

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 RECEIVED APR 25 1979
 DATE ENTERED JUN 28 1979

**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 Wildcat Battlefield Site

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Junction of Old Wilderness Road and Wildcat Road,
13.4 Miles North of London, off U.S. 25

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____
 VICINITY OF 13.4 miles north of London 5

STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Laurel CODE 125

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Commercial Forest

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John L. Grimes (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER Route 1, Box 24

CITY, TOWN Dunnellon STATE Florida
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Laurel County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN London STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Battlefield is located at the junction of the Old Wilderness Road and Wildcat Road within the Daniel Boone National Forest. This site is in northern Laurel County and is 13.4 miles north of London and 4.2 miles from Interstate 75 interchange. There are no buildings on the properties composing the Battlefield area. Several hundred feet of trenches and cannon placements are visible but have deteriorated over the past one hundred years. The Old Wilderness Road, a rough and narrow dirt road accessible only by foot, horse or four-wheel drive vehicle, remains the same as it was 118 years ago at the time of the battle.

The area is situated within the Cumberland Plateau physiographic province which is a maturely dissected plateau consisting of steep ridges and deeply entrenched valleys. Maximum elevation for the area is 1333 feet above sea level and the minimum elevation is approximately 1000 feet. Geologic outcrops consists mainly of Pennsylvanian sandstones which have weathered to form steep stone faced cliffs and numerous ledges and overhangs or rock shelters. Several streams and rivers, i.e., Ohlor Branch, Shetland Creek and Rockcastle River, along with their numerous seasonal tributaries, comprise the drainage system of the area.

The area originally was covered with what Braun (1950) described as a mixed mesophytic forest. Factors of slope, altitude, soil depth and type, and micro-climatic factors, as well as farming and lumbering operations have contributed to the formation of various forest associations within the area. Prominent species include beech, tuliptree, basswood, sugar maple, buckeye, a variety of oak and hickory, hemlock, pine sycamore and birch.

The site has the potential to yield information concerning the construction of Civil War fortifications in this area as well as information on temporary encampments/ battlefield sites. Very few archaeological investigations have been conducted at the locations of Civil War fortifications in Kentucky and none in this portion of the state. Also, the site could yield information on earlier (prehistoric) and later inhabitants of Wildcat Mountain. (There is evidence for prehistoric occupation of the rock shelters in the cliff faces beneath the fortifications as well as a later historic house site on a lower flat portion of the ridge.) To date no archaeological investigations, other than very cursory surface inspection, have taken place at the site. Further archaeological investigations, i.e., thorough surface examination and limited test excavations are necessary to fully assess the archaeological potential of the site.

The proposed nomination includes the crest of Wildcat Mountain, which consists of approximately thirty acres, the Union line of trenches along the crest, the Union cannon placements, the overhanging cliff used as a hospital area by the Union forces, the numerous overhangs used as shelter by the Federal troops, and the small cemetery containing the now empty graves of two Union soldiers. (Sometime after the war, the remains of the two Union soldiers were exhumed and returned to their native states for burial.)

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wildcat Battlefield, located near the Old Wilderness Road on Wildcat Mountain in rural southeast Kentucky, was the site of the opening battle of the Civil War in Kentucky. The Battle of Wildcat Mountain, fought on October 21, 1861, resulted in the first victory of the war for Union forces after a summer of defeats, and prevented the danger of a Confederate invasion from the east into the Bluegrass region of the state.

On September 12, 1861 Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer, commander of the Confederate Army of East Tennessee, with a force of 7,000 gained control of the Cumberland Gap. In a telegram to Governor Beriah Magoffin of Kentucky, General Zollicoffer stated that he had made his decision to enter Kentucky to preserve the neutrality of the state. He emphasized the fact that there were four Union camps in Kentucky, and he would withdraw his army when the Union forces left the state.¹

A week later a Confederate force of 800 raided Barbourville, and confiscated supplies. On September 26, 1861 the Confederate troops routed a unit of Kentucky Home Guards guarding the bridge over the Laurel River, and captured the bridge. At the same time another division of the Confederate forces raided the salt works at Goose Creek in Clay County, and confiscated 200 barrels of salt, a precious commodity during the war. A few days later the Confederate cavalry entered the town of London.²

Encouraged by his earlier successes General Zollicoffer now moved to capture Camp Wildcat, located on the Old Wilderness Road at the summit of Wildcat Mountain.³ Camp Wildcat was manned by a single Union regiment, the Seventh Kentucky Infantry, commanded by Colonel T. T. Garrard, a grandson of James Garrard, former governor of Kentucky. The Seventh Kentucky Infantry was one of the first Union regiments formed in Kentucky, and the unit had only been mustered into service a few weeks earlier. If the Confederate forces could capture Camp Wildcat, they would have no enemy opposition in their march to the Bluegrass region of Kentucky.⁴

As a result of the Confederate drive from Cumberland Gap to London, Colonel Garrard informed General Albin Schoepf, the Union District Commander, of the situation, and desperately requested reinforcements. General Schoepf immediately dispatched the 33rd Indiana Infantry from Big Hill near the present site of Berea to Camp Wildcat. At the same time General Schoepf, leading the 14th and 17th Ohio Infantry, left Camp Dick Robinson in Garrard County to reinforce the lone Union regiment at Camp Wildcat.⁵

On the morning of October 21, 1861 detachments of the 11th Tennessee led by Colonel James Raines and the 17th Tennessee under Colonel Tazewell Newman attacked the Union

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ainsworth, Brig. Gen. Fred C. and Kerkley, Joseph W. The War of the Rebellion. Series I, Vols. IV and XVI. Washington, D.C. : Government Printing Office, 1882.

Cotterill, R.S. History of Pioneer Kentucky. Cincinnati: Johnson & Hardin, 1917.

Dyche, Russell. Laurel County, Kentucky. London, Kentucky: The Sentinel Echo, 1954.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 129 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Livingston Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7	4,8	1,0	0	4,1	2,8	0,4	0	B	1,6	7	4,8	8,6	0	4,1	2,7	0,8	0
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING		
C	1,6	7	4,8	1,4	0	4,1	2,6	9,6	0	D	1,6	7	4,7	9,4	0	4,1	2,7	4,6	0
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING		
E	1,6	7	4,7	9,4	0	4,1	2,8	0,0	0	F									
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING		
G										H									
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northwest point of the Wildcat Battlefield begins at contour level 1200 approximately 1150 feet from the juncture of the Old Wilderness Road and Wildcat
(continued)

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

William G. Johnson, Historian; Jason Fenwick, archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

May 4, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Drexler

TITLE

DATE 4/17/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE 6-28-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/27/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUN 28 1979

Wildcat Battlefield

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

Gordon Porter
London, Kentucky 40741

Luther C. Robinson
Route 1, Box 639
Corbin, Kentucky 40701

United States Forest Service
100 Vaught Road
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
	JUN 28 1979
DATE ENTERED	

Wildcat Battlefield Site
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The proposed nomination of 129 acres in the Wildcat Battlefield Site nomination is essential to encompass the entire area of the battle. The Union trenches along the crest of Wildcat Mountain stretched from Point A to Hoosier Knob (see U.S.G.S. map). The Confederate forces attacked this long trench line of the Union forces from the east with Happy Hollow Creek being their starting point. (Each Confederate attack on the Union position came from the east, and following each unsuccessful attempt, the rebel army regrouped along Happy Hollow Creek.) To the west of the Union trench lines are the numerous ledges, overhangs and rock shelters which were used by the Federal forces for shelter and hospital area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 28 1979

Wildcat Battlefield Site
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

position on Wildcat Mountain, a natural fortification, and almost inaccessible. The Confederate forces advanced up the mountain to within eighty yards of the Union position on the ridge line, but were repelled by heavy and deadly fire from the Union forces. After an hour of intense fighting the Confederate units were forced to retreat, and rejoined the main Confederate force at the base of the mountain.⁶

After the first Confederate attack had been repelled by the Union forces, General Schoepf and the two Ohio units arrived to reinforce Camp Wildcat. This now gave the Union force a total of 5,000 men against the 7,000 Confederate troops.⁷

In the early afternoon the Confederate forces again attacked the Union position on the crest of Wildcat Mountain. The attack was led by General Zollicoffer who committed the greater part of his force. The battle raged for several hours as the Confederate forces repeatedly attacked the Union line. Each attack was repelled by the Union forces who held their ground. The Confederate forces were unable to take the ridge, and by nightfall they had ceased their attack and returned to the base of Wildcat Mountain.⁸

