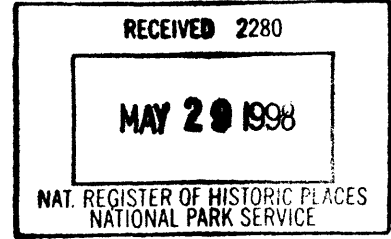


Resub

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historicname Davis Bridge Battlefield
other names/site number 40HM106/Hatchie Bridge Battlefield

2. Location

street & number Along Ripley-Pocahontas Road and Essary Springs Road not for publication N/A
city or town Pocahontas vicinity X
state Tennessee code TN county Hardeman/McNairy code 069/109 zip code 38061

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Herbert L. Hoge 5/19/98
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission
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 Edward Fittler
 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): _____

for Signature of Keeper 7/13/98 Date of Action

Davis Bridge Battlefield
Name of Property

Hardeman/McNairy Counties, TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count).

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (See continuation sheet.)

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

Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the American Civil War in Tennessee

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

<u>DEFENSE</u>	<u>Battle Site</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>Agricultural Field</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>Forest</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>Agricultural Field</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>Agricultural Outbuilding</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>Forest</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>N/A</u>
roof	<u>N/A</u>
walls	<u>N/A</u>
other	<u>N/A</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Davis Bridge Battlefield
Name of Property

Hardeman/McNairy Counties, TN
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions).

MILITARY
HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Period of Significance

October 5, 1862

Significant Dates

October 5, 1862

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Euro - American

Architect/Builder

N/A

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register (See continuation sheet)

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: Tennessee Historical Commission

Davis Bridge Battlefield
Name of Property

Hardeman/McNairy Counties, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 598 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) Pocahontas Quad

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 16 337520 3878650 3 16 334840 3876840

2 16 337480 3876800 4 16 335000 3878660

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason/Doug Cubbison

organization Thomason and Associates date 1/29/97

street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone (615) 385-4960

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

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

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

DESCRIPTION

The Davis Bridge Battlefield is located in Hardeman and McNairy Counties of Tennessee approximately one mile southeast of the small community of Pocahontas. These counties are located in West Tennessee and are largely rural in character. Davis Bridge was the site of a Civil War engagement fought on October 5, 1862 between Union forces under the command of Major General E.O.C. Ord and Confederate forces under the command of Major General Earl Van Dorn. At the time of the battle, this area consisted of cultivated farmland and woodlands along either side of the Hatchie River. The present configuration of the battlefield continues to maintain much of this historic landscape character and intrusions are minimal. The battle was fought on the east and west banks of the Hatchie River with the wooden span of Davis Bridge serving as a focal point of the fighting. The bridge itself no longer remains standing but the site has been preserved and maintained by a local camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The battlefield contains the area in which most major troop movements and fighting occurred. The nominated property consists of approximately 598 acres. A five acre section of this property including the bridge site on the west side of the Hatchie River, was listed as a National Historic Landmark on 5/16/91 as part of the "Siege and Battle of Corinth Sites" multiple property nomination.

Union forces advanced to the site via State Line Road (presently known as Cartwright Road) which runs in an east/west direction. These forces were advancing eastward from Bolivar and encountered the Confederate army which was retreating westward following the Battle at Corinth, Mississippi. It was the intent of the Confederate forces to utilize the bridge to cross the Hatchie River and continue its retreat to Holly Springs, Mississippi. Instead, Ord's forces advanced from the west to block the retreat of the Confederate army.

Fighting began west of the Hatchie River with federal troops forming on a ridgeline known as the "Metamora Hills." Along the top of this ridge running in a north/south direction is the Ripley-Pocahontas Road. This historic road continues to be in use and is now a two-lane paved road. Along this road on top of the ridge are a number of frame and brick dwellings (outside boundaries) divided by patches of woods and open fields. The Union battle line extended just over one-half mile in a north/south direction at the crest of this ridge which ranges in elevation from approximately 460' to 485'. Two Union batteries unlimbered on this ridge and began firing at the Confederate line in the cultivated bottomland to the east of the ridge.

Much of the open, pastoral appearance of this ridge line remains intact and forms the western boundary of the battlefield (Photo 1). The only significant intrusions in this area of the battlefield boundary are two ca. 1980 Ranch style dwellings at 1845 and 1875 Ripley-Pocahontas Road. These two dwellings are located at the southern end of the boundary and a house trailer is located at the north end of the boundary. Ord's forces advanced down the eastern slope of the ridgeline and engaged the Confederate forces in the fields below. This area of the battlefield is composed of cultivated fields, woodlands, and open fields for livestock grazing. This landscape is similar to that in 1862 and contains a high degree of integrity (Photos 2-4).

