



Bull Run Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 2147
Centreville, Virginia 20120

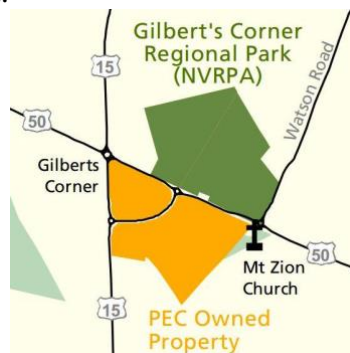
Bull Run Civil War Round Table Preservation Corner

March 19, 2020

Blake Myers

Development Threat to Mt. Zion Battlefield & Mt. Zion Historic Park

Located immediately south of, and directly across Route 50 from, Gilbert's Corner Regional Park in Aldie, Virginia, sits the Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church, constructed in 1851, and Mt. Zion Historic Park.



Mt. Zion Church was a place of worship for Old School Baptists until 1980 and served various purposes during the Civil War, including a rendezvous point for Mosby's Rangers, a hospital, a prison, and a battleground. The adjacent cemetery contains more than 240 marked graves, including those of Civil War soldiers and a War of 1812 veteran. The Battle of Mt. Zion on July 6, 1864 pitted Union cavalry under Major William Forbes against Colonel John S. Mosby and his Rangers, who carried the day.



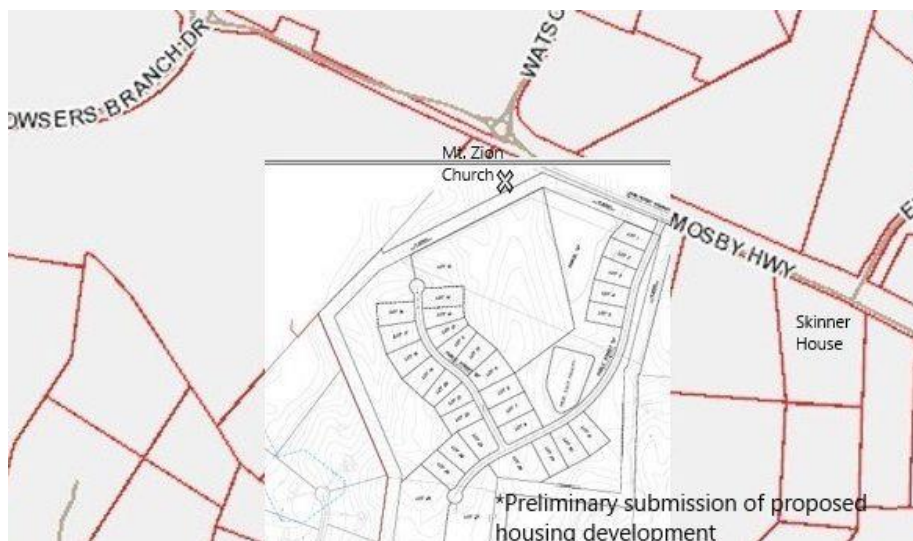
Mt. Zion Church & Cemetery



Bull Run Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 2147
Centreville, Virginia 20120

In February 2020 a developer (yet to be identified) submitted a proposed site plan for the private property immediately adjacent to historic Mt. Zion Church and the Mt Zion Cemetery. This preliminary proposed development plan, submitted to Loudoun County Building and Development, would destroy the integrity of the Mt Zion Battlefield (approximately 230 acres), the extant remnant of the historic Old Carolina Road, the viewshed of historic Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church and its adjoining cemetery, and the adjacent African American burial ground. As currently zoned, there are no restrictions on by-right development for this property.



Proposed Development Site Plan

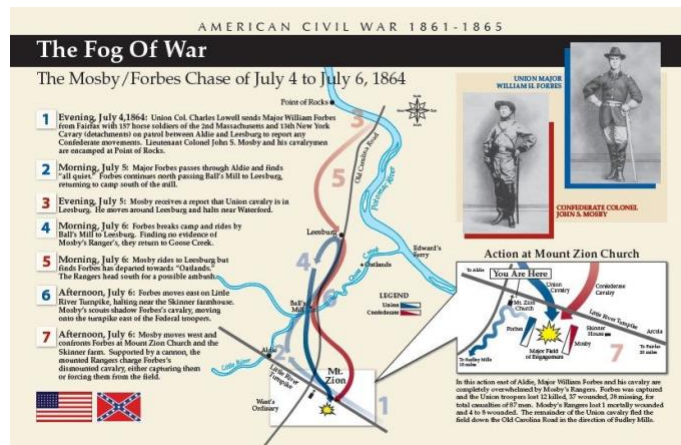
Several local organizations have joined forces and resources to raise awareness of this threat and to ensure the historic nature of this historic landscape is recognized, understood and honored. Led by the Ohana Preservation Foundation and including the Aldie Heritage Association, the Mosby Heritage Area Association, the Aldie Conservation Fund and the Mt. Zion Cemetery of Aldie, this group is actively working to diffuse and/or mitigate the imminent threat to this historic land. The group has initiated an on-line petition asking Loudoun County and potential developers to protect the viewshed of Mt. Zion Church and Cemetery, Mt. Zion Battlefield and Mt. Zion Historic Park - the gateway to rural Loudoun County. To support this preservation effort, the group has launched a Protect Mt. Zion [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).



Bull Run Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, Virginia 20120



The Battle of Mt. Zion - Mosby vs Forbes, July 1864

During its March 10, 2020 meeting the BRCWRT Executive Committee voted unanimously to support and join the Protect Mt. Zion preservation group led by the Ohana Preservation Foundation in the campaign to protect Mt. Zion and raise awareness of the development threat to this historic land. BRCWRT is now a member organization and listed as a supporter on the Protect Mt. Zion website.

BRCWRT members are encouraged to support this initiative to protect the Mt. Zion Church and Cemetery, the Mt. Zion Battlefield, and the gateway to rural Loudoun County by:

- Signing the on-line petition <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/protect-mt-zion> (Please note that the preservation group is not collecting or accepting donations. After you sign the petition, a pop-up may prompt you to donate - those donations will go to ipetitions. You can close the pop-up, if you do not wish to donate to ipetitions.)
- Liking and sharing the Protect Mt. Zion [Facebook page](#).
- Let your friends and family know about this development threat and the Protect Mt. Zion preservation effort, and share the information, [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) with them