After the second retreat by the Confederate forces the Union commander spent the night preparing for another attack in the morning. During the night, however, General Zollicoffer withdrew his entire force in the direction of Cumberland Gap. At Cumberland Gap Zollicoffer received reinforcements and fortified the area.⁹ Zollicoffer's main objective now was to defend East Tennessee from the Union invasion from Kentucky. He was to concentrate his efforts in establishing defensive positions at the three main passes or routes through the mountains on the Kentucky-Tennessee border--Cumberland Gap, the Williamsburg-Jacksborough Road, and the Monticello-Jamestown Road--and there awaited the oncoming Union invasion.¹⁰

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 28 1979

Wildcat Battlefield Site- Foot-notes

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

1 The War of the Rebellion. Series I, Vol. IV, pp. 199,214, 412.

2 Ibid., pp. 177, 202.

3 The Old Wilderness Road was significant in the westward expansion of America. It was the first road which crossed the Appalachian barrier. From 1775 until the War of 1812 it was the major overland route into the western territory.

The portion of the Wilderness Road which traversed Kentucky was first travelled by Dr. Thomas Walker of Virginia, the leader of an expedition sent by the Loyal Land Company to locate and survey an 800,000 acre tract suitable for settlement.

Walker and his party left Virginia in March, 1850, and reached Cumberland Gap on April 13, 1850 as recorded in his journal. Walker, generally credited as the discoverer of the famous pass, named the river and gap in honor of the Duke of Cumberland, the hero of the Battle of Culloden.

After passing through the gap, Walker and his men travelled an old Indian trail which followed the Cumberland River, and crossed the river. Here Walker constructed a cabin eight miles southwest of the present site of Barbourville, in Knox County. Walker then journeyed to the Rockcastle River, and discouraged by the poor land his party returned to Virginia.

In May, 1769 Daniel Boone and two companions left North Carolina for the new western lands. Boone followed Walker's route, and was the first to reach Big Hill near the present site of Berea in Madison County in the Bluegrass. In Kentucky he was joined by his younger brother, Squire Boone, and they remained in the new land for two years, killing game for their skins and furs.

Boone returned to the western lands in 1775 to cut and mark a trail for Colonel Richard Henderson's Transylvania Company. In March of the same year Colonel Henderson had concluded a treaty with the Cherokee tribes for the purchase of a tract of land situated between the Cumberland and Kentucky rivers, an area of 20,000,000 acres.

Boone and his men followed his earlier trail. They improved it and at the mouth of Otter Creek on the Kentucky River they established the settlement of Booneboro in Madison County. This was the first road marked out in Kentucky. For the next thirty-seven years the Wilderness Road was the main overland route into the newly opened territory.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 28 1979

Wildcat Battlefield Site- Footnotes

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

- 4 Russell Dyche, Laurel County, Kentucky, pp. 236-227.
- 5 The War of the Rebellion. Series I, Vol. IV, p. 212.
- 6 Ibid., pp. 206-209.
- 7 Ibid., pp. 208-209.
- 8 Ibid., pp.208-210.
- 9 Ibid., p. 207.
- 10 Ibid., pp. 381, 387, 398, 487.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 28 1979

Wildcat Battlefield Site

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Evans, General Clement A. Confederate Military History. Vol. IX. Atlanta:
Confederate Publishing Co., 1899.

Kincaid, Robert L. The Wilderness Road. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill
Company, 1947.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