An historic feature which remains in this section of the battlefield is the original roadbed of State Line Road which extended east down the ridge to Davis Bridge. The paved State Line Road presently ends at the intersection with the Ripley-Pocahontas Road. In 1862, this road continued eastward to Davis Bridge and it was upon this road that Union forces advanced against the Confederate line. This sunken roadbed is clearly discernible and has a dirt bed framed by tree lines and fences (Photo 5). In some sections the road is sunken approximately five to seven feet below its banks. This roadbed emerges from fields adjacent to the Essary Springs Road. It follows the modern paved surface of the Essary Springs Road for a few hundred feet and then the old roadbed is again visible and utilized as an unimproved road until it ends at the Davis Bridge site.

The fighting west of the river extended along the present right-of-way of Essary Springs Road. This road was not in existence in 1862 and was paved in the 20th century. Within the boundary of the battlefield along this road is a ca. 1980 Ranch style dwelling (830

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

Essary Springs Road), a ca. 1910 frame dwelling (1240 Essary Springs Road), and two house trailers. Adjacent to these dwellings are several small outbuildings. These properties are dispersed along the road and are separated by large open fields and patches of woodlands. East of Essary Springs Road are cultivated fields and woodlands which extend to the Davis Bridge site. The Davis Bridge site is along the wooded banks of the Hatchie River (Photo 6). This property is owned by Camp #338 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Bolivar, Tennessee.

At the bridge site adjacent to the Hatchie River, the area is forested with various hardwoods and pine trees. An unimproved road that leads to the site follows along the historic roadbed of the State Line Road. This road is part of the five-acre tract owned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and this Camp has erected a series of stone and wood monuments describing and commemorating the Davis Bridge engagement. The actual Davis Bridge used during the 1862 battle is believed to have washed away during the late 19th century. Other wooden bridges were later constructed at the site but there has not been any bridge crossing at this location for several decades. The bridge was named for a nearby dwelling owned by the Davis family, however, this dwelling is no longer standing and its exact site is unknown. The present channel of the Hatchie River has eroded westward by perhaps one channel width since 1862.

East of the Hatchie River is a hardwood forest where Union forces were initially pinned down after crossing in pursuit of the retreating Confederates. This area was described as a hardwood "thicket" in 1862 and remains so today. East of this thicket is a gradual slope to the top of a ridge line approximately 100' in elevation above the Hatchie River. The bottomland area east of the river and bridge site is frequently flooded and remains of the State Line Road are no longer visible in this location. Along the slope and on top of the ridgeline, the 1862 roadbed of the State Line Road appears once again and it continues to be used by the lumber company which owns the property (Photo 7). Interspersed in the timber lands throughout this area are open fields which have been planted with pine seedlings.

The final action of the battle took place along this ridgeline east of the Hatchie River. Although cut off from Davis Bridge, another river crossing was found seven miles to the south down Boneyard Road and the Confederate army retreated in this direction during the afternoon. Confederate forces positioned along the ridgeline managed to hold back Ord's troops until dark when the rear guard also retreated. The ridgetop area which encompassed the final action continues to be composed of cultivated fields and forest (Photo 8). Two post-Civil War house sites are shown on 20th century maps of this area but there are presently no above-ground buildings or structures located along this ridgeline within the battlefield's boundary.

The Davis Bridge Battlefield site retains much of its character from October of 1862. Both the bottom areas along the Hatchie River and the ridgelines continue to remain in cultivated fields and forest. Only seven dwellings and their associated outbuildings are located within the battlefield's approximately 598 acre tract. With the exception of the Essary Springs Road right-of-way, the remainder of the site maintains the historic landscape patterns which were in existence during 1862. The Davis Bridge Battlefield is a significant Civil War site in West Tennessee and it retains a high degree of integrity and sense of time and place.

Informant/collectors have identified seven campsites on the east side of the Hatchie River. These campsites were located with the aid of metal detectors. Two of the campsites near the river bluffs are Confederate campsites and one of the campsites located west of the bluffs is believed to be an entrenchment also used as a campsite. One campsite on the bluffs appears to have been used by both armies. The campsites yielded the following artifacts:

Camp 1. Bullets (French .69 caliber and others); firepit with lead including 20 Enfield .57 caliber bullets; button backs; canister and fragments scattered throughout.

