

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 22 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 13 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 ** Federal Siege Trench

AND/OR COMMON

Harper Road Trench

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Harper Road, approx. 1/4 mile south Highway 2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Corinth

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Alcorn

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. P. C. Griffin

STREET & NUMBER

Rt.1, Harper Road

CITY, TOWN

Corinth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Alcorn County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Corinth

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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 Federal trench located on the north side of Corinth, parallel to Harper Road and one-quarter mile south of Mississippi Highway 2, is the best-preserved earthwork remaining from the Siege of Corinth. This trench once extended over half a mile, and it is extant for nearly that distance today. It faces a broad field which has remained either under cultivation or in pasture since the Civil War.

Its construction is typical of breastwork used by infantry. The earth removed was piled on the west side to protect its occupants from enemy fire. When the trench was constructed, it was probably about four feet deep, with the embankment adding approximately two feet. A step, or firing platform, allowed the riflemen to fire through depressions in the parapet, which probably had a headlog along the crest at the time of its construction.

Today, the trench may be easily seen from Harper Road because of the huge hardwoods which grow along its length. These trees have helped preserve the works from the elements of time and weather.

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 April 29-June 10, 1862 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harper Road Trench, the best-preserved Civil War earthwork remaining from the Siege of Corinth, which may be easily seen today, was constructed as part of the Federal offensive attempting to encircle the town and its Confederate garrison.

After the battle of Shiloh, April 6 - 7, 1862, Major General Henry W. Halleck arrived to take personal command of the Federal forces there and immediately began preparations to capture Corinth. Corinth was important because of its position on the crossing of two major railroads, the Memphis & Charleston running east to west, and the Mobile & Ohio going north to south.

Halleck began his campaign with over ninety thousand men and reached Corinth with a force of about one hundred ten thousand, composed of three armies under Major Generals Ulysses S. Grant, Don C. Buell, and John Pope. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, C.S.A, in Corinth with approximately thirty thousand of the forty thousand men who had made the march into Tennessee, managed to strengthen his army with the addition of General Earl Van Dorn's army from Arkansas and other reinforcements. This gave Beauregard about sixty-six thousand men.

Halleck's advance met with only minor resistance on the march---at Farmington, Seven Mile Creek, and Russell's House---but the token opposition served its purpose to slow Halleck down by causing the overly cautious general to entrench at the end of each day's march. By May 25, Halleck was on the outer edge of Corinth. It had taken the Federals almost a month to march twenty miles.

On May 28, the 7th Division, Right Wing (Thomas's), Army of the Tennessee, under Brigadier General Thomas W. Sherman, advanced west of the Monterey-Corinth Road (Harper Road) and erected earthworks parallel to the road on the east side of a broad field. On the west side of the field was Phillips Creek, with the Confederate line on the opposite bank. Sherman's men had become quite proficient in throwing up works over the past month and experienced little difficulty in their task. But, the work was in vain. By the time the trench was completed there was no foe against which to use it.

After observing the advance of the Federal siege line for four days, Beauregard decided to save his army while he had the chance, and on the night of May 29, he moved to extricate his army. To create the impression that reinforcements were arriving, Confederate troops cheered empty trains entering Corinth from the south. Later, when the trains pulled quietly out of town toward Tupelo, the troops were on board. On the morning of May 30, Halleck's scouts reported that only a few cavalry were occupying Corinth's defenses, and most of those escaped as the Federal army entered the town.

Halleck's hollow victory earned him the position of Commander-in-Chief of all United States forces. Beauregard's brilliant hoax, however, infuriated President Jefferson Davis, who blamed him for the large number of sick and deserters under his command and replaced him with the less capable Major General Braxton Bragg.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United States War Department. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Ser. 1, vol. 10, pt. 1, pt. 2. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 34.40

UTM REFERENCES

363-000			363-000				
A	16	362999	3871650	B	16	362950	3871150
	ZONE	EASTING 700	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING 700	NORTHING
C	16	362699	3871150	D	16	362650	3871650

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bordered by Harper Road on east, visual length of trench, and extending westward to include the field shown in yellow on quadrangle map.

