

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 24 1975
DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

H. P. Bottom House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old Mackville Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Perryville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

STATE

Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY

Boyle

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harold Horn

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Danville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Boyle County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Danville,

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort,

STATE
Kentucky

CONDITION

 EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

 UNALTERED ALTERED

CHECK ONE

 ORIGINAL SITE MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The H. P. Bottom House faces east on the south slope of a hill on the southwest side of the Mackville-Perryville Road. The house is situated about a hundred yards west of Doctor's Fork, and a mile and a half northwest of Perryville.

Comparison of the present structure with a sketch of an 1885 photograph of the house indicates that little change has taken place. It is a story-and-a-half log house covered in clapboard and rests on a stone foundation. A large stone chimney is located at each end. These are built of medium-sized rounded cubic stones. (See photo 2.) Since 1885 the stone has been replaced with brick above the corbelled shoulders, which occur just above the first-floor fireplace opening, suggesting that the upper story was not originally heated (see photo 5). The brickwork does appear old, and corbels slightly outward at the top above the gables. It is not known whether the original log structure was of the "open dogtrot" type with a pen on either side of the central opening (at least the first story). The width of the central hall, as indicated by the boxed beam flanking it at the left, may indicate a closed-in dogtrot (see photo 4).

An interesting feature is the wide flat horizontal boards used as siding under the porch, in contrast to the regular overlapped weatherboarding of the more exposed surface. This was apparently once a common practice in rural areas, but is now rarely found.

The original structure had a shed porch supported by what appear to be chamfered posts and a simple railing connecting the posts. The present porch, which seems to date from shortly after the 1885 view, seems to retain the proportions and spacing of the earlier one, and is a fine and well-preserved example of its late Victorian type. The main difference is that its hipped roof detaches it from the body of the house, rather than allowing it to appear as an integral continuation of the main roof and clapboarded sides. Delicate machine-turned posts, spaced closer together in front of the central doorway, splay outward in open fan work below a band of regularly-spaced spindlework. In the center bay a segmental-curved board with dainty pendants at the ends frames the entrance; sawtooth cutouts fill in the four wider side bays. The effect is rhythmic and pleasing. There is no railing, according to late 19th-century practice.

A perpendicular rear ell glimpsed in the 1885 sketch has been replaced by a shed continuing the slope of the roof.

An outbuilding was located behind the house, but has been torn down. The yard was enclosed by a picket fence and rail fence (see photo 2). A woven wire fence now encloses the yard. Running southeast of the house following the course of Doctor's Creek is a vertical stone fence (see photo 6).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Early 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The H.P. Bottom House, built in the early 1800's, was situated at the key point of the Union army's position at the battle of Perryville, October 8, 1862, the only major Civil War battle fought in Kentucky. Located in a shallow valley at the crossing of a main north-south road and a strategic stream, the Bottom house marked the center of some of the heaviest fighting. The battle was significant, as it precipitated the end of the Confederate invasion of Kentucky.

Virtually nothing is known of the early history and owner of the house itself prior to the War, although in 1857 H.P. Bottom was listed as a justice of the peace in the Kentucky State Gazetteer. After the battle, "Squire" Bottom had a moment of ghastly glory as he recorded and provided for the burial of the dead. The house itself remains in a fairly unspoiled setting (a modern residence is across the road), and is a typical example of a modest story-and-a-half weather-board log farmhouse. According to an 1885 view, the main (and equally typical) changes since then have been the replacement of a plain porch across the front with a fancier late Victorian one, and of the upper parts of the well-laid stone chimneys with brick.