Camp 2. French .69 caliber bullets; 2 bayonets; US box plate; Eagle Infantry buttons; canister and fragments.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

 Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
 Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

Camp 3. Buttons; broken powder flask; bullets; thimble; civilian buttons.

Camp 4 and 5. Confederate: belt plate; buttons; friction primers; 6 Tennessee State seal buttons; cannon ball; medical saw blade (broken)

Camp 6. US Infantry: buttons, bullets, buckle.

Camp 7. Used by both armies. Artillery fragments; Eagle shoulder plates and buttons; broken bayonets and scabbard tips; mess hardware; cannon ball; cavalry items.

The informant/collector at this site reports that "The fired bullets show that the soldiers of both armies were scattered wide on both sides of the State Line Rd., all the way to Davis Bridge." (Wiggins)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Davis Bridge Battlefield is significant under National Register Criterion A for its role in the military history of the Civil War. The battlefield is the site of an important engagement which occurred on October 5, 1862 between Union forces under the command of Major General E.O.C. Ord and Confederate forces under Major General Earl Van Dorn. The engagement resulted from the Union army's attempt to cut off the retreat of the Confederate army following the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi. Although Union forces captured the vital Davis Bridge, the Confederate army managed to successfully disengage and cross the Hatchie River further south. Since the battle, the area has remained largely in agricultural fields and forests and the site retains a high degree of integrity.

The Davis Bridge Battlefield is also significant under National Register Criterion D for its archaeological potential to yield information concerning the battle. It is likely that the site contains physical remnants of the battle which can provide information concerning troop movements and areas where the primary fighting occurred. Recent studies of other battlefields suggest that objects left during an engagement were deposited in recognizable and interpretable patterns. It is also likely that the site contains the remains of soldiers who were killed during the fighting and buried on the field.

The property meets the registration requirements set forth in the multiple property documentation form, the "Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the American Civil War in Tennessee."

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The important rail junction of Corinth, Mississippi fell to Union forces on May 30, 1862. Federal commanders established a series of garrisons along the Memphis and Charleston Railroad in northern Mississippi, from Memphis to Corinth. From northern Mississippi, the Union Forces prepared for eventual attacks toward the gateway cities of Chattanooga or Vicksburg.

Confederate General Braxton Bragg, determined not to remain on the defensive, organized an aggressive offensive into Kentucky. In conjunction with this offensive the two Confederate commanders in north Mississippi, Major General Edmund Kirby Smith and Major General Earl Van Dorn, attempted to attack and capture Corinth. If Corinth could be taken, the left (eastern) anchor of the Federal line would be disrupted, and a Union withdrawal from northern Mississippi could be anticipated.

Van Dorn and Price launched determined attacks on Corinth on October 3-4, 1862, which after heavy fighting were repulsed with severe Confederate casualties. At approximately noon on October 4, the Confederate retreat began to the northwest.¹ Their eventual destination was a supply depot at Holly Springs, Mississippi, where Price and Van Dorn's defeated and battered army could re-fit and prepare for future operations. To cover his line of communications Price had previously detached portions of his command, to

¹ For an overview of the military engagements around Corinth in the fall of 1862, refer to George A. Reaves II, "Corinth" in Frances H. Kennedy, editor, *The Civil War Battlefield Guide* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1990), pp. 87-90; and Francis Vinton Greene, *Campaigns of the Civil War: The Mississippi* (New York: 1882; paperback reprint, New York: The Blue and Gray Press), pp. 29-54.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

include the 1st Texas Legion under the command of Colonel E. R. Hawkins with two artillery batteries near the important Davis Bridge across the Hatchie River northwest of Corinth.²

Hawkins, ordered by Van Dorn to guard this bridge on the Confederate retreat route, crossed the bridge and established a defensive position to the west at 8:30 a.m. on October 5, 1862. When the advanced elements of Van Dorn's command reached the Hatchie Bridge, Brigadier General Dabney H. Maury's division was directed to support the 1st Texas. Maury's division had already been heavily engaged the two previous days at Corinth. The line was established approximately 150 yards west of the Davis House, at a small tributary of the Hatchie River called Burr's Branch. The Confederates deployed the 35th Mississippi, the 42nd Alabama, and the 15th and 23rd Arkansas Infantry Regiments of Brigadier General John C. Moore's brigade north of the 1st Texas. Four 12 pound howitzers belonging to Captain William E. Dawson's Saint Louis Battery supported this line. Maury had approximately 1,000 infantrymen west of Davis Bridge.