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 C. Wright, Historical Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

April 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE X

LOCAL X

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

Elmer R. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 15, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: [Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/13/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.10.76

CORINTH QUADRANGLE

MISSISSIPPI-TENNESSEE

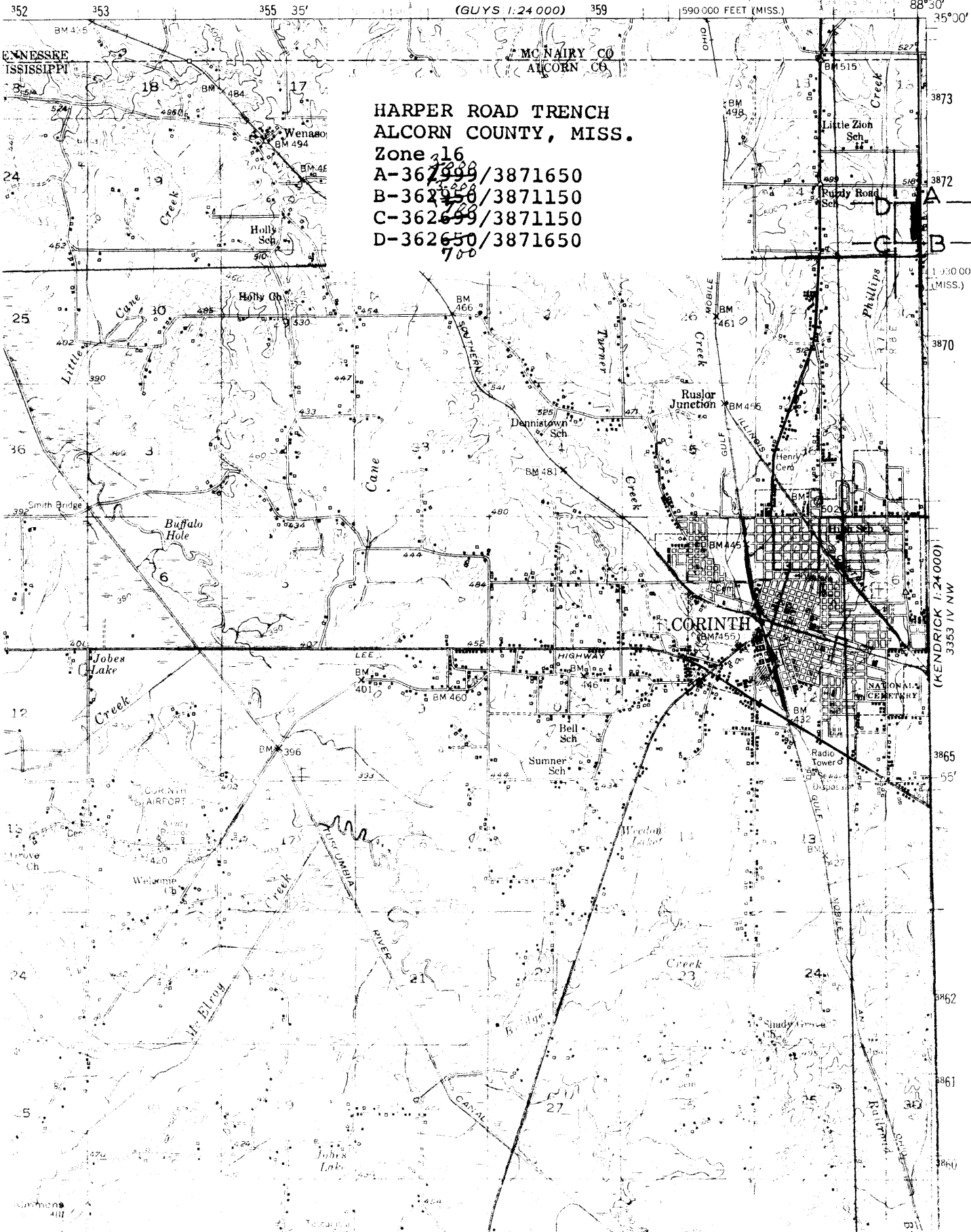
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3354 III SW
(MICHE 1:24,000)

3254 II SE
(GUYS 1:24,000)

590,000 FEET (MISS.)

88°30'
35°00'



HARPER ROAD TRENCH
ALCORN COUNTY, MISS.
Zone 216
A-362999/3871650
B-362950/3871150
C-362699/3871150
D-362650/3871650

1,930,000 FEET
(MISS.)

