

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 23 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fort Heiman Site

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

off Fort Heiman Road

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1.6 miles southeast of New Concord

VICINITY OF

01

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Calloway

035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Albert Winn Jackson

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 4

CITY, TOWN

Paris

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calloway County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Murray

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

1975

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission, 104 Bridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Heiman is situated on a bluff on the west bank of what was formerly the Tennessee River (now Kentucky Lake which was formed in 1944 by the T.V.A.'s construction of Kentucky Dam near Gilbertsville, Kentucky). Located in the extreme southeastern corner of Calloway County and bounded by Tennessee on the south and east, the fort was constructed on the heights that stood opposite Fort Henry. (Fort Henry, constructed on the low land on the east bank of the river, was also inundated with the damming of the river in 1944.)

The fort is actually on a high, narrow plateau that juts out into the lake and is surrounded by water on three sides. The north, south, and east boundaries are formed by cliffs. On the west side there is evidence of an old sunken road leading from the water's edge to a road on the ridge that connects the peninsula to the mainland. Deep earthworks, now overgrown, remain along the land side or the northeast perimeter. ( See photos 1, 2, & 8.)

During the Civil War a cemetery was located on the brow of the southern tip. Adjoining the cemetery to the north are two rectangular pastures or clearings. In one of the clearings a log house was built by the owner of the property around 1930 ( see photo 9).

The original channel of the Tennessee River (indicated on the U.S.G.S. map) was such that as boats approached the fort from the north they turned directly toward the fort and then ran parallel to it. Thus, Fort Heiman was a natural fortress from which to defend Fort Henry and to monitor traffic on the Tennessee River. ( See photo 7.)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lieut. Dixon, Engineer in the C.S.A.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of Fort Heiman, located on a bluff on the west bank of the Tennessee River at the Kentucky-Tennessee State line, was begun by the Confederate army in January 1862, but the fortification fell into Union hands on February 6, 1862, before it was completed. The fort was established to defend Fort Henry (listed on the National Register, November 1975), which was located on the low terrain on the opposite bank; the heights of Fort Heiman were thus essential for the protection of Fort Henry. As a result of the fall of the Confederate Forts Henry and Heiman, a third Confederate post, Fort Donelson (located twelve miles east of Fort Henry on the Cumberland River) became vulnerable to attack, and was captured ten days after the fall of Forts Henry and Heiman. Consequently the Union troops gained control of the strategic Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and access to Middle Tennessee. Fort Heiman remained in Union hands until the end of the war except for a brief period in October 1864 when General Nathan B. Forrest occupied the site. Mounting guns on its heights, Forrest destroyed the large transport, "Mazeppa," and captured two Federal gunboats which he used successfully on November 3, 1864 in destroying large Federal stockpiles in Johnsonville, Tennessee, which were needed for General Sherman's troops in their march to the sea. Of the three related fortifications, only Fort Heiman is located in Kentucky.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the Confederate States constructed forts on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers in order to protect the South from invasion. Fort Henry was built on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland, both rivers flowing northward from Tennessee through Kentucky to the Ohio River. These forts, commanded by Major-General Lloyd Tilghman, gave the Confederates control over two of the major water routes into the southern states, and protected the strategic industrial and railroad centers of Nashville and Memphis from Federal attack.

The construction of Fort Heiman was begun in January 1862 after the low-lying works of Fort Henry were found to be inadequate. The fortification of Forts Henry and Heiman were described by Lieut. Col. J. F. Gilman, CSA army, Chief Engineer, in his report on the defense of Fort Henry upon his January 1862 inspection:

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. Vol. I, IV, 1884. New York: The Century Co.  
Bearss, Edwin O. The Fall of Fort Henry. Dover, Tennessee: Eastern National Park and Monument Association, 1963.  
Pryor, General J.E. Campaigns of Lieut. General N.B. Forrest and of Forrest's Cavalry. Cincinnati: J. P. Miller and Co., 1868.

(continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	40,544,0	4,039,970	B	16	40,561,0	4,039,850
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	16	40,528,0	4,039,440	D	16	40,519,0	4,039,500
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Cronan, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/11/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/12/96

ATTEST:

DATE

12/6/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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In addition to placing the main work in good defensive order I found that extensive lines of infantry cover had been thrown up by the troops forming the garrison, with a view to hold commanding ground that would be dangerous to the fort if possessed by the enemy. These lines and the main work were on the right hand [east side] of the river and arranged with good defensive relations, making the place capable of offering strong resistance against a land attack coming from the eastward [i. e., the site of Fort Henry]. On the left bank of the river [the site of Fort Heiman] there was a number of hills within cannon range that commanded the river batteries on the right bank. The necessity of occupying these hills was apparent to me at the time I inspected Fort Henry early in November last, and on the 21st of that month Lieutenant Dixon, the local engineer, was ordered from Fort Donelson to Fort Henry to make the necessary surveys and construct the additional works. He was at the same time informed that a large force of slaves with troops to protect them, from Alabama, would report to him for the work, which was to be pushed to completion as early as possible.

