

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Battle of Richmond Historic Areas other names/site number Ma-90, Ma-91, Ma-92, Ma-93

2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet not for publication city, town see continuation sheet vicinity state Kentucky code KY county Madison code 151 zip code 40475

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories. Total contributing resources: 4, Total noncontributing: 16, Total: 20.

Name of related multiple property listing: na Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. David L. Morgan, Executive Director/State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Officer, 6-21-94

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Raymond J. Fatz Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (ESOH) Federal Pres. Off., 6/13/96

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrews Date of Action: 8/22/96

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE-battle site  
RELIGION-religious facility  
AGRICULTURE-agricultural field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE-military facility  
RELIGION-religious facility  
AGRICULTURE-agricultural field

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

na

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls brick

roof asphalt shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Military  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

August 30, 1862  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

Aug. 30, 1862  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

na  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

na  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

na  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet



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**Section 7: Description**

The Battle of Richmond Historic Areas consists of two related sites which possess integrity of association. The nominated areas, totalling approximately 214 acres, are located on the east and west sides of Big Hill Road (present day US 421 and US 421/25) south of the community of Richmond in Madison County, Kentucky. The first engagement was in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church (Ma-92) listed individually on the National Register in 1985. The second engagement occurred just north of Rogersville (the present day community of Terrill). These sites have integrity of setting, feeling, and association. A third engagement was fought along the south perimeter of Richmond. The area of the third engagement is not being nominated due to a loss in integrity by virtue of the scale of modern intrusions including the Richmond Bypass, modern buildings of Eastern Kentucky University, and post-World War II residential development. The Richmond Cemetery itself retains integrity and was listed on the National Register in 1983. See Map # 1 for the locations of landmarks relative to the city of Richmond.

The Battle of Richmond, fought on Saturday, August 30, 1862, began at 8 AM in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church 4 miles south of the present city limits of Richmond. The 6,500 untested men of the 1st and 2nd brigades, Army of Kentucky, under Federal Brig. Gens. Mahlon D. Manson and Charles D. Cruft, fought the 6,850 veteran Confederate troops of Maj. Gen. E. Kirby Smith. The second engagement occurred at 1 PM just north of Rogersville (present day Terrill) located approximately 3.5 miles south of Richmond. The third and final engagement began at 5 PM along the southern perimeter of Richmond. The Federal line stretched from the south side of the Richmond Cemetery west to Lancaster Avenue. The third engagement ended approximately thirty minutes later when the Federal Army broke ranks and fled north towards Lexington in a disorganized retreat. Federal casualties totalled 5353 (206 killed, 844 wounded, 4303 missing or captured). The Confederates declared victory with 600 casualties (98 killed, 492 wounded, 10 missing).

**I. First Engagement: Vicinity of Mt. Zion Church (Ma-92)**

The Battle of Richmond was fought in three discreet locations, two of which are located within boundaries for this nomination. The third location is not being nominated due to loss of integrity.

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The first engagement occurred south of Mt. Zion Church (Ma-92) on the east and west sides of Big Hill Road (present day US 421) north of Hays Fork or Crooksville Road (present day KY 499) and the village of Kingston. During the first part of the engagement from dawn until 10 AM, the Federal First Brigade formed a line on a ridge running perpendicular to Big Hill Road (US 421) and south of Mt. Zion Church. The Confederate forces composed of the brigades of Col. Benjamin J. Hill and Brig. Gen. Preston Smith occupied parallel ridges northeast of the intersection of the Hays Fork or Crooksville Road (KY 499) and Big Hill Road (US 421). Brig. Gen. James Churchill's division came up from the community of Big Hill and his artillery was deployed on the high ground above Hays Fork Creek. Churchill's infantry was kept in marching order on Big Hill Road (US 421).

In the second stage of the first engagement from 10 AM until 11 AM, the federal troops were concentrated on the ridge top east of Big Hill Road (US 421) with the exception of three companies which remained in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church. For the Confederate troops in Brig. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne's division, one brigade remained along the ridge north of Crooksville Road (KY 499), while another brigade moved east of the federal position and was positioned facing west approximately 3000 feet east of Big Hill Road (US 421). In Churchill's Division, one brigade was in a column coming up Big Hill Road (US 421) through Kingston, while another brigade was proceeding along the Crooksville Road (KY 499) west of Big Hill Road (US 421) to the Mound Branch of Hays Fork. The cavalry turned right and rode north up the Mound Branch to arrive at Mt. Zion Church from the southwest. The Confederate cavalry surprised and outflanked the right wing of the Federal line. The Federal troops were routed and retreated in confusion north approximately half a mile to the location of the second engagement in the vicinity of Rogersville (present-day Terrill).

The area between the two engagements is not included within the boundary because there were no significant encounters.

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**II. Second Engagement: Vicinity of Rogersville (Terrill)**

At 1:00 PM, the Federal troops formed another line on a ridge perpendicular to Big Hill Road (US 421/ 25) north of Rogersville (present day Terrill) north of the junction of Big Hill Road (US 421) and the Berea Road (US 25) and south of Duncannon Lane. The First Brigade was on ridge east of Big Hill Road.(US 25/421). The Second Brigade was divided with one regiment behind the First Brigade and the other on the west side of Big Hill Road (US 25/421).

The Confederate line composed of three brigades in a solid line advanced north towards the Federal troops. The second engagement lasted approximately two hours. The Federal troops retreated to the south side of Richmond where they formed a line for the third engagement.

**Integrity**

The Richmond Battlefield Historical Areas retains the aspects of integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

**Setting**

The "first engagement" area from the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church south to the Crooksville Road (KY 499) retains a moderate degree of integrity. Most of the modern intrusions are associated with the development of the Bluegrass Army Depot in the 1940s on the east side of Big Hill Road (US 421). The roadway which bisects the battlefield existed in 1862. As a significant regional transportation route, it was contributing factor in the battle's occurrence. In 1862, Big Hill Road (US 421) connected Richmond to a prominent knob and community of the same name approximately 13 miles to the south-southeast of Richmond. The knob, Big Hill, was both an obstacle and landmark for travelers. The Big Hill Road also served as the major north-south road in east-central Kentucky connecting Lexington and the central Bluegrass area through the Cumberland Gap to the states of Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia to the south and east. The Big Hill Road had an earlier significance as part of the Wilderness Road blazed by Daniel Boone in the late eighteenth century from Cumberland Gap to Boonesborough, a pioneer settlement located on the bank of the Kentucky River in northern Madison County. The present alignment of

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Big Hill Road (US 421) is in the general vicinity shown on the 1876 Beers Map of Madison County. Its relationship to Civil War period buildings such as the Mt. Zion Church (Ma-92), Hern House (Ma-93) and other late nineteenth century features remains the same. The Big Hill Road (US 421) appears to have been realigned in segments north of Kingston and north of Rogersville (Terrill) to remove curves and to flatten the grade.

The south boundary for the historic area follows the Hays Fork Road or Crooksville Road (KY 499), also known in the mid-nineteenth century as the Irvine-Lancaster Turnpike because it connected the county seats of two counties to the south and east of Madison County. Today, the Crooksville Road (KY 499) is a narrow, tree canopied lane which follows the stream through fields and pasture land, a situation similar to that which existed at the time of the battle.

### Feeling

In 1862, the land in the vicinity of the battlefield was in agricultural use. Today, the land on the east side of Big Hill Road (US 421), is privately owned and divided into large fields for pasture and crops. Trees are clustered along drainageways, fence rows, and steep slopes. The west side of US 421 north of Kingston was purchased by the Bluegrass Army Depot during World War II. Most of the dwellings and agricultural buildings were removed during the development the supply depot. The southwest corner of the depot where the first engagement of the battle occurred has been managed for agriculture and contains pasture land with wooded slopes. Water has been impounded for a lake and water treatment plant in the low area between the ridges which were occupied by the two armies during the first engagement.

### Association

The landforms and geographical features of the historic areas contribute to the modern viewer's understanding of strategies employed by the opposing armies in the battle.

