

## **26 Acres at Shepherdstown Battlefield Protected Forever**

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Shepherdstown, WV – Last week with the aid of the Civil War Trust, the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission took title to 26 acres of battlefield land near Shepherdstown. A portion of the project was funded by grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program through the National Park Service and the balance through private donations to the Civil War Trust. The Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle will hold a conservation easement on the property.

The preservation of this historically significant land is an ongoing collaboration between the Landmarks Commission and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association. The Battle of Shepherdstown took place on September 19-20, 1862 in the aftermath of Antietam. General Lee's army retreated into Virginia at Pack Horse Ford on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup>, leaving a rearguard on the bluffs surrounding the ford. Fitz John Porter and his Union troops arrived on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Artillery fired from both sides of the Potomac for two days. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, a reconnaissance in force crossed the river, and a bloody battle ensued in the cliffs and ravines around the Shepherdstown cement mill. The battle was a Confederate victory, but marked the end of Lee's Maryland Campaign.

This parcel is one of several tracts recently acquired for permanent protection and ultimate donation to the NPS.