

STATE:
Mississippi

COUNTY:
Marshall

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
AUG 14 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Civil War Earthworks at Tallahatchie Crossing

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
on north bank of the Tallahatchie River on Miss. Hwy. 7

CITY OR TOWN:
near Abbeville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE: Mississippi CODE: 38601 COUNTY: Marshall CODE: 093

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) unused
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U. S. Corps of Engineers,

STREET AND NUMBER:
Vicksburg District

CITY OR TOWN:
Vicksburg

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
39180

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Marshall County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Holly Springs

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
38635

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Inventory of Historic Places, Executive Order 11593.

DATE OF SURVEY:
March 15, 1972 Federal State County Local

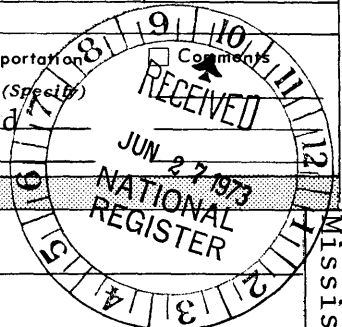
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
U.S. Corps of Engineers

STREET AND NUMBER:
Vicksburg District

CITY OR TOWN:
Vicksburg

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
39180



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The earthworks, consisting of artillery parapets for a seven-gun battery flanked by infantry trenches and a two-gun position approximately one hundred and fifty yards to the north, constitute the existing fortifications, which were constructed by the Federal army in 1862. The main camp and headquarters site of Major General James B. McPherson were immediately to the north of the two-gun battery position in an open field. The field, which has been in pasture or under continual cultivation through the years, appears much as it did when Federal troops abandoned the site.

Although McPherson's returns show that he had a total of twenty-four pieces of artillery, it is probable that only a total of nine were mounted in position behind the earthen works. Perhaps others were mounted with cotton bale fortifications. The existing earthworks are in an excellent state of preservation, but they are completely overgrown by heavy underbrush.

The road from Holly Springs to Oxford was moved to the east when the present State Highway 7 was constructed. This enhanced the site, since the old roadbed was left in its original state.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) December, 1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

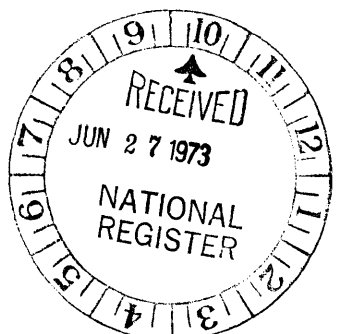
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 earthworks along the north bank of the Tallahatchie River and on the old Holly Springs-Oxford road were once a vital link in the chain of communications supplying the invading Federal army of Major General Ulysses S. Grant, who in December 1862, was launching his first offensive against Vicksburg after an unsuccessful naval assault on the city. Grant had established his base of operations at Holly Springs where the Federal army had stockpiled over a million dollars in war material. The invasion could succeed only if these strategic links remained unbroken and in the hands of the Federal army.

By December 2, 1862, the vanguard of the Federal offensive extended as far south as Oxford in an inland attack, which was coordinated with the forces of Major General William T. Sherman moving down the Mississippi River toward the common objective of Vicksburg. Grant, dependent upon the supplies at Holly Springs, was moving along the route of the Mississippi Central Railroad for the purpose of preventing reinforcements from reaching the Vicksburg garrison. The job of securing the thirty miles from Holly Springs to Oxford was assigned to Major General James B. McPherson, who had established his headquarters on the north bank of the Tallahatchie River on the Holly Springs-Oxford road. McPherson was to maintain control of this vital point and to protect the engineers from attack while they were rebuilding the bridge. With this objective in mind, McPherson had fortifications completed by December 20, for his twenty field pieces and four heavy pieces of artillery. Behind these fortifications there was a broad open field that provided an excellent site for his headquarters and a camp for his men. The division of Brigadier General John A. Logan, consisting of 9,575 men and officers, was assigned the north bank of the Tallahatchie.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XVII, Part I, pp. 488-502.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XVII, Part II, pp. 366-540.