In response to the anticipated attack upon Corinth, Federal forces located to the west of Corinth at Bolivar, Tennessee had began to march east to reinforce the Corinth garrison. 8,000 Federal infantry and artillery under the command of Major General E. O. C. Ord, and consisting primarily of a division commanded by Major General Stephen A. Hurlbut, marched through Metamora, Tennessee, and by early morning on October 5 were also approaching the Davis Bridge.

Discovering the Confederate defensive position, Ord and Hurlbut began deploying their command on a ridge 300 yards to the west of the Confederate's position, at the intersection of the State Line Road, and the Ripley-Pochahontas Road. The four James rifles of Battery L, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery set up at the road junction.³ Four guns of the 7th Ohio Battery established their positions south of the Illinois gunners. The 15th and 14th Illinois formed to the north of the road junction, while the 25, 46th, and 53rd Indiana, the 12th Michigan, and the 68th Ohio formed to the south. They outnumbered the Confederates approximately 2:1.

The Federal artillery occupied superior firing positions with more guns, and Private Lucius Barber of the 15th Illinois Infantry described the ensuing artillery action:

...planted their artillery on the crest of the hill and its hoarse notes replied to the rebel thunder. For fifteen minutes a furious cannonading was kept up. With rapid precision and deadly aim, our well-trained battery men poured in their death-dealing charges upon the enemy. Gradually their fire slackened as one after another of their guns were dismounted and most of their horses slain.⁴

² Description of this battle is derived from three principal sources: *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Volume 27, Part One, pp. 304-414; Robert W. McDaniel, "Forgotten Heritage: The Battle of Hatchie Bridge, Tennessee" *The West Tennessee Historical Society Papers*, and Monroe F. Cockrell, *The Lost Account of the Battle of Corinth* (Broadfoot Press).

³ Ken Baumann, *Arming the Suckers, 1861-1865, A Compilation of Illinois Civil War Weapons* (Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Press, 1989), p. 31.

⁴ Lucius W. Barber, *Army Memoirs* (Chicago, Illinois: J. M. W. Jones Stationary and Printing Company, 1894; reprint edition Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, 1984), p. 81.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardenian & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

When Ord's advance began, probably the 14th Illinois Infantry succeeded in outflanking the Confederate right (north) flank. The results were inevitable. Barber, with one of these regiments, remembered:

...the second brigade was ordered forward, marching in echelon, with the 14th Illinois in advance. We swept across the field toward the river. This was a thrilling military sight...With colors flying, with well-dressed ranks and measured tread our gallant lines moved on....Our firm, undaunted bearing struck terror to the hearts of the enemy. After a few irregular volleys they broke and ran. We poured in our fire at short range and with a fierce yell rushed forward to the charge.⁵

Outnumbered, outflanked, and with their artillery knocked out of the fight, the Confederate line broke. The Confederate defenders fled to the east, where they poured across the bridge in a tidal wave. Seeing the initial defense crushed, Confederate commanders established a new defensive line on a ridge east of the Hatchie River. This was an admirable defensive position, and it was well occupied by the survivors of Hawkin's and Moore's commands, Brigadier General C. W. Phifer's Texas and Arkansas brigade, Brigadier General William S. Cabell's Arkansas brigade, and at least four batteries of artillery.

Ord, thrilled at this relatively easy victory, and determined to sever the Confederate retreat route, began moving his men over Davis Bridge onto the east side of the Hatchie River. Here, Ord's men would be caught in a western bend of the river, and the Confederate defensive position swept this ground with a deadly fire. Ord himself was wounded by a canister ball crossing the bridge, and the command devolved upon Hurlbut.

Although Ord's initial thrust across the Hatchie had been contained, Van Dorn and Price were in a challenging situation, with their retreat route blocked, and their army exhausted and bloodied after two days of heavy fighting at Corinth, and now a morning's struggle at Davis Bridge. Fortunately for the Confederate cause, the Federal pursuit from Corinth had been dilatory, and had not even commenced until dawn on October 5. Further confusion would result seven miles outside of Corinth, when the pursuing Union columns converged unexpectedly upon a single avenue of advance. As a result, the Confederate rear was temporarily secure.

However, although the Federals had been temporarily stalled, a crossing at Davis Bridge was no longer viable. Accordingly, scouts were dispatched to locate another crossing location. One was found at Crumm's Mill, six miles south on Boneyard Road at the Hatchie River. Van Dorn accordingly dispatched his wagons and artillery south on the Boneyard Road, while continuing the holding action at Davis Bridge.