The land in the vicinity of the battlefield can be characterized as gently rolling with low ridges which run perpendicular to Big Hill Road (US 421). The ridges and their relationship to the Big Hill Road (US 421) were critical features in the execution of the battle. Both armies used the ridges to



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organize units of soldiers and to position batteries. The landforms contributed to the progressive assaults and retreats which characterized the three stages of the Battle of Richmond.

On the east side of Big Hill Road (US 421), Mound Branch remains a low volume, tree-lined stream flowing south through a ravine to its confluence with Hays Fork. The draw through which Mound Branch flows was used by McCray's cavalry during the first engagement for the Confederate surprise attack on the Federal right in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church.

The pre-Civil War buildings still standing in the vicinity were used as hospitals for the wounded after the battle. Today, the structures still bear physical evidence of the battle through visible damage to their brick walls from cannon balls.

Pre-Civil War buildings within the historic areas include:

Joseph Barnett-Herndon House (Ma-93)

The Herndon House built in the early nineteenth century is on the west side of Big Hill Road (US 421). The house was listed on the National Register in 1985.

Mt. Zion Church (Ma-92)

Mt. Zion Church, a brick building on the west side of Big Hill Road was built in 1852. It served as hospital during the battle. Mt. Zion Church was listed on the National Register in 1985.

Palmer House (Ma-91)

The Palmer House is west of Mound Branch near a spring. It is a one-story, three-bay, Flemish bond dwelling built in the early nineteenth century. The south side of the dwelling was partially destroyed during battle.

Map Inventory

1. **Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot**

The 42-acre area on the east side of Kingston Road (US 421) includes the ridges upon which both armies lined up for the second stage of the battle. The property contains a weatherboarded, mid-twentieth century bungalow on the Kingston Road frontage (US 421). On the south end is a two-story, mid-nineteenth century brick dwelling (Ma-90). The rolling land contains pastures which are

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separated by wooded fence rows. All other buildings on the site were removed when the Army acquired the property in the 1940s.

**2. Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot**

The 71-acre area on the east side of Kingston Road (US 421) includes the ridges upon which both armies lined up for the first stage of the battle. The property contains a post-1960 pond and lake. There are modern access roads from the buildings on the depot to US 421 and to areas on the south end of the property. The site also includes a modern sewage treatment plant and modern utility building.

**3. Crutcher Farm: 3185 Berea Road**

The Crutcher Farm extends from the west side of Kingston Road (US 421) west to the Berea Road (US 25). The property includes the Palmer House (Ma-91) which was built in the early nineteenth century. The south side of the house was damaged during the battle. The original front facade with Flemish bond brickwork faced west, but the house is now accessed from the rear or east side.

The property also contains a modern dwelling and three modern barns.

**4. Mt. Zion Christian Church: 4048 Kingston Road**

Mt. Zion Christian Church (Ma-92) is on the west side of Kingston Road (US 421). The one-story, double-stretcher Flemish bond brick building was completed in 1852. The church building bears the indentions of cannon balls from the battle. It also served as a hospital for wounded soldiers. According to local tradition many soldiers are buried in unmarked graves in the vicinity of the church.

South of the church is a modern, square, one-story hip-roofed dwelling covered with aluminum siding.

**5. Herndon Farm: 4100 Kingston Road**

The property on the west side of the Kingston Road (US 421) has a modern barn and modern utility building.

**6. Powell Farm: Berea Road**

The part of the property included within the historic areas

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boundary includes the bluffs along the west side of Mound Branch. There are no structures.

**7. Herndon Farm: 4252 Kingston Road**

The Herndon Farm on the west side of the Kingston Road includes the Joseph Barnett House (Ma-93), a Flemish bond brick dwelling built circa 1825. Cannon ball scars are visible on the exterior brick walls. Wounded soldiers from the battle were also treated here.

The property also contains an early twentieth century barn and three modern barns. Fields are separated by fence rows.

**8. Combs Farm: Crooksville Road**

The Combs Farm includes the modern store building in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of Crooksville Road with Kingston Road (US 421). Bisecting the property is Mound Branch, the stream corridor used by Confederate cavalry to flank the Union line.

**9. Farm: Crooksville Road**

The farm on the north side of Crooksville Road east of Kingston Road (US 421) includes a modern barn and a section of the ridge used by the Confederate forces during the first stage of the battle.

**10. 304 Crooksville Road**

The farm on the north side of Crooksville Road east of Kingston Road (US 421) contains a modern dwelling and barn. Part of the ridge used by the Confederate forces during the first stage of the battle is located here.

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Richmond-Madison County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 1**Section 8: Significance**

The Battle of Richmond Historic Areas is eligible under National Register criterion A and has national significance within the context of the Civil War, a series of events which influenced the course of history in the United States. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission has rated the Battle of Richmond as Class B, indicating that the battle has strategic character and national significance. The commission's "Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields" published in 1993 by the National Park Service identified 384 of the 10,500 armed conflicts in the Civil War as principal battles and classified them according to historical significance. The Battle of Richmond was included as one of 104 battles categorized as Class B because it was a principal strategic operation of the war and had a direct and decisive influence on a campaign as a Confederate victory during Bragg's invasion of Kentucky. The Battle of Richmond is also noted in the commission's report as a Priority II or one of the battlefields with opportunities for comprehensive preservation.

Even though it was a small conflict by Civil War standards, the Battle of Richmond has significance as a Confederate victory because it fueled hopes which influenced Confederate military strategy throughout the course of the war. The decisive Confederate victory at the Battle of Richmond raised Confederate expectations that the Kentucky campaign would result in the defeat of Buell's army, invasion of Indiana and Illinois, and the recovery of Confederate power in the central and eastern portions of Kentucky and Tennessee. From the first Battle of Manassas in July of 1861, the southern leadership was inclined to mount offensive campaigns to gain border states or northern territory, in this case the liberation of Kentucky from Union control through the capture of Louisville and Cincinnati, instead of pursuing a more defensive strategy of attrition on home territory which had the potential to wear out the more numerous and better equipped Federal forces by prolonging the conflict and making it too costly. Political and cultural factors made execution of the second strategy impossible, even though it might have won the war for the South.

The Battle of Richmond also has significance as example of the effect of raw recruits on Civil War battle strategy and outcomes. The federal troops at the first Battle of Manassas (July 1861) and Battle of Richmond (August 1862) shared with the Confederate troops at Shiloh (April 1862) a lack of training and unpredictable

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behavior upon exposure to fire. Lack of discipline resulted in confusion in the execution of maneuvers to form lines for battle and affected the timely appearance of reinforcements. Upon exposure to fire, the green recruits were likely to panic. In their terror, retreats became routs and regrouping was not possible.

Note: For the sections which follow, the citation Official Records refers to officers' reports found in The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series 1: Volume XVI. Part 1, Reports. Chapter XXV. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1886.

### I. Background

The Battle of Richmond occurred as a part of the Kentucky campaign, part of the offensive strategy pursued by the Confederate leadership. The following paragraphs give a brief synopsis of the events immediately preceding the battle.

At the beginning of January 1862, the Confederate Army held all of Tennessee, most of Kentucky, and the Mississippi River from Columbus to the delta. By June 1862, the Confederate Army had suffered a series of reversals including the battles of Middle Creek, Mill Springs, Shiloh, the surrender of Forts Henry and Donelson, and the loss of Corinth. The states of Kentucky and Tennessee were mostly under Federal control and the Federal navy controlled the Mississippi River from St. Louis to Vicksburg. Federal armies had pushed forward into Mississippi. They occupied northern Alabama and were pressing the Confederate army to the southern border of east Tennessee (Wheeler, 1888: 2).

Even in the face of these reversals, however, the South showed few signs of reconciliation or submission. The South reacted to the battle of Shiloh with disappointment rather than discouragement. Even the retreat from Corinth was followed by successes in Virginia sustaining Confederate hope (Buell, 1888: 33). The Confederate government continued to pursue the strategy of mounting offensive campaigns and additional troops for the armies were speedily recruited. The Confederate Army entered the summer of 1862 in great relative strength and high spirit (Buell, 1888: 33).

