



## Site still at risk A report to Congress lists Camp Security as endangered - the second study to do so in three years.

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For the second time in three years, a Revolutionary War prison camp in Springettsbury Township has been nationally recognized as one of the most historically significant and endangered sites.

The camp is listed in a 114-page report to Congress about the historic preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites. Congress asked for the study, produced by the American Battlefield Protection Program, in 1996 because of its concern about the historical integrity of the sites.

The report lists Camp Security, which is off Locust Grove Road, as one of 26 sites that is a priority for preservation. It is one of only five considered to be threatened in both the short and long term for being damaged or destroyed.

Camp Security is listed as a Class B site, meaning that it had a "significant objective or result that shaped the strategy, direction or outcome of a campaign or other operation." Class A, such as the Valley Forge Winter Encampment, sites had a "vital objective."

"I think it's great that it made the list," said **Scott Butcher**, who serves on the board of directors for Historic York. "There's a lot of history waiting to be discovered."

Developer Tim Pasch, who owns the 65-acre parcel where the prisoner of war camp once stood, plans to build houses on the property. Friends of Camp Security have been trying to preserve the site for years. Pasch could not be reached for comment.

"I think the significance of the site has been recognized," Carol Tanzola, president of the Friends of Camp Security, said. "Where it will get us, I don't know." The National Trust for Historic Preservation identified Camp Security as one of the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places three years ago.

Butcher said he hopes the report to Congress will keep the plight of the property in the forefront.

Limited excavation was done at the site in 1979, and it revealed pottery shards, buttons, gold coins and other artifacts from the era.

But more archaeological work needs to be done to document the entire camp, historical researcher June Lloyd said. It included a 15-foot high stockade, a village of huts and a cemetery.

The report to Congress calls for all levels of government and national organizations to focus immediate attention on the priority sites, which include Camp Security.

A bill in Congress, if approved, would provide matching grants for acquisition of sites listed in the report, said Tanya Gossett, preservation planner with the National Park Service.

Grants are available through the American Battlefield Protection Program as well, such as for studies, but would not include money for acquisition, said Kathy Schlegel, historical landscape architect with the National Park Service.

Tanzola said the Friends of Camp Security has applied for grants and will continue to do so in hopes of promoting awareness and research about the site.

Whether houses will be built on the site remains unclear. Four years ago the state Department of Environmental Protection refused to issue a stream permit until Pasch conducts an exhaustive archaeological excavation under the supervision of the state Historical and Museum Commission.

Nothing has happened since that time, DEP spokeswoman Lauri Lebo said.

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