Private Barber described the ensuing conflict east of the river:

We now had a very difficult and dangerous task to accomplish. On one narrow bridge, in face of a terrible fire of grape and canister with which the rebels were raking it, our troops were to cross and form on the other side.... At this point the river makes an abrupt bend and the regiments were ordered to cross and form on each side of the road, but the bend in the river prevented them forming on the right. The enemy's shots were mowing down our men with fearful rapidity...The grape shot and canister were tearing up the ground in front and around us, making a general havoc amongst us.... At or near the

⁵ 5 Ibid., p. 82.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

bridge, four hundred and fifty of our boys lay weltering in our blood.... The rebels...poured in withering volleys.... The bullets pelted against the log like hailstones.⁶

Hurlbut crossed artillery, and began to extend his line to the north, where the Federal soldiers had more freedom of movement. Eventually the Federal artillery began to restore the situation, at approximately the same time as most of Van Dorn's army had continued its march past the holding action to cross at Crumm's Mill. The Confederate defensive line accordingly withdrew to the next ridge east at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Hurlbut's men cautiously continued the advance, but both they and the Confederates were low on ammunition, and had been continuously engaged for five hours. The fighting settled down to a desultory artillery duel, and after dark the Confederate rear guard withdrew to continue the retreat.

Ord had deployed approximately 8,000 men, and had suffered casualties of 560, or approximately 7%. The numbers of Confederates engaged is uncertain. Confederate returns are incomplete and included together with casualties at Corinth, and also includes large numbers of stragglers or deserters from the retreat. Federal sources note that they buried 32 Confederates west of the Hatchie River, where the heaviest Confederate casualties occurred. General Hurlbut also reported capturing 420 prisoners, and four bronze 12-pounder howitzers (all on the western bank of the river).

Although the battle was inconclusive, Ord and Hurlbut had successfully cut the Confederate retreat route at Davis Bridge. Had Rosecrans pursuit been more aggressive, this could have resulted in serious consequences for Van Dorn and Price. However, an alternate crossing site was located, and the Confederate force escaped the trap, although not without sustaining casualties that they could ill afford.

The fight had been a hard fought and bloody contest, typical of the fighting all around Corinth in the fall of 1862. Barber of the 15th Illinois would later recall of the engagement, "One day a citizen asked Hurlbut what name he was going to give the late battle. 'Hell on the Hatchie' was his prompt reply...."⁷

Additional information is located in the accompanying multiple property cover document, the "Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the American Civil War in Tennessee."

⁶ Ibid., pp. 82-83.

⁷ Ibid., p. 85.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 8

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 9

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Davis Bridge Battlefield includes all or parts of the following parcels:

In McNairy County Map 145, Parcel # 2.

In Hardeman County Map 175, parcels 2.04, 2.06, 2.08, 3.01, 3.02, 3.04, 3.07, and 3.08. Map 176, parcels 11.02, 11.06, 11.07, 12.00,

This boundary is drawn on the accompanying Hardeman and McNairy County tax maps.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Davis Bridge Battlefield includes all of the property retaining integrity which is historically associated with the major troop movements and battle. It does not include the approach area. This includes the area along the Metamora Hills where the Union forces formed their attack; areas along the west bank of the Hatchie River where the initial fighting occurred; the Davis Bridge site at the Hatchie River; and, the ridgeline east of the Hatchie River which marked the last fighting in the afternoon of the battle. The boundary includes the majority of the property containing the pivotal action which occurred during the battle. The only area of the battlefield omitted from the boundary is along Ripley-Pocahontas Road north of Cartwright Road (State Line Road). This area is where some units of the Union army formed for their attack at the beginning of the battle. Extensive residential development has occurred along this section of the road and it no longer retains sufficient integrity for inclusion within the boundary.

The boundary was drawn using property lines and natural features, such as the river. It includes the largest intact area of land that represents the battle. Excluded are parcels have new development and/or have been altered by changes to the landscape (i.e., contour changes due to farming, or modern development). Parcels where the battle occurred but where there is no information about the potential for archaeological evidence remaining and those areas where there was insufficient information were excluded.

The boundary includes a five acre tract which was listed 5/6/91 as a National Historic Landmark as part of the "Siege and Battle of Corinth Sites" multiple property nomination. The Davis Bridge Battlefield is sometimes considered as the third day of the Battle of Corinth. The expanded boundaries better reflect the actions of the battle rather than the five acre tract which was nominated due to single ownership.