The battle of Perryville was the climax of General Braxton Bragg's Kentucky campaign in 1862, marking its end. Bragg's invasion of Kentucky began in the early part of September. Bringing his army from Tennessee, his purpose was to "liberate" Kentucky from the Union and to raise troops and supplies for the Confederacy. Bragg did not receive as warm a reception as he had anticipated and only recruited a small number of troops. The day before the battle of Perryville, Bragg was in Frankfort, the State capital, participating in the inauguration of Richard Hawes as provisional (secessionist) governor of Kentucky. (With the immediate approach of Federal troops, however, Hawes fled the State.) After the battle of Perryville, Bragg removed his troops to Harrodsburg, ten miles to the east, where he waited several days for a Federal attack, General Buell, however, did not pursue Confederate forces immediately. Both armies headed toward Tennessee; Bragg by way of Cumberland Gap, and Buell by way of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The key position of the Federal troops and the scene of some of the heaviest fighting in the battle was located at the Bottom House which is situated on Doctor's Fork a mile and a half northwest of Perryville. Doctor's Creek played an important part in the battle. The Fall had been unseasonably warm and dry, and only a few puddles of water remained in the creek. These puddles, however, were the only source of water for the parched Union soldiers during the battle.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. New York: The Century Co., Vol. III, 1888.

"The Battle of Perryville." Harper's Weekly: A Journal of Civilization. Nov. 1, 1882, p. 695.

Campaigns in Kentucky and Tennessee 1862-1864. Boston: Papers of the Military Historical (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Latitude 37° 39' 52"

Longitude 84° 58' 14"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Cronan

WEL/lp

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

October 7, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort,

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-20-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attesting

Ronald M. Brunberg

DATE

11/19/76

ATTEST:

DATE

12/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

actg

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

The Battle of Perryville opened on the afternoon of October 8, 1862, a half mile north of the Bottom house. On the evening of the 7th, three divisions of Bragg's army, under General Leonidas Polk, camped on the east side of Doctor's Fork. On the morning of the 8th, McCook's and Rousseau's divisions of Buell's army approached Perryville from the northwest and came upon the Confederate line. In the afternoon the Confederate forces opened the attack which was the beginning of the battle of Perryville. McCook's corps was situated north of the Bottom house, while Rousseau's had taken position behind a stone fence immediately above the Bottom house. Some of the heaviest fighting of the battle took place around the house.

In his report of the battle in the Official Records (1886) General Hardee, a Confederate commander, described the battleground:

The country is boldly undulating, and varied with farm houses, cornfields, and plantations bordered with native forests. A creek, called Chaplin Fork flows northwardly through the village, and unites beyond it with another little stream called Doctors Fork.... A good road, running from Mackville to Perryville, crosses the stream. The key of the enemy's position was at a point where the Mackville road crosses Doctors Fork about one and a half miles from the village, near a barn and white farm house on the hillside west of the creek. (The white farm Hardee refers to is the Bottom House; the barn has been destroyed) (p. 1121).

The outcome of the battle was indecisive. Both armies suffered heavy losses, but neither had won a clear victory. At the end of the battle the Union troops did have a slight advantage on the field. Hambleton Tapp in his article on the battle of Perryville includes a description of the Bottom house by a Union soldier, found in Morris' History of the Eighty-first Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry (1901):

The yard was full of wounded men lying in rows, covered up with blankets, shrieking with pain, and some lying there dead. Close to the house was the body of a rebel major, in a corner of the fence. His face was covered. He was neatly dressed in grey cloth. At a short distance to the left was another house used for the same purpose, the yard of which was filled with dead laid in rows. Close to the fence were piles of arms and legs. It was a ghastly sight to look upon. Most of the dead were black in the face, which caused them to look more frightful (p. 17).

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8

PAGE

3

The day following the battle most of the Union dead were buried along the Springfield Road (see Lebanon National Cemetery, Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky, listed on the National Register June 5, 1975). The Confederate army, however, withdrew to Harrodsburg after the battle and had no time to bury their dead. According to tradition, Squire Bottom along with others searched the woods and ravines for Confederate dead and placed them in piles. Bottom examined the corpses for identifying marks, such as names, mementoes, and insignia, and recorded the information in a notebook. All the bodies were brought to a ridge on Bottom's farm, where the heaviest fighting had taken place and where the most men had fallen. Bottom donated the small plot of land to the friends of the Confederacy for a cemetery. Bottom had slaves dig two rows of pits, four pits on each side—one group running east and west, and the other north and south. More than three hundred Confederate dead were buried in these pits. At a later date a stone wall was built around the area. Also included in Bottom's notebook were the number of soldiers found, the places where the bodies were located, and descriptions of the items found in their possession. A sketch of the burying ground and a list of numbers representing the corpses assigned to each pit was also found in the notebook. This Confederate cemetery is now the focal point of the Perryville Battlefield State Park (listed on the National Register prior to the National Preservation Act of 1966).

