



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Votes to Expand Heart of the Civil War Boundaries

State agency approves inclusion of four Washington County areas

Cambridge, MD – At their quarterly meeting held today, members of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority approved the expansion of Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) boundaries to encompass the municipalities of Clear Spring, Keedysville and Funkstown, as well as unincorporated portions of Washington County including Fort Frederick State Park, Washington Monument State Park, and areas relating to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, the National Road, Civil War Trails, and battles related to the retreat from Gettysburg.

Members of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, an independent unit of state government that operates in the Maryland Department of Planning, toured the proposed area and held a public meeting at the Wacohu Grange Hall in Hagerstown on March 28, 2017. Nonprofit organizations and government units within the boundaries of the Heritage Area are eligible to apply for grant funding and receive technical assistance through the Heart of the Civil War, benefits now extended to partners in these important areas.

“With the approval of this Heritage Area boundary amendment we now have all seven Washington County municipalities recognized, each with its own unique history and attractions,” explained Dan Spedden, President of the HCWHA Board of Directors as well as President of the Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He continued, “The inclusion of the additional unincorporated areas helps round out existing visitor experiences and will encourage longer stays and more spending in our area. We are also happy that this opens funding opportunities for more nonprofits and municipal agencies who work hard to preserve and promote Washington County’s vivid Civil War history experiences.”

HCWHA is an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization encompassing parts of Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties. Its mission is to promote the stewardship of our historic, cultural, and natural Civil War resources; encourage superior visitor experiences; and stimulate tourism, economic prosperity, and educational development, thereby improving the quality of life in our community for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

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