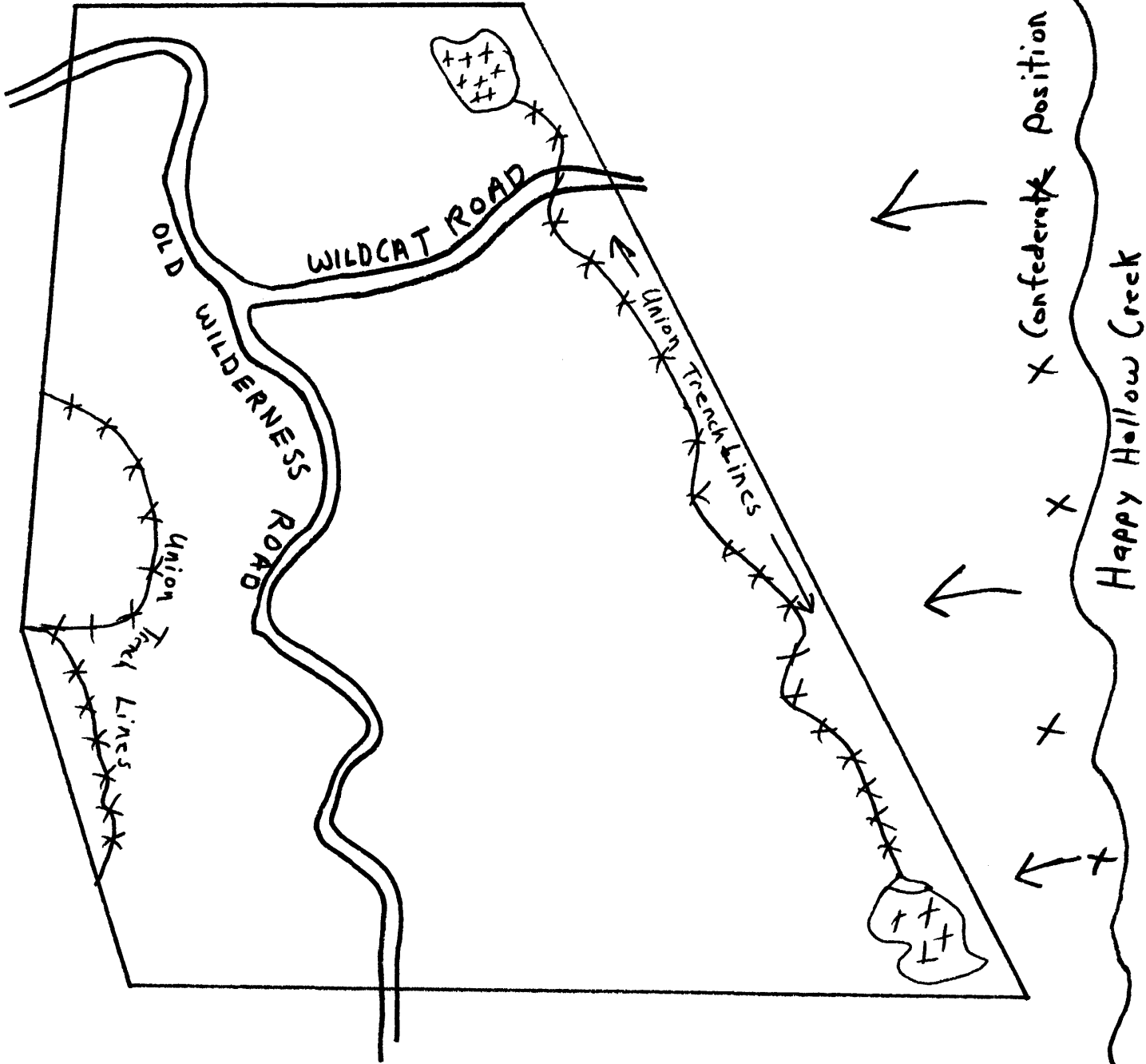
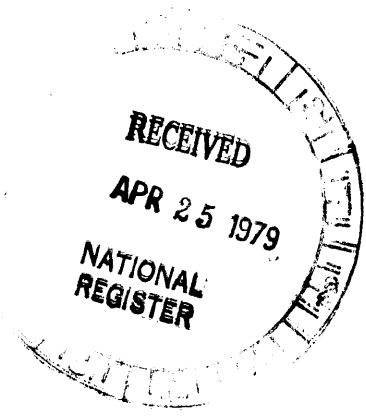
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 28 1979

Wildcat Battlefield Site
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Road and proceeds in a southwesterly direction for approximately 3750 feet to point C, which is approximately 1000 feet from Begley Hollow; then in a southeasterly direction to Hoosier Knob for a distance of 2500 feet; thence 4100 feet in a northeasterly direction from Hoosier Knob to point A, which is 1000 feet from the juncture of Old Wilderness Road and Wildcat Road.

Sketch Map of Wildcat Battlefield Site
Laurel County, Kentucky



Confederate Position At The Time of Their Attack