The Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan:
Revolution in the Peaceful Valley

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“Soldiers and Countrymen:

We have met this evening perhaps for the last time. We have shared the toil of march, the peril of flight, and the dismay of the retreat; alike we have endured the cold and hunger, the contumely (sic) of the internal foe and the courage of foreign oppression. We have sat, night after night, beside the campfire; we have together heard the roll of the reveille which called us to duty, or the beat of the tattoo which gave the signal for the hardy sleep of the soldier with the earth for his bed and knapsack for his pillow.

And now, soldiers and brethren, we have met in the peaceful valley on the eve of battle while the sunlight is dying away behind yonder heights, the sunlight that, tomorrow morn, will glimmer on scenes of blood. We have met amid the whitening tents of our encampment, in time of terror and gloom, have gathered together, God grant it may not be the last time.”

From a sermon reportedly preached by Rev. Joab Trout to the American troops on September 10, 1777 the night before the Battle of Brandywine.¹

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents ........................................................................................................................................ iii

## Chapter 1: Introduction and Regional Influences
- **Protecting a Unique Resource** ........................................................................................................... 1-1
- **The Need for a Preservation Plan** ....................................................................................................... 1-2
- **What is a Cultural Landscape?** .......................................................................................................... 1-5
- **The Geographic Boundaries of the Battlefield** .................................................................................... 1-6
- **Historical Background of the Battle** ................................................................................................... 1-7
- **The Philadelphia Campaign of 1777** .............................................................................................. 1-12
- **A Summary of the Battle of Brandywine** .......................................................................................... 1-16

## Chapter 2: Land Conservation Plan
- **The History of Land Use in the Battlefield** ....................................................................................... 2-2
- **Current Battlefield Conditions** ......................................................................................................... 2-10
- **Land Conservation in the Battlefield** ............................................................................................... 2-11
- **Existing Protected Open Space** ........................................................................................................ 2-16
- **A Land Conservation Plan for the Battlefield** .................................................................................. 2-18
- **Natural Constraints and Opportunities** ............................................................................................ 2-20
- **Public and Stakeholder Comments** .................................................................................................. 2-22
- **Recommendations** .............................................................................................................................. 2-23

## Chapter 3: Historic Resources Plan
- **Previous Historic and Military Studies** ............................................................................................ 3-2
- **Historic Resources Inventory** .......................................................................................................... 3-14
- **Archaeological Inventory and Mapping** .......................................................................................... 3-24
- **Analysis of Defining Features and Complexes** ................................................................................ 3-31
- **Resource Inventory at the Municipal Level** ..................................................................................... 3-35
- **Battle Conflict Areas** ....................................................................................................................... 3-43
- **Planning Boundary Evaluation** ........................................................................................................ 3-45
- **Historic Resources Plan** .................................................................................................................. 3-46
- **Cultural and Historic Resource Policies** ........................................................................................ 3-55
- **Public and Stakeholder Comments** ................................................................................................ 3-63
- **Recommendations** .............................................................................................................................. 3-64
Chapter 4: Public Access Evaluation
Public Access Background ................................................................................................. 4-2
Public Access Existing Conditions ..................................................................................... 4-9
Public Access Trail Plan ................................................................................................... 4-19
Public and Stakeholder Comments .................................................................................. 4-22
Recommendations ............................................................................................................. 4-23

Chapter 5: Interpretation, Education, and Tourism
Previous Interpretation Initiatives ..................................................................................... 5-2
Opportunities to Expand Interpretation ............................................................................ 5-9
Establishing a Network of Interpretation Sites .................................................................. 5-14
Re-imagining Brandywine Battlefield Park ......................................................................... 5-42
Educational Opportunities ................................................................................................. 5-51
Tourism and Economic Development .............................................................................. 5-61
Public and Stakeholder Comments .................................................................................. 5-69
Recommendations ............................................................................................................. 5-72

Appendixes
Appendix A: History of the Battle ...................................................................................... A-1
Appendix B: Historic Resources Inventory ....................................................................... B-1
Appendix C: Implementation Plan and Cost Evaluation .................................................... C-1
Appendix D: Expanding Historic Narratives ..................................................................... D-1
Appendix E: Task Force Recommendations ...................................................................... E-1