Mr. Bottom's notebook remains in the possession of his descendants. His house, located in the center of fighting during the battle, remains as a reminder of the conflict which took place there on October 8, 1862.

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9

PAGE

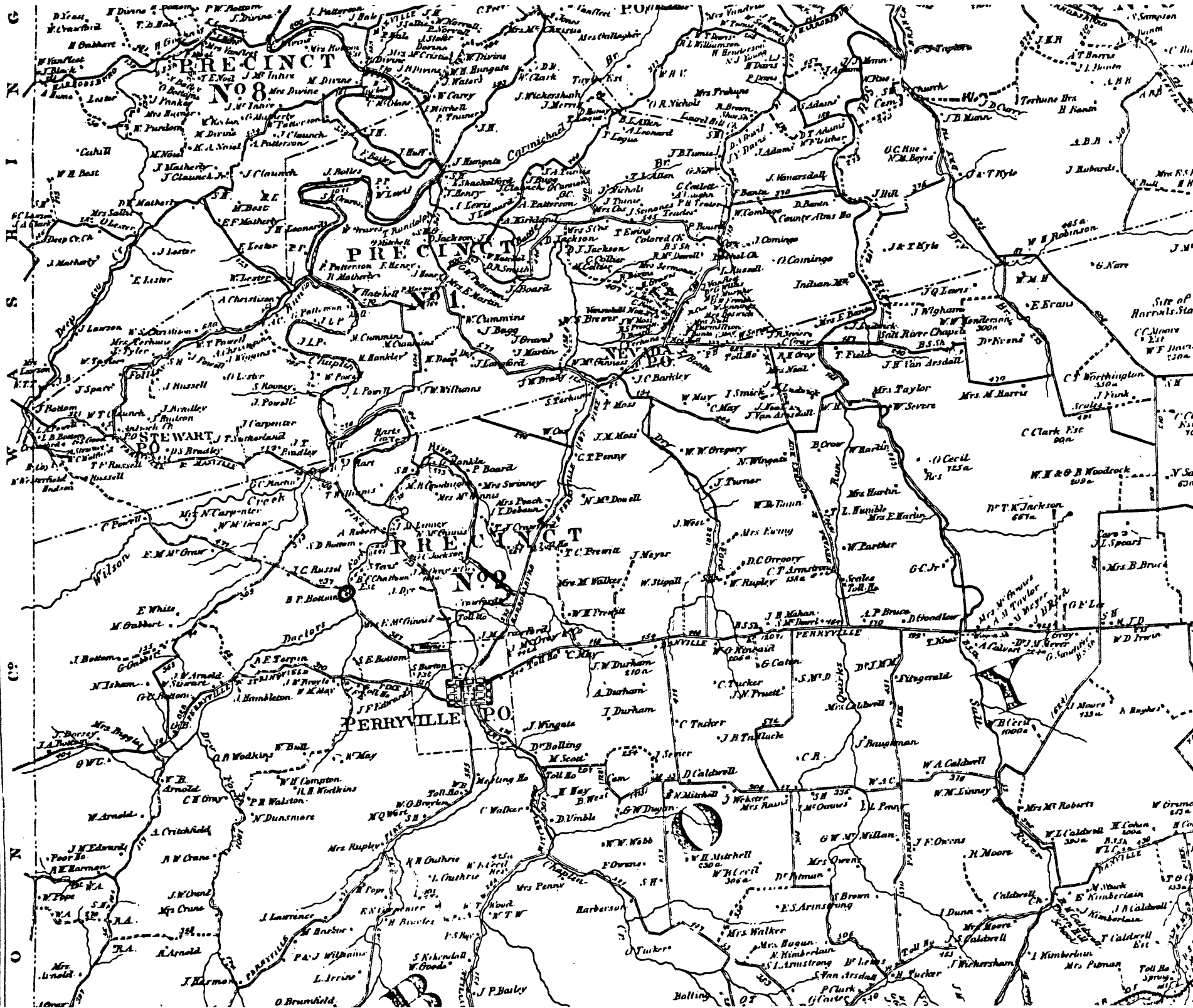
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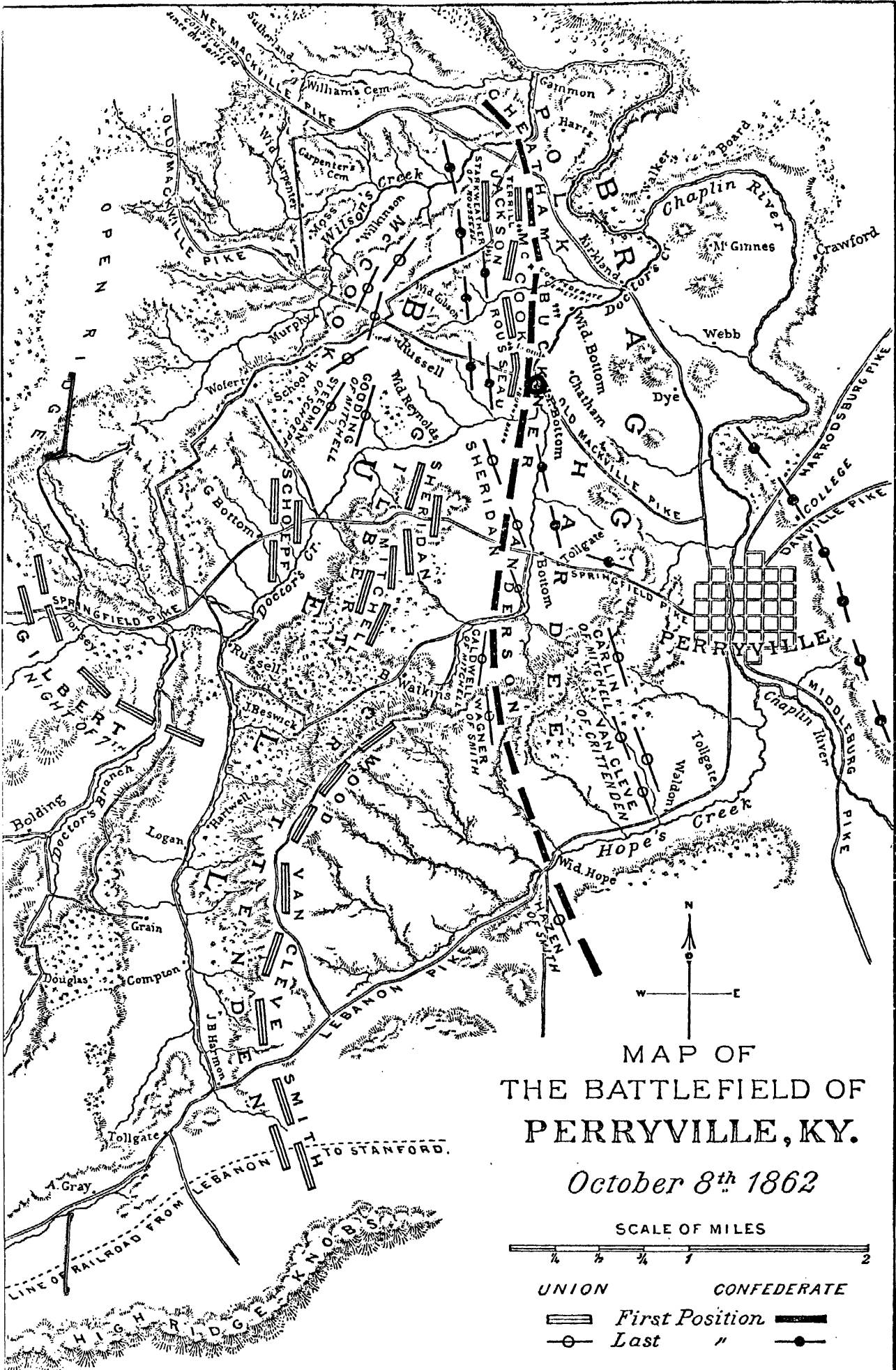
Society of Massachusetts, 1908.