Despite its victories, the Union Army was experiencing war-weariness in the summer of 1862. Union troops were decreasing in strength. Large numbers of them were sent home with disabilities,

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real or pretended. The national government reflected the same strains of disappointment, discontent, and inaction which afflicted the troops. To repair the damage in the ranks, new regiments were created instead of replenishing the old ones. Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell characterized the policy of "throwing large numbers of raw troops into service in distinct bodies" as a vast waste of time, material, and efficiency. The difficulties experienced by the raw Federal troops at Richmond reinforced Buell's observation. After the withdrawal of the Confederates from Corinth, Mississippi in the summer of 1862, the Federal armies were weaker numerically than they had ever been and the "tone of the troops was defective" (Buell, 1888: 33 and Halleck, Official Records: 5).

The Confederate Army was determined to use its superiority of numbers, discipline, and spirit to reoccupy Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky, and to pursue an offensive campaign through an invasion the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois while Union attention was distracted by the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, and an extended Indian insurrection on the western frontiers (Halleck, Official Records: 5).

## II. The Campaign

The following paragraphs describe the initiation of the Kentucky campaign of which the Battle of Richmond was a part.

During July, 1862, the Federal government's objective was possession of Chattanooga to hold central Tennessee. Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell of the Army of the Ohio was to capture Chattanooga by following and repairing the Memphis and Charleston Railroad through north Alabama northeast to Chattanooga.

After Braxton Bragg succeeded General P.G.T. Beauregard in command of Confederate troops at Tupelo, Mississippi on June 27, 1862, he began a rapid march through Alabama and Georgia to Chattanooga. His goals were to save that city, protect Georgia, and open the way to Tennessee and Kentucky.

On March 8, 1862 Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith assumed command of the Confederate troops in east Tennessee with a force consisting of 11,768 infantry, 1055 cavalry, and 635 artillery. The occupation of Cumberland Gap, June 18th, by a federal division and the approach of Buell's forces toward Chattanooga threatened his position (Wheeler, 1888: 2).

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On July 31, 1862, Bragg and Smith met in Chattanooga to coordinate efforts to draw Buell between them northeast of Chattanooga and to plan an invasion of Kentucky. Smith and Bragg planned an invasion of Kentucky with the following goals: to relieve Union pressure on Tennessee, north Georgia, and north Alabama; to enlist large numbers of Kentuckians in the Confederate army; to establish a Confederate government in Kentucky and secure the state's succession from the Union; to bolster Confederate morale by winning battles for the South, and to collect needed supplies and equipment. If the campaign were successful, it could force the Union to ask for terms (Sears, 1985: 182).

According to the plan, Bragg's troops were to move north through middle Tennessee and into central Kentucky while Smith's forces were to eliminate Union forces at Cumberland Gap. Smith and Bragg were to join at Frankfort and install the Confederate government. On August 5th, Bragg sent two of his brigades, (under Brig. Gens. P.R. Cleburne and Preston Smith) to E. Kirby Smith in Knoxville. Bragg waited for supply train and artillery in Chattanooga before marching into central Tennessee on August 28th. Bragg rapidly crossed Tennessee and entered Kentucky through Munfordsville and Lebanon. Buell fell back to Nashville and moved towards Louisville on a parallel course to that of Bragg's. See Map #7 for the relative positions of the two armies during Bragg's invasion of Kentucky.

### III. Preparation

The following paragraphs describe the events immediately preceding the Battle of Richmond.

On August 14th, E. Kirby Smith left Knoxville with a force of men who were veterans of Belmont, Shiloh, Elkhorn, and Springfield battles. He went through Rogers Gap west of Cumberland Gap bypassing Cumberland Gap after deciding that G.W. Morgan's 8,000 Federal troops occupying the gap were too strong to attack. Smith left C.L. Stevenson to keep pressure on Morgan and led his men on a 60-hour march over the Cumberland Mountains

On August 18, 1862, Kirby Smith took Barbourville, but found the occupation unpleasant due to bad water, scant food, and pro-Union bushwhackers. Smith decided to move north towards Lexington, a decision which was contrary to his agreement with Bragg. He marched 90 miles in three days "over a mountainous wilderness,

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destitute alike of food and water" (K. Smith, Official Records: 931).

News of Smith's movements frightened Union forces in Louisville. Buell sent Maj. Gen. William "Bull" Nelson to Louisville to reopen railroad line between the Army of the Ohio and the supply depot in Louisville. Nelson arrived to find Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright in charge of department of the Ohio, a bureaucratic area which included northern Kentucky, Cumberland Gap, and the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

August 23, 1862

In a skirmish in the vicinity of Big Hill, Col. Leander Metcalfe's 400 Union cavalry were defeated by Confederate cavalry under Col. John S. Scott. Federal casualties included 10 killed, 40 wounded, 150 taken prisoner. Confederate casualties numbered 4 men killed; 12 wounded; 21 horses lost.

August 24, 1862

Horatio Wright advised Nelson not to risk a battle at Richmond, unless he was sure of success. Wright thought it would be better to fall back to a more defensible position at the Kentucky River (Wright, Official Records: 908).

Tuesday, August 26, 1862

Brig. Gen. Charles Cruft was assigned to the Federal brigade which was camped short distance south of Richmond. The camp covered an area from the Irvine Turnpike, across the Big Hill Road (US 421), to the edge of the woods west of the Richmond Cemetery. Cruft described the troops as fresh recruits, who "had seen no field service, very little drill, and were now for the first time collected as a regiment... The men knew nothing of the duties or habits of soldiers. Most of them had been less than a fortnight away from their homes..... Both officers and men were earnest and brave, but wholly inexperienced and untrained. There were no regular camps... the men were lying exposed to the hot sun by day and heavy dews by night, without the means of instruction or improvement in any way". Cruft described his attempts to train the troops: "All that experience could suggest, everything that incessant labor could accomplish was done by me during the three days preceding the battle to put the regiments and battery into



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working shape. Not a moment was unnecessarily lost from drills and instruction. Manifest improvement was becoming daily visible" (Cruft, Official Records: 918-919).

The town of Richmond and the Union bivouacs were thoroughly picketed. Cavalry patrols and scouting parties were kept constantly on the roads leading south and southeasterly for a distance of twelve miles. Every exertion was made by the Union command to guard against surprise and to procure intelligence from the front.

August 27, 1862

Federal Brig. Gen. Mahlon D. Manson arrived three days before the battle and found that the troops under his command had only been in service from 10 to 25 days. "Some of the regiments never had a battalion drill and knew not what a line of battle was. They were undisciplined, inexperienced, and had never been taught a manual of arms". The artillery was sent from Lexington without caissons or a proper supply of ammunition, being deficient in fuses and friction primers. The ammunition of some of the pieces was entirely spent in the first engagement of the morning and the ammunition of all had been quite exhausted at the close of the last battle in the evening (Manson, Official Records: 915)

Friday, August 29, 1862

Reports indicated that the Confederate troops had descended from Big Hill, but nothing was known of intent. In the absence of Nelson, the command of the Union troops at Richmond fell to Manson.

11:00 AM: In camp two miles south of Richmond, Manson received communication from Lt. Col. Munday who was on reconnaissance with small detachment of cavalry in the vicinity of Kingston. Mundy believed that enemy was advancing in considerable force. Not knowing Nelson's location, Manson sent copies of the communication from Mundy to Nelson in both Lancaster and Lexington. Manson directed Munday to hold the enemy in check and determine strength and position. He also wished to know if the enemy had left the main road and gone either right or left at the foot of Big Hill (Manson, Official Records: 911).

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2:00 PM; Manson received the message that cavalry under Metcalfe and Munday were retreating to camp and that the enemy, estimated to number 4,000 to 5,000, was pressing hard upon them (Manson, Official Records: 911).

Not wishing to be attacked in his camp, Manson advanced to meet the enemy. He did not want the enemy to have possession of the hills south of him which commanded the camp. Manson ordered the First Brigade composed of the Sixteenth, Fifty-Sixth, Sixty-Ninth, and Seventy-First Indiana regiments and artillery forward. The Federal artillery opened up on Confederate forces and scattered them (Manson, Official Records: 912).

