

PH0052736

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Georgia
COUNTY:	Cobb
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 23 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Site of Gilgal Church Battle (Federal Entrenchments)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 9 miles west of Marietta and less than one fourth mile north of Due West crossroads on the Sandtown Road

CITY OR TOWN: Due West Community CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7th-John W. Davis

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Georgia	13	Cobb	067

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	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 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>unimproved</u> <u>acreage</u>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Sydney C. Kerksis

STREET AND NUMBER: 2461 Lakewood Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Kennesaw STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: ---

CITY OR TOWN: Marietta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: none

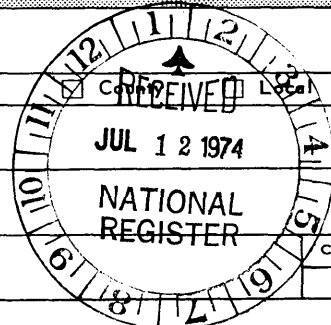
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Cobb

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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		

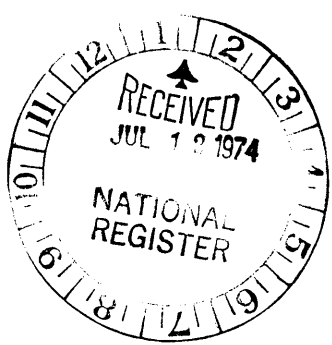
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Federal entrenchments of the Gilgal Church battle site are located nine miles west of Marietta and less than one-fourth mile north of the Due West crossroads on the Sandtown Road. The site today is virtually unchanged from its appearance in 1864. The area was and is an undisturbed hardwood forest.

Major features of the 8.15-acre site are the trenches themselves: a front line, running 175 yards from the Sandtown Road to the edge of the deep ravine leading to the creek branch; a perpendicular line about 125 yards long, approximately parallel to the creek branch; a curved diagonal line to the rear of these two lines, forming a very rough rectangle with them, a little over 200 yards long; a fourth main line, some 125 yards long, running directly behind the curved diagonal line; and two short lines running from either end of the line parallel to the creek branch to the branch itself, possibly located in "blind" spots so as to allow water procurement. Located perpendicular to the Sandtown Road is a series of seven rifle pits each about 50 feet long. Other features are command posts, officers' pits and scattered grave sites. The trenches dug in 1864 have been rounded and covered with leaves during the passing of time, but the depressions are still distinct. Bodies buried on the site were removed to nearby Marietta several years ago, but depressions of the graves are visible.

A ridge about 1000 yards north of the nominated property, still wooded, was the approximate starting point for General Dandel Butterfield's march to Gilgal, which took five hours due to the heavy skirmishing of the Confederates. The present Sandtown Road, running along the western edge of the property, was the wartime Acworth-Sandtown Road. Slightly south of the property is the present and original intersection with the Burnt Hickory-Marietta (now called only Burnt Hickory) Road. At the west southwest portion of the intersection stands a white frame building on the original site of the Gilgal Church, burned during the Civil War conflict. While the entire area was originally covered with pine and hardwood forests, there is now a school across the Sandtown Road from the nominated property and several houses line the Sandtown Road between the property and the Sandtown-Burnt Hickory intersection. The site of the Federal entrenchments has successfully thus far escaped destruction while such development has gone on around it.

(The enclosed copy of a hand-drawn map, commissioned by S. C. Kerksis, shows the lines of the various regiments as well as the angles of the photographs enclosed.)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **June 15-16, 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 battle at Gilgal Church was one of an almost continuous series of skirmishes and major action lasting from June 10-July 3, 1864, between General William T. Sherman's Federal troops and General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate troops. Known as the "action about Marietta" in official records, the combined victories in this series were a major step in the Atlanta Campaign, as Sherman made his way from the Chattanooga, Tennessee, vicinity. While the fighting at Gilgal Church was unusually fierce, the site is significant today because the Federal entrenchments for the battle, June 15-16, remain almost intact.

Sherman was moving toward Atlanta to gain control of the railway intersection and cut off Southern troop supplies. His main rail supply point was Nashville; from there he had stretched it to Chattanooga, Kingston in northeast Georgia, Acworth (taken June 5) and Big Shanty (now Kennesaw). His next objective was Marietta, Johnston's supply base, about 20 miles north of Atlanta. In late May, Sherman, at New Hope Church west of Marietta, had outflanked Johnston, whom he then expected to retreat to the Chattahoochee River just north of the Atlanta railroads. Instead Johnston moved north and to the west of Marietta, blocking the path of Sherman's army by rail and highway.

The new 15-mile Confederate line was fortified by natural mountain bastions and was almost impregnable except that, as Johnston had not enough infantrymen to protect its entire length, both ends were patrolled by cavalry. The line ran diagonally northeast from Lost Mountain to Brushy Mountain. Forming a rough diamond with these two points were Pine Mountain to the north and Kennesaw Mountain to the south. The W & A Railroad, running from west to east between Brushy and Kennesaw mountains and then south to Marietta, was protected at several points along the line. Gilgal Church, about midway between Lost and Pine mountains was located at a crucial crossroads: the Acworth-Sandtown and Burnt Hickory-Marietta roads.