The surveys were made by the engineer and plans decided upon without delay; but by some unforeseen cause the negroes were not sent until after the 1st of January last. Much valuable time was thus lost, but under your urgent orders, when informed of the delay, General Tilghman and his engineers pressed these defenses forward so rapidly, night and day, that when I reached the fort (January 31 last) they were far advanced, requiring only a few days' additional labor to put them in a state of defense. But no guns had been received that could be put in these works except a few field pieces; and, notwithstanding every effort had been made to procure them from Richmond, Memphis, and other points, it was apprehended they would not arrive in time to anticipate the attack of the enemy, which, from the full information obtained by General Tilghman, was threatened at an early day either at Fort Henry or Fort Donelson, or possibly on both at the same time. The lines of infantry cover, however, which had been thrown up were capable of making a strong resistance, even without the desired artillery, should the attack be made on that (the left) bank of the river.... Impressed with the great deficiency in the preparations for defending the passage of the river at Fort Henry, the commanding officer expressed to me his fears that it might cause disaster if the place were vigorously attacked by the enemy's gunboats. This he thought his greatest danger. (Official Records (1882) p. 132)

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Major General Tilghman's fears of a Federal gunboat attack were well founded. In the first week of February (1862), the Federal Flag Officer, Andrew Foote, concentrated his flotilla of gunboats on the mouth of the Tennessee River at Paducah. Joined with troops under Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant, the flotilla cautiously headed up the river to Fort Henry. The exact site of the fort was ascertained and troops deployed around it on the east bank as well as the west bank approaching the heights of Fort Heiman.

At this time, on February 4, Fort Henry was held by 1,885 Confederates under the command of Colonel A. Heiman. The Tennessee River, swollen from winter rains, flooded the lower magazine of the fort. Across the river on the heights, the incomplete Fort Heiman was occupied by 1,100 troops supported by a small section of artillery. By the morning of February 5, the Confederate forces were well aware of the presence of the Union troops. Colonel Heiman's report of the battle in the Official Records (1882) gives the following account:

I was satisfied that we could not hold the heights opposite the fort [the site of Fort Heiman], and that it would be prudent to move the forces from there to Fort Henry, but did not like to take the responsibility without the order of General Tilghman, as previous order from you [Gen. Tilghman] stated positively that these heights must be held. However, these troops were held in readiness to move at a moments warning.... At daylight on the morning of the 5th General Tilghman directed the removal of troops from Heiman to Fort Henry, with the exception of the Cavalry (p. 150).

General Tilghman removed the troops from Fort Heiman fully realizing that it commanded Fort Henry. He believed that the poor condition of the roads would prevent the Union forces from placing their heavy guns in the fort.

On the morning of February 6th, Lieut. Col. M. Haynes, Tilghman's chief of artillery, arrived at Fort Henry from Fort Donelson and convinced Tilghman that Fort Henry was untenable since it was surrounded by water and could not be supported by infantry, and that the size of the Confederate forces was too small to contend with the enemy. He urged Tilghman to abandon the site. Tilghman agreed and evacuated all the troops to Fort Donelson with the exception of one battery which stayed behind to delay the Union advance and to cover the retreat.

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The Federal gunboats opened the attack on Fort Henry in the afternoon of the 6th. At the same time the Union troops closed in from the northeast and on the west bank on Fort Heiman. After a futile stand, lasting an hour and a half, Tilghman surrendered the fort. By the close of the 6th, Union troops occupied both Forts Henry and Heiman. Having captured Fort Henry there was nothing preventing Gen. Grant and his army from marching on to Fort Donelson. On February 16, 1862, Fort Donelson was captured by Grant after several days of desperate fighting. The defeat of Fort Donelson marked a turning point in the war in the West: the Confederates were forced to evacuate Southern Kentucky, and all of Middle and West Tennessee. Invaluable supply lines to the lower South had been severed.

After its capture Fort Heiman was occupied by Union cavalry under Col. W.W. Lowe, which was occasionally called upon to support the troops at Fort Donelson. In March 1863 Lowe was ordered to abandon the fort.

By late 1864 the Union forces had established large stockpiles at Johnsonville, Tennessee (30 miles south of Fort Heiman), where supplies were brought in by boat and then transferred to trains speeding them to the lower South to supply General Sherman. General N.B. Forrest (1821-1877) a Confederate cavalry officer, saw the opportunity to stop the river traffic and destroy the supplies. In October 1864 General Forrest's troops occupied the deserted Fort Heiman and stationed their artillery overlooking the river. When the supply-laden steamer, the "Mazeppa," passed the fort going up the river to Johnsonville, the artillery fired, destroying the steamer. The Confederates also captured two Union gunboats from the heights of Fort Heiman. The gunboats were salvaged and manned by Forrest's troops. The Confederates took them up stream in order to join in the attack on Johnsonville. Together with land forces and the gunboats, the Confederates destroyed Johnsonville and the supplies on November 6, 1864, thus cutting off the Union supplies to the lower South.

