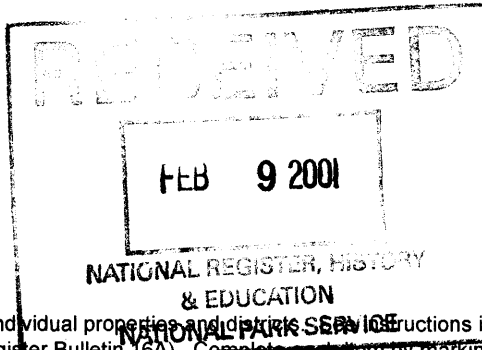


(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



257

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Johnsonville Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Old Johnsonville Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Denver

vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Humphreys code 085 zip code 37054

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark S. L. Hyman
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/2/01
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

3/12/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	-1-	buildings
-1-	-2-	sites
-3-	-1-	structures
		objects
-4-	-4-	Total

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

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE: fortification

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum
RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) NA

Property is:

[] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[] B removed from its original location.

[] C moved from its original location.

[] D a cemetery.

[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[] F a commemorative property

[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

Period of Significance

1863-1865

Significant Dates

1863-64

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown/ U. S. Army

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

[] previously listed in the National Register

[] Previously determined eligible by the National Register

[] designated a National Historic Landmark

[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[X] Other State Agency

[] Federal Agency

[] Local Government

[] University

[] Other

Name of repository:

TN State Parks

Johnsonville Historic District
Name of Property

Humphreys County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 55 acres

Johnsonville, TN, 30 SW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>412360</u>	<u>3990960</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>411620</u>	<u>3990460</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>411610</u>	<u>3990830</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>412780</u>	<u>3990500</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shayla Allison, Traci Nichols, Chris Armstrong, Sean Reines, Carroll Van West
organization Center for Historic Preservation date November 17, 2000
street & number Middle Tennessee State University—Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

name Tennessee State Parks, c/o Milton Hamilton, Jr., Commissioner, Dept. of Environment & Conservation
street & number L & C Tower 21st floor telephone 532-0001
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

In 1969, the State of Tennessee acquired approximately 300 acres from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and created the Johnsonville State Historic Area, which opened in 1971. The historic area is on a tract of land lying in the Second Civil District of Humphreys County, Tennessee, on the southeast side of Kentucky Lake (the dammed Tennessee River), approximately one-half mile southwest of the mouth of the Trace Creek embayment. The park is located in a rural area, and large timber tracts predominate the landscape preserving the integrity of the significant cultural resources. The park's land is concentrated along a narrow ridgeline with steep descending slopes. Kentucky Lake, created by TVA in the early 1940s, defines the western boundary of the park; Trace Creek, whose waters rose with the creation of the TVA reservoir, defines the northern boundary of the park. Unfortunately, waters from the TVA project covered the original town site of Johnsonville, and led to the relocation of two white cemeteries to higher ground within the current park boundaries. The reservoir waters, however, did not impact the Civil War-era fortifications associated with Fort Johnson, since these were located on higher ground to give the troops a better visual overview and defensive setting to protect the Federal base at Johnsonville. The nominated property, therefore, consists of the Upper Redoubt, the Lower Redoubt, the Upper rifle pits, and the horse corral of Fort Johnson. The associated sites are connected by a historic foot trail that was initially developed during the Civil War, then cleared in circa 1960, and then improved by state park personnel in 1971. This roughly rectangular-shaped district ascends up the eastern ridge, from its lowest point of the Lower Redoubt, at the park's visitor's center, to the park's highest point at the Upper Redoubt.

1. Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson (1863-1864)

Fort Johnson, a military occupation site and fortification constructed between 1863 and 1864, contained two redoubts overlooking the tracks of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad and the Tennessee River. The Lower Redoubt is an irregular shaped work with one projection or bastion. (A redoubt is an earthwork that is enclosed on all sides. It may be square, polygonal, or circular.) It was built between 1863-1864 by troops of the 12th and 13th United States Colored Troops and contraband labor. It measures approximately 210 feet by 100 feet. The redoubt conforms to the contour or topography of its hillside location. As pointed out by the Tennessee Historical Commission in its Multiple Property Submission for Civil War resources, "soldiers used picks and spades to build high earthen walls to provide protection from the enemy. These earthworks often were built five to six feet in height and reinforced with stones or logs. Interior ditches allowed soldiers to stand and be protected by the earthen walls while outer ditches made scaling the earthwork more difficult. Due to their exposure to the elements, all earthworks are likely to have eroded to some degree." This general description holds true for the Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson. The redoubt retains much of its original form and plan, with its sally port, or entrance/outlet, being well defined. Its earthen walls are now approximately six feet in height and have not

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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

suffered significantly from erosion. The Lower Redoubt is a contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District (C).

2. Winfrey Cemetery (1942)

Located inside the Lower Redoubt, however, is the Winfrey Cemetery. It originally was located on a hill overlooking the old town of Johnsonville, the site of which was inundated by the waters of Kentucky Lake when the TVA closed Kentucky Dam in 1942. Prior to closing the dam, in 1941-42, TVA reinterred the graves from the Winfrey Cemetery to a new site within the Lower Redoubt. The agency marked the cemetery by placing four metal markers, in a rectangular shape, in the walls of the redoubt; these markers remain extant. The boundary markers designated "US-TVA Monument" are concrete monuments capped by bronze tablets imprinted with given coordinate numbers. TVA Land Map number 143-4, after the removal, lists 28 graves in the cemetery of which eleven contained markers. The cemetery has two fenced-in areas containing an unknown number of graves, but there are only three grave markers in the cemetery and two of the three are broken. There is an obelisk headstone monument for John T. Green, (Born Dec. 3, 1868, Died July 3, 1912), in the cemetery. Another monument is broken into three pieces and leaning against a tree for Ida and Jim Winfrey containing only one set of dates (Born 1851, Died 1888). The third monument is for Albert Alonso Winfrey (Born January 24 1871?, Died September 21, 1874), and it is positioned against a stump. An area confined by a wrought iron spike fence contains no headstones, but believed to hold three graves. There is also an area confined by a chain link fence believed to have graves but no headstones.

Since TVA reinterred the graves of the Winfrey Cemetery in 1941-1942, a time period outside of the period of significance of this nomination, Winfrey Cemetery is a non-contributing site. However, due to its small size and few intact headstones, the cemetery does not impact the overall integrity of the Lower Redoubt. (NC, outside of the period of significance)

3. Museum and Visitor Center (1987)

Adjacent to the north end of the Lower Redoubt, the museum is a semi-circular, contemporary structure built in 1987. The building has single light glass windows and wood panel walls that rest on a poured concrete foundation, which has been covered in part by hand-laid limestone rocks set in concrete. It has a flat rubber roof that is level with the top of the lower redoubt wall so to not distract from the resources. The cantilever roof projects horizontally beyond the wall supports where the roof is then supported by wood or metal beams. The Museum/Visitor Center is a non-contributing building in the Johnsonville Historic District. (NC, due to date of construction)

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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

4. Foot Trail (circa 1864, 1960, 1971)

According to contemporary Civil War maps of Fort Johnson, soldiers constructed a trail (circa 1864) between the Lower and Upper (see #5) Redoubts. A Boy Scout troop cleared the trail circa 1960 as part of a larger effort to build a six-mile hiking trail throughout the area, a project that Tennessee State Parks completed as part of its recreational development of the park in 1971. The trail is narrow, composed of dirt and rock, and does not intrude into the historic setting of the connected historic resources. However, due to its date of the park's improvements in 1971, the trail is a non-contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District. (NC, due to the date of construction)

5. Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson (1864)

On a hilltop southeast of the Lower Redoubt and overlooking the river and railroad tracks was the Upper Redoubt, which conforms to the contour of the summit and takes on an enclosed shape or form. The Upper Redoubt was built following the Battle of Johnsonville by the 12th and 13th United States Colored Troops and contraband labor to strengthen further the defenses of Fort Johnson. It is an irregular shaped redoubt with four projections or bastions on each corner. The bastions provide flanking or salient fire for the main walls. The redoubt measures approximately 255 feet by 120 feet, and it is approximately 12 to 15 feet in height. This redoubt retains much of its form and plan and its walls are well defined and have not suffered significantly from erosion. The Upper Redoubt is a contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District. (C)

6. Horse Corral (1864)

As the Upper Redoubt was constructed, soldiers cleared an adjacent area for use as a horse corral. It is a flattened area that measures approximately 150 feet by 150 feet. It is a contributing site in the Johnsonville Historic District. (C)

7. Rifle Pits (1864)

To the immediate south of the Upper Redoubt, and extending in a winding line on the west side of Redoubt Ridge Road for approximately 400 yards are rifle pits, dug out of the ground to a depth, at some areas today, of two feet. To the south of the redoubt and Crockett Cemetery are the best-preserved pits. Natural erosion has lessened slightly the original height, but no man-made development has disturbed them. The rifle pits are a contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District. (C)

Additional historic rifle pits are located in the middle of a recreational area to the east of Redoubt Ridge Road, across from Crockett Cemetery, but these are not included within the nominated boundaries. The setting of rifle

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National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

pits on the east side of the road has been severely compromised by recreational development, i.e. picnic tables, restrooms, and playground equipment.

8. Crockett Cemetery (1880-1949)

High on a ridge overlooking the Tennessee River, Crockett Cemetery is located adjacent to the Upper Redoubt and is immediately east of the upper rifle pits. The rifle pits, in fact, define the west, north, and south boundaries of the cemetery while the Redoubt Ridge Road defines the east boundary. Outside of the cemetery and rifle pits are a concrete picnic table (circa 1971) and a monument in honor of families buried in the cemetery, erected by the city of New Johnsonville in 1987. There are no modern intrusions inside the cemetery boundaries. A 1963 survey of the cemetery and its records by Mildred S. Gambill and Jill K. Garrett concluded that the cemetery then contained 100 unmarked graves. On March 20, 2000, there were 37 grave markers in the Crockett Cemetery. The oldest dated monument is for an "infant son" Lee dated 1880. The second oldest dated monument is for Martha Crockett, born 1824, died 1884. There are two stones that are illegible and they are believed by Head Ranger/ Interpreter Pete Rogers to be the oldest monuments. There is a large plot for the Elvington family with an unknown number of graves. There are 12 monuments with names and dates and two unmarked stones in an area designated for the Lee family.

While most of the markers are unadorned, six contain examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century decorative carving:

G. M. Lee:	Born 1890- Died 1895 (Stone embossed with a finger pointing toward Heaven)
Fred Odell Lee:	Born 1891- Died 1892 (Stone embossed with a lamb)
Elizabeth Lee:	Born 1885- Died 1885 (Stone embossed with a dove)
Charles Lee:	Born 1883- Died 1884 (Stone embossed with a dove)
Mary Jane and G.W. Russell	Born 1836-Died 1911 and Born 1838-Died unlisted
Andrew Jackson Parker	Born 1889-Died 1920

All stones in the cemetery, with the exception of Warner E. Sharpe, Sr., Born 1885, Died 1974, are dated prior to 1950. However, since the dates for the cemetery are outside of the period of significance, the Crockett Cemetery is a non-contributing site in the Johnsonville Historic District. (NC, outside of period of significance)

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Tennessee

According to the MPS registration requirements for Civil War era resources in Tennessee, earthworks—which is the best way to categorize the remaining resources of the rifle pits and upper and lower redoubts of Fort Johnson—meet registration requirements “if they possess sufficient character and integrity to retain their sense of time and place from their period of significance.”

In the Johnsonville Historic District, the earthwork retains integrity of location since they are located in the place where they were originally built and utilized during the Civil War. They retain integrity of setting because the physical environment is largely intact. There are minimal intrusions into the earthworks, except for the historic late nineteenth and early twentieth century cemeteries. These cemeteries do not impact the overall integrity of the site. The Johnsonville Historic District retains integrity of feeling through its ability to convey a sense of time and place from its period of significance in the Civil War. Moreover, the redoubts and rifle pits retain integrity of design since the essential outline and design of the earthwork is present. Despite natural erosion, the redoubts are well defined. Finally the resources retain integrity of materials and workmanship because they display their original construction materials of earth and display their overall form and plan.

