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January 13, 2014

Washington Township
13013 Welty Road
Waynesboro, PA 17268

RE: Inclusion of Monterey Pass Battlefield and Maria Furnace Road, Franklin County in *Pennsylvania At Risk 2013*

Dear Washington Township:

Preservation Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth's only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of historically and architecturally significant properties, plans to announce its annual listing of Pennsylvania's most endangered historic properties on January 28 or 29, 2014. *Pennsylvania At Risk* is a sampling of the Commonwealth's endangered historic resources. For the purposes of this list, endangerment is defined as threat of demolition, significant deterioration, vandalism, inappropriate alteration, and/or loss of historic setting. The properties included in *Pennsylvania At Risk* for 2013 were selected from those nominated because they represent important resource types or exemplify common or noteworthy problems or issues faced by historic properties in the Commonwealth.

Monterey Pass Battlefield and Maria Furnace Road is included on this year's list because of the threat posed by the potential sale of a portion of the site by the Washington Twp. Municipal Authority without preservation restrictions.

It is our belief that publication of this list draws statewide attention to the plight of Pennsylvania's historic resources, promotes local action to protect resources, and encourages additional funding for historic properties. Our goal in listing Monterey Pass Battlefield & Maria Furnace Road is to bring attention to this property, and help ensure that a preservation-minded buyer is found, and/or preservation restrictions are put in place at the time of sale. We hope to work with you and other interested parties to ensure the preservation of this important historic site.

A copy of the page that discusses Monterey Pass Battlefield and Maria Furnace Road is enclosed. Printed copies of the 2013 *Pennsylvania At Risk* publication will be widely distributed by mail and will be available in our office after January 29, 2014. The list will also be circulated to local media outlets and posted on our website, www.preservationpa.org.

If you have questions regarding the *Pennsylvania At Risk* list or would like to discuss preservation of this important historic resource, please contact Preservation Pennsylvania Field Representative Erin Hammerstedt at (814) 571-2444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mindy G. Crawford".

Mindy G. Crawford
Executive Director



Monterey Pass Battlefield and Maria Furnace Road

14325 Buchanan Trail East, Washington Township
FRANKLIN COUNTY

SIGNIFICANCE

Located along the Mason-Dixon line on the ridge of South Mountain, Monterey Pass provided a direct route to the Potomac River that was used by the bulk of the Confederate Army during its withdrawal from Gettysburg. The Battle of Monterey Pass occurred on the night of July 4, 1863, during the retreat from Gettysburg, when the Union Cavalry came into contact with the Confederate Cavalry. After six hours of heavy fighting, which spilled over into the surrounding area, Union General Judson Kilpatrick gained the summit of Monterey Pass, successfully reaching the connecting road by 3:30 a.m. on July 5. Kilpatrick's men captured and destroyed nine miles worth of wagons, taking 1,360 prisoners and a large number of horses and mules as they moved toward Ringgold, Md.

The Battle of Monterey Pass is the second largest battle that occurred in Pennsylvania. Approximately 10,000 soldiers fought around Monterey Pass. The battle lasted more than ten hours and covered over 20 miles, all fought in the dark and in the midst of blinding thunderstorm. In 2011, Civil War Trust listed this site on the top 15 endangered battlefield list.

To support its efforts, please go to: http://www.montereypassbattlefield.org/friends_content/help_preserve.htm.



THREAT

The Monterey Pass Battlefield is a large area, some of which is in public ownership and has been preserved. One acre owned by Washington Township is used as Monterey Pass Battlefield Park, while another 100 acres of wetlands is known as Happel's Meadow. The Lions Club also owns several acres, which are open to the public as a park. But the remainder of the battlefield is privately owned and is not protected.

Washington Township Municipal Authority is offering 110 acres of land, including portions of the Monterey Pass Battlefield and Maria Furnace Road, for sale with no preservation restrictions. The weak economy has kept private developers from acquiring the tract and building residential neighborhoods; and a local mining company that is interested in expanding has not yet purchased the property. But as the economy improves, the threat to the Monterey Pass Battlefield and Maria Furnace Road may increase. Both residential development and mining, as well as other types of development, would significantly alter the landscape, removing the physical remnants of Maria Furnace Road and destroying an important aspect of the Battlefield forever.

The threat of development could be overcome by acquisition by an entity committed to long-term preservation of the site. The site could be open to the public, with interpretation such as signage and walking trails to allow visitors the opportunity to walk the road as so many soldiers did during their retreat from Gettysburg. The site could also serve as a nature preserve, helping to protect the environment and providing educational opportunities for area schools and families. A management plan, conceptual development plan and Battlefield preservation plan have been prepared. Friends of the Monterey Pass Battlefield, Inc. is currently raising funds to purchase the property so that it can be preserved.

“Approximately 10,000 soldiers fought around Monterey Pass.”