

1184

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: luka Battlefield
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: North of Mississippi Hwy 72 West of Mississippi Hwy 25 not for publication ___
city or town: luka vicinity ___
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Tishomingo code: 141 zip code: 38852

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 X nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date Sept. 25, 2007
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
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):

[Signature] Date of Action 11-14-07
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

Private

Number of Resources within Property:

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property:

Site

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

5

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

5

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Defense; Battle Site

Current Functions:

Domestic; multiple dwelling, hotel

Transportation; road-related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s): None**Materials:**

foundation:

roof:

walls:

other

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- X 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.

Areas of Significance

Military

Period of Significance

1862; American Civil War

Significant Dates

September 19, 1862

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

- 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.

Significant Person(s)**Cultural Affiliation(s)****Architect/Builder****Narrative Statement of Significance:**

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

See continuation sheet.

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approx 70

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	16	389000	3851300	C	16	389210	3850400
B	16	389270	3851080	D	16	389000	3850490

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William L. Thompson, Jim Woodrick, William M. Gatlin	date: August 23, 2007
organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History	telephone: 601-576-6946
street & number: 100 S. State Street	zip code: 39201
city or town: Jackson	state: Mississippi

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name:

street & number:

city or town:

state:

telephone:

zip code:

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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Iuka Battlefield
Tishomingo County, Mississippi

The Iuka Battlefield occupies a quadrilateral space located just northwest of the intersection of Mississippi Highway 72 and Mississippi Highway 25 in the southwest portion of Iuka, Mississippi. The battlefield site covers approximately seventy acres, most of which is undeveloped and covered with woods and thick undergrowth. There are five structures on the site that do not contribute to significance and one cemetery that is a contributing resource. Highway 72 is a major east-west artery with limited access built in the late twentieth century. Highway 25, also known as Veteran's Memorial Drive, skirts downtown Iuka and has been the scene of much commercial development, including retail stores, service stations and strip malls. Over the past several years the development has moved southward toward the intersection with Highway 72 encroaching on the battlefield site.

The current location of Highway 25, a north-south roadway, closely approximates the placement and direction of the Jacinto Road in September 1862, when the battle took place. Union forces advanced north along the Jacinto Road to take up a defensive position southwest of Iuka.

The topography is a significant feature of the site. From the south, there is a gradual incline to a natural ridge that runs southeast to northwest. A road ran along the ridge and marked the Union line of battle, with an Ohio artillery battery occupying a position on the ridge near the southeast corner of the site. That location is close to the present-day intersection of Heritage Road and Highway 25.

Since the Union forces occupied the ridge and established an artillery position there, it is likely there was a clear line of fire toward north and northeast. Confederate troops advanced from Iuka and assaulted the Union forces, ultimately dislodging them from the ridge. In September 1862, the site was not covered with the thick woods found there now, but was a mixture of open forests and cleared farm land. The line of advance by the Confederate troops, outside the boundaries of the district, has been lost to commercial and residential construction.

The Goyer Cemetery, marked on historic maps, was near the center of the Union line of battle. The cemetery still exists and assists in locating the battle lines. The cemetery, a large open field, has lost most of its individual markers. No markers from the period of significance survive.

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Iuka Battlefield
Tishomingo County, Mississippi

There are no historic structures within the boundaries of the site. There are four twentieth-century houses constructed along Heritage Road. A motel is located near the place where the Ohio artillery battery was located. The Iuka Battlefield Commission, a private, non-profit organization, owns portions of the battlefield and intends to purchase more land as it becomes available, including the motel.

Much of the Iuka Battlefield has been lost to development, including Price's line of retreat along the Fulton Road, now Mississippi 172. The Civil War Preservation Trust cited the Iuka Battlefield on its Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields for 2007. The seventy acre site includes the central area of the battle where the opposing lines met and the fiercest fighting occurred. Although there has been some change in the nature of the groundcover, and the intrusion of some non-contributing structures, the site remains the most undeveloped locus associated with this important battle. The site retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Iuka Battlefield
Tishomingo County, Mississippi

The Iuka Battlefield is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for national significance under Criteria A as the site of a significant battle between Union and Confederate forces. The action at Iuka prevented a consolidation of Confederate armies in Kentucky which could have resulted in the loss of significant Union territory. The battle also marked one of the opening moves in the Vicksburg Campaign, one of the most significant events leading to the ultimate Union victory.

