

A FRIEND OF RAYMOND TIMELINE

I have the same draft easement in my files, and it is unsigned. Since it was between the Civil War Trust and MDAH, which is the normal procedure for historical easements, I do not have a signed copy. The State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) is responsible for the preservation of historic sites, and that officer is usually the Director of MDAH. So, before the Trust can transfer property, it has to have someone in state government guarantee that the property will retain its historic value. At the state level that is the SHPO. The answer to your question as to MDAH providing grant monies to FOR is no state funds were involved. The monies came from Friends of Raymond, the Civil War Trust, and the American Battlefield Protection Program (a department of the National Park Service)

Here is the rundown, and I will attach a series of documents which I have numbered to give you an idea of the order in which the events of the purchase of the Miles property occurred.

The Miles property was purchased on 30 June 2009, after three years of negotiations with the Miles family and the Civil War Trust, now called the American Battlefield Trust. MDAH had nothing to do with the sale, but the sale did have to go through the MDAH State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) as a matter of "chain of command."

I was president of the FOR Board in 2006, and on 7 December 2006 it was noted that the Miles had put a "For Sale" sign on the property at Hwy 18. I contacted the real estate agent the next day, who was a Realtor in Pearl, Debbie Miles Carter, one of the late Bobby Miles' children. She was representing her mother, June Miles, on the sale of the property. I advised Debbie that we would need to have an appraisal conducted. (1. Miles Property DEC 06) (2. Email to Debbie Carter)

I discussed this with Terry Winschel (then the historian at VNMP), who was on the Board of Advisors of the Civil War Trust. Terry and I agreed that \$900,000 was an excessive amount for the nearly 67 acres, but we also realized that we would certainly be looking at several hundred thousand dollars for the property, and that the Civil War Trust needed to get involved. Yet, the Trust leadership was focused almost entirely on Champion Hill at that time. I drafted a letter for Isla Tullos, the Mayor of Raymond, to send to the Trust, inviting them to Raymond during their annual conference at Vicksburg, 7-9 September 2007. Isla sent the letter to the Trust; it accepted; and during their annual conference Terry and I brought two busses of Trust "Color Bearers" (big donors) to Raymond. (3. Letter to CWPT re 2007 Visit to Raymond) (3a-3e, various conference documents involving reception and Raymond tour)

On 24 May 2007, Terry Winschel and I met with June Miles and her daughter, Debbie Carter, who was also her Realtor, at Mrs. Miles home south of Cidero Road. They again asked for \$900,000 for the 67 acres, and also desired to sell approximately 14 more acres on the south side of Cidero Road for \$90,000. They also wanted to sell the Miles home. They had no appraisal for the property, and Mrs. Miles and her seven grown children (including Debbie) had decided on the price. (4. NPS Letter to Debbie Carter)

I contacted an appraiser, Jim Craig, who did the appraisals for most of the banks in Jackson, and who had a solid reputation. He stated that an appraisal would cost \$2,000-\$2,500, and I volunteered to do the courthouse research for him if he would give FOR a better price. He agreed, and FOR contracted with him for an appraisal. the cost was \$500 (5. Letter to Craig, 13 JUL 2007) (6. Miles Property Appraisal AUG 07) (7. Miles Property Appraisal Bill).

Mr. Craig appraised the land value as \$335,000. The Miles family declined the offer. (6. Miles Property Appraisal) (7. Miles Property Appraisal Bill) (8. Email from Debbie Carter re: \$335,000 Offer)

After the successful Raymond tour in September 2007, the Trust agreed to perform and pay for a federal "Yellow Book" appraisal, which cost \$3,000. I wrote a description of the significance of the property for the Trust because a federal appraisal, unlike a local one, considers historical value of the property. The appraised value of the property came in at \$435,000, which the Miles family accepted. (9. Miles Tract Significance) (10. Miles Yellow Book Appraisal APR 08) (11. Miles Tract Legal Description) (12. Miles Property Yellow Book Invoice) (NOTE: 13. Miles Purchase Maps not attached due to size)

The Trust agreed to pay \$100,000, plus the \$3,000 appraisal cost. FOR agreed to pay \$115,000, and the American Battlefield Protection Program matched the Trust funds with \$220,000. the Trust agreed to then turn the property over to FOR after the purchase. FOR wired \$115,000 to the Trust on 30 June 2009 to close the sale. The Blue and Gray Education Society sent out Appeals to help FOR (14. Miles Property CWPT letter to FOR) (15.,15 a. Miles Property Contract with CWPT) (16.,16a, Mile Property Purchase BGES Appeals)

During the closing, which was a conference call on 30 June 2009 (using Dick Kilby's bank phone line) between the entire FOR Board, Tom Gilmore of the CWPT, and Paul Hawke of the ABPP, the ABPP stated that FOR did not have a monument policy, thus, the sale could not be concluded. However, I had written a monument policy in 2005; the FOR Board had approved it; and copies had been sent to MDAH, the Trust, and the ABPP, all of which had approved it. The ABPP found its file copy; the objection was dropped; and the sale was approved. Fortunately, I had written the policy over a year before the Miles property was for sale, knowing that sooner or later it would be needed. (18. Monument Policy)

To sum it all up, the funds for the Miles property came from FOR (\$115,000, plus \$500 for an appraisal), the Civil War Trust (\$100,000 plus \$3,000 for a federal appraisal), and the American Battlefield Protection Program (\$220,000 of federal money), totaling \$435,000, not counting the appraisals. The unsigned draft easement that you have was a formality for the transfer of the land from the Trust to us, ensuring that the historical aspects of the property would be honored.

I know this is a lot of information, and there is even more, but I think this covers the bases.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

I look forward to seeing y'all on Thursday night.

Parker

Parker Hills, Brig. Gen. (Ret.)
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