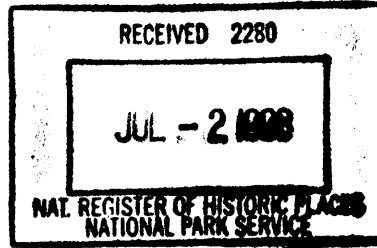


1291

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

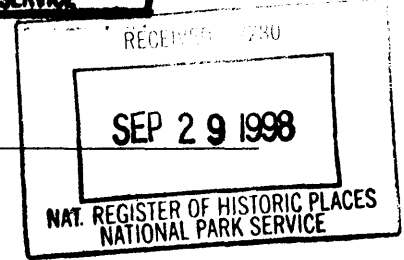


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Saline Island

other names/site number Johnson Island (UN-32)



2. Location

street & number Ohio River Miles 865-67, Illinois side

Not for publication N/A

city or town Saline Mines

vicinity XX

state Kentucky code KY county Union code 225 zip code N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, Executive Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council & SHPO

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official

6-22-98  
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

      
Signature of commenting or other official

      
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I,      hereby certify that this property is      entered in the National Register

     See continuation sheet.

     determined eligible for the National Register

     See continuation sheet.

     determined not eligible for the National Register

     removed from the National Register

     other (explain):     

Edson R. Beall 10/30/98

      
Signature of Keeper

      
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

|               |                 |            |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Contributing  | Noncontributing |            |
| <u>1</u>      | <u>      </u>   | buildings  |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | sites      |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | structures |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u>   | objects    |
| <u>1</u>      | <u>0</u>        | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing

Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions Transportation Sub water-related/island  
 Current Functions Agricultural/Subsistence Sub agricultural field/woods

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  
N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation N/A roof N/A walls N/A

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance Military History  
Period of Significance 1864  
Significant Dates August 12, 1864  
Significant Person Adam Johnson  
Cultural Affiliation N/A  
Architect/Builder N/A

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Kentucky Heritage Council

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 200 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   | Zone      | Easting       | Northing       |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>16</u> | <u>400540</u> | <u>4158610</u> |
| 2 | <u>16</u> | <u>399810</u> | <u>4160020</u> |
| 3 | <u>16</u> | <u>399350</u> | <u>4161440</u> |
| 4 | <u>16</u> | <u>399230</u> | <u>4160780</u> |
| 5 | <u>16</u> | <u>399900</u> | <u>4158980</u> |

Verbal Boundary Description (see continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (see continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, Historic Preservation Consultant  
organization History Pays! date March 20, 1998  
street & number 4215 Northwest Drive telephone (515) 274-3625  
city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50310

Property Owner

name Philip and Joyce Henshaw  
street & number 5897 State Route 109 telephone 502-333-5422  
city or town Sturgis state Ky zip code 42459

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 page 1

name of property Saline Island

County and State Union County, Kentucky

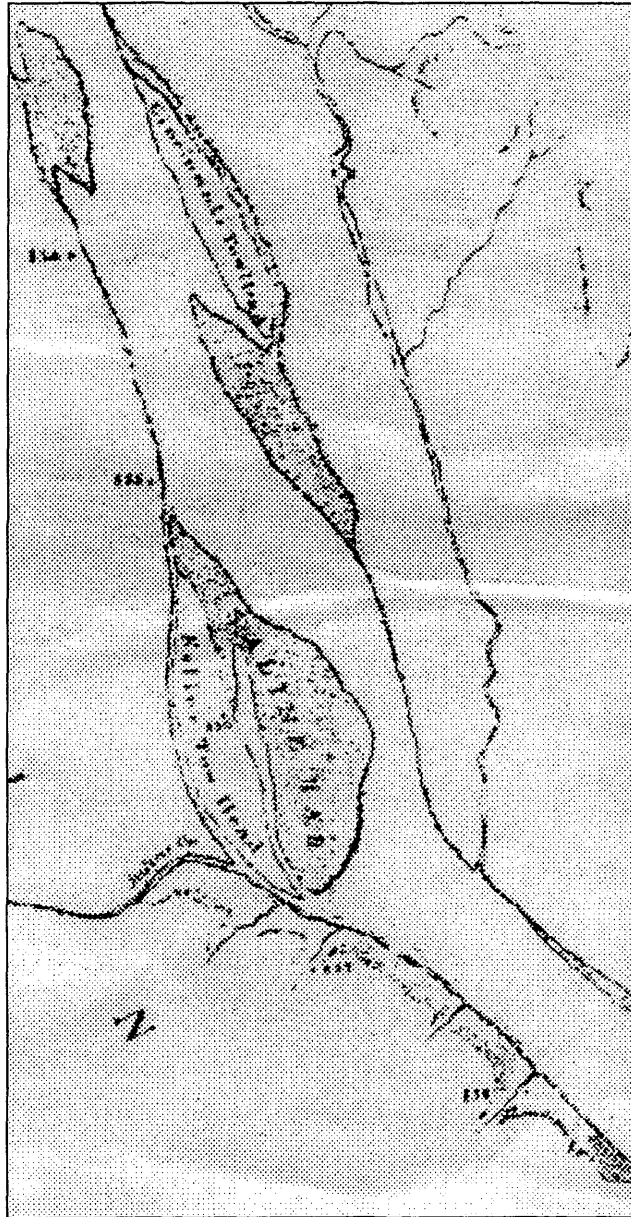
name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