During the summer of 1862, Confederate General Braxton Bragg, planning to launch an invasion of Kentucky, ordered Major General Sterling Price's 14,000-man Army of the West, then located near Tupelo, to move toward Nashville. Bragg mistakenly believed that Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant's forces, then scattered at various points along the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, which served as a major transportation and supply route, would be used to reinforce Major General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio. To interrupt Grant's expected movement to reinforce Buell and cut the Union supply line, Price moved on Iuka, Mississippi, located along the Memphis & Charleston east of Corinth. Before the Civil War, Iuka had enjoyed a national reputation for its abundant mineral springs, attracting tourists and merchants alike. By 1860, Iuka boasted a population of 1,500. In 1862, the town served as small Union supply depot, and was Grant's easternmost outpost on the Memphis and Charleston.

Alerted by skirmishers of Price's advance, the post's Union commander, Col. Robert Murphy set fire to the supplies and fled to Corinth with his 2,000-man brigade before dawn on September 14. Price's Confederates rushed in and doused the flames, collecting a large amount of much-needed supplies. Price's men occupied Iuka and awaited the arrival of Major General Earl Van Dorn's Army of West Tennessee which numbered approximately 7,000 men. Price's force at Iuka consisted of two divisions, led by Brigadier General Dabney H. Maury and Brigadier General Henry Little respectively. Price also had a cavalry brigade under Brigadier General Frank C. Armstrong. Once united, Price and Van Dorn intended to attack Grant's lines of communication in western Tennessee, preventing Grant from reinforcing Buell. Alternately, their combined forces might be able to move into Tennessee to support Bragg's invasion of Kentucky, if Grant remained inactive. Grant was not in fact moving to reinforce Buell, however, and did not wait to be attacked by Price. Instead, Grant determined to attack Price before Van Dorn, who was still four days away, arrived at Iuka.

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Iuka Battlefield
Tishomingo County, Mississippi

Grant's plan was to converge on Price with two columns. Major General Edward O. C. Ord with approximately 8,000 men in three divisions was ordered to move along the Memphis and Charleston to Burnsville, approaching Iuka from the northwest. Grant also ordered Major General William S. Rosecrans, commanding two divisions of approximately 9,000 men, to move on Iuka from the southwest on the two roads leading south and east of town, thereby cutting the retreat route for Price's army. Grant remained with Ord's wing during the ensuing battle.

Union Brigadier General David S. Stanley, commanding the Second Division of the Army of the Mississippi, was ordered to join Rosecrans at Jacinto before proceeding to Iuka. Unfortunately, a guide led him down the wrong road, and caused the entire column to have to backtrack before marching on the correct road. Stanley and his men finally arrived at Jacinto at 9:00 p.m. on September 18. Rosecrans immediately sent word to Grant informing him that his column would not be able to leave Jacinto until 4:30 a.m. on the 19th due to this delay. After receiving Rosecrans' message, Grant notified Ord, whose forward elements had already encountered Confederate pickets near Iuka that he should not engage with Price until Ord heard the sounds of battle from Rosecrans' attack.

Meanwhile, Price received word from local informants that a large Federal force was advancing from the northwest. In response, Price moved General Henry Little's First, Third and Fourth Brigades to reinforce Maury's division in defending the Burnsville Road sector, leaving the southern approach to town virtually undefended. Rosecrans finally moved early on September 19, but instead of using two roads as an axis of advance as directed, his entire force moved up the Jacinto (Bay Springs) Road. As a result, the Fulton Road remained open.

