## **NEWS RELEASE**

## Lonesome Historic Site completes master plan, and receives large matching fund from local donor

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Click here to see the Master Plan documents.

BURNS, Tennessee – A detailed master plan and budget have been completed for the development of the Lonesome Historic Site. When the renovation project is complete, the site will be transformed into a beautiful park for the community to enjoy. Plans call for an improved paved entrance and parking. There will be a viewing portal providing historical background about the Lonesome Cabin and property. There will be a new pavilion, kitchen, and bathrooms for visitors. The walking trails will be upgraded, and benches/picnic tables added along the paths. There will be an area for a stage and seating space for small concerts and events. The work is planned in three phases at a cost of around \$250,000/phase. With community support, we are hoping for completion within the next three years.

We are pleased to announce that Tennsco, a Dickson-based manufacturer, has pledged up to \$250,000 in matching funds to complete the Master Plan. This generous pledge will match dollar-for-dollar all donations from friends, family, and businesses, doubling their impact.

The Master Plan was developed by HDLA, a prominent Nashville park design consultancy, in collaboration with over 50 local stakeholders, neighbors, and descendants of the original occupants of the site. The completed plan can be viewed on the Lonesome Historic Site Website, at <a href="https://www.lonesomehistoricsite.org">www.lonesomehistoricsite.org</a>.



Fundraising for the first phase of work will begin in the spring of 2023. Details are still in development, but the objective of the first fundraising phase is to raise \$250,000 for the construction of roads, trails, and signage, making the site accessible for all.

This fall the historic cabin on the site will be restored, in accordance with the Standards for National Historic Places, thus preserving it for generations to come. Funds for this \$150,000 project were raised last year.

The Lonesome Story began over 200 years ago when, after serving two enlistments in the Tennessee Volunteer Militia/War of 1812, including the Battle of New Orleans, William Green Austin and his young wife Dicy Horner Austin occupied the cabin, which had been built for him by his step-father. William and Dicy's 11 children and their descendants occupied the property until the early 1900's. It has remained in Austin family hands ever since. In 2015, the Austin family donated the site to the town of Burns, and in 2018 formed a non-profit, Friends of Lonesome Historic Site (FOLHS) to enhance preservation efforts. The site was awarded a Tennessee Historical Marker in 2017, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in April, 2021.

After seeing the Master Plan drawings, Stuart Speyer, President of Tennsco, the largest employer in the county, said, "We are glad to help and confident the park will be a great addition to the local community. It is important that we preserve such an important historic landmark, and make it accessible to everyone in the community."

Upon receiving this generous pledge, Gail Jones, President of the Friends group stated "We greatly appreciate this gift. It is a game changer for completing our Master Plan. Our next big event is a Fund Raising Gala dinner to be held in Spring 2023. We welcome everyone to attend."

These efforts would not be possible without the contributions and support of friends, family, and local partners, especially the Town of Burns, TN.

**About Friends of Lonesome Historic Site:** FOLHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to the restoration and preservation of this site for the public good. For more information, to join, or to donate, go to www.lonesomehistoricsite.org. **Be a part of the Lonesome Story!** 

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