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**7. Narrative Description:**

Saline Island or Towhead, now known as Johnson Island, is located at the confluence of the Saline and the Ohio Rivers in eastern Hardin County, Illinois. Saline Island is a part of Union County, Kentucky. Once a distinct island, almost two miles in length, the island has silted into the Illinois shore. The island today is a combination of farmed and wooded areas.



1867 Ohio River Channel, Detail, Saline Bar and Tow Head (north to top of map)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 page 2

name of property Saline Island

County and State Union County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

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The Ohio River at this point was quite constricted. The 1867-68 river map (see below) indicates that prior to the river dam system, the navigational channel was quite complicated in this stretch of river. The Cincinnati Tow Head was just upstream and bars narrowed the twisting navigational channel. Below the mouth of the Saline River, which empties from Gallatin County, Illinois, the Illinois shore becomes inaccessible due to high stone bluffs and a general rise in the ground level. In low water times it was the perfect stretch to halt river trade using military force. The main channel was forced to the Kentucky side of the river, which placed any passing boat within musket range of the Kentucky shore.

Saline or Johnson Island is primarily cultivated farmland today. Ninety percent of its 200 acres is tillable. A fringe of tree cover surrounds the fields save at the head where erosion has removed some of the land. The owner and the WRP are jointly working to replace the lost timber, which serves to protect the river bank. The island has silted into the Illinois shore to the extent that there is no flooded slough on that side. An access road to the island is located at its northwest corner. The island frequently floods well into early July and as a result the land is usually planted in soybeans or milo. The island has been farmed at least since the turn-of-the century. Maps from 1911 and 1919 show it under cultivation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 page 3

name of property Saline Island

County and State Union County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

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## 8. Significance Statement:

Saline Island is located on the Lower Ohio River, seven miles below Shawneetown, Illinois, and just at the mouth of the Saline River in Illinois on the Ohio River. The southernmost tip or "head" of this island property is nominated as part of a Multiple Property Listing entitled "Caught in the Middle; The Civil War on the Lower Ohio River," within the context of "Federal and Confederate Military Operations On and Along the Lower Ohio River; The War on the River, 1861-65." The property is significant on the local level and meets National Register Criterion as a "Non-military Property With Civil War Associations" property. It meets Criterion A requirements established for that property type because this property was the scene of the initial Confederate crossing of the Ohio River in mid-August 1864 as part of a broader effort to shut down river military supply shipping. The seizure of a stranded steamboat at this point led to a small-scale invasion of Illinois and the seizure and ransoming of other steamboats over the next several days. The blockade effort resulted in a retributive raid through Union, Henderson, Crittenden and Livingston Counties by Federal land forces and a successful effort was made to drive Confederate forces out of that region.

Saline Island meets those registration requirements set forth in the associated historic context through its direct association with the American Civil War on the Lower Ohio River, the direct association of events at this site with broader military operations, and the retention of integrity aspects of setting, location, feeling and association in both its immediate setting and the surrounding landscape.

The Mouth of the Saline was the scene of several earlier wartime events. In early November 1861, the Kentucky "Secessionists" were reported to be crossing the Ohio River from Kentucky. On the Illinois side they killed loose cattle and removed them by skiff back to the other side. The entire 56th Illinois Infantry moved down to the river mouth to protect the Illinois property (*Shawneetown Weekly Mercury*, November 7, 1861).