4:00 PM: Manson took possession of a high ridge and formed a line of battle to right and left of Big Hill Road (US 25/421) with artillery protecting each flank and commanding the open country and turnpike road as far south as Rogersville (Terrill). When the advance troops of the enemy appeared, the Federal forces opened fire with artillery. After one hour's skirmish, Manson was able to drive the Confederates from the field. Some Confederate soldiers, horses, and one cannon were captured.

Manson advanced to Rogersville where he ordered the men to bivouac and to sleep on their arms. He sent forward Metcalfe's cavalry to pursue enemy and determine its strength.

11:00 PM: Metcalfe returned and said that he had been to Big Hill and encountered Confederate pickets. After a short skirmish, the Confederate pickets fell back. See Map #1 for the location of Big Hill relative to the three engagements on August 30th.

#### IV. The Battle: Saturday, August 30, 1862

2:30 AM: Nelson received Manson's letter in Lexington and sent an order to Manson telling him not to fight, but to retreat via Lancaster to Danville to join other Federal troops for stand at the Kentucky River. Nelson left for Lancaster.

4-6:00 AM: Manson ordered his men to stand at arms. Details from each company made coffee and filled the canteens with water (Manson, Official Records: 912). The Confederate troops led by Brig. Gen. Cleburne's division advanced north from their camp which was approximately five miles south of Rogersville.

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7:30 AM Manson's Fifty-Fifth Indiana met the Confederate's advance cavalry half mile below Rogersville in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church and drove them back. The Federal troops then took a position in broken woodland and high ground on the east side of Big Hill Road in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church and formed line of battle. The Fifty-Fifth Indiana was positioned behind a fence on the left side of Big Hill Road (US 421). The Sixty-Ninth Indiana was on the right side of Big Hill Road with artillery on the left of the Fifty-Fifth on high ground. As a support for the battery, the Seventy-First Indiana formed a line 300 yards behind the Fifty-Fifth Indiana.

For the Confederates, the Second Brigade commanded by Col. B.J. Hill and battery of Capt. Douglas was placed by Gen. Cleburne in a line behind the crest of a low hill which ran parallel to and about 500 yards south of the Federal line on the east side of Big Hill Road. A battery was placed on a crest near the center of the line. The Second Tennessee under Lt. Col. Butler was on the left of the battery between it and Big Hill Road. The Thirteenth and Fifteenth Arkansas under Col. Polk and Lt. Col. A.R. Brown were placed on the right of the battery. In the center were the Forty Eighth Tennessee under Col. Nixon and the Fifth Tennessee under Lt. Col. Smith (Hill, Official Records: 949-950).

Cleburne ordered Smith's brigade to form a line within supporting distance on the crest of a second hill south of the Second Brigade. Cleburne received an order from E. Kirby Smith to avoid a general battle until Brig. Gen. Churchill's division could get to the scene of the engagement. Cleburne directed the artillery to fire very slowly and not to waste a round. The battle had consisted of a fight of artillery and skirmishes for more than an hour when the Federal troops began to move toward the Confederate right flank. Cleburne ordered the One Hundred and Fifty-Fourth Tennessee to be sent up to the right of the main line. When heavy fire began on the right, Cleburne sent in additional reinforcements of the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Arkansas regiments. Believing that Churchill must be within supporting distance, Cleburne ordered Preston Smith to move forward the remaining three regiments of his brigade and to place them on the right of the line already engaged. It was evident that the Federal determination to turn the right side of the Confederate line had weakened the center of the Federal line. With Churchill's division covering the left side, Smith moved his division on the right side forward. Smith described the engagement as spirited with the enemy contesting ground stubbornly

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and shelling fiercely as the Confederate troops advanced north through the open fields (Cleburne, Official Records: 945-946). See map entitled "Situation 8:00 AM".

The Fifty-Fifth Indiana under the command of Col. John R. Mahan opened up the battle. When the Sixteenth Indiana commanded by Col. Lucas came into position, Manson ordered it to take a position to the left of the Fifty-Fifth in the woods. The Sixteenth Indiana maintained its ground for more than an hour when an attempt was made by the Confederate brigade under Gen. Churchill to turn the Union left flank. The Seventy-First Indiana under Lt. Col. Topping was ordered forward to support the Sixteenth. Despite the Union reinforcements, the Confederates still seemed determined to turn the left side of the Federal line. Manson transferred seven companies of the Sixty-Ninth under Lt. Col. Korff from the right to the left side where the Seventy-First was under heavy pressure from the enemy.

E. Kirby Smith sent the First Louisiana Cavalry under the command of Col. John S. Scott around the Confederate left to the north side of Richmond to be in position for the Federal retreat (K. Smith, Official Records: 934).

In the midst of the battle, Federal artillery wagons had to be sent back to Richmond for ammunition. The amount originally put in the supply boxes was exhausted.

9:30 AM Nelson arrived in Lancaster and heard the artillery fire. Accompanied by a single aide, he rode to Richmond via byways to avoid being captured by Confederate calvary.

10:30 AM The first engagement lasted until about 10:30 AM. At that point, the right side of the Federal line was flanked by Col. McCray's brigade composed of the Tenth Texas, Eleventh Texas, Fourteenth Texas, Fifteenth Texas, and an Arkansas regiment of sharp shooters. At 9:00 AM, McCray had been ordered to march his approximately one mile to the left of the Big Hill Road. The Confederate troops had proceeded through a corn field and ravine (Mound Branch) to surprise the Federal troops. The Union soldiers and officers fled north in confusion through the fields (K. Smith, Official Records: 934). See map entitled "Situation 10:00-10:30".

Gen. Cruft arrived with two sections of artillery and the Ninety-Fifth Ohio regiment in advance. Cruft's troops were placed

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on the ground occupied by the Sixty-Ninth to support three companies of skirmishers and to charge the battery that the Confederates were trying to plant on an eminence. In attempting to take this position, the Federal troops were exposed to severe fire which threw them into confusion. The Federal position on the left was outflanked and gave way.

The three remaining regiments of Cruft's brigade arrived just as the Federal troops were in retreat. The Eighteenth Kentucky under Col. W.A. Warner was in advance and was deployed into a line to check the Confederate advance.

The Twelfth Indiana under Col. Link and Sixty-Sixth Indiana under Maj. Morrison did not arrive in time to take part in the initial engagement. They retired in good order and formed a line on a high position near Rogersville a mile to the rear of the first engagement.

Manson deployed the cavalry of Cols. Metcalfe and Mundy upon the high ground in front of the Union infantry and placed a piece of artillery on Big Hill Road to direct fire onto the advancing Confederates who were forming a line near the Rogers House. Behind the cavalry, Manson ordered the infantry to face the rear rank, march approximately three-quarters of a mile, about-face, and form a line on the ridge where Manson had faced the Confederates the day before. In the midst of the second engagement, Manson belatedly received Nelson's orders about not fighting at Richmond.

12:30 PM: The Second Brigade under Cruft was deployed in the following manner. The Ninety-Fifth Ohio was positioned on the left side of Big Hill Road. The Sixty-Sixth Indiana was placed to the right of the Ninety-Fifth. The Eighteenth Kentucky and the Twelfth Indiana were positioned on the extreme right under the cover of the woods. The cavalry and artillery which had been left on the ridge in front to hold the enemy in check retreated to positions in the new line.

1:00 PM: After resting for an hour in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church under a sun which was "beating down with oppressive heat", the Confederate troops began to advance north through the open fields (Hill, Official Records: 951).

The Confederate right gave way under the artillery fire, but Confederate attention turned to the Federal right. The assault by

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the Confederate infantry was met by Gen. Cruft commanding the Eighteenth Kentucky and Twelfth Indiana. The Confederate Third Division was on the left side of Big Hill Road with the Second Brigade of the Fourth Division on the right side. The Thirteenth and One Hundred and Fifty Fourth Tennessee were to the right of the Second Brigade, while the Twelfth and Forty Seventh Tennessee were held in reserve. For an hour, the Federal troops held their position and drove the Confederate troops back. Finally, the Confederates outflanked the Union line on its right, subjecting it to a severe cross fire which threw the men into confusion, and produced another retreat. See map entitled "Second Stage 1:00 PM".

