



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

NEWS RELEASE

www.nationaltrust.org

Embargoed Until 10:00 a.m. EST, June 2, 2005

CONTACT: NTHP Communications: 202-588-6141

NATIONAL TRUST NAMES CAMP SECURITY IN YORK COUNTY, PA ONE OF AMERICA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES

Washington, D.C. (June 2, 2005) – Only a handful of prisoner-of-war camps were established during the Revolutionary War, and today Camp Security is the only one of these sites that remains largely untouched. Between 1781 and the end of the war in 1783, more than 1,500 captured British soldiers and their families were confined at Camp Security, which included both a prison stockade and a “village” of log huts. Since the area has remained mostly undisturbed for more than two centuries, extensive archaeological evidence of the camp and the life of its occupants almost certainly rests beneath the surface of the ground. Scientific exploration of the site could yield a wealth of information available nowhere else – but this exciting opportunity will be lost if a developer proceeds with his plan to build a residential subdivision on the property. Since the developer has already obtained most of the required permits, construction – and the accompanying destruction of fragile archaeological remains – could begin soon. Unless someone steps in to acquire the property and protect it, suburban houses will soon sprout on the land where scores of Redcoats languished in captivity during America’s struggle for independence.

To highlight the threat to this vital piece of American heritage, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** today named Camp Security to its *2005 list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places*.

“Camp Security is a doorway to a little-known chapter in the story of America’s war for independence,” said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust. “But if the property is turned into a residential subdivision, that door will slam shut forever. If we want to fully understand the struggle that led to the birth of our nation, we must act to keep this site unspoiled and permanently protected.”

Starting today, The History Channel will air public service announcements (PSAs) that feature the 2005 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The PSAs will run at various times during the programming schedule throughout the summer.

History: Camp Security is the sole remaining site of a Revolutionary War prison camp, which has been farmed continuously since the 1780s. The original farm on which it is located was partitioned into three properties during the 19th century. Camp Security has the potential to document the story of Continental prison camps, including the Colonies’ management of wartime prisoners and the daily life of captured troops.

Threat: Camp Security is imminently threatened by proposed residential development. Although the development plan was denied by the Township in 2001, subsequent legal actions by the developer have resulted in a court order to approve the development.

Solution: The development threat to the identified portion of Camp Security can be eliminated only through the fee simple purchase of the property by a group or groups that will preserve it for future generations. One potential grant fund has been identified to assist with the purchase, but additional funding sources are needed to meet the asking price.

America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places has identified 168 threatened one-of-a-kind historic treasures since 1988. While a listing does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee funding, the designation has been a powerful tool for raising awareness and rallying resources to save endangered sites from every region of the country. Whether these sites are urban districts or rural landscapes, Native American landmarks or 20th-century sports arenas, entire communities or single buildings, the list spotlights historic places across America that are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

Recent 11 Most Successes: St. Augustine, Florida’s Bridge of Lions was saved in 2003 after a 25-year battle when the Florida Department of Transportation decided to rehabilitate the historic 1927 bridge instead of

tearing it down. The Mediterranean-style bridge appeared on the National Trust's 1997 11 Most Endangered list. Just two months after the Zuni Salt Lake and Sanctuary Zone appeared on the 2003 list, the Board of Salt River Project, an Arizona utility, voted to abandon its plans for strip mining coal from within this traditional cultural property. Last month, the Monocacy Aqueduct in Maryland, a 1998 listing, was completely restored.

Sites on the 2005 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places are:

Bellevue Biltmore Hotel, Belleair, Fla. – One of West Florida's most beloved landmarks, the Bellevue Biltmore has welcomed presidents, business tycoons and other luminaries since 1897. Today, the Bellevue Biltmore remains a favorite to Floridians and visitors, but as with many historic hotels, its prime location is attractive to developers who wish to cash in on the real estate values by converting the hotels or the land they occupy into residences. Protection under local law is very limited for the Bellevue Biltmore, and unless someone comes to the White Queen's rescue soon, this icon of Victorian charm and Southern hospitality will be destroyed.

Camp Security, York County, Pa. – The sole remaining site of a Revolutionary War prison camp may soon give way to new development with no plans to preserve, interpret or save any of its elements. Unless someone steps in to acquire the property and protect it, suburban houses will soon sprout on the land where Redcoats once languished in captivity.

Daniel Webster Farm, Franklin, N.H. – The Daniel Webster Farm was home and family farm of Daniel Webster (1782-1852), one of America's pre-eminent orators and statesmen. In 1871, the farm became the site of a home and school for children orphaned in the Civil War – one of the first such institutions to be located in a healthful rural environment. Today, Webster's home and farm buildings, along with surviving orphanage buildings and the surrounding 140 acres of rich alluvial farmland may be lost to a subdivision development unless a new plan is developed to save the historic buildings and retain the land in agricultural use.

Eleutherian College, Madison, Ind. – The first college in Indiana – and one of the first anywhere in pre-Civil War America – to admit students regardless of race or gender was founded in 1848, and served as a busy stop on the Underground Railroad with many college leaders and students active in the movement to shelter and shepherd fugitive slaves. Today, the building shows the effects of prolonged neglect and vandalism. The National Park Service's Network to Freedom program, formed to assist Underground Railroad sites, provided some money for restoration – but now, congressional support for that important program is decreasing. Significant funding is needed to return Eleutherian College and other landmarks of freedom to the historic spotlight they deserve.

Ennis-Brown House, Los Angeles, Calif. – The grandest of Frank Lloyd Wright's textile-block houses, the Ennis-Brown House was badly damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake and further ruined by recent rains. Today, the house is unsafe and off-limits to visitors until critical repairs are made. Estimates of stabilization cost run as high as \$5 million, an amount that far exceeds the resources of the nonprofit organization that owns the property.

Finca Vigía: Ernest Hemingway House, San Francisco de Paula, Cuba – Finca Vigía was Ernest Hemingway's home from 1939–1960. Structural instability and damage by the elements have caused the site to deteriorate so severely that experts now call it a "preservation emergency." The National Trust and the Hemingway Preservation Foundation have assembled a team of architects and engineers who recently received permission to go to Cuba to prepare an emergency stabilization and preservation plan. But unless significant restoration funding can be raised and used to restore the property, these preliminary efforts will come to nothing.

Historic Buildings of Downtown Detroit, Detroit, Mich. – Downtown Detroit boasts a rich array of architectural treasures reflecting its role as a major station on the Underground Railroad, an industrial powerhouse, the world-famous "Motor City," and the home of Motown – but today, many of these treasures are threatened by neglect and lack of vision. A "hit list" was recently issued by the city calling for the demolition of more than 100 buildings, and just last month, the Madison-Lenox Hotel, a 2004 11 Most site, was demolished. Detroit's leaders need to work with developers and preservationists to breathe new life into old buildings and save the history of one of America's great cities.

Historic Catholic Churches of Greater Boston, Mass. – A record number of historic Catholic churches in Boston have been slated for sale, redevelopment and possible demolition. To avoid the loss of these treasures, it is essential that local governments, preservationists, developers, architects, realtors and the Archdiocese work together to find viable and appropriate new uses for these buildings.

King Island, Alaska – Located 95 miles west of Nome, King Island is in imminent danger of being washed into the Bering Sea. For centuries, King Island was occupied by the Inupiat Eskimos, known as "King Islanders" or "Ugiuvangmiut." In

1959, the Bureau of Indian Affairs closed the Island's school, forcing King Islanders to relocate with their children to Nome. Today, the last surviving Inupiat families are seeking to seasonally return to the Island. The King Island Native Corporation, which owns the land, is working to protect and rebuild the remaining structures.

National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), *Western States*— Encompassing 26 million acres in 12 Western states, the System includes dozens of national monuments, conservation and wilderness areas, historic trails, and wild and scenic rivers. Established by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with the purpose of protecting entire landscapes of cultural and natural values, the System – threatened in part by theft and vandalism – and BLM's ability to provide protection of these sites is seriously hampered by chronic understaffing and underfunding.

“The Journey Through Hallowed Ground” Corridor, VA, MD, PA — Encompassing hundreds of historic sites including, six homes of U.S. presidents, the largest collection of Civil War battlefields, Native American and African American historic sites, and numerous scenic rivers, roads and landscapes, the land is imminently threatened by suburban sprawl. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground initiative, a tri-state collaboration, is a public-private effort seeking 21st century solutions to balance growth and historic preservation in ways that celebrate and protect the region's heritage. If this initiative fails, 400 years of American heritage may be lost.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities. Its Washington, DC headquarters staff, six regional offices and 26 historic sites work with the Trust's 270,000 members and thousands of local community groups in all 50 states. For more information, visit the Trust's web site at www.nationaltrust.org.

###

History is in Our Hands

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036