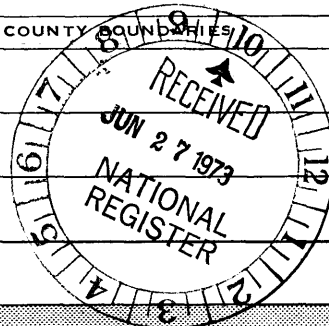
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 33' 25"	89° 29' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: five

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William C. Wright, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives & History DATE: 6/21/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Charlotte Capers
Charlotte Capers

Title Acting Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

Date June 21, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST:
Wm. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8 6 73

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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8.

On December 20, 1862, the Confederate cavalry of Major General Earl Van Dorn made a daring raid on the Federal supply base at Holly Springs, capturing the garrison and destroying the entire stockpile of Grant's supplies. This loss forced Grant to abort his drive against Vicksburg, and on his return to Holly Springs to view the damage, he wired McPherson: "There is no special object any longer in holding the Tallahatchie. Fall back as far as you can." The fortifications along the Tallahatchie, therefore, had lost their importance.

Until the successful campaigns of Grant against Vicksburg came to a close, there was little activity at the crossing. Federal cavalry patrolled the north bank and the Confederates the south side. Occasionally these patrols clashed and a skirmish resulted. But, it was not until the fall of 1863, when Brigadier General James R. Chalmers led his Confederate and State Troops across the Tallahatchie in an unsuccessful attempt to dislodge the Federals from northwest Mississippi, that action came to the crossing.

The final action came on August 7, 1864, when Federals advancing toward Oxford encountered Confederate pickets on the north side of the Tallahatchie. A skirmish ensued that lasted for three days, finally ending on the south side of Hurricane Creek, four miles south of Abbeville, when the Confederates withdrew beyond Oxford.

Today the site is owned by the United States Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and is a part of the Sardis Reservoir property and remains as evidence of the importance of the strategic crossing on the Tallahatchie River.