Sherman determined to carry out a series of strong reconnaissance missions to put heavy pressure on the Confederates and locate weak points in the line. The Marietta action included combats at a number of points in addition to Gilgal Church. The series chiefly consisted of the Confederates entrenching at each point, leaving a force to defend it while others

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kerksis, Sydney C., "Action at Gilgal Church, Georgia, June 15-16, 1964," and references cited therein, Atlanta Historical Bulletin, Fall, 1970.

_____, submitted first draft of National Register nomination; on file at the Historic Preservation Section.

Prescott, Janice, personal inspection, May 16, 1974.

HM
16/7157:
137612

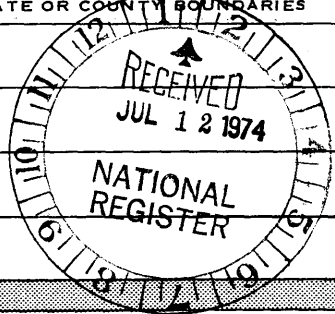
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33° 58' 18"	84° 39' 54"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.15 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Janice Prescott, staff

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Department of Natural Resources DATE: June 24, 1974
Historic Preservation Section

STREET AND NUMBER: 270 Washington Street SW

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta, Georgia STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

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: [Signature]
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date: July 8, 1974

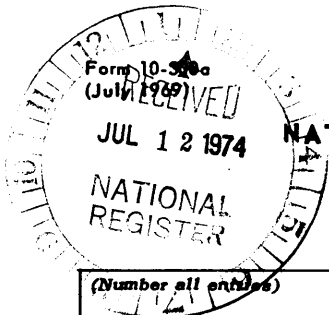
NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/23/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 1.22.75



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Cobb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 23 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - continued - page 1

began entrenching to the rear, and retreating to the next entrenchments. Johnston was severely criticized for this action, although he maintained he had no choice. Temple says the entrenchments were so numerous "it seemed Cobb County would be dug up by its roots." Noncombatants who had not left by this time were urged to do so and were furnished with Confederate wagons if necessary.

On June 14, Pine Mountain fell. The line from Lost Mountain to Gilgal Church was left to the Confederate cavalry, and the infantry, a division of Hardee's Corps commanded by Major General Patrick R. Cleburne, amassed at the church. One division of the Union's Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Lieutenant General Daniel Butterfield, marched south along the Sandtown Road to Gilgal, while two other divisions entrenched to the north and east.

The topography of the area and a tactical blunder by Butterfield resulted in the site having had a more concentrated placement of troops than any other documented Civil War battle site in Georgia, according to Kerksis. Butterfield had used as his left guide a branch of the Altoona Creek, which meandered southwesterly toward the Sandtown Road, and kept his right flank along the road. Eventually his troops were tightly squeezed between the river and the road; one regiment (the 70th Indiana) was pushed across the road and received exceptionally heavy firing. Benjamin Harrison (later to be US President) was a colonel in that regiment.

Descriptions of the battle itself are confusing and contradictory. Kerksis's estimate, based on official records and descriptions, places Federal losses at 25-40 killed and 135-175 wounded. Specific Confederate records for the Gilgal battle are unavailable, but Johnston had this to say about the entire campaign:

According to the opinions of our most experienced officers, daily reports of the prisoners and statements of Northern papers, the enemy's loss could not have been less than five times as great as ours. In the cases in which we had the means of estimating it, it ranged from 7 to 1 to 91 to 1...and averaged 13 to 1. The Federal prisoners concurred...that their heaviest loss occurred in the daily attacks...upon our skirmishers in their rifle pits. Whether they succeeded in dislodging our skirmishers or not, their loss was heavy and ours almost nothing.

General J. B. Hood, who later took command of the Southern troops, claimed the losses were considerably heavier due to the continuous retreat. He estimated that upon his taking command July 22, the Confederates had lost 22,750 men, one-third of their force.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Cobb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 28 1975	DATE

(Number all entries)

8 Significance - continued - page 2

One Federal officer described the Gilgal engagement as the "most severe (skirmishing) of any we experienced at any time of the Atlanta campaign"; another questioned use of the word "skirmish" at all, saying it was more like a battle. The lines of the two forces were only 150 yards apart and there are numerous references to the deafening noise of the cannon and rifles. The Confederate breastworks "were as strong as science or labor could make them," according to one Federal account, and another called it "the strongest fort I ever saw"; the Confederates had felled trees in front and sharpened the limbs to form an abatis "so that a rabbit could hardly have got nearer than ten feet."

Despite the strength of the fort, additional Federal troops advanced unopposed from the east on June 16 into unoccupied portions of the Confederate line to enfilade Cleburne's position at the church. As a result, Johnston abandoned his entire Pine Mountain/Lost Mountain line, some nine miles of heavy entrenchments including Gilgal, to retire to his Mud Creek/Kennesaw defenses.