2:00 PM: Nelson arrived on the battle field as the retreat from the second engagement was in progress. Nelson found the Union command in a disorganized retreat or rather a rout (Nelson, Official Records: 908).

5:00 PM: Nelson tried to rally the men by moving them to a strong position on the south side of Richmond. The Federal line began on the east at the toll gate on Big Hill Road, stretched through Richmond Cemetery, and ended on the west at Lancaster Avenue (present day KY 52). Nelson intended to hold the Union troops in check until nightfall and then execute an orderly retreat to Lexington. After an hour's rest, Confederates attacked vigorously and simultaneously on the front and both flanks of the Federal line. The Confederates found the enemy densely massed along the fences, corn fields, and behind hay stacks and tombstones. The Federal troops stood for 30 minutes or three volleys. "Struck by panic, they fled in utter disorder" and were pursued by the Confederates through the streets of Richmond. In their flight the Federal soldiers encountered Col. Scott's Confederate cavalry at the rear of the Federal line (Nelson, Official Records; 909). See map entitled "Last Stage 5:00 PM".

Manson passed through Richmond and organized a rear guard composed of the Sixty-Sixth Indiana to cover the Federal retreat. The Union rear guard was able to keep back the enemy's advance until the Federal troops had travelled two miles north on the Lexington turnpike. The Federal retreat came to a halt when faced with a small squad of Confederate cavalry. Manson rallied his men and drove the Confederates from their position. Four miles north of Richmond, Manson and his men encountered the enemy in heavy force on the corn field on the left side of the road. In the attempt to drive the Confederates from the area, the retreating Union band had

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17 men killed and 25 wounded. Confederates killed or wounded large number of horses which served to block the road (Manson, Official Records: 914).

7:00 PM: Manson and several other officers rode through enemy lines in westerly direction for half mile until they came upon a squadron of Confederate cavalry who commanded them to halt and fired at same time. Manson's horse was killed and fell on him. Manson suffered a severe chest injury and was arrested a short time later.

Col. Scott and First Louisiana Cavalry, having been sent earlier in the day by Kirby Smith to the west side of Richmond, took possession of the Lancaster Road, Lexington Road, and the area between the tow roads. Scott's cavalry was able to "greatly increase the fruits of the hard labors of the day" which would total 5,000 Federal prisoners, nine pieces of artillery, a number of wagons, 10,000 small arms, and large quantities of supplies (K. Smith, Official Records: 935).

#### V. Conclusion

August 31, 1862

Smith allowed his men to rest in Richmond (K. Smith, Official Records: 933).

September 1, 1862

Smith pushed towards Lexington (K. Smith, Official Records: 933).

September 2, 1862

Kirby Smith's infantry entered Lexington and sent cavalry to pursue the Federal troops on Frankfort Road. Smith reported that it would impossible to exaggerate the enthusiasm of the people of Kentucky upon the entry of his troops. "They evidently regard us as their deliverers from oppression and have continued in every way to prove to us that the heart of Kentucky is with us in this struggle." Smith also reported that calvary pursued some federals within 12 miles of Louisville. Smith sent forces in the direction of Cincinnati to give the people of Kentucky time to organize (K. Smith, Official Records: 933).

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September 3, 1862

With Smith's capture of Frankfort, the Federal forces were pushed back to Ohio River and the takeover of Covington, Louisville, and Cincinnati seemed imminent. Smith did not press his advantage, however, but scattered his troops to the towns around Lexington while he awaited the arrival of Bragg. Bragg's forces had left Chattanooga on August 28th were moving slowly through Tennessee to replenish supply trains.

September 15, 1862

Bragg captured Munfordville and was astride Buell's line of communication. Bragg could have forced decisive battle with Buell, but decided to continue north. Bragg chose to avoid battle and move into the fertile Bluegrass region where he could get recruits and supplies.

September 20, 1862

Bragg reached Bardstown and was ready to rejoin Smith for an assault on Louisville. He turned over the command of the army to Polk and went to Harrodsburg to establish supply depot. From Harrodsburg he went to Lexington to confer with Kirby Smith.

September 25, 1862

Buell arrived in Louisville. There he had access to reinforcements and supplies via the Ohio River. Buell wished to force Bragg out of the Lexington area to relieve pressure on the Union supply depots in Louisville and Cincinnati. By the first of October, Buell had directed the main branch of his troops to Lexington via Bardstown and Lebanon.

Bragg's troops assisted in the inauguration of Confederate governor to rally potential Kentucky recruits. The ceremonies were curtailed abruptly when advance Union troops were sighted near Frankfort.

Bragg retreated to Harrodsburg to secure the Dix and Kentucky River valleys for his retreat to the south. In moving towards Perryville, Bragg moved closer to Buell's position. The summer drought drew both armies to the water in the Salt River.



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October 8, 1862

Union and Confederate forces encountered one another in the Chaplin Hills along the Salt River west of Perryville and four-hour fight ensued. By nightfall, the Federal troops had lost 4,211 men from a force of 22,000 and the Confederate army had lost 3,396 of 16,000. Bragg realized that he was outnumbered and would be overrun in the subsequent assault the next day. At midnight he pulled his troops back for a retreat through the Cumberland Gap towards Chattanooga.

**VI. Summary**

After Perryville, with the exception of John Hunt Morgan's raids, and scattered guerilla fighting, the chapter on military activities in Kentucky during the Civil war was finished. As a result of the Kentucky campaign, Buell was deprived of his command for not having defeated Bragg. Buell's strategies and tactics were the subject of a congressional investigation and inquiry by military commission. Bragg was censured for his failure to destroy Buell. Both armies failed to concentrate resources and attack.

In writing an account of the campaign, Joseph Wheeler concluded that the Confederacy reaped great benefits. Two months of marches and battle by the armies of Bragg and Smith cost the Union a total of 25,530 casualties in the number of soldiers killed, wounded, and captured. The Confederate troops also captured 35 cannon, 16,000 stand of arms, millions of rounds of ammunition, 1700 mules, 300 wagons loaded with military stores, and 2000 horses (Wheeler, 1888: 25).

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 214 acres

UTM References

Richmond South

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
<u>A</u>	16	741000	4173100
<u>D</u>	16	<sup>741000</sup> 741000	4170760
<u>E</u>	16	742400	4175520
<u>F</u>	16	741620	4175520
<u>G</u>	16	741640	4174020
<u>H</u>	16	742460	4174060

Moberly, Ky.

<u>B</u>	16	744000	4173100
<u>C</u>	16	744000	4170820

Verbal Boundary Description

See Property Map.

Boundary Justification

The first two stages of the Battle of Richmond were fought in two locations along Kingston Road (US 421) in the vicinity of the Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot. The battlefield is generally defined by the bluffs along the west side of Mound Branch to the west, Crooksville Road to the south, the developed area of the Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot to the east, and developed areas to the north. There are four extant structures from the Civil War era within the battlefield area. All but one of the structures dating

