a 1.2 million square foot regional shopping mall as the centerpiece of a mixed development on land adjoining the local park.

"The common threat that links the 10 parks is the 'external threat issue,' said Whitney. 'Parks are not islands. They are part of a larger historical or natural area.'

"It would have been easier to list 50 units," he said. "The hard part was whittling the list down to 10."

"We're tickled to death" at the announcement, said Anne Snyder, head of the anti-mall Save the Battlefield Coalition. "It's a big powerful organization."

In conjunction with the two other major national organizations that have taken a stand against the proposed mall — the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Parks Conservation

See Listed on A-2.

REFERENCE

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.



William Penn M.
about the task of

People
their

By CLINT SCHEMM
of the Potomac News

WASHINGTON —
when once a nation

Continued from A-1
Association — up to 600,000 people in combined membership are represented, Snyder said.

"This will reach a lot of people," she said.

In addition to the local park, the other units on the list are the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and North Carolina, the Everglades National Park in Florida, the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, the Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, the Glacier National Park in Montana, the Yosemite National Park in California, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in California, and the Olympic National Park in Washington state, Whitney said.