(KENDRICK 1:24,000)
3353 IV NW

3865
55'

3862

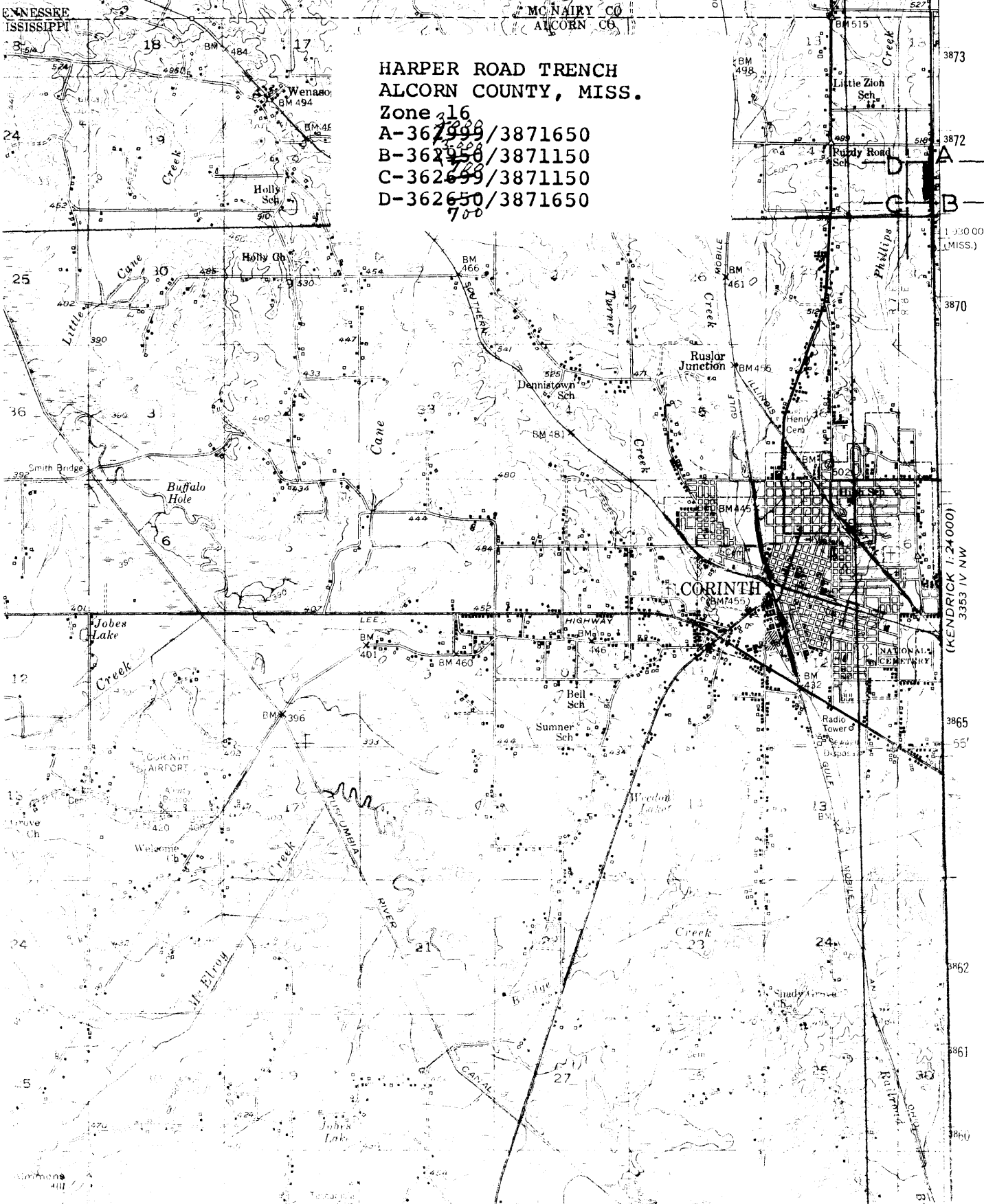
3861

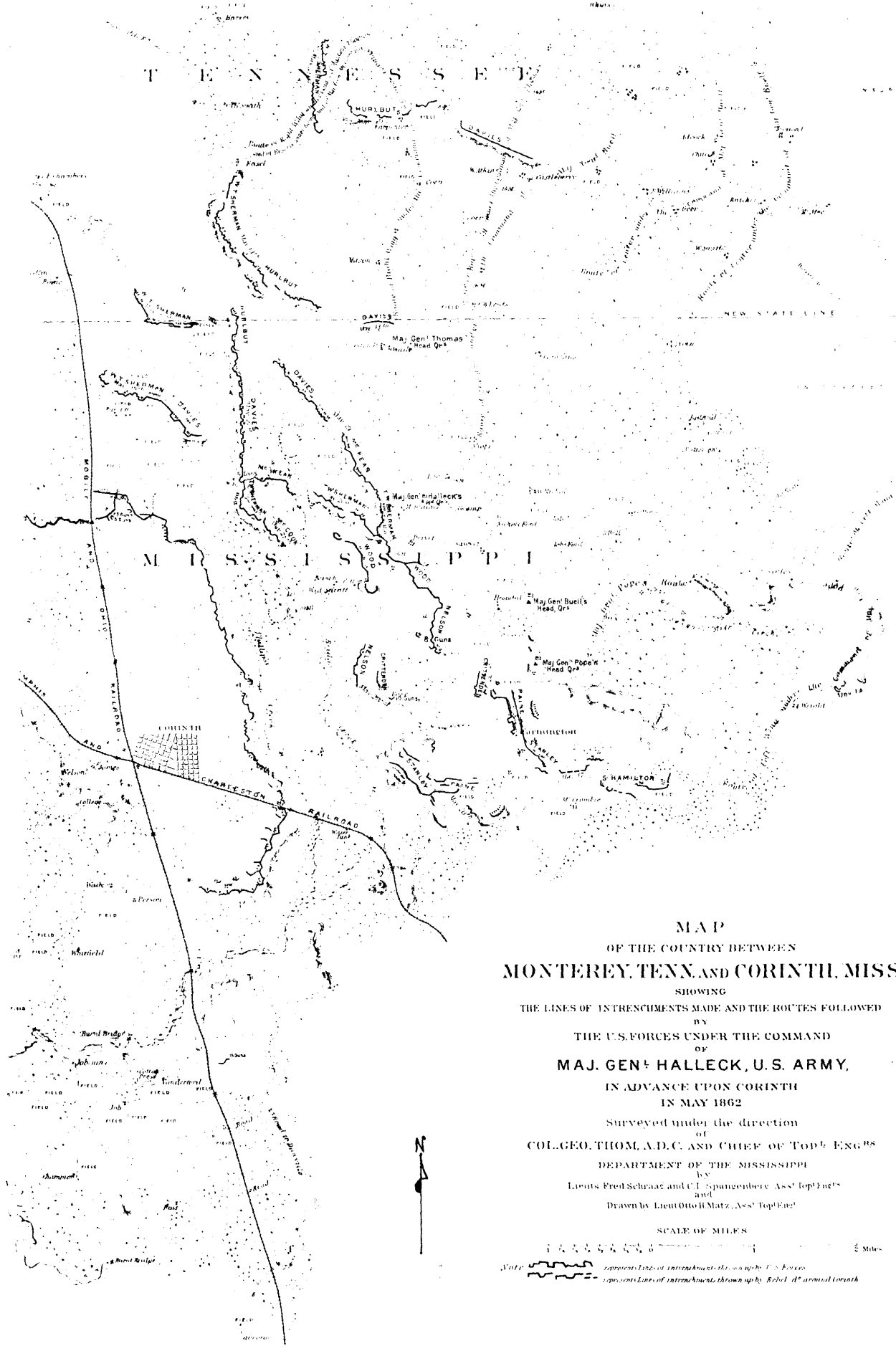
3860

TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI

M McNairy Co
ALCORN Co

CORINTH





MAP
 OF THE COUNTRY BETWEEN
MONTEREY, TENN. AND CORINTH, MISS
 SHOWING
 THE LINES OF INTRENCHMENTS MADE AND THE ROUTES FOLLOWED
 BY
 THE U.S. FORCES UNDER THE COMMAND
 OF
MAJ. GEN. HALLECK, U.S. ARMY,
 IN ADVANCE UPON CORINTH
 IN MAY 1862
 Surveyed under the direction
 OF
COL. GEO. THOM, A.D.C. AND CHIEF OF TOP. ENGRS
 DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI
 BY
 Lieut. Fred Schaefer and C. Spangenberg, Ass. Top. Engrs.
 and
 Drawn by Lieut. Otto R. Matz, Ass. Top. Engr.

SCALE OF MILES
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles

NOTE
 - - - - - represents lines of intrenchments thrown up by U.S. Forces
 - - - - - represents lines of intrenchments thrown up by Rebel Art. around Corinth