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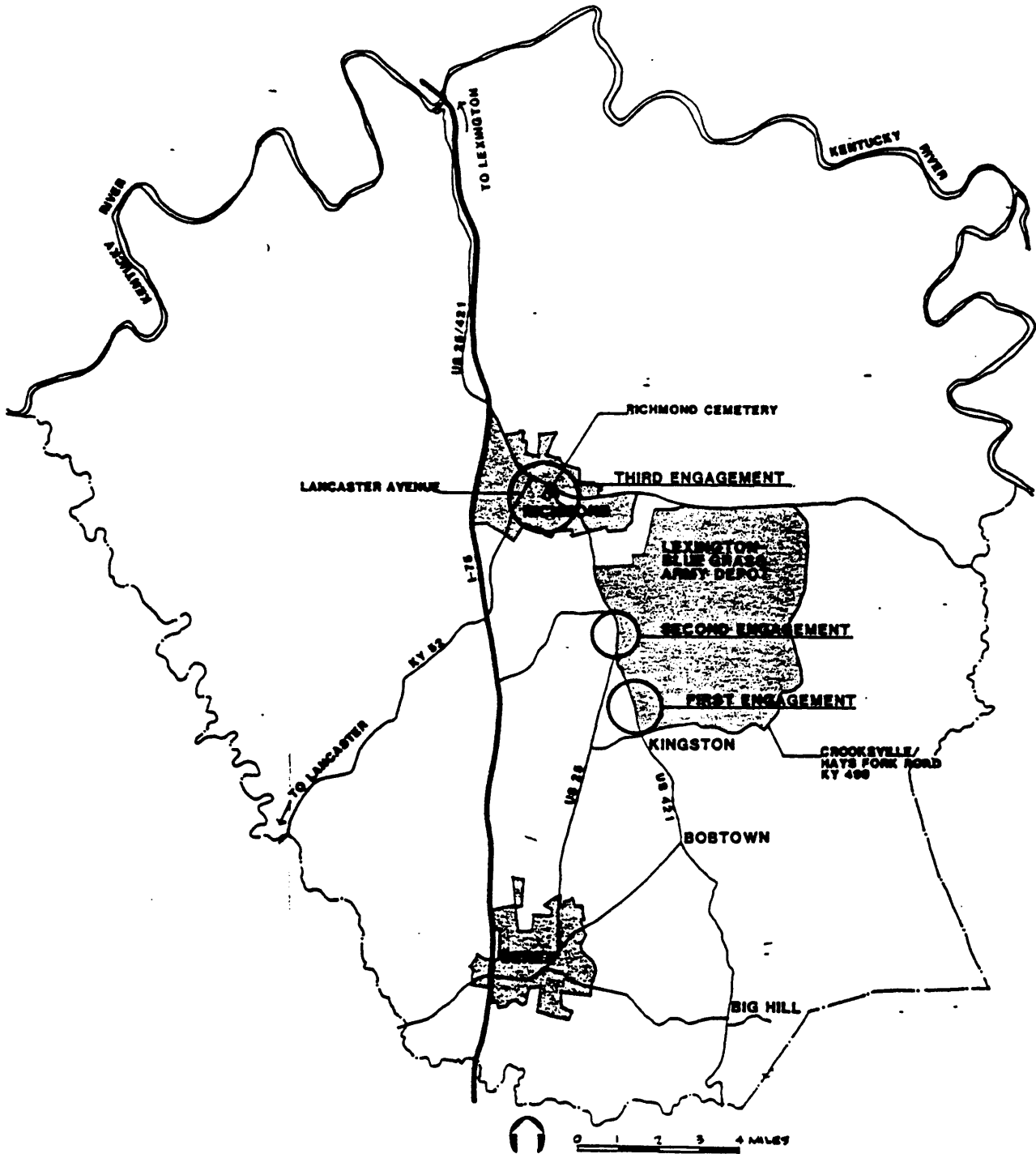
removed during the development of the army depot in the 1940s. The west side of US 421 has continued to be used for agriculture as it was in 1862.

Most of the non-contributing elements within the boundary are modern barns and agricultural outbuildings. This kind of non-contributing elements do not pose a problem to the battlefield's integrity. According to National Register Bulletin 40: Evaluating and Documenting America's Historic Battlefields, modern non-contributing elements which reflect the traditional use of the land, do not destroy the battlefield's integrity. The modern agricultural buildings enable the area to retain its rural or agricultural identity for the period of significance.

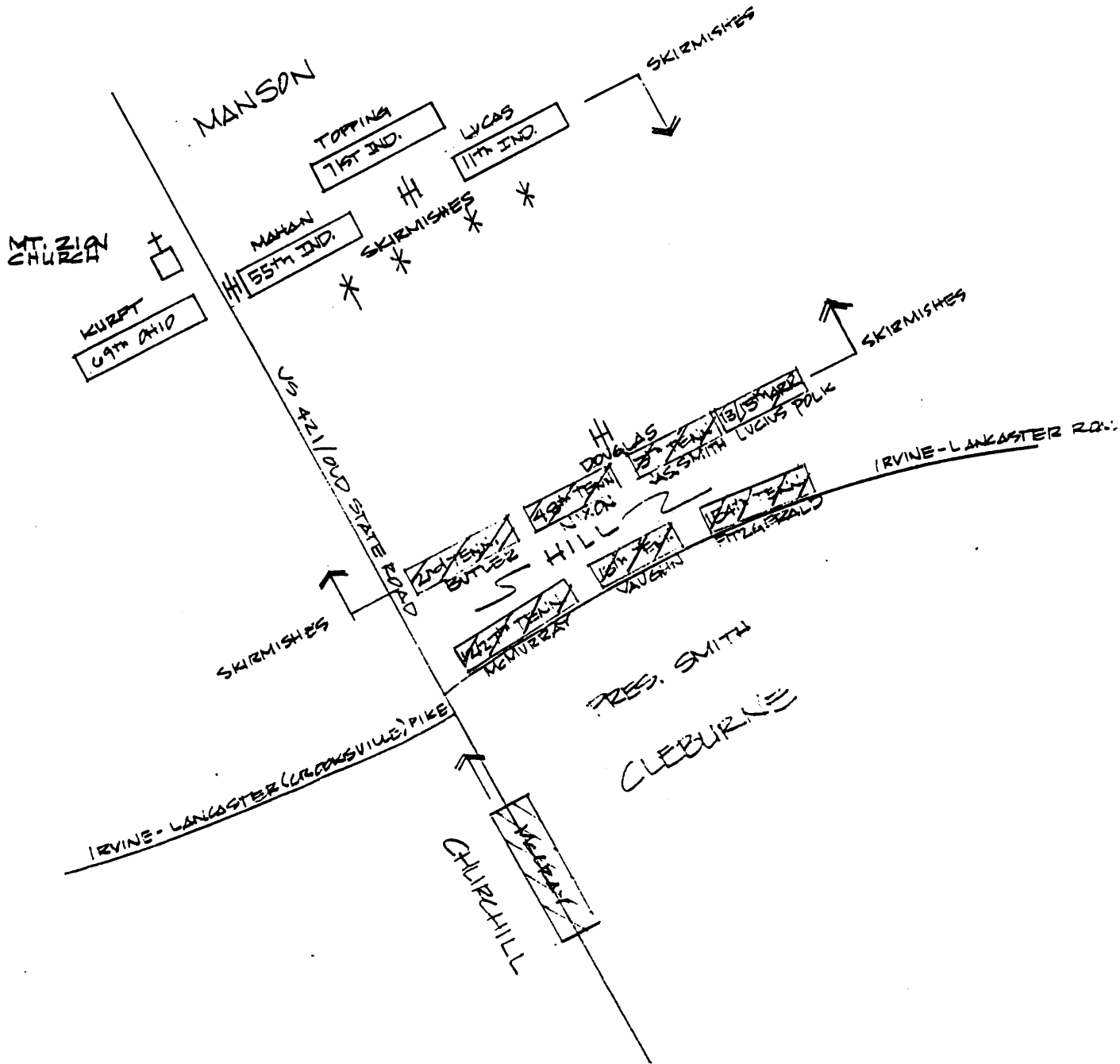
The other non-contributing elements are related to the Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot. Most of the major development for the depot has occurred on the plateau east of the area involved in the battle.

