

HB NO 417W

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi	
COUNTY: Hinds/Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.11.28.0014	DATE 11/23/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Big Black River Battlefield

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Boundaries as shown on attached map.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Smith's Station (Hinds County); Bovina (Warren County)

STATE Mississippi	CODE 28	COUNTY: Hinds/Warren	CODE 049/149
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
F. E. Brasfield

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Edwards	STATE: Mississippi	CODE 39066	CODE 28
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Hinds County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Raymond	STATE: Mississippi	CODE 39154	CODE 28
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

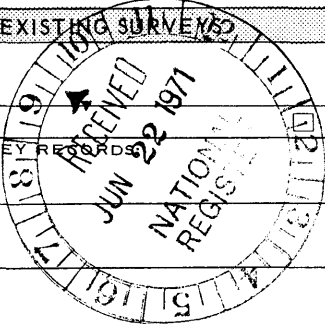
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Federal  State  County  Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi  
COUNTY: Hinds/Warren  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Big Black River Battlefield and affiliated fortifications and campsites encompass an area of approximately two square miles of land south of the old U. S. Highway 80, as well as 1/4 square mile north of this same highway, where U. S. Highway 80 crosses the Big Black River, in Hinds County.

The Union fortifications are situated on the bluffs on Clear Creek. Located on the south bank, they continue in a semi-circle west to east to south and terminate at the Big Black River railroad bridge in sections 21 and 22.

Union and Confederate campsites are bordered by Clear Creek on the north, Bovina on the west, the Big Black River on the east, and extend 1/2 mile south of old U. S. Highway 80.

The battlefield is under cultivation as it was at the time of the battle.

The fortifications and campsites are on cleared residential, pasture and wooded areas as when constructed in 1863.

Some remains of the Confederate defenses and Union fortifications are presently distinguishable today.

The wreckage of the CSS Charm and CSS Paul Jones can be seen when the Big Black is at low stage.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Hinds/Warren	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71-11-28-0014	11/23/71

(Number all entries)

4.

Mark Chaney  
Bovina, Mississippi

Jack Filibaum  
Bovina, Mississippi

H. E. Taylor  
Second North  
Vicksburg, Mississippi

W. A. Brown  
Bovina, Mississippi

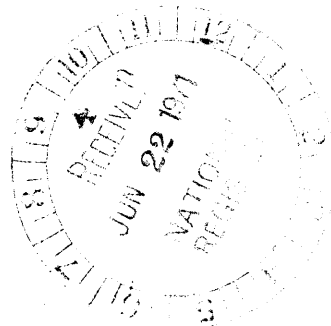
Pennebaker Farm  
Smith's Station  
Edwards, Mississippi

5. Chancery Court Building  
Hinds County  
Jackson, Mississippi

Warren County Courthouse  
Vicksburg

8.

Clear Creek and south between Warrior's Trail Road and the  
west bank of the Big Black River.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1863-1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Big Black River Bridge Battle was fought May 17, 1863, in an area where the river forms a horseshoe bend; it was in this region that the Confederates had constructed rifle pits as defenses after withdrawing from the Battle of Champion Hill 9.8 miles to the east. These defenses were on the east bank of the river and protected the approach to the bridge. The defenses along with the natural terrain of the area provided excellent cover for the brigades of Generals John C. Vaughn and Martin Green.

About 10:00 a.m. the Union forces of Brigadier General Eugene A. Carr under the command of General John A. McClernand, engaged the Confederate pickets in the woods at Smith's Station, about 2 miles east of the bridge. After driving in the pickets, the Union forces were confronted with the Confederate troops, well-entrenched, but demoralized from the defeat of Champion Hill the day before. The bombardment from Battery A of the 2nd. Illinois Light Artillery and the 1st. Battery of the Indiana Light Artillery followed by a lightning charge of the 2nd. Brigade under Brigadier General Michael K. Lawler rolled up the left wing of the Confederate defenses. The Union forces then advanced to the bridge with little trouble, capturing vast numbers of prisoners, small arms and 18 field guns.

The steamers, CSS Dot, CSS Paul Jones, and CSS Charm were at the Big Black Bridge Landing, seeking safety from Union fleets operating on the Mississippi. The Confederates had placed these vessels parallel to the bridge. After crossing in retreat, the Confederates burned the steamers and bridge to hinder the advance by Union forces.

Union forces occupied these positions through the siege of Vicksburg until August, 1864.

Earthworks were constructed on the bluffs of the south bank of Clear Creek, extending to and along the west bank of Big Black River.

Union camp sites were located directly west along

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bearss, Edwin. Decision in Mississippi. Pioneer Press, Little Rock, 1962. P. 297.  
 Stone, Col. William M. "History of the Twenty-Second Iowa Regiment From Date of Enlistment to Close of Service." Collections of William C. Wright, Clinton, Mississippi.  
The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1889. Series 1, Vol. 24, Pp. 266-269.

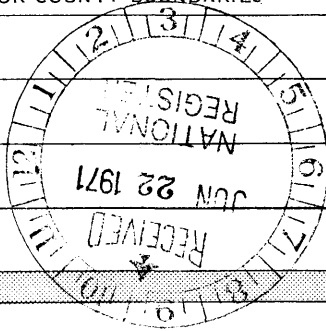
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	32°	22'	18"	90°	45'	59"			
NE	32°	22'	18"	90°	41'	10"			
SE	32°	20'	54"	90°	41'	10"			
SW	32°	20'	54"	90°	45'	59"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 1,450 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>Hinds</u>	<u>049</u>
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>Warren</u>	<u>149</u>
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: William C. Wright, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: May 13, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name R. A. McLemore  
 Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History  
 Date May 13, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Amot A Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**NOV 23 1971**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William J. Montague  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **NOV 22 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS