

PH 0661996

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 1 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1978

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 **
The General's Headquarters (Rosecrans) Headquarters)
AND/OR COMMON
"Little Brick" --- The Alston, Rosser House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Myrtle Place
CITY, TOWN
Stevenson
STATE
Alabama
VICINITY OF
5
COUNTY
Jackson
CODE
01
CODE
071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Rosser Alston
STREET & NUMBER
3483 Piedmont Avenue, N.E.
CITY, TOWN
Atlanta
VICINITY OF
STATE
Georgia 30305

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Jackson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
City Square
CITY, TOWN
Scottsboro
STATE
Alabama

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 "General's Headquarters", c. 1855, may have been built by a railroad construction engineer. The brick structure consists of two rooms of unequal size and a single chimney with a fireplace opening into each room. The physical design is such as to skillfully integrate the brick and wood materials into a compact unit of roof, floor, and walls through a system of mortising, brick bonding, and iron masonry rods such as a trained military engineer of that period might recommend. Since a great many of the railroads constructed during the 1840's and 1850's employed trained engineers to plan routes and grades, and design bridges and tunnels, and since the railroads through Stevenson were constructed about this time, it would seem probable that such is the explanation for the unique design of construction used in the "General's Headquarters".

The "General's Headquarters" is a single story, brick bearing, 3 wythe wall house located a short distance from the City Cemetery near the northern outskirts of the town of Stevenson, Alabama, on Myrtle Place street. The house is at the northeastern edge of the Alston Estate (see shaded area on the attached plat). Included in this estate are several structures of historical and/or architectural note such as the unique steam locomotive water reservoir near the southern boundary of the estate. About forty-five feet north of the porch of the "General's Headquarters" is the well that served the house. Nearby is an ancient Osage Orange (hedgeapple) tree which shades a great portion of the yard.

The well house (the roof of which was supported by six hand-hewn cedar posts) has long since disappeared, and much of the "General's Headquarters" has fallen into ruin.¹ There are, however, sufficient structural remains of the "General's Headquarters" house to make a restoration/reconstruction feasible, and it is the wish of the owner that work to that end proceed immediately. The structure is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 36 feet by 16 feet. Spanning the entire distance of the long side, across the northern facade of the building, is a porch featuring four box columns of yellow poplar crowned by a simple entablature. A balustrade of simple pickets with hand and foot rails connect three of the four columns along the front, allowing openings for steps at the east end of the porch, and between the third and fourth columns directly opposite the door to the kitchen (the smaller of the two rooms). The balustrade joins the house wall from the fourth column.

The larger of the two rooms in the house contains three windows, 6/6 single hung with paired shutters opening to the outside on simple gravity-hung hinge hardware. Although these units are presently in disrepair, they are sufficiently intact to restore to use. The doors lead outside from this room, one to the porch and one to the east yard. Each door unit is a single door of solid wood with 2 vertical recessed panels. A third door to the right of the chimney (nearest the porch) gives access to the smaller room. A window opposite the door to the porch in this room is a 2/2 single hung unit, with trim of the same simple built up assembly as the others, and with the same austere lines. A small opening in the west wall of the kitchen served as a flue for a wood range probably added at a later period.

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The interior surface of the three-brick thick wall of the structure was stuccoed originally, but later it was papered. The exterior surface of the brick wall of soft deep orange hue was constructed in a modified Flemish bond pattern, with corner walls and the two-brick thick interior wall secured by means of threaded iron rods and plates built into the masonry work and designed to lend structural strength to the whole. Floors and ceilings are tongue-in-groove wide board (5") heart pine lumber.

The single story hipped roof rises from the corners of the rectangular structure, using a system of mortised and tenoned outrigger devices to achieve the span at the eave and serve as plates from which the rafters rise on a 5/12 pitch to join at the principal board at the center ridge. The ridge board is sufficiently off-center from the box of the rectangularly shaped brick walls to achieve an overhang of more than 8 feet for the porch with the same roof mass which covers the balance of the house. Wood shingles covered the roof.²

BACKNOTES:

¹See photos by Walter Alston attached as supporting documents in the Appendices.

²See drawings and sketch by James McKay, A.I.A., showing details and elevations, in the Appendices.

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 checked="" 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 c. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house known as the "General's Headquarters" was built c. 1855, and is significant as the personal headquarters used by Major General William S. Rosecrans during his preparation for the Chickamauga Campaign in 1863. The "General's Headquarters" was occupied by Rosecrans between August 18 - September 4, 1863, during the time the town of Stevenson, Alabama, served as the staging site for the campaign that was to conclude with the bloodiest battle of the Civil War in the west, CHICKAMAUGA. Since General Rosecrans was the commander of the Union Army of the Cumberland, visitors to his headquarters must have included his chief of staff, Brigadier General James Garfield, future president of the United States, as well as several military personalities of note including Sheridan, Thomas, and C. A. Dana (assistant to the Secretary of War).

The "General's Headquarters", known locally as the "Little Brick", is located about one half mile northwest of the Stevenson Depot, and was ideally situated to give the privacy and centrality required by General Rosecrans. The "General's Headquarters", the name which has long been associated with the house, was chosen for its historic role when Major Frank Bond, aide-de-camp to Rosecrans, wired General Philip Sheridan on August 16, 1863, that the commanding general wanted him to select in Stevenson "a good headquarters camp, shady, and out of sight as much as possible," as he would be arriving in Stevenson two days later.¹ The "Little Brick" answered this description perfectly. Less than seventy-five yards from Blockhouse #7 where a permanent guard was maintained, the house offered the security required of a commanding general's headquarters, yet it was sufficiently distant from the clamor of the busy railroad depot and the main wagon roads to allow the General to devote quiet study to planning the great campaign which lay ahead.²

The months following Rosecrans' departure from Stevenson on September 4, 1863, produced a chain of events which included the defeat of the Union army at Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863), and the development of defenses at Post Stevenson to protect the junction of the two railroads (the Nashville and Chattanooga, and the Memphis and Charleston). Modest earthworks were enlarged and strengthened and given the names Harker, Mitchell, and Granger. The several military events affecting Stevenson in a significant way included the Andrews Raid in 1862, Bragg's invasion of Kentucky the same year, and Hood's invasion of Tennessee in 1864. During these months the "General's Headquarters" gained additional historical significance as the quarters for several distinguished military figures who served in the vicinity.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, (U.S. War Department, Washington, D.C., 1880-1901, 128 vols).

William S. Rosecrans Papers, (Special Collection Library), University of California at Los Angeles.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre more or less

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 6106400 3859400
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commence at the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 7, township 2 south, range 8 east, and run a tie line south 83° 13' west 2146.46 feet to a point on the southwest margin of a paved city street (Myrtle Place), said point is the true point of beginning; thence along said street margin north 46° 30' west 172.37 feet; thence south 43° 30' west 170.22 feet; thence south 46° 30' east 172.37 feet; thence north 43° 30' east 170.22 feet to the point of beginning.

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

Dr. Phil Secrist, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Jackson County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Southern Tech. College, Clay Street

CITY OR TOWN

Marietta

DATE

January 25, 1978

TELEPHONE (404) 424-7202 (o)

(404) 427-2337 (home)

STATE

Georgia 30060

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Wils B Howard Jr.

TITLE

SAPO Alabama

DATE

January 28, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

W. J. [Signature]

DATE

2/12/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

7-7-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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With the end of the Civil War, the civilian population of Stevenson returned to their homes. Among those was Walter Rosser and his young bride, Mary Elizabeth Anderson. Rosser was a construction engineer with the railroad having moved south from his Michigan home before the war to do contract work with the newly built railroad. Rosser bought several tracts of property before the war, one of which was the tract upon which the "General's Headquarters" is located.⁵ Rosser was a Union sympathizer and probably refuged north during the war years. It is believed that a man named Thomas Osborne lived in the "General's Headquarters" until it was commandeered for military use in 1863, by General Rosecrans. Upon returning to Stevenson, the Rossers reclaimed their property which by that time was known as the "General's Headquarters". Mr. Rosser Alston, the present owner of the house, remembers Grandmother Mary E. Rosser tell of living in the "General's Headquarters" during the time she and her husband were building the big family house nearby in the 1870's.⁴

The "General's Headquarters" has remained in the Rosser family since its purchase in the mid-19th century. Much has transpired in Stevenson since then. The age of steam locomotion and rail transportation reached its peak in the latter part of that century. Walter Rosser was superintendent of railroad construction and maintenance for many years throughout the late 19th century in the area of Stevenson, Alabama. Rosser was a man of energy and accomplishment, distinguished and respected in his community. The large family home near the "General's Headquarters", the ancient railroad reservoir, and the remains of the military blockhouse nearby combined to perpetuate the beautifully kept Rosser-Alston Estate as a social and historic landmark in the community for many years.

Today the "General's Headquarters" is in a state of ruin -- the roof has collapsed and the chimney and one wall are in an advanced state of decay. Despite these conditions, no other house survives in the Stevenson area which exemplifies so compactly the influence of mid 19th century military engineering concept in house design. The total concept is architecturally neat and clean and justifies a restoration. It is the intention of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Rosser Alston of Atlanta, Georgia, to proceed immediately to restore and reconstruct this historic building to its former beauty, largely at their own expense.

BACKNOTES:

¹Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. 30, pt. 3, p. 52.

²See map marked "A" in the Appendices titled "Reconnaissance from Stevenson to Cross Island," August 24, 1863. Rosecrans headquarters is located by flag symbol. See also map marked "B" in the same appendix. Map "B" locates Blockhouse #7 and was drawn in April, 1865.

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³Deed from Armstead and Catherine Jones to Walter Rosser, October 1, 1859, Book 12, page 87, land deed records, Jackson County, Alabama. This 542 acre tract includes the land occupied by the "Little Brick" (General's Headquarters". Rosser paid \$6511.00 for this tract at a time when large tracts of this type were selling at between two and three dollars per acre. The \$12.00⁺ per acre paid for this 542 acre tract suggests that one or more significant improvements must have existed on this land at the time of the purchase although the record does not state. It seems reasonable to assume that the house known as the "Little Brick" was standing on the property at the time. See attached legal description and accompanying topo map.

⁴Statement by Rosser Alston, September 8, 1977.

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Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, (Washington, D. C., 1891-1895).

Newlin, William H. History of the Seventy-third Ill. Infantry, (Chicago, 1890).

Interview: Mr. Rosser Alston (a taped record), August 17, 1977, Stevenson, Alabama.

Statement: Rosser Alston, September 8, 1977.