As Rosecrans approached from the southwest, the Federals slowly pushed back Confederate pickets posted on the road. About 2:30 p.m., with Rosecrans' lead elements only a short distance from Iuka, a Confederate scout hurriedly informed Price that a large Union force was approaching from the southwest. Realizing the danger he was in, Price immediately ordered Little to send his Second Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Louis Hébert, to face the new threat. Hébert's brigade had been posted in reserve near the cemetery north of town. Upon receipt of the order to move,

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Iuka Battlefield
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Hébert's men hurried down the Bay Springs Road, where they met Rosecrans' force near the forks of the Jacinto Road and the crossroads leading from it to Fulton. Here, Union Brigadier Charles S. Hamilton had deployed Sanborn's Brigade, posting the 11th Battery, Ohio Light Artillery on the crest of a ridge to the right of the road, and north of a graveyard (now known as Goyer Cemetery). Col. John Mizner with a battalion of the 3rd Michigan Cavalry was sent to the right and the 10th Iowa Infantry, along with the 11th Ohio Battery, formed the left flank. Just as the Federals established their lines, Hébert's Brigade attacked. Soon after they reached the battlefield, Hébert's brigade was bolstered by Colonel John D. Martin's brigade, which had also been forwarded to the Bay Springs Road sector by Price. Martin's Brigade was placed in reserve.

Hébert's brigade, consisting of five infantry regiments and supported by cavalry and artillery, assaulted the Ohio battery's position around 5:15 p.m. Although met by heavy fire at close range, the Confederates reached the battery twice before being repulsed. On the third attempt, Hébert's men drove away the gunners and forced the 48th Indiana to fall back on the 4th Minnesota. Although the Confederates captured all six guns of the battery, they were unable to take advantage of them, because all of the horses had been killed in the fighting. With his line becoming unstable, Rosecrans moved Stanley's division into action. These reinforcements helped repulse a desperate attack by two Mississippi regiments late in the day. Fighting, which Price later stated he had "never seen surpassed," continued until after dark. Stymied by the difficult terrain and nightfall, the fighting finally died down, and both sides remained in place ready to renew struggle on the 20th. Price, however, was convinced by his subordinate commanders to abandon the town before Grant moved on Maury's division, which had remained on alert northwest of town. Although a relatively brief battle, lasting only a few hours, the fighting at Iuka had been fierce. Union casualties totaled 141 killed, 613 wounded, and 36 missing, while the Confederates reported losses of 85 killed, 410 wounded, and 157 missing. Confederate losses, however, were probably much higher than reported. The most prominent casualty was that of Confederate Gen. Henry Little, who was killed while conferring with Price in the midst of the battle. Although the fighting was fierce, neither Ord nor Grant claimed to hear any sound of fighting and thus would not enter the battle.

Following the battle on September 19, Price wanted to renew the fight the next day, but his subordinates convinced him otherwise, preferring to evacuate Iuka by way of the

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uncovered Fulton Road and joining Van Dorn. Discovering that Price's army had slipped away, Rosecrans mounted an unsuccessful pursuit on September 20.

Grant, unhappy that Price was able to escape, established his headquarters at Iuka and took stock of the captured stores. Among the ordnance abandoned by the Confederates were 1,629 stand of arms, a large stock of quartermaster and commissary stores, and 13,000 rounds of ammunition. Despite these material gains, however, Grant had clearly lost an opportunity to capture or destroy the elusive Sterling Price.

The significance of the Battle of Iuka is two-fold. First, by moving swiftly to bring Price to battle at Iuka, Grant was able to forestall the possibility that Price would, in fact, move to the aid of Braxton Bragg in Kentucky. As Bragg's Kentucky Campaign was almost successful, it is conceivable that the addition of Price's force, especially if combined with Van Dorn's, could have forced the Federals to lose what they had gained after the capture of Corinth in May, 1862. Second, because Price was able to elude the trap set for him at Iuka and join Van Dorn, the stage was set for the disastrous Confederate attack at Corinth on October 3-4, 1862. During that engagement, Van Dorn and Price suffered terrible casualties in a failed attempt to retake the vital railroad crossroads at Corinth. With Rosecrans' victory at the Battle of Corinth, Union control was secured along the Memphis and Charleston, allowing Grant to begin moving into northern Mississippi in the winter of 1862. The resulting Mississippi Central R.R. campaign would constitute the opening moves of the Vicksburg Campaign in Mississippi. In addition, because Rosecrans failed to ensure that the Fulton Road was closed, allowing Price to escape, Grant developed concerns about Rosecrans' abilities and leadership as a result of the Battle of Iuka. It would be Grant himself, therefore, and not Rosecrans, who would eventually lead the Union effort to capture Vicksburg.

The Battle of Iuka was designated as one of the Civil War's 384 principal battlefields by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1993, and is recognized as a Tier Two site in the National Park Service's Vicksburg Campaign Feasibility Study (1994).

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Bibliography:

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Volume II, Castle (Reprint Edition), Pages 717-736.

Bearss, Edwin C., Decision in Mississippi: Mississippi's Important Role in the War Between the States, Published by the Mississippi Commission on the War Between the States, 1962.

Civil War Preservation Trust, History Under Siege: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields, 2007.

Cozzens, Peter, The Darkest Days of the War: The Battles of Iuka and Corinth, The University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

Kitchens, Ben Earl, Rosecrans Meets Price, The Battle of Iuka, Mississippi, Thornwood Book Publishers, Florence, Alabama, 1987.

War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Volume 17, Part I (Reports), Government Printing Office, 1886.

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Iuka Battlefield
Tishomingo County, Mississippi

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Iuka Battlefield is delineated by the polygon on the USGS map for the Iuka Quadrangle whose vertices are marked by the following UTM references:

A.	16	389000	3851300	C.	16	389210	3850400
B.	16	389270	3851080	D.	16	389000	3850490

Boundary Justification

The site includes the place where the opposing lines met and the locus of the fiercest fighting. The site includes the largest contiguous area associated with the battle where the least development has taken place.

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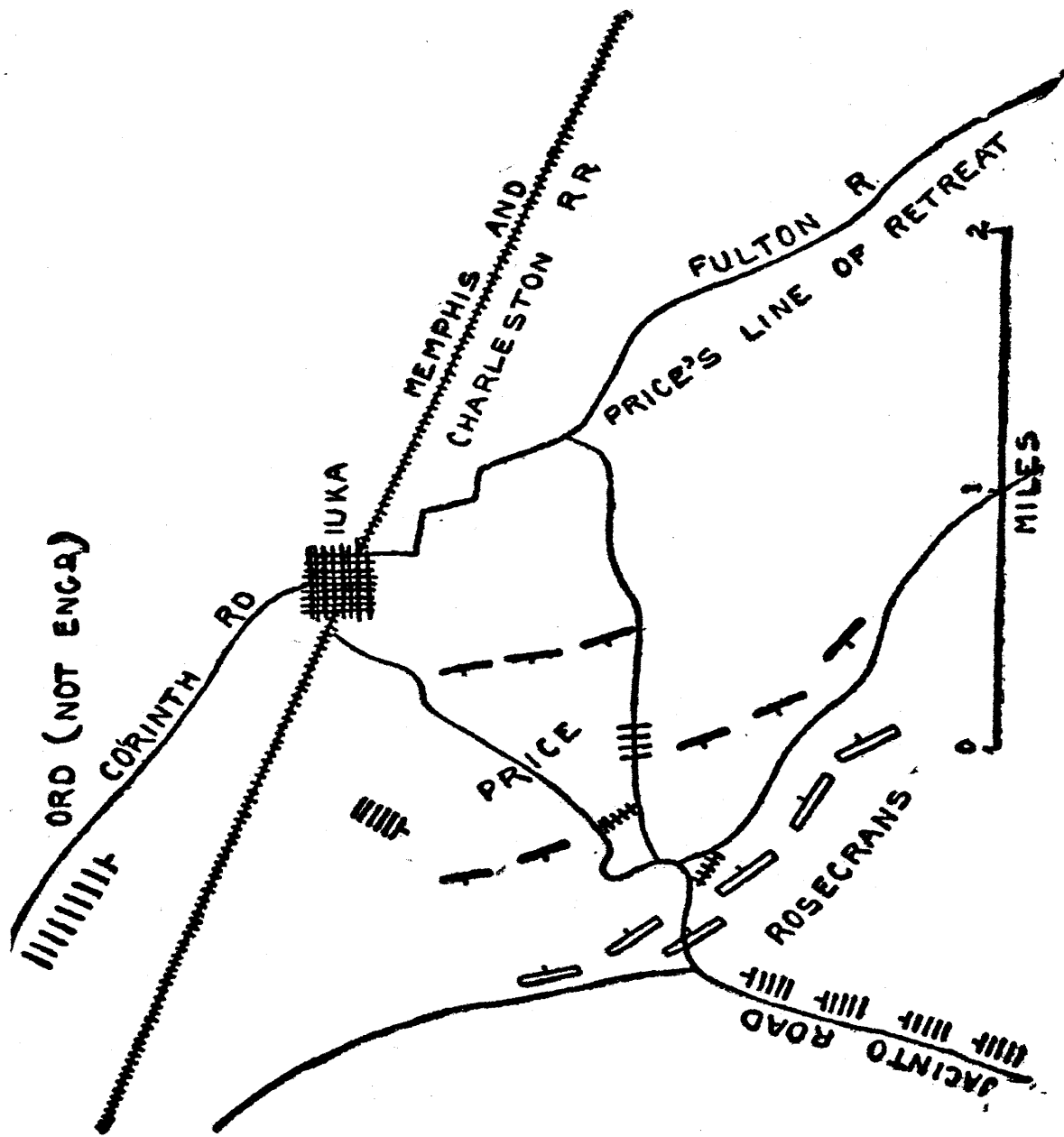
Iuka Battlefield
Tishomingo County, Mississippi

