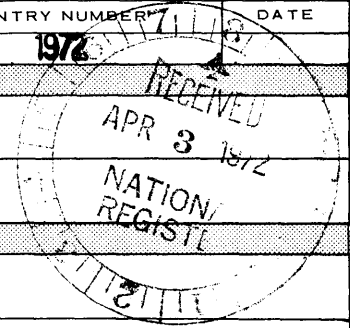


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Claiborne
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 3 1972
DATE: APR 3 1972



1. NAME
COMMON: Port Gibson Battlefield
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 4 miles west of Port Gibson
CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson
STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39150 COUNTY: Claiborne CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted * <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No *During hunting season
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Hunting Clubs

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple ownership
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chancery Clerk's Office, Claiborne County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39150
COUNTY: Claiborne CODE: 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Natchez Trace Parkway Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service
STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Claiborne
ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 3 1972
DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Port Gibson battlefield has changed little since May of 1863. The ravines are still filled with vines and immense canebrakes, and the ridges are as steep-sided as when the Federal troops tried to scale them. The deep road beds have not changed over the years, and relics of the battle are still occasionally found on their surfaces. Bridges have been added where once streams had to be forded.

The Shaifer house is still in use, serving as the clubhouse of the Shaifer Hunting Club. It is a two-story frame structure made almost entirely of cypress, with walls showing scars from missiles fired during the battle. Magnolia Church, where the Confederates placed their first line of defense, is no longer standing. Only its brick foundation and the cistern remain.

The Port Gibson battlefield is one of the Civil War sites in Mississippi that has remained virtually unchanged, since the terrain over which the battle was fought has been little affected by subsequent growth and development.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

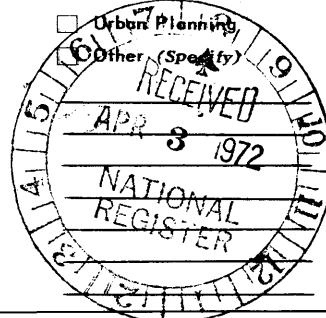
May 1-2, 1863

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape

Architecture

☐ Literature☒ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Four miles west of the town of Port Gibson, Mississippi, on May 1, 1863, the first shots of the battle of Port Gibson were fired, opening an engagement that lasted for eighteen hours. In this hard fought battle, 8,000 Confederates, led by Brigadier General John S. Bowen, fought a holding action against the Federal forces under the command of Major General Ulysses S. Grant, who had 24,000 men supported by sixty field guns. Grant had made a forced march south on the Louisiana side and had succeeded in crossing the Mississippi River at Bruinsburg in the largest amphibious landing prior to World War II. Once ashore the Federals marched rapidly eastward in an attempt to reach the high bluffs ahead of the Confederate Army of Tennessee.

Bowen had repeatedly warned Major General John C. Pemberton, commander of the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana, of the Federals' push south of Vicksburg, but his words had fallen on deaf ears. Pemberton had been thoroughly confused by Major General William T. Sherman's feint north of Vicksburg at Haynes' Bluff. The Confederate Commander had also sent his cavalry after Colonel Benjamin Grierson's Federal cavalry, which was raiding through the center of the state. If Bowen had been properly reinforced by troops from Vicksburg, the Battle of Port Gibson may have had a different outcome.

Two brigades, those of Brigadier General Edward D. Tracy, who was to die early in the action, and Brigadier General William E. Baldwin, made a forced march from Vicksburg to reinforce Bowen, but were exhausted from the forty-four mile march that required twenty-seven hours. It was a case of too little, too late, for Grant had gained his beachhead and was moving rapidly inland. Bowen had posted Brigadier General Martin E. Green's brigade along a north-south ridge across the southerly road running from Port Gibson to Rodney by way of the A. K. Shaifer house and Magnolia Church. The center of Green's brigade was at Magnolia Church. Tracy's brigade was to guard the Bruinsburg Road approximately 1,000 yards to the north of the southerly road and behind the Shaifer house. /

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Catton, Bruce. Grant Moves South. Boston, Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, Inc., 1960. Pp. 424-429.
 Editors of Civil War Times Illustrated. Struggle for Vicksburg, the battles and siege that decided the Civil War. Harrisburg, Pa.,: Stackpole Books, 1967. Pp. 14-18.
 Green, Francis Vinton. Campaigns of the Civil War; The Mississippi. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1882. Pp. 138-139.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
	31°	58'	00"	91°	02'	15"			
NE	31°	58'	00"	91°	00'	35"			
SE	31°	56'	24"	91°	00'	35"			
SW	31°	56'	24"	91°	02'	15"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2,080

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William C. Wright, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: March 15, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name

R. A. McLemore

R. A. McLemore

Title

Director, Miss. Department of Archives and History

Date

March 15, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Gentry
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

11/3/72

ATTEST:

William C. Wright
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

11-1-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 3	1972

(Number all entries)

8.