Although Fort Heiman was never completed, it played a crucial role in the river battles on the western front of the Civil War. The fort remains today as it was during the brief time it served as a Civil War fort, guarding the Tennessee River (now transformed into Kentucky Lake by a Tennessee Valley Authority project). Because of the unspoiled condition of Fort Heiman, there is great potential for restoration of the site as an excellent example of a Civil War fort. (A similar restoration project has been completed at Fort Donelson.)

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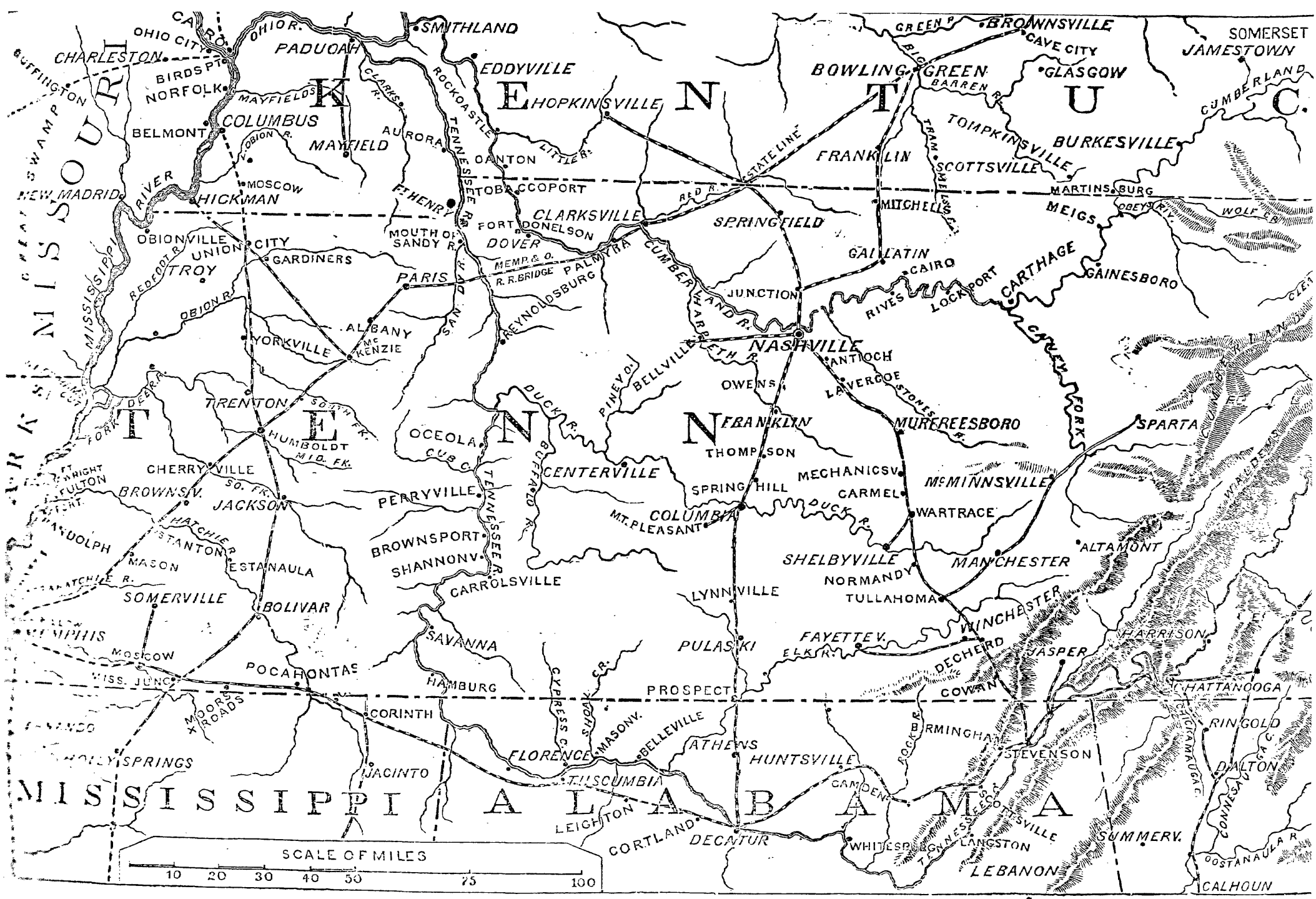
PAGE 2

The War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I.  
Vol. VII, Vol. LL. Washington D.C. :Government Printing Office, 1882.

Harper's Weekly: A Journal of Civilization. February 22, 1862.

Nashville Banner (Nashville), June 24, 1959.





MAP OF THE THEATRE OF THE WAR IN WESTERN TENNESSEE.