The tax map for this nomination has a scale of 1" = 800'. This scale map was prepared by the Hardeman and McNairy County Tax Assessors for the rural areas of these counties. The Tennessee Historical Commission has found that this scale adequately meets its office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Page 10

Photographs

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property
Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

Davis Bridge Battlefield
Hardeman and McNairy Counties, Tennessee
Photo by: Thomason and Associates
Date: November 4, 1996
Location of Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

- Photograph No. 1: View of ridgeline along which Union troops formed for battle. View is towards south with the Ripley-Pocahontas Road at right.
- Photograph No. 2: View east from the Metamora Hills. Union troops descended the ridge and engaged Confederate forces in the fields below.
- Photograph No. 3: View east from the Metamora Hills. Union troops descended the ridge and engaged Confederate forces in the fields below.
- Photograph No. 4: View west towards the Metamora Hills from the Essary Springs Road. Fighting took place in these fields.
- Photograph No. 5: View towards east of the sunken roadbed which was the major east/west road during the battle. View is from the east slope of the Metamora Ridge.
- Photograph No. 6: View of the historic location of the Davis Bridge. View east from the west bank of the Hatchie River.
- Photograph No. 7: View east of historic roadbed on the east side of the river. Union troops attacked Confederate positions at the top of this ridge.
- Photograph No. 8: View of battlefield area on the east side of the river where the final fighting took place. View to the northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Page 11

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property

Property Owners

Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

McNairy County (Also in Hardeman County but assessed in McNairy County)

Map	Parcel #	Name & Address
145	2.00 Approx. 345 acres	Miller Lumber Co. Inc. 324 Williams Street Jackson, TN 38301

Hardeman County

175	2.04 20.4 acres	Richard H. Sweat etux c/o James Dickey P.O. Box 164 Moscow, TN 38057
175	2.06 5 acres	Davis Bridge Memorial Foundation Inc. P.O. Box 309 Bolivar, TN 38008
175	2.08 25.4 acres	James Dickey P.O. Box 164 Moscow, TN 38057
175	3.01 21 acres	David H. Wilson 4545 Rocky Springs Road Saulsbury, TN 38067
175	3.02 4.5 acres	Lena R. Kirk 1240 Essary Springs Road Pocahontas, TN 38061
175	3.04 7 acres	Jimmy Dale Hodge 1180 Essary Springs Road Pocahontas, TN 38061
175	3.07 5.2 acres	Kem Cruse 420 Block Church Road Pocahontas, TN 38061