Shortly after midnight, May 1, 1863, General Green rode forward from Magnolia Church to the Shaifer house to warn his pickets to be especially alert. While engaged in conversation with the ladies of the Shaifer household who were hurriedly loading a wagon with effects, Green told them that their haste was unnecessary since the Union forces could not possibly advance to that point before daylight. Green had hardly spoken when the Confederate pickets fired on the Federal vanguard. As the minie balls began to strike the house, Green's reassurances had little effect on the Shaifer ladies, who whipped their horses frantically down the road toward Port Gibson.

During the night, shots were exchanged but no major engagement was precipitated. Dawn revealed a very broken terrain to the troops of Brigadier General James A. Carr, senior Union commander of Major General John A. McClelland's XVIII Corps, on the field. The area was a maze of ridges, running in all directions and separated by steep-sided ravines filled with impenetrable growths of trees, vines and immense canebrakes.

Hoping to hold the Federal army until reinforcements under Major General William W. Loring could arrive from the Big Black River, the Confederates dug in along the Bruinsburg Road and the Magnolia Church ridge. Action commenced north of the Shaifer house and just south of the Bruinsburg Road when the Federals under Brigadier General Peter J. Osterhaus met Tracy's brigade of Confederates. Tracy was killed in the opening engagement and command fell upon Colonel Isham Garrott.

On the southerly road the brigades of Brigadier General William L. Benton and Colonel William M. Stone, supported by that of Brigadier General Alvin P. Hovey, fought the determined but much weaker Confederates of Green's brigade. Green held his line until around 10:00 a.m., when he was forced across Centers Creek to the high ground of the east bank. Green's withdrawal was covered by Baldwin's brigade just arriving from Vicksburg. Baldwin took over the defenses of the road while Green reorganized. Bowen then sent Green to the north flank to assist Garrott.

It is interesting to note that in his reports written immediately after the battle, General Hovey stated that his men were fighting against superior numbers. He did not know at the time that it was he who outnumbered the Confederates over three to one.

Bowen's fourth brigade, under Colonel Francis M. Cockrell, arrived from Grand Gulf about noon and was placed in line along Centers Creek to the left of Baldwin. As the Federal advance of

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 3 1972

(Number all entries)

8.

Hovey and Carr came under the fire of Baldwin's troops, a severe ninety minute fight ensued. Bowen then sent two of Cockrell's regiments to turn McClernand's right flank, and the Missourians overran Colonel James R. Slack's brigade, but they in turn came under the fire of Brigadier General Stephen G. Burbridge's brigade, which had been brought into the line. Cockrell's Missourians also were in the enfiladed fire of Hovey's field pieces.

By now Grant was sending brigade after brigade into the Federal lines. The right wing of the Confederate defenses began to fail, followed by the collapse of the rest of the line. Bowen retreated in good order, resisting until dark, when pursuit ended. Accompanied by three brigades, Bowen crossed Bayou Pierre. Baldwin's brigade withdrew through Port Gibson and across Little Bayou Pierre. The suspension bridges over these streams were burned by the Confederate rearguard.