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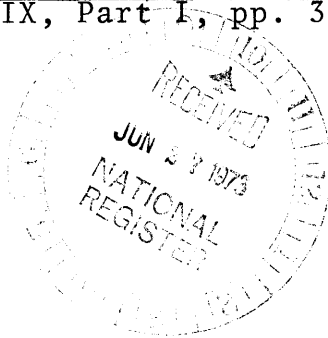
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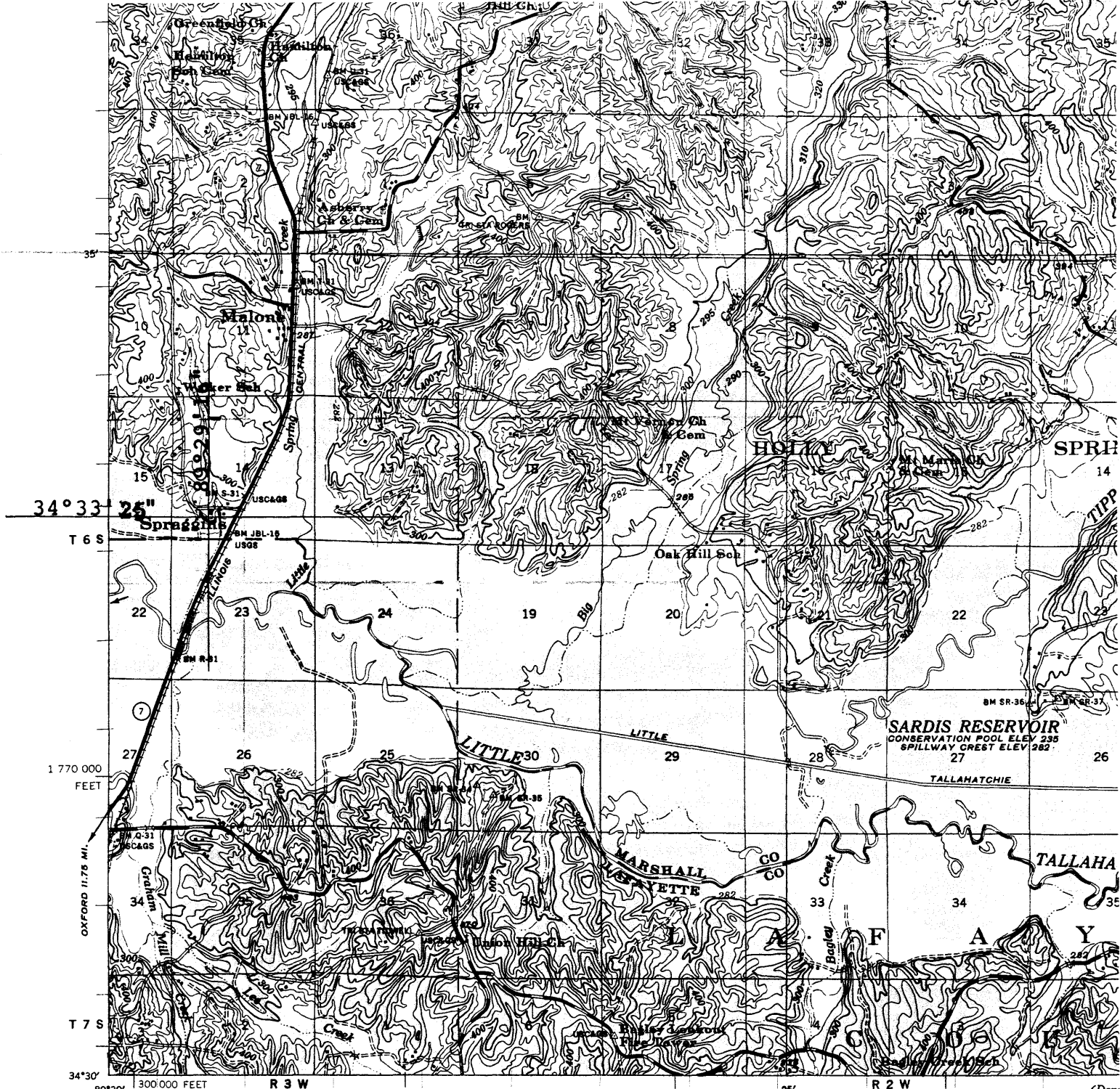
(Number all entries)

4.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XXX, Part II, pp. 730-795.

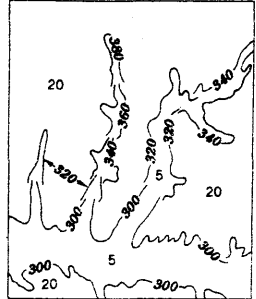
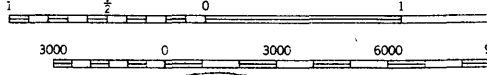
The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XXXIX, Part I, pp. 370-399.





Prepared under the direction of the President, Mississippi River Commission, Horizontal control by Mississippi River Commission and Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Vicksburg District. Vertical control by Mississippi River Commission and Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Vicksburg District. Descriptions, elevations and geodetic positions of bench marks may be obtained from Vicksburg District, Vicksburg, Miss. Topography by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Vicksburg District, 1940-44. Political boundaries are shown according to best available information and are subject to change except where established by court decision. Work under Flood Control Act shown as of December 1948. Polyconic Projection, 1927 North American Datum. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Mississippi coordinate system, east zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Scale 1:62500 SCALE



Contour intervals 5 a
Datum is mean sea level. Persons interested may
the latest U. S. C. & G. S. adjustments, by c

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POTTS CAMP, MISSISSIPPI

EDITION OF 1944
N3430-W8915/15