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

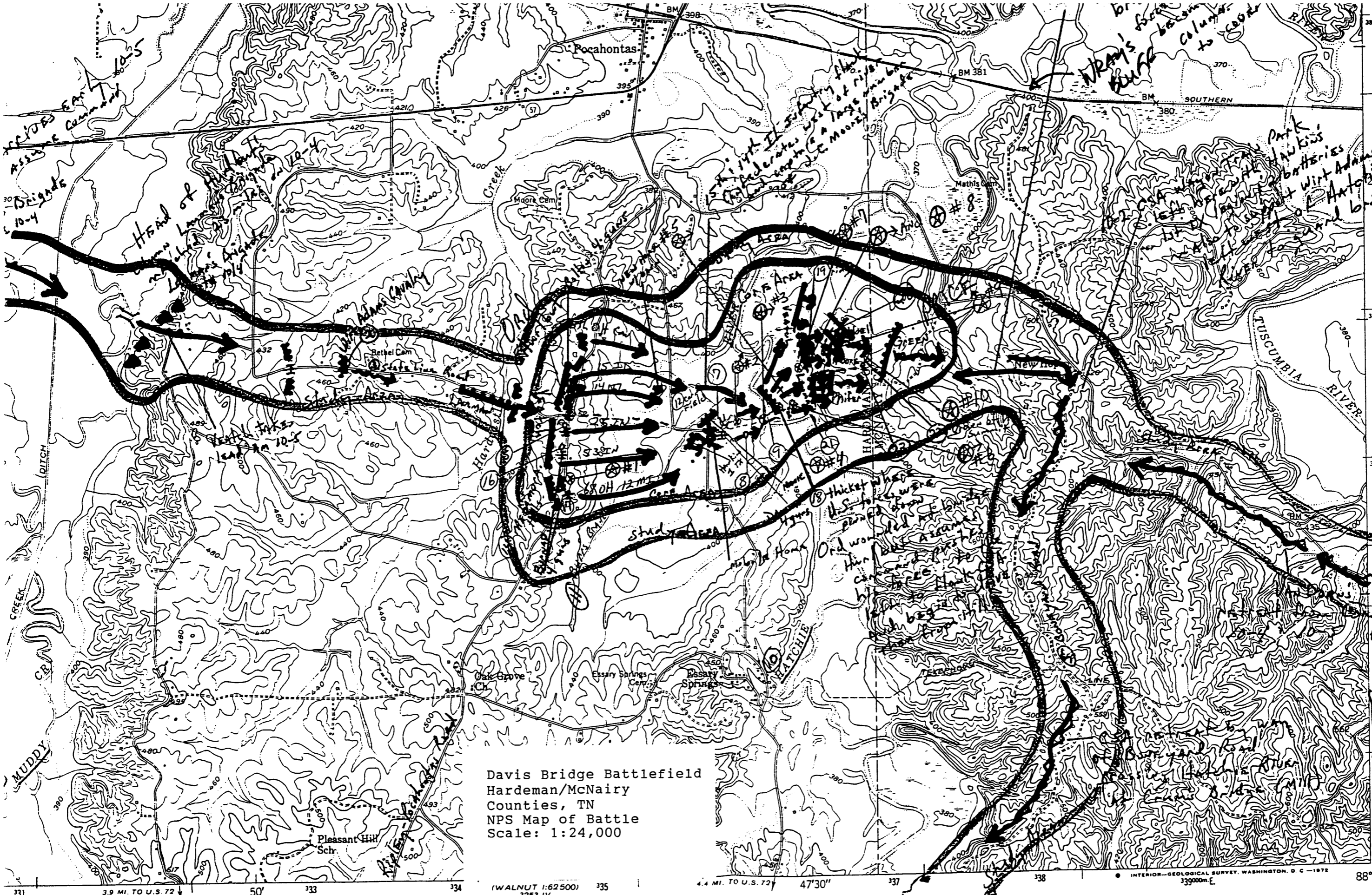
Section Page 12

Davis Bridge Battlefield
name of property

Property Owners

Hardeman & McNairy Counties, Tennessee
county and State

Map	Parcel #	Name & Address
175	3.08 1 acre	Billy Wayne Burrow etux Sheila Faye 1145 Essary Springs Road Pocahontas, TN 38061
176	11.02 1.5 acre	Michael Lynn Shields 1495 Pocahontas Road Pocahontas, TN 38061
176	11.06 37.3 acres	Tim L. Cruse etux. Cindy Cruse 830 Essary Springs Road Pocahontas Road Pocahontas, TN 38061
176	11.07 14.3 acres	Johnny Shields etux. Cynthia Shields 1435 Pocahontas Road Pocahontas, TN 38061
176	12.00	State of Tennessee c/o Jurgen Bailey Dept. of Real Property Management 312 8th Ave. N. 15th Floor, TN Tower Nashville, TN 37243-0299



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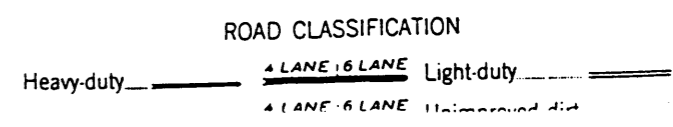
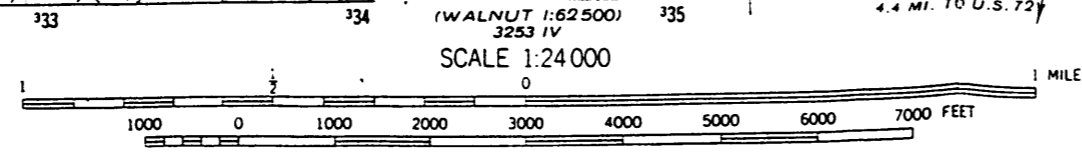
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HATCHIE
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 POCAHONTAS,
 TN
 QUAD

282

Davis Bridge Battlefield
 Hardeman/McNairy
 Counties, TN
 NPS Map of Battle
 Scale: 1:24,000