The first armed incursion into Illinois at this point took place on October 30, 1862 when 60 "guerrillas" crossed the Ohio River at the Saline River's mouth. They proceeded to rob a Mr. Jones, presumably a storekeeper, of "a lot of boots and shoes." They moved downriver to Seller's Landing, then moved three miles inland, plundering along the way before they retraced their steps to Kentucky (*Evansville Daily Journal*, November 4, 1862).

The Mouth of the Saline was again the scene of a brief military occupation in mid-November 1862 when the 87th Illinois Infantry moved to Davis' Farm, the most eligible campsite on the Ohio River three miles above the Saline. Five companies were ordered to the point on November 15 to prepare the site for the whole regiment. The movement was made to "protect the Illinois border" from any incursions. At the end of the month the entire 700 man-force moved to the mouth of the river, the southernmost point of Gallatin County. There they scoured the shores for small boats for two days, but found only one boat for their efforts (Official Records Supplement, Series II, Vol. 25, p. 313, Special Orders, 87th Illinois Infantry, Record Group 94, Entry 112, PL17, Vol. 3, pp. 1, 3, National Archives).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 page 4

name of property Saline Island

County and State Union County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

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Guerrillas lined the Kentucky shore above and below Shawneetown and fired at passing steamboats over a five day period, April 23-28, 1864 (Official Records Navies, Series I, Vol. 26, pp. 265, 272).

Confederate Col. Adam R. Johnson returned in force to Union County and by August 1864 was busily enforcing the Confederate military draft there. Beginning August 10, 1864, all passing steamboats were being fired into between Caseyville and the Curlew Coal Mines, opposite the mouth of the Saline River and this nominated point (*Evansville Daily Journal*, August 16, 1864).

Beginning August 13, 1864 the Confederates attacked and boarded the grounded steamer *Clara Poe*, which was stranded on the head of Saline Island. A landing party, first estimated to number between 700 and 1,500 men then reached the Saline River. Later that number was reduced to only 100 and nothing firm is known about their operations. A small handful of Confederates, possibly from this group, pillaged a store in Bay City in Pope County, Illinois, nearly two full counties below this point, on August 19, 1864. Between August 13 and 15 the Confederates captured and ransomed five steamboats and effectively blockaded the Ohio River if only for a matter of days. Low water prevented Federal gunboats from immediately reopening the river. The Federal military forces contented themselves with conducting a large-scale reprisal inland raid through the adjoining Kentucky counties and a concerted and finally successful effort drove organized Confederate forces out of Union County. Col. Johnson was wounded and disabled and the war shifted away from this stretch of the Ohio River (*Evansville Daily Journal*, August 15, 1864, *Illinois State Journal*, August 17, 1864).



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9-10 page 5

name of property Saline Island

County and State Union County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References:

History of Gallatin, Saline, Hamilton, Franklin and Williamson Counties, Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1887 (reprint Evansville: The Unigraphics Inc., 1967).

*Map of the Ohio River Reduced from the following surveys...1867-68 [by] W. M. Roberts, U.S.Civ. Engr, Clipper Mills to Cairo, 696 miles, With additions & corrections from later surveys. Made under the direction of Major W. E. Merrill, Corps of Engineers. By C. Moser (Courtesy Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)*

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Washington; Government Printing Office, 1895-1927.

Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Wilmington; Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1994-98.

### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

The southernmost segment of Tract I, the southernmost of three tracts on the island which are owned by Paul and Vicki Crenshaw. That tract is defined by a survey marker which is placed at the southeast lower point on the island. The nominated area includes the area located within an arch drawn across the southern tip of the island from that survey marker, which measures 100.

#### Verbal Boundary Justification:

This nomination includes only the southernmost tip of the Island, the point which was associated with the grounding of the first steamboat, and the point of the Confederate river crossing.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Other page 6

name of property Saline Island

County and State Union County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle: The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

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**Other Documentation:**

Additional Documentation, Photographs:

Photographer: Mr. James E. Jacobsen

Date of Photographs: August, 1997

Negative Location: Kentucky Heritage Council

Photo Number:

View/Description:

1

View downstream, Saline River from Hardin County (south) bank, view east

2

View across Ohio River from Kentucky side, Saline Island in distance, center