BATTLE OF RICHMOND HISTORIC AREAS  
RICHMOND-MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY  
SPRING 1994

MAP # 1



SOURCE: DR. D. WARREN LAMPERT  
 OBERLIN COLLEGE



**BATTLE OF RICHMOND, MADISON CO., KY.**

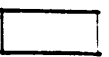
**SITUATION  
 8:00 AM  
 AUG. 30, 1862**



NOT TO SCALE

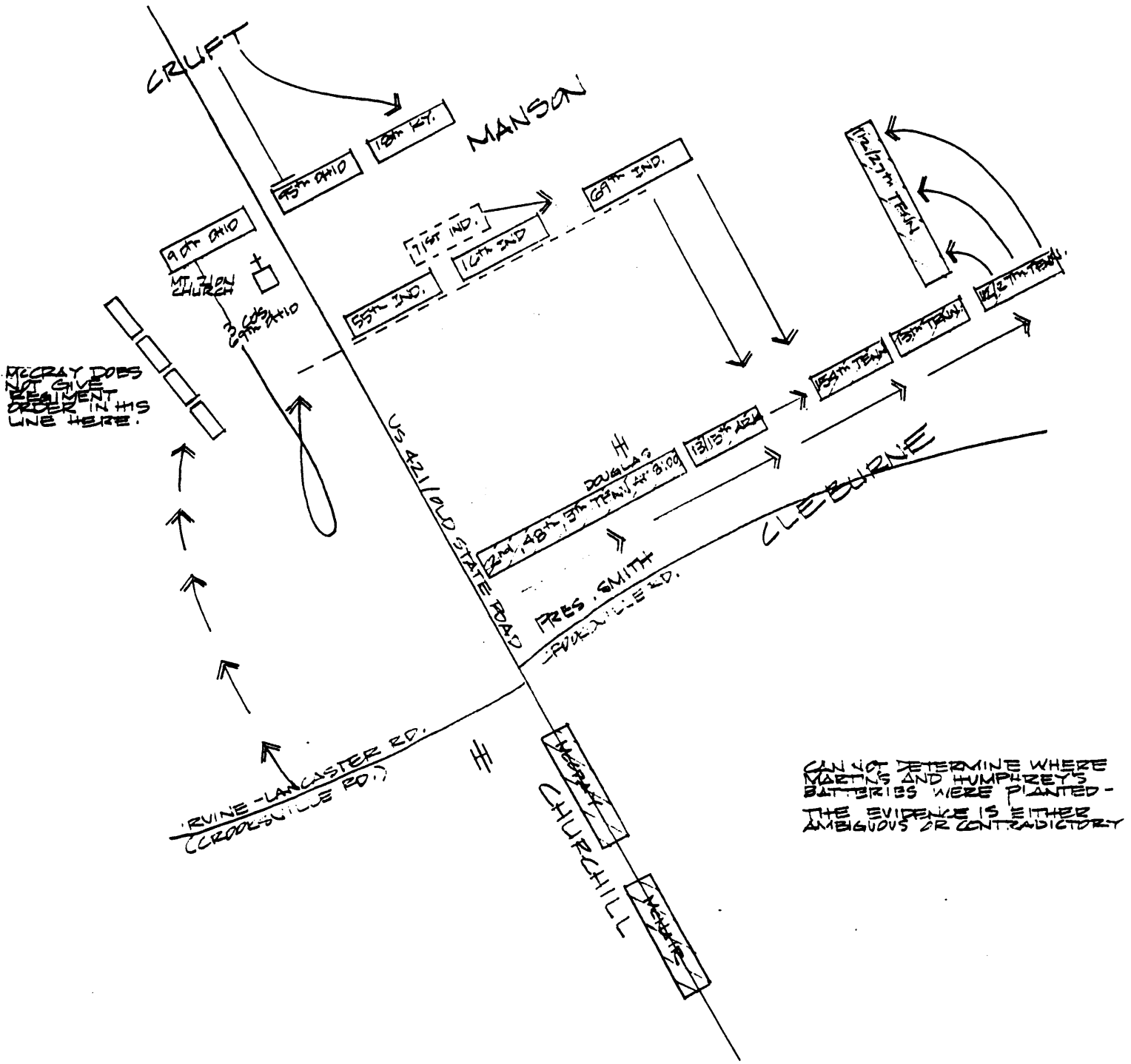


CONFEDERATE



UNION

SOURCE: DR. D. WARREN LAMBERT  
BEREA COLLEGE



**BATTLE OF RICHMOND, MADISON CO., KY.**

**SITUATION  
10:00 - 10:30**

**AUGUST 30, 1862**

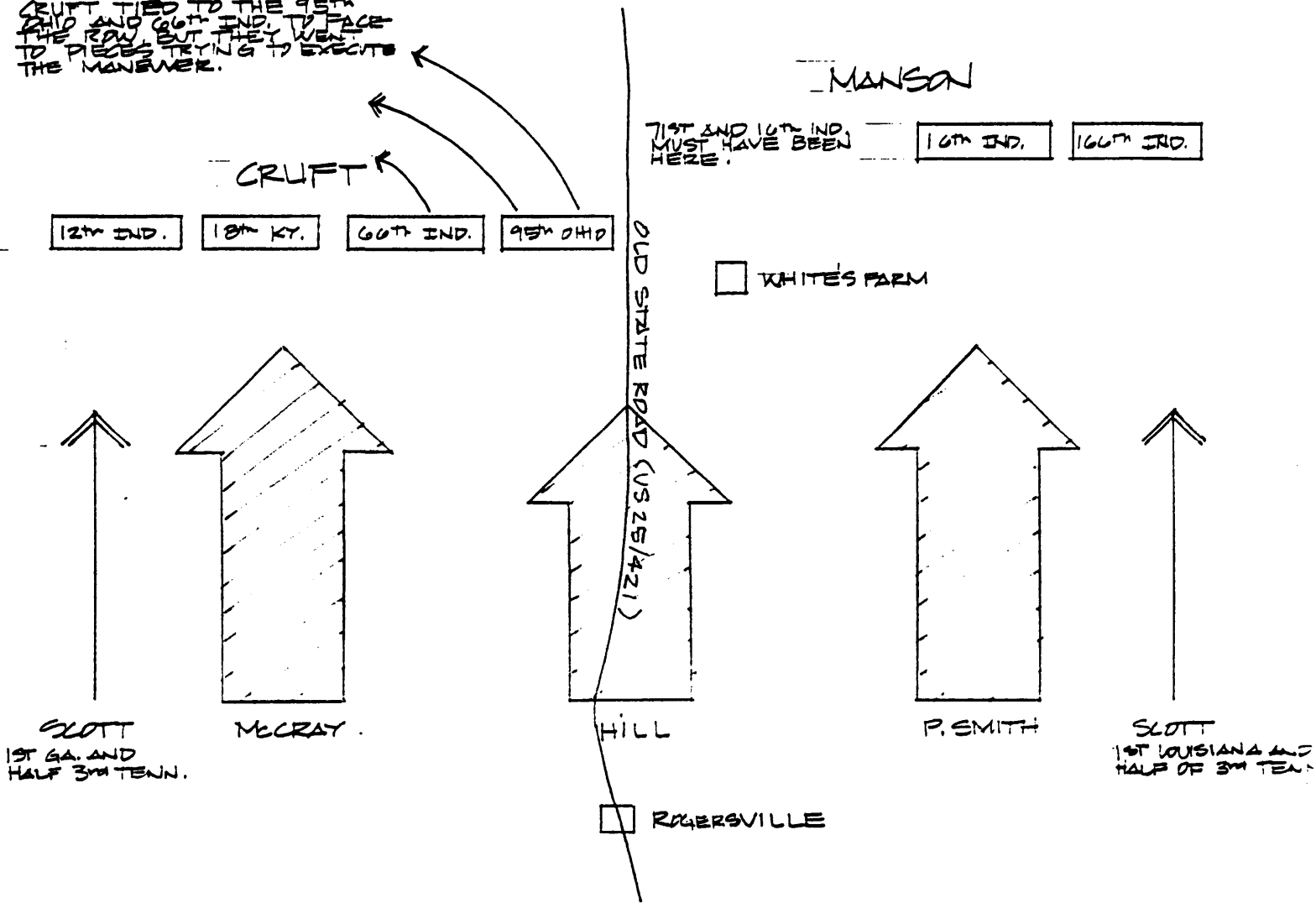
↑  
NOT TO SCALE

▨ CONFEDERATE  
□ UNION



AFTER THE UNION LINES BROKE HERE SCOTT STARTED HIS RIDE WEST AND NORTH OF RICHMOND.

CRUFT TIED TO THE 95TH OHIO AND 60TH IND. TO FACE THE ROAD BUT THEY WENT TO PIECES TRYING TO EXECUTE THE MANEUVER.