Photographs

For all photographs:

1. Iuka Battlefield
2. Iuka, Tishomingo County
3. William Thompson, MDAH
4. July 31, 2007
5. MDAH Historic Preservation Division, Jackson, Mississippi

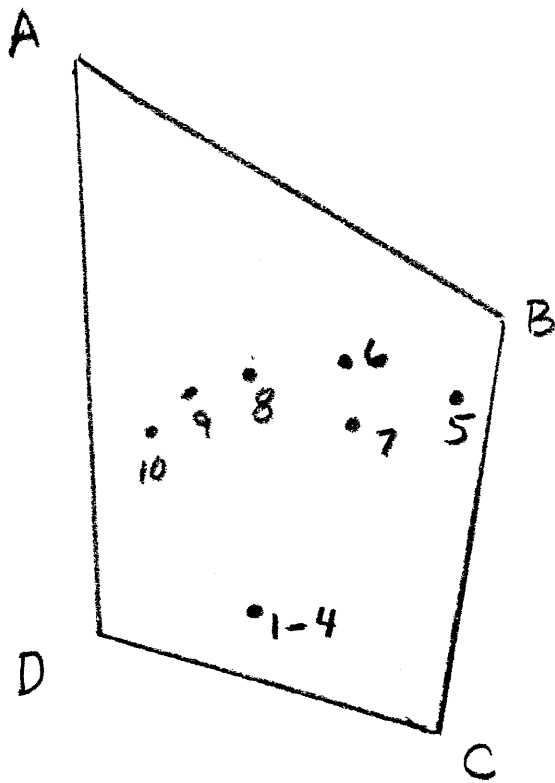
- 1) Goyer Cemetery: Entrance view to Southeast
- 2) Goyer Cemetery: Headstone of Martha Chichwith Irwin view to South
- 3) Goyer Cemetery: Headstone of Daniel Goyer view to South
- 4) Goyer Cemetery: Entrance view to Southeast
- 5) Sunset Lodge: Heritage Drive view to Southeast
- 6) House 1420 Heritage Drive view to North
- 7) Dilapidated house (across from 1420) Heritage Drive view to Southeast
- 8) House on Heritage Drive view to North
- 9) House on Heritage Drive view to North
- 10) House on Heritage Drive view to North



Map of Battle of Iuka, September 19, 1862

Theodore Ayrault Dodge, A Bird's-Eye View of our Civil War (Boston, Massachusetts: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1897)
 Downloaded from Maps ETC, on the web at <http://etc.usf.edu/maps> [map #00110]

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Iuka Battlefield
Tishomingo County
Photographs