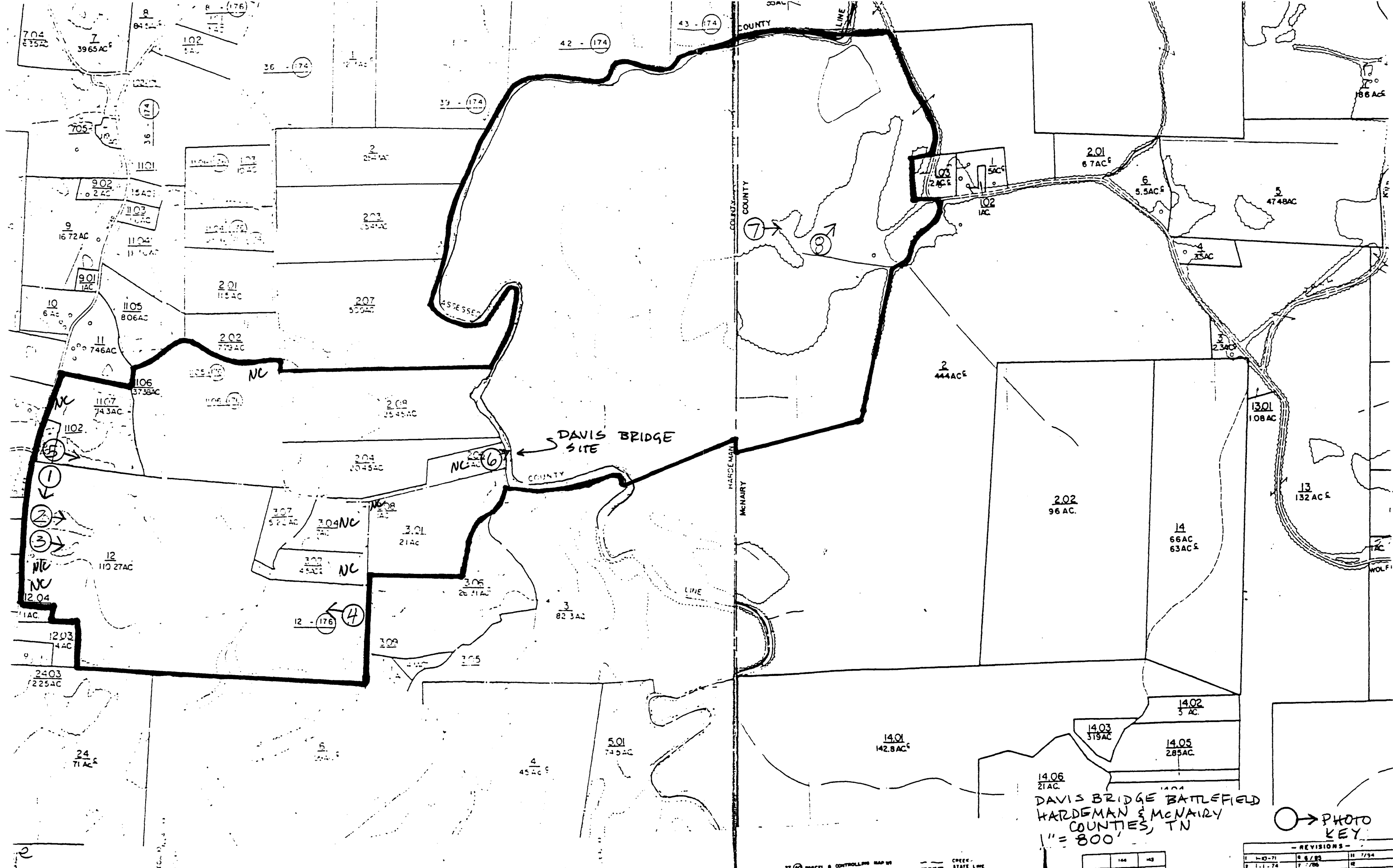
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TENN. MAP NO. 176

PREPARED BY
L. ROBERT KIMBALL
Consulting Engineer

COMPILERS COMPILED BY
TENNESSEE MAPPING & ENG SERVICES INC

1. PARCEL NUMBER
2. PARCEL MAP
3. INTERIOR TRACT LINE
4. DISTRICT LINE
5. STATE LINE
6. COUNTY LINE

7. PARCEL & CONTROLLING MAP NO.
8. IMPROVEMENT
9. FENCE
10. CEMETERY
11. CHURCH
12. SCHOOL
13. WOODS AREA

14. CREEK
15. STATE LINE
16. CO LINE
17. COMP. LIGHTS
18. TRANSMISSION LINE
19. ROAD
20. RAILROAD

DAVIS BRIDGE BATTLEFIELD
HARDEEMAN & MCNAIRY
COUNTIES, TN
1" = 800'

144	145
145	146
146	147

- REVISIONS -

1	11-10-71	8 6 / 89	11 7 / 94
2	1-1-74	7 7 / 88	12
3	1-17-74	8 6 / 88	13
4	1-17-74	8 3 / 80	14

PHOTO KEY