# BATTLE OF RICHMOND, MADISON CO., KY.


## SECOND STAGE

1:00 PM

AUGUST 30, 1862

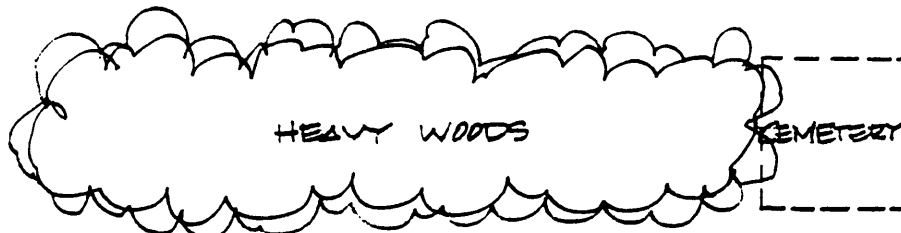
 CONFEDERATE  
 UNION

SOURCE: DR. D. WARREN LAURE  
BEREA COLLEGE

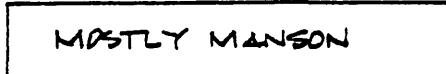
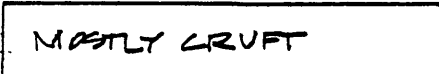
  
 NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE: DR. J. WARREN LAMBERT  
BEREA COLLEGE

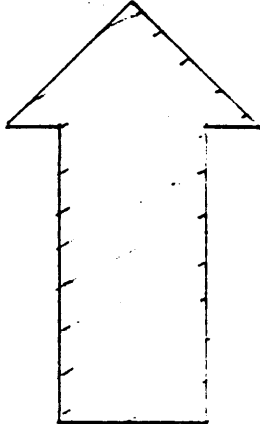
(CRANKSVILLE ROAD  
(LANCASTER PIKE))



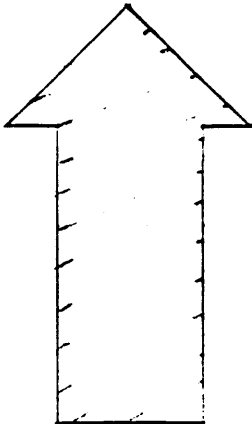
NELSON



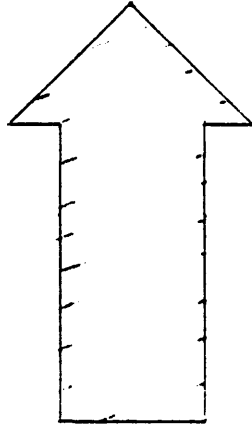
2200, LITTLE ORGANIZATION ABOVE COMPANY  
OR REGIMENT



MENAIR



HILL



P. SMITH

McCORMY HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO FALL BACK BECAUSE  
HIS BRIGADE WAS EXHAUSTED, AND MENAIR TOOK  
HIS PLACE ON THE CONFEDERATE LEFT. SCOTT  
WAS ALREADY ON HIS WAY AROUND TOWN AND HAD  
NO PART IN THIS ACTION.

# BATTLE OF RICHMOND, MADISON CO., KY.

## LAST STAGE

### 5:00 PM

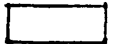
### AUGUST 30, 1862



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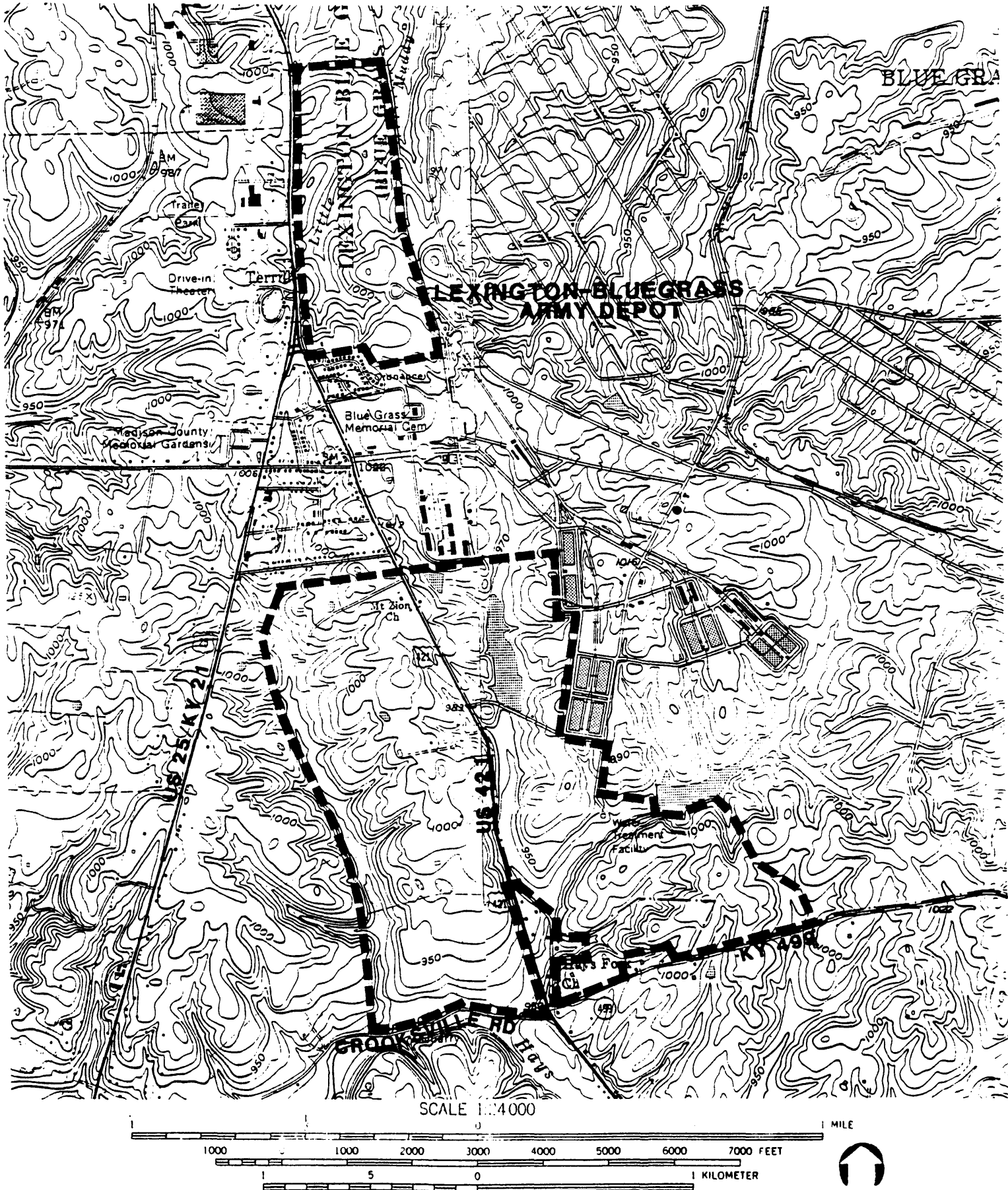
CONFEDERATE



UNION

BATTLE OF RICHMOND HISTORIC AREAS  
RICHMOND-MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY  
SPRING 1994

PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND LOCATION



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Battle of Richmond Historic Areas  
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Section number Photos Page 1

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PHOTO #: 1

GROUP NOMINATION: BATTLE OF RICHMOND HISTORIC AREAS

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: MT. ZION CHURCH (MA-93) LOOKING NORTH  
WEST

PHOTO #: 2

GROUP NOMINATION: BATTLE OF RICHMOND HISTORIC AREAS

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: WEST SIDE OF KINGSTON ROAD, US 421 LOOKING WEST  
TOWARDS MOUND BRANCH

PHOTO #: 3

GROUP NOMINATION: BATTLE OF RICHMOND HISTORIC AREAS

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: MOUND BRANCH LOOKING NORTH FROM CROOKSVILLE ROAD

PHOTO #: 4

GROUP NOMINATION: BATTLE OF RICHMOND HISTORIC AREAS

PHOTOGRAPHER: H. POWELL

NEGATIVE LOCATION: KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

VIEW OR ELEVATION: LOOKING SOUTH DOWN KINGSTON ROAD (US 421)  
TOWARDS BIG HILL