The present owner purchased the property because it was the best-preserved of the battle sites in the Marietta action. A fluke prevented this parcel from being plowed as the surrounding area was, and National Register listing would protect it from further encroachment by the adjoining Sandtown Road.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

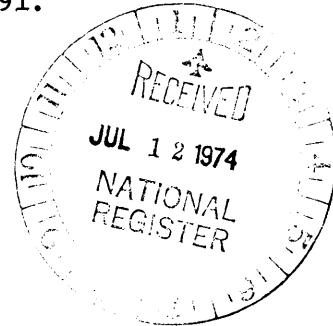
STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Cobb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 23 1975	

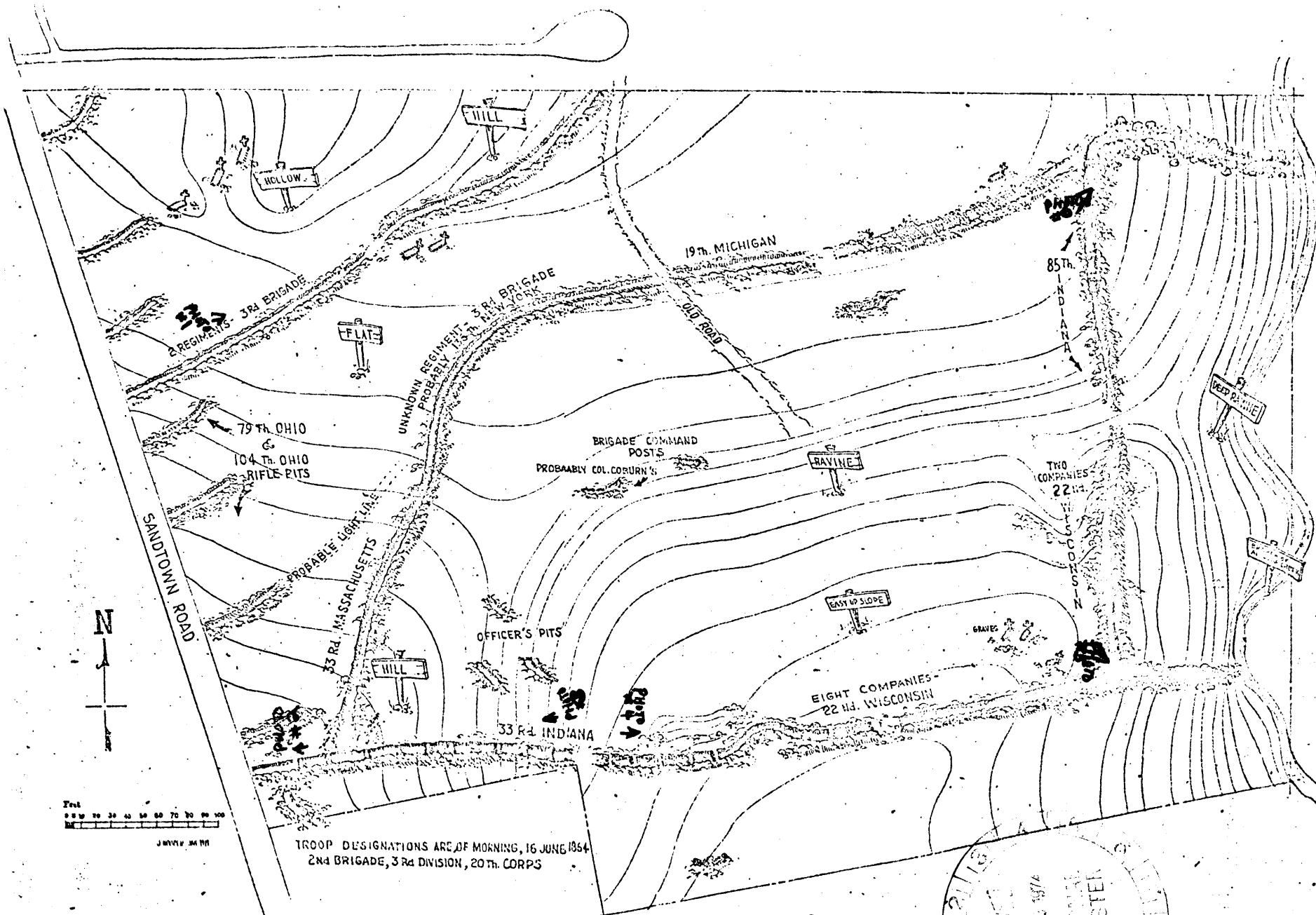
(Number all entries)

9 Major Bibliographical References - continued

Temple, Sarah Blackwell Gober, The First One Hundred Years: A Short History of Cobb County, in Georgia (Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Company) 1935.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series 1, Volume 38, Parts 2 and 3. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office) 1891.





TROOP DESIGNATIONS ARE OF MORNING, 16 JUNE 1864
 2nd BRIGADE, 3rd DIVISION, 20th CORPS