JUL 12 1978

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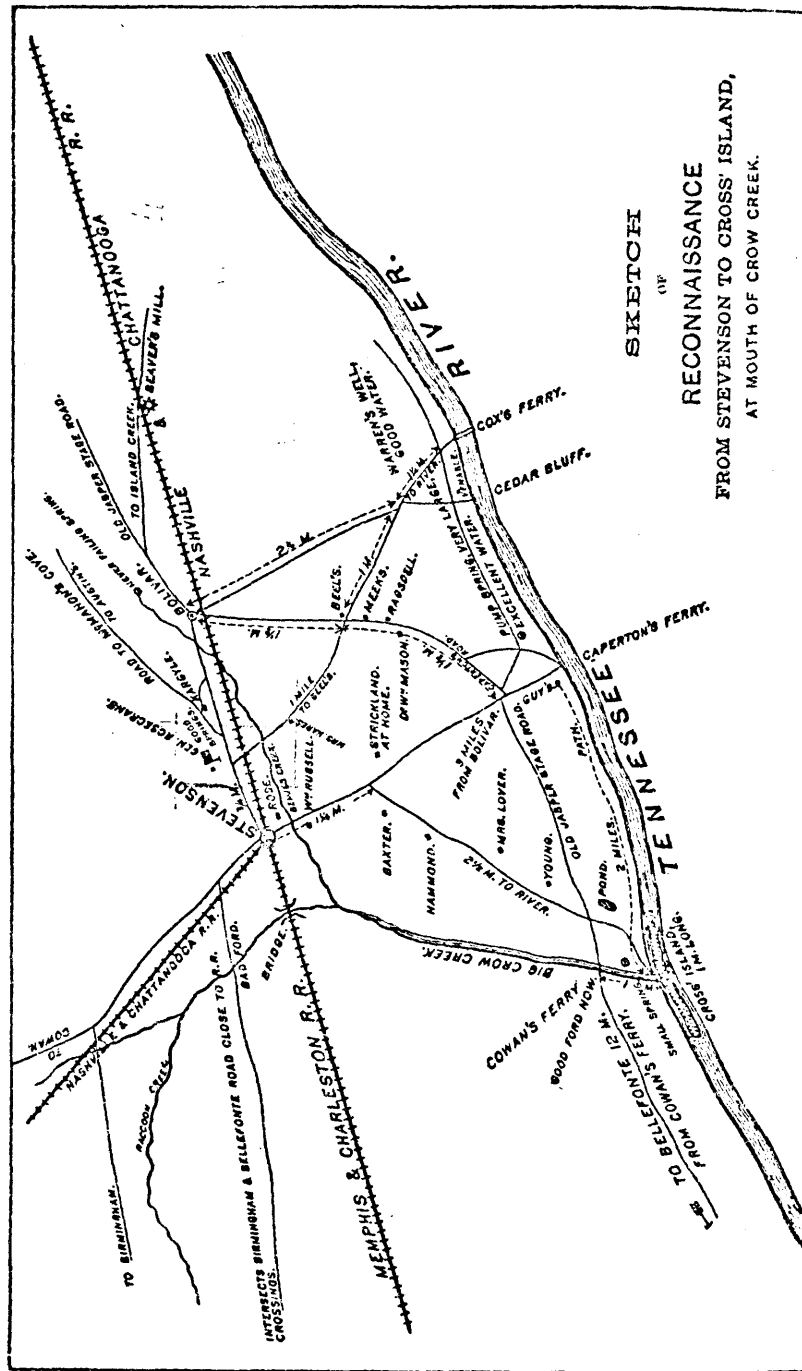
MAP A (Rockhill Map)

148

KY., SW. VA., TENN., MISS., N. ALA., AND N. GA. [CHAP. XLIII.]

CHAP. XLIII.]

Report of recon



1. Only one Creek. Leaves road all the way
2. The river thick growth of and is easily a
3. Between 1
4. Current 2
5. Island ab affording good good. A clear house on the is ened on the no
6. It is appa river.
7. Cannot se Creek, but ab with corn-field
8. The grou river is low a the road woul
9. No water mouth of Crow the map.*

General REY

The comm
Third Divisio
Battle Creek
number of pi
accomplish th

Lies

Brig. Gen. J

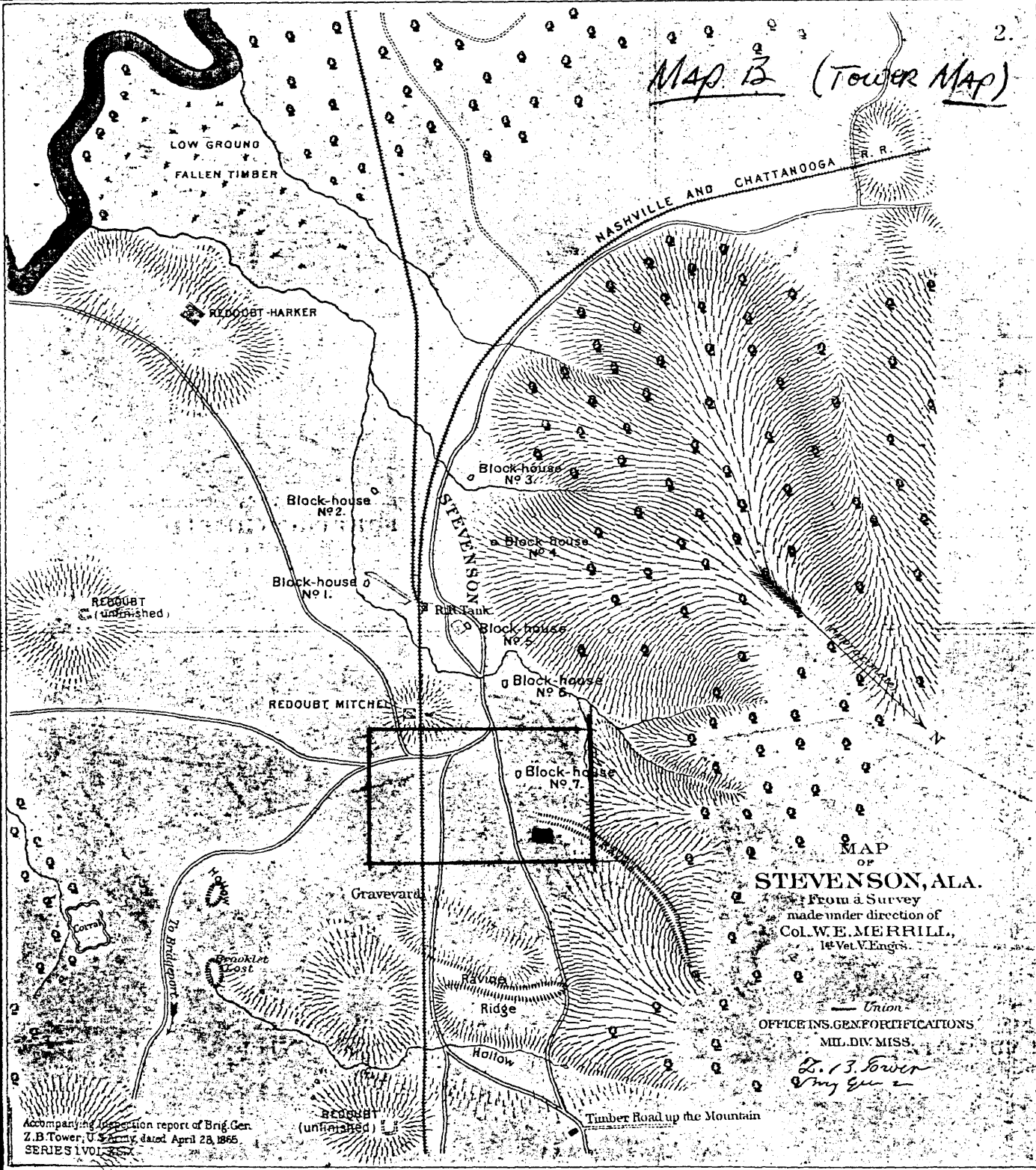
I have the
down the bar
ing bridges.
Major-Gen

OPEN FIELD

Accompanying Inspection report of Brig. Gen.
Z. B. Tower, U.S. Army, dated April 28, 1865.
SERIES I VOL. XLIX.

MAP 12 (Tower Map)

2.



Accompanying Inspection report of Brig. Gen.
Z. B. Tower, U.S. Army, dated April 28, 1865.
SERIES I VOL. XLIX.

Accompanying
SERIES I