

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

Published by Georgia Battlefields Association, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of Georgia's Civil War history and sites. Contact newsletter editor by e-mail: info@georgiabattlefields.org

Battle of Peachtree Creek monument will not be reinstalled

In 1944, the Atlanta Historical Society installed a Battle of Peachtree Creek monument in what was then Deerland Park on the west side of Peachtree Road. Piedmont Hospital had purchased the site anticipating relocation from downtown but agreed to the monument's installation. In 1957, a new hospital was built around the monument, which remained visible from Peachtree Road but was usually not noticed by drivers focusing on the often heavy traffic. In early 2017, Piedmont Hospital disassembled the monument and stored the pieces so they would not be damaged during construction of a new heart and vascular center.

As the June and September 2017 newsletters reported, GBA has been monitoring the condition of the monument pieces, and we corresponded with Piedmont Hospital about where the reassembled monument should be located. This correspondence became moot when Piedmont Hospital announced in mid-June that the monument would not be reinstalled on the hospital grounds because the monument's wording praises the valor of participants on both sides.

In correspondence with the management of the Atlanta Historical Society, now doing business as the Atlanta History Center, GBA was informed that reinstalling the monument anywhere at this time would likely invite defacement, damage, or destruction. Consequently, Georgia Battlefields Association is working with Atlanta History Center and Piedmont Hospital to securely store—or quarantine, to use a pandemically appropriate verb—the monument's disassembled pieces.



Monument front in 2008.



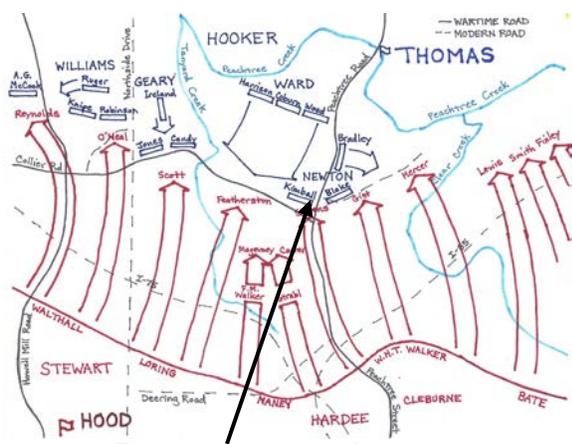
Former location: Peachtree Road in foreground; hospital in background.



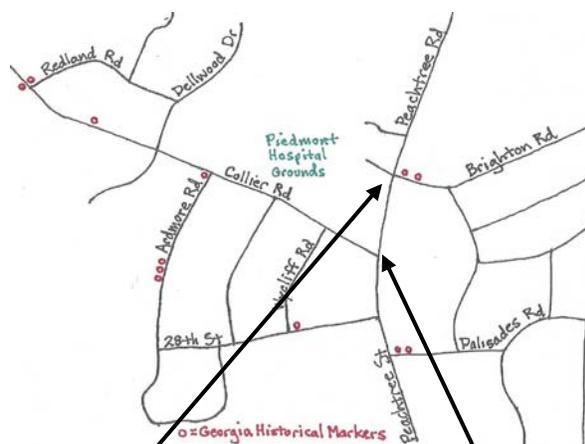
Construction underway in early 2017 before monument's disassembly. Gould Hagler photo.



Disassembled monument later in 2017.



Former monument site.
Battle of Peachtree Creek 20 July 1864.



Former monument site.
Proposed new marker site.

Since the monument will not be reinstated to mark the battlefield, Georgia Battlefields Association believes a historical marker would be appropriate on the east side of the Peachtree Road and Collier Road intersection to indicate that the 20 July 1864 battle began near that point when troops of Walker's Confederate division first struck the line of Newton's Federal division (see smaller scale map on left). A dozen Georgia Historical markers from the 1950s are in the area (see larger scale map on right), but none is as visible as would be one on Peachtree Road. Realistically, any new Civil War marker, regardless of how accurate, would likely invite protest and damage at this time; but GBA remains committed to marking the site eventually.

To see the texts of the current markers, go to the Georgia Historical Society web site, sort by Fulton County, enlarge the map, and click on each marker symbol for details.

<https://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/historical-markers/marker-index/>

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park resumes fee operation

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP), along with many other National Park Service sites, suspended entrance fees because of the pandemic. KMNBP fees resumed as of 24 July. Purchase passes at <https://www.recreation.gov/sitepass/2788>. No passes are sold on site.

Great American Outdoors Act passed by Congress

Congress passed legislation that will do much to clear the maintenance backlog at national parks. Full text of the bill is at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3422/text>. The bill provides permanent annual funding of \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the primary source of money for American Battlefield Protection Program acquisitions. Further, the bill establishes a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund that from fiscal years 2021 through 2025 will receive 50% of all revenue from energy development on federal lands and waters up to \$1.9 billion per year. The new Restoration Fund must be used for priority deferred maintenance on sites administered by the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education.

President Trump has said he will sign the legislation but had not done so as of 31 July.

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August 2020

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