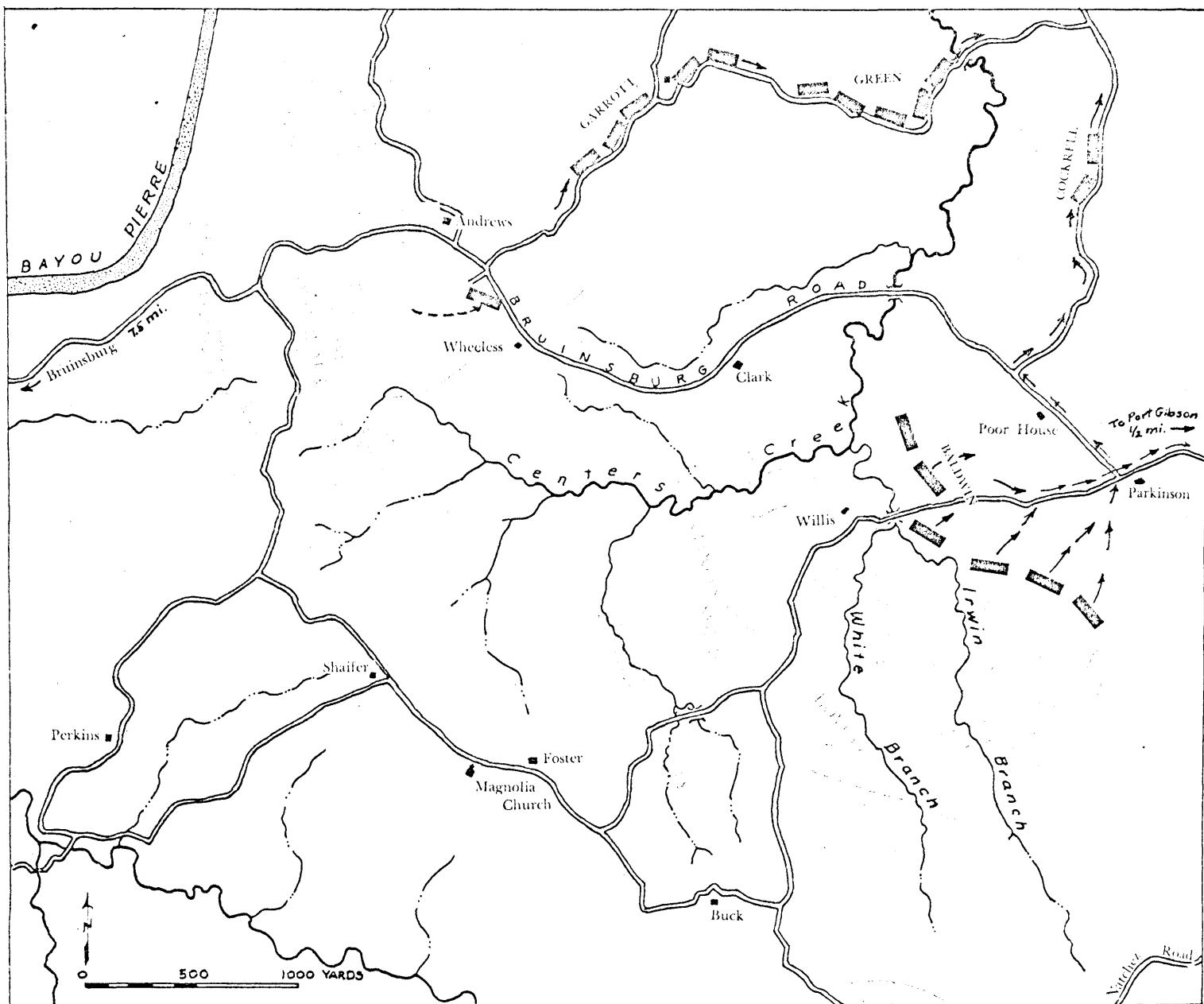
This Union victory at Port Gibson gave Grant the foothold on the Mississippi side of the river that terminated a year of failures and subsequently led to the capture of Vicksburg, his ultimate goal.

9.

The Port Gibson Reveille, Port Gibson, Mississippi. Civil War Centennial Edition, Thursday, May 2, 1963.

The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1889. Series I, Vol. XXIV, Part I. Pp. 6-690, passim.





Map 5. Battle of Port Gibson; action from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30. Grant had sent in Logan's division of McPherson's corps to strengthen McClelland's drive. A general attack spearheaded by John E. Smith's brigade started at 5 p.m. and resulted in the defeat of the Confederate right flank followed by the collapse of the rest of the line. Bowen retreated in good order, resisting until dark, when pursuit ended. Accompanied by three brigades, Bowen crossed Bayou Pierre near the railroad bridge; Baldwin's brigade withdrew through Port Gibson and across the Little Bayou Pierre. The bridges were burned by the Confederate rearguard.



Map 6. Battle of Raymond, May 12, 1863. The situation from noon to 1:30 p.m., showing the Confederate attack. On May 11 Pemberton concluded that Grant was merely feinting toward Jackson and that his main force would head for Big Black Bridge, east of Vicksburg. He wired General John Gregg, at Raymond, to strike the Yankees in flank and rear as soon as they turned north. W. H. T. Walker was directed to move his brigade from Jackson to help Gregg.

Early on the 12th, Gregg's scouts notified him that a small enemy force was marching up the Utica road. Thinking that this was the "feint" mentioned by Pemberton, Gregg at once moved his 3,000 men to crush or capture the Yankees. The latter actually were the advance elements of McPherson's corps, 10,000 strong.

Gregg deployed a regiment each on the Gallatin and Utica roads, holding back a strong reserve. He emplaced Bledsoe's 3-gun battery to cover the bridge over Fourteen Mile Creek, which at 10 a.m. opened fire on the Union vanguard as it moved down the road toward the creek.



Map from: Civil War Times Illustrated.
Struggle for Vicksburg, the
battles and siege that decided
the Civil War.

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

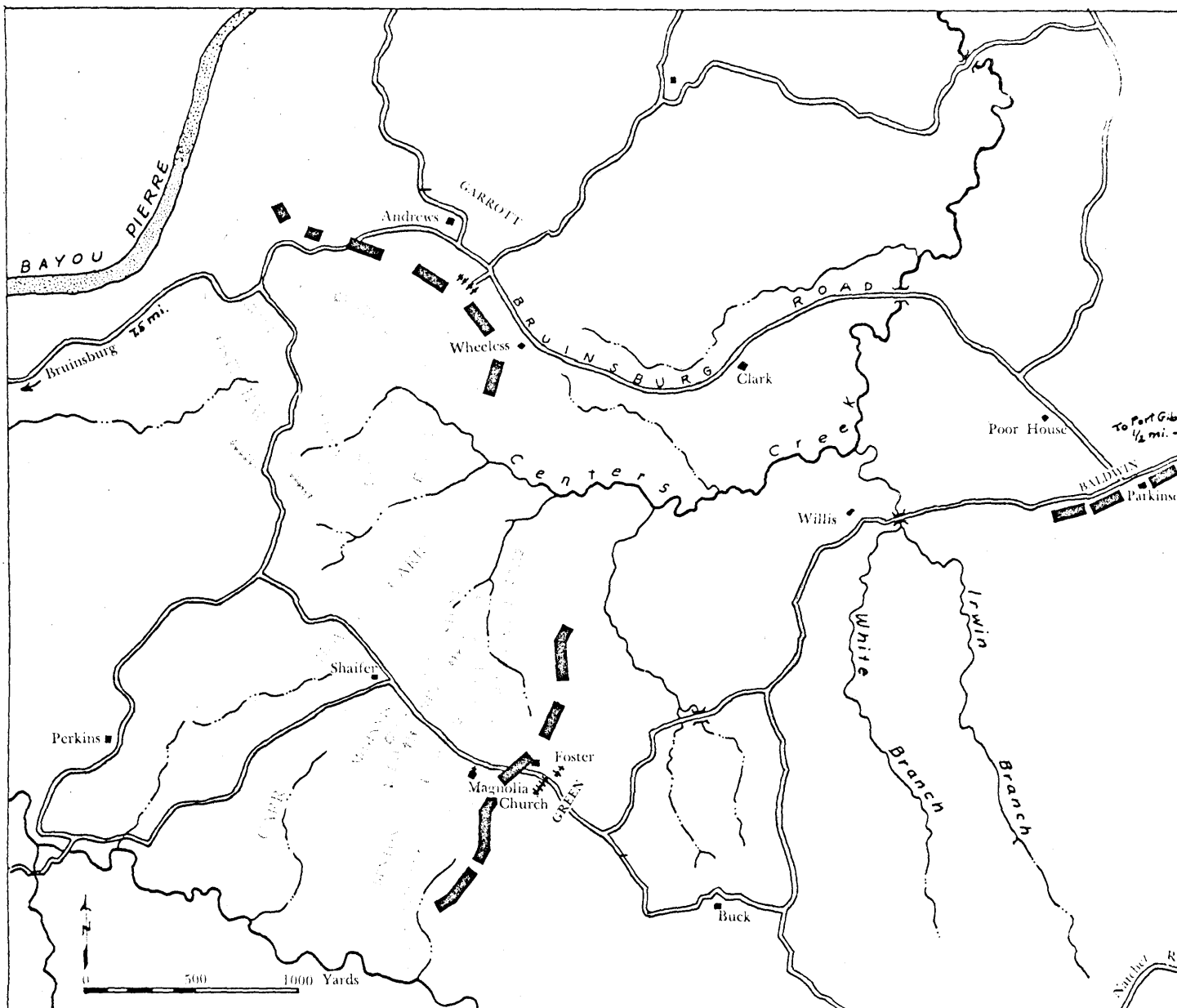
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Port Gibson Battlefield			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
4 miles west of Port Gibson, Mississippi			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Port Gibson			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	28	Claiborne	021
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: <u>Civil War Times Illustrated. Struggle for Vicksburg, the battles and siege that decided the Civil War.</u>			
SCALE: <u>1 3/8" = 1,000 yards (approximately)</u>			
DATE: <u>1967</u>			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



Map 3. Battle of Port Gibson, May 1, 1863—action from 8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. This map portrays McClernand's initial assault on Bowen's Confederates deployed across two roads three miles west of Port Gibson.

On the plantation road Osterhaus' division gained 400 yards against Tracy's Confederate brigade (Tracy's command had made a 44-mile forced march from Vicksburg, during which a number of his men had straggled), then was stopped by heavy fire and made no additional advance until late in the afternoon.

Tracy was killed early in the engagement, and Col. Isham Garrott assumed command of the brigade.

On the southerly road Benton's and Stone's brigades of Carr's division diverged into the ravines while advancing to attack Green's brigade of Bowen's division, thus leaving a gap in the center of Carr's line. McClernand shoved Hovey's division into this space, and his men worked forward through the tangle of canebrake until 10 a.m., when they assaulted. After a desperate struggle, Green fell back across Centers Creek.

Map from: Civil War Times Illustrated. Struggle for Vicksburg, the battles and siege that decided the Civil War



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

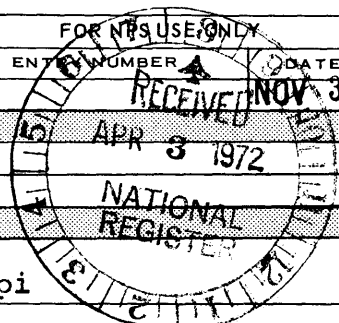
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Mississippi
COUNTY	Claiborne
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
4	NOV 3 1972

1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Port Gibson Battlefield			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
4 miles west of Port Gibson, Mississippi			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Port Gibson			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	28	Claiborne	021
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Civil War Times Illustrated. Struggle for Vicksburg, the battles and siege that decided the Civil War.			
SCALE: 1 3/8" = 1,000 yards (approximately)			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

Map from: Civil War Times Illustrated. Struggle for Vicksburg,
the battles and siege that decided the Civil War.

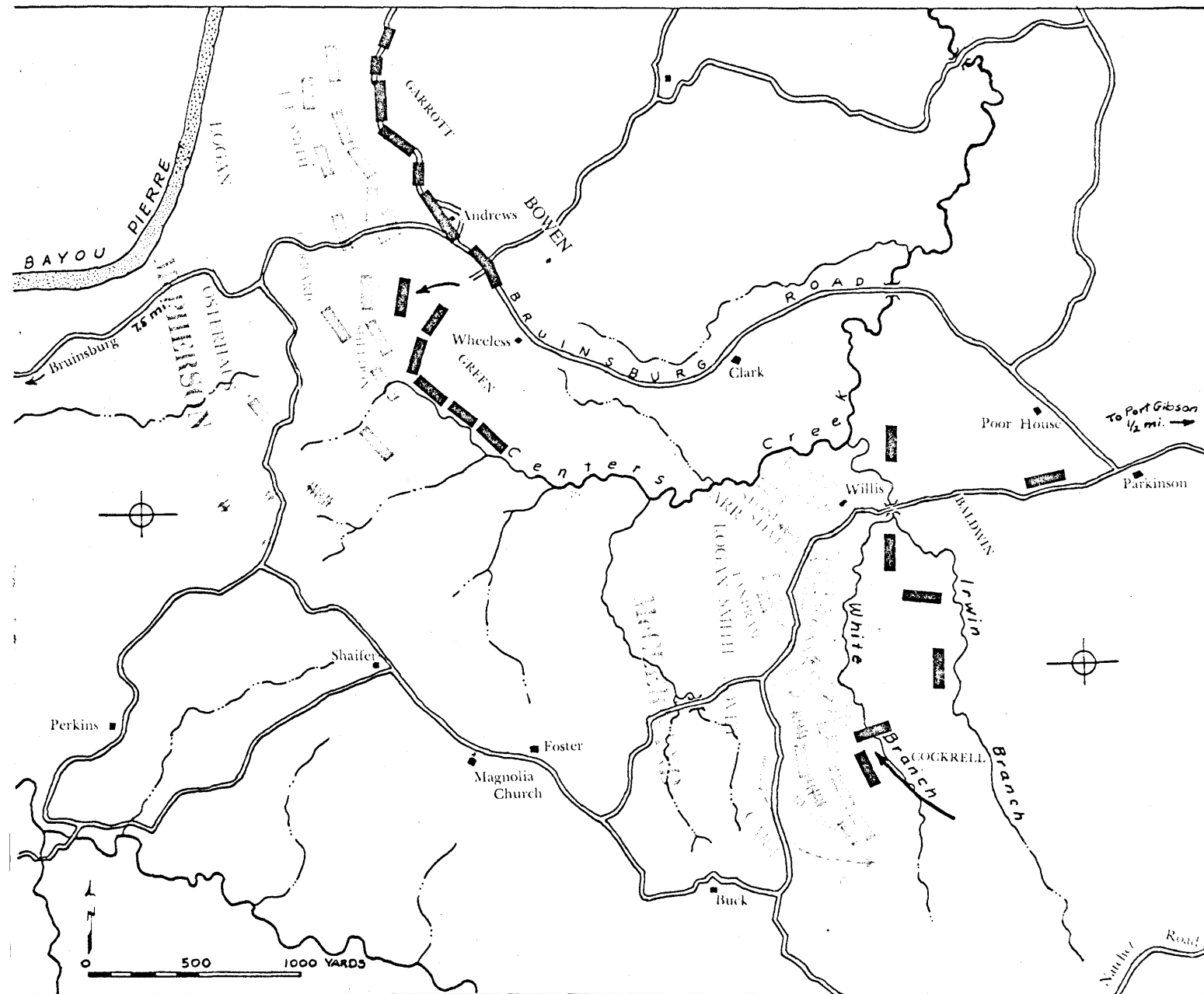


Map 4. Battle of Port Gibson; action from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Green's withdrawal was covered by Baldwin's brigade of M. L. Smith's division, which had just arrived from Vicksburg; and Baldwin took over the defense on this road while Green re-organized in rear. Bowen then sent Green to the north flank to assist Garrott.

Bowen's other brigade, Cockrell's, arrived about noon from Grand Gulf. Two of his regiments were sent to help Baldwin and one to reinforce Garrott. When, early in the afternoon,

Hovey's and Carr's troops came under fire of Baldwin's reinforced brigade, a severe fight ensued, which lasted an hour and a half. Bowen sent two of Cockrell's regiments to turn McClelland's right flank. Cockrell's Missourians mauled Slack's brigade, but they in turn were thwarted by Burbridge's brigade of A. J. Smith's division, which McClelland had fed into the line, and by enfilade fire from four of Hovey's batteries.

John D. Stevenson's brigade of Logan's division is reinforcing McClelland.



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

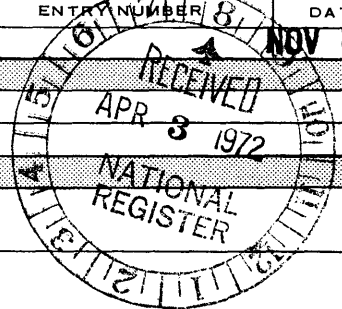
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 8	DATE
	NOV 3 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Port Gibson Battlefield			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 4 miles west of			
CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson			
STATE: Mississippi	CODE 28	COUNTY: Claiborne	CODE 021
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Civil War Times Illustrated. Struggle for Vicksburg, the battles and siege that decided the Civil War.			
SCALE: 1 3/8" = 1,000 yards (approximately)			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

1958
 ST. JOSEPH QUADRANGLE
 MISSISSIPPI-LOUISIANA
 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 Scale: 1:62,500
 1:24,000
 1:62,500

(YOKNNA)

540 000 FEET
 (MISS.)

31°-00"

A. SHAFFER
 HOUSE

B. MAGNOLIA
 CHURCH
 (C.R.D.)

31°-24"