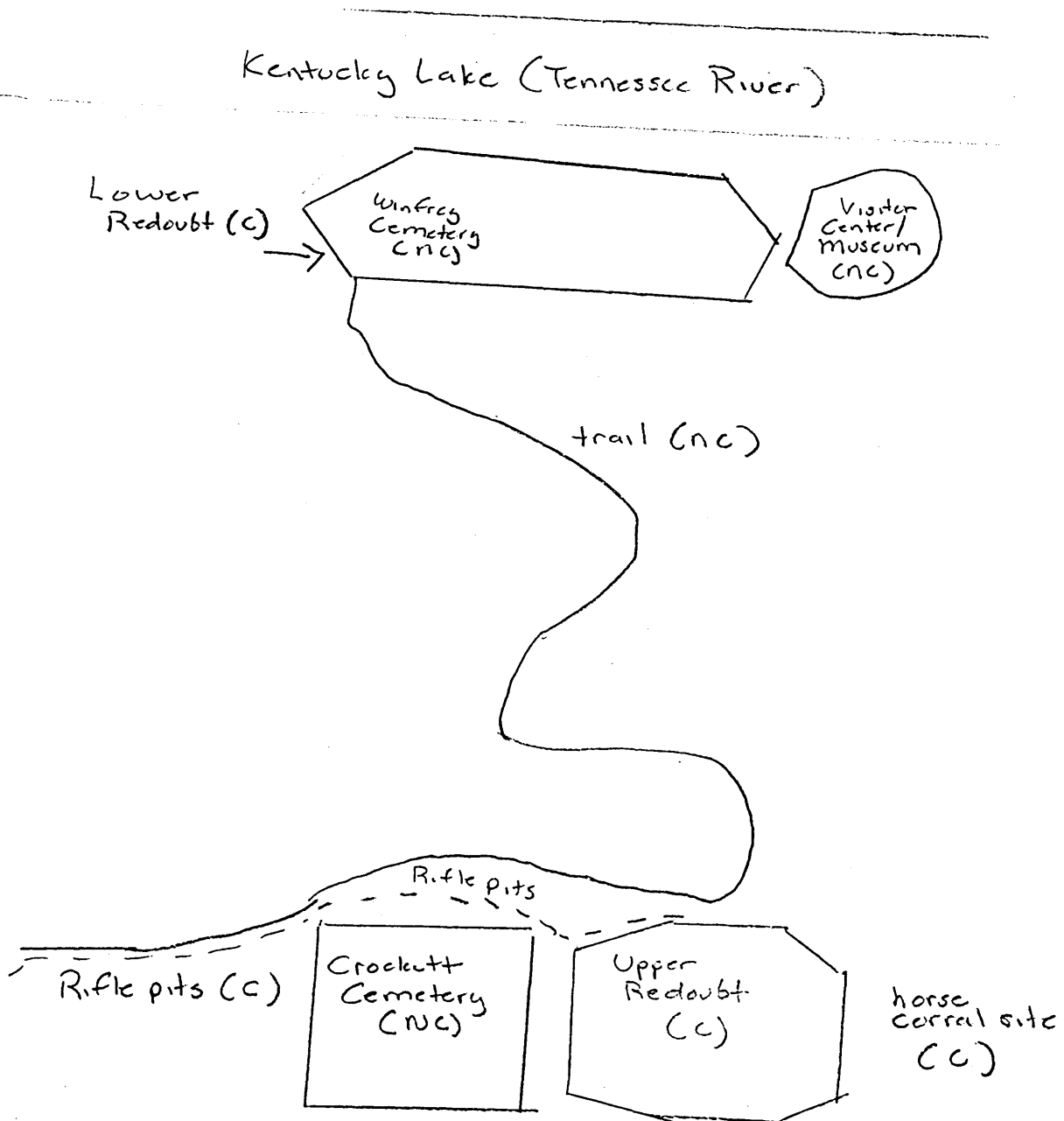
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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

SKETCH MAP



Site map of nominated resources
Johnsonville Historic District
NTS: 2000

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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnsonville Historic District near the village of Denver in Humphreys County, Tennessee, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in American Civil War military history and its association with African-American ethnic heritage during the Civil War. Johnsonville was a strategically important Union river-rail supply depot and distribution center located on the east bank of the Tennessee River at the western terminus of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. The town and its defensive fortifications were the site of a Civil War battle on November 4-5, 1864. On November 4, about three thousand Confederate dismounted cavalry and artillery under General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked and laid siege to a Union Army of the Cumberland garrison consisting of combined land and naval forces numbering about two thousand. The land forces under Colonel Charles R. Thompson included several hundred black troops from various United States Colored Troop (USCT) units.¹ Union manpower losses were minimal. However, Forrest's raid on Johnsonville caused the destruction of four United States Navy "tinclad" gunboats, numerous transports and barges, supplies and war materiel, and many of the depot buildings. Although Forrest's tactical victory at Johnsonville disrupted Union operations and communications in Tennessee for several weeks, it ultimately had no affect on the outcome of the war.² Despite the Union setback here, the USCT soldiers stationed in and around an earthen redoubt known as Fort Johnson could take pride in their efforts to defend the depot. Union Colonel Reuben D. Mussey, commander of the 100th United States Colored Troops (USCT) attested to the fine performance and conduct of the black troops during the battle, and reported that the affair at Johnsonville "has gained credit for the colored troops."³

Contributing resources related to the military activity during the Civil War within the Johnsonville Historic District include the extant remains of Fort Johnson, consisting of two large earthen redoubts, a horse corral, and rifle pits. These sites and structures are also significant for their association with USCT soldiers who helped construct and garrison them before, during, and after the battle. The two redoubts are referred to today by Johnsonville State Historic Area as "Lower Redoubt" and "Upper Redoubt."⁴ The Lower Redoubt is situated on a ridge directly behind and above where the supply depot warehouses were located. Portions of the 13th USCT under Colonel John A. Hottenstein constructed the Lower Redoubt between May and the first week of November 1864 after completion of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad from Kingston Springs in Cheatham County to Johnsonville.⁵ This redoubt and its system of rifle pit entrenchments was the one manned by both black and white infantry and artillery units and placed under siege during the Battle of Johnsonville.⁶

Immediately after the battle, Union General John M. Schofield assigned two brigades from his XXIII Corps, ordered to Johnsonville to reinforce Thompson, to construct a second and much larger earthen redoubt with a supporting system of rifle pits. Constructed from November 5 to November 24, 1864, the Upper Redoubt was placed on the heights south of and overlooking the supply depot to guard against future attacks on Johnsonville from the land side. As its contemporary name suggests, the Upper Redoubt is at a higher elevation than the Lower Redoubt.⁷ By the end of November 1864, Thompson ordered all black regiments in Northern Alabama and

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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
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Middle Tennessee, including those stationed at Johnsonville, to Nashville to counter General John Bell Hood's invasion of Middle Tennessee.⁸ After Hood's defeat, the Second Colored Brigade commanded by Colonel Thompson and consisting of the 12th, 13th, and 100th USCT was ordered back to the garrison at Johnsonville. Portions of the 13th occupied Fort Johnson until the end of the war.⁹

Earthworks were constructed in association with offensive and defensive operations throughout Tennessee during the Civil War. Many of these were built and garrisoned by both armies to protect important supply, transportation, and communication lines from enemy attack. Often, they were situated adjacent to railroad lines for the defense of important towns, depots, and bridge crossings along them. Redoubts such as Fort Johnson were often relatively small, detached works used to fortify hilltops and strengthen main lines.¹⁰ Fort Johnson's position atop a hill overlooking the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad and supply depot at Johnsonville provided an ideal location for Union troops to guard and defend this important point

During the first two years of the war, the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad line only ran from Nashville to Kingston Springs, a distance of about twenty-five miles. Because the line did not extend to the Tennessee River, it was considered to be of little military importance. The fall of Forts Henry (NR 10/10/1862) and Donelson (NR 10/15/1862), and subsequent capture of Nashville in late February 1862 brought Federal forces into Middle Tennessee. Nashville subsequently became the headquarters for Union armies in the Western Theatre and the main hub for troop and supply movements through Tennessee. In summer 1862, efforts to re-supply Nashville via the Cumberland River were hampered by low water. Union authorities determined that a rail link from the Tennessee River to Nashville would be necessary to alleviate this recurring problem. This line, they envisioned, would provide the army with a dependable port that could receive shipments of supplies by boat up Tennessee River from the Ohio River Valley year-round and distribute them by rail to Nashville. On January 27, 1863, in accordance with an order from General William S. Rosecrans, commander of the Nashville-based Department of the Cumberland, work began on extending the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad westward from Kingston Springs to Lucas Landing. The project was completed by May 10, 1864. On May 19, Tennessee Military Governor Andrew Johnson and other Union army dignitaries journeyed from Nashville to Lucas Landing in Humphreys County to dedicate the newly completed railroad line. During his dedication speech, Johnson allegedly renamed the town "Johnsonville."¹¹

The Nashville and Northwