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on - 2-21-1979
DATA SHEET

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Lee
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: *national*
Tupelo ~~Battlefield Site~~ (No. 260-3D)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Battle of Harrisburg

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Mississippi Hwy 6, 2 miles west of U.S. Hwy 45,
Rural Route 1, NT-143 in Tupelo

CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo *mic* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1

STATE: Mississippi 38801 CODE: 28 COUNTY: Lee CODE: 081

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. AGENCY

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Southeast

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

STREET AND NUMBER: 3401 Whipple Avenue

STATE: Georgia 30344 CODE: 13

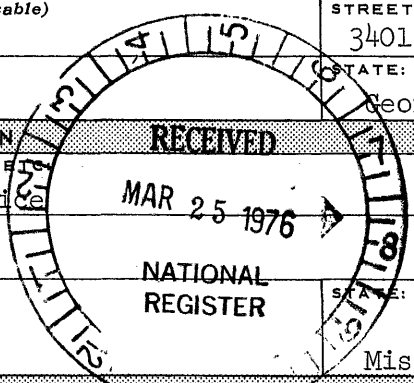
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, Etc.
Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: 300 West Main

CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo

STATE: Mississippi 38801 CODE: 28



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Natchez Trace Parkway Survey, United States Government Printing Office

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 001

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

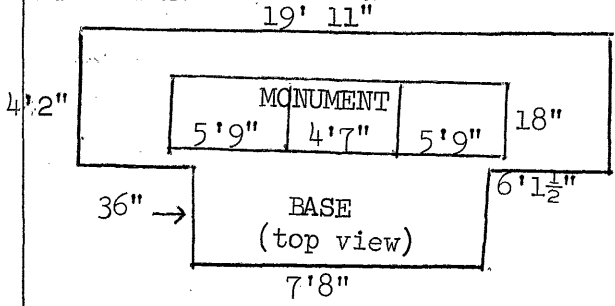
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Battle of Tupelo was fought in and around the hamlet of Harrisburg and the town of Tupelo. Today, the low rolling hills around Harrisburg, which, since the war, have been incorporated into the town of Tupelo is now a residential section. The battle was fought in a typical southern countryside of cleared fields, forests, cornfields and orchards. Today, banks, churches, residential homes, streets and highways crisscross the area.

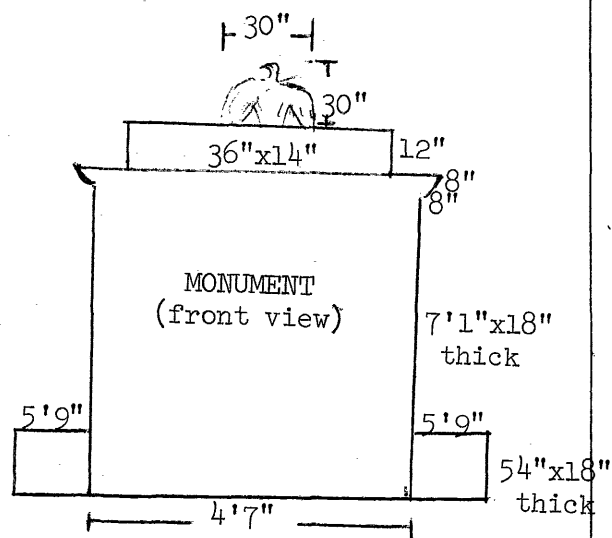
The position selected by Union General A. J. Smith to receive the Confederate attack was well suited for defense. After the running skirmishes of the 13th, General Smith wanted to occupy a strong position in and around Tupelo and await attack. This and two other goals made him choose the site that he did. His other goals--secure Tupelo and gain a lodgement on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. His battleline, forming a right angle several hundred yards north of Pontotoc road, was on the crest of a low ridge overlooking Harrisburg Branch. From the position held by the 12th Iowa and Murray's brigade, the Federals looked westward toward Pontotoc, the direction from which the Confederate Generals Lee and Forest would advance. To the Union front, the terrain sloped gradually down to Harrisburg Branch, beyond which the country was an undulating woodland with scant undergrowth and heavily timbered. From Smith's line, which was slightly over a mile and one-half in length, the distance to the edge of the timber in front varied with the meanders of Harrisburg Branch, which marked the limit of the clearings. Opposite the sector held by Murray's brigade, about 300 yards separated the Union battle line from the timber, but the woods were so open that the Confederates would be visible for the final 500 yards of their approach. Along other sectors of the front, the Rebels, as they advanced to the assault, would be exposed to artillery and small arms fire for distances varying from one-fourth mile to 1,000 yards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The monument at the site is made of granite and rests on a granite base 12" thick.



No scale



Recommended treatment: Preservation
 Preliminary cost estimate for above: 0
 Photographs enclosed

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) July 13-15, 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

Lieutenant

The Battle of Tupelo was fought on July 13-15, 1864. ^{Lieutenant} General Stephen D. Lee was in command of all Confederate forces in Alabama, Mississippi, and Eastern Louisiana. He relied on Major General Nathan B. Forrest to protect the rich prairie section of Eastern Mississippi. Forrest had protected the prairie and in July of 1864 he was called to battle again when A. J. Smith's Federal army moved toward Tupelo. Grant's tactics called for a ^{Major} diversionary attack in North Mississippi to keep Forrest occupied while General William T. Sherman moved from Tennessee to Georgia on his march to the sea. As for the battle, neither side could claim complete victory.

Sherman wanted Forrest destroyed for if he wasn't he would be free to fall upon and wreck the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad over which Sherman received his tools of war. To wreck Forrest, he sent General A. J. Smith with more than 14,000 soldiers and 24 cannon. General Lee, on July 14, had 9,500 effectives, supported by 20 cannon. Forrest's men opened the battle as they dashed on foot toward the Federal position. For three hours they attacked and fell back. After a lull this continued but to no avail. That night, because of the condition of his troops, Smith fell back four miles. Again on the 15th, the fighting resumed and the next day Smith moved his army toward LaGrange. The Confederates followed but without making another major attack. The important result was that Smith had kept the railroad safe and supply lines open.

The site is located on a slight hill overlooking the area and because of landscaping and no high rise buildings one does not have a sense of congestion. This memorial is interpreted by two interpretive panels and as the terrain has not been altered immensely, other than erection of buildings, one may still sense and understand the flow of events that occurred here. However, more and more construction is going on in this area and the open area to the west is being rapidly developed.

Significance: 1st order

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Slonaker, John J. "The Battle of Tupelo, July 13-15, 1864." Research report on file at Natchez Trace Parkway Library, Tupelo, Mississippi

Bearss, Edwin C. "The Tupelo Campaign." A documented Narrative & Troop Movement Maps, June 22 - July 23, 1864. Research report on file in Library at Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, Mississippi.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	0 0 0	0 0 0		34°	15'	19"
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		88°	44'	14"
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre Class VI

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter</u>		DATE: <u>10-01-74</u>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u>Natchez Trace Parkway</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Rural Route 1, NT-143</u>		PHONE: <u>(601) 842-1572</u>
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Tupelo</u>	STATE <u>Mississippi 38801</u>	CODE <u>28</u>

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Elmer R. Hilliard
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

[Signature] **MAR 30 1975**
 Federal Representative Signature
 Deputy Assistant Secretary

 Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS