



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Newcomer House at Antietam to Continue Operations as Visitor Center

On Tuesday, September 22 at 11:30 AM, representatives from the National Park Service, the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, and the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau will sign a new, five-year cooperative agreement to continue operations at the Newcomer House at Antietam National Battlefield.

This partnership began in 2010, opening the 1780s home as the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Exhibit and Visitors Center during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War. The new agreement will keep the historic house open to battlefield and area visitors through 2020.

During its open season, the Newcomer House is staffed by National Park Service volunteers and offers resources to help visitors experience the Heart of the Civil War. Printed guides and brochures provide information about Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties in Maryland. Exhibits explore the major themes of the heritage area: In the Heat of Battle, On the Home Front, and Beyond the Battlefield.

The signing ceremony will take place on the 153rd anniversary of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which President Abraham Lincoln issued shortly after the September 17, 1862 Battle of Antietam. The event will continue in the afternoon with a public program and social media meetup centered on the theme of Emancipation in Sharpsburg.

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