“This advance was made in the face of the most tremendous fire of artillery I ever saw, and too much praise cannot be given my regiments for their steady, unwavering step. It was as if each man felt that the fate of the army was centered in himself...This was a wholesome lesson to the enemy, and taught them to know that it may be dangerous sometimes to press a retreating army.”

Shepherdstown during the Civil War, seen from Ferry Hill in MD. The bridge across the Potomac was burned in 1861. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Preservation
The Battle of Shepherdstown has been recognized by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission as one of the 384 principal battles of the Civil War, one of five sites in Jefferson County, WV. A study conducted by the National Park Service determined that the core 510 acres of the battlefield could be included in Antietam National Battlefield due to their geographical and historical connection. The boundary adjustment requires congressional approval, and the legislation is underway.

Preservation efforts are ongoing, thanks to the support of a local friends group, The Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, which has raised over $1 million in grants and donations since it was founded in 2001. As of 2017, 343 acres of the battlefield study area are preserved under conservation easements. Alexander Boteler’s cement mill and the Potomac crossing at Pack Horse Ford are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit shepherdstownbattlefield.org to help save this important Civil War battlefield from development and make it part of the National Park Service.
AMBROSIA BURNSIDE'S DIVISION CROSSING ANTIETAM CREEK ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1862.

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER, OCTOBER 15, 1862.