Tapp, Hambleton. "The Confederate Invasion of Kentucky 1862, and the Battle of Perryville, October 8, 1862. "Unpublished Manuscript, Kentucky Historical Society, 1962.

The War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.
Washington: Government Printing Office, Series I. Volume XVI,
Part I 1886.

From 1876 map of Boyle and Mercer Counties

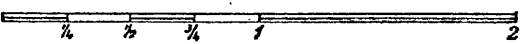








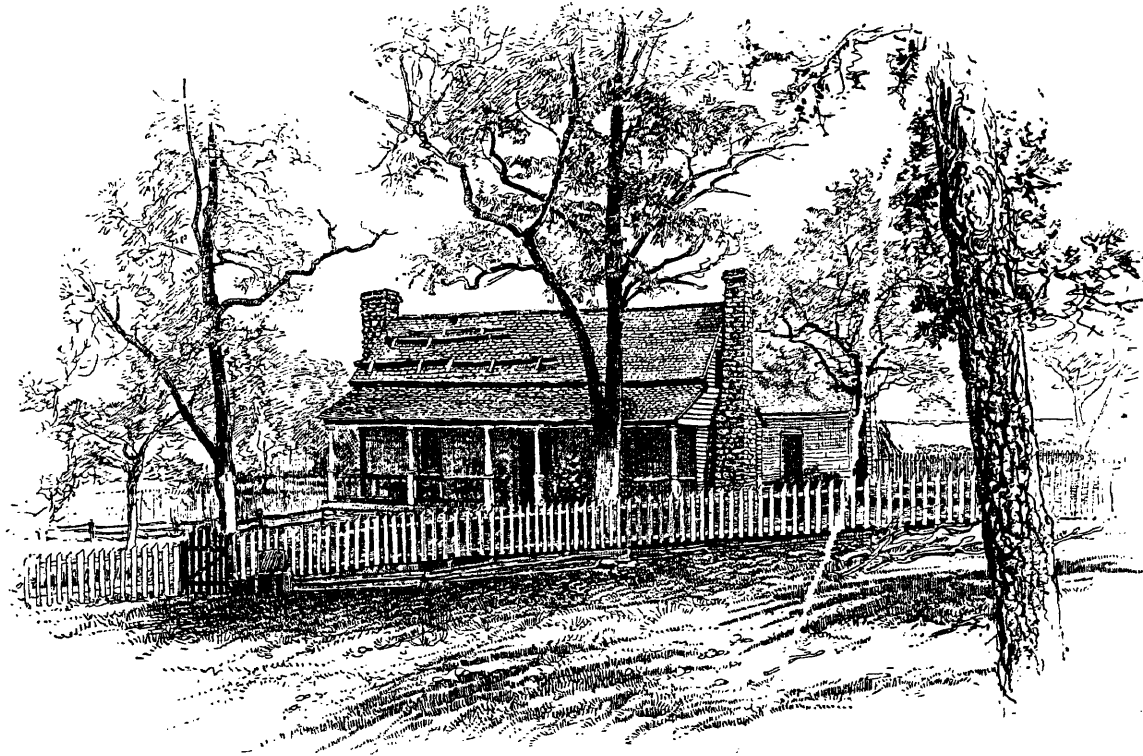
MAP OF
 THE BATTLEFIELD OF
 PERRYVILLE, KY.

October 8th 1862

SCALE OF MILES



- | | |
|---|---|
| UNION | CONFEDERATE |
|  First Position |  |
|  Last |  |



FARM-HOUSE OF H. P. BOTTOM. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1885.

The farm-house stands near Doctor's Creek, under the ridge occupied by Rousseau; and the view is from the old Mackville pike. [See map, p. 24.]