



## LOCAL SITES INCLUDED IN DRAFT 1812 PLAN

Bicentennial commission airs possibilities

by Randy Leonard

Under a draft plan released last month, historic sites on the North Point Peninsula could get a lot of attention and make-overs.



The plan includes consideration of landscaping, signs and public art between sites of interest from the September 1814 Battle of North Point and potentially significant improvements to some of the historical spots such as creating highway pull-offs and moving or installing monuments.

In addition, the plan calls for the possibility of tours and reenactments during the bicentennial celebration period.

The Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission formed by Gov. Martin O'Malley produced the plan in consultation with groups including the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society, the North Point Peninsula Community Coordinating Council, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, according to commission chair Bill Pencek.

Its plan is not final but represents a "good summary" of potential improvements and activities, possibly without major cost, Pencek said last week.

The work is not just intended to celebrate the bicentennial but also to revitalize communities, interpret historic sites and educate the public about what Pencek calls Maryland's most significant national heritage story.

"People in Maryland are very excited about this," he said.

The commission will consider public comment at least until Jan. 5.

**To view the plan and submit a comment, visit [www.warof1812.org](http://www.warof1812.org) or call 410-767-6289.**

### North Point improvements

*Install interpretive National Trail signs at all sites.*

*Complete the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail. | Install landscaping, screening, directional signs and public art along principal travel routes linking sites.*

*Commemorate British landing at Fort Howard with boat access and art visible from Key Bridge.*

*Rehabilitate Todd's Inheritance with road pull-off and pier to receive tour boats.*

*Move Bauer Farmhouse to Shaw House property.*

*Install exhibits at North Point State Park Visitor Center, a possible boat tour embarkation/destination.*

*Install pull-off and signs at Gorsuch Farm and Gen. Robert Ross death site.*

*Restore the Randall Monument, possibly relocating monument with pull-off.*

*Rehabilitate Battle Acre Park with a mural for the end wall of the adjacent strip mall, pedestrian crossing and possible monument to General Stricker.*

*Develop plan for nine-acre battlefield park to evoke the events and landscape of 1814, including movies, reenactments and parking.*

*Restore view to Methodist Meeting House monument with pull-off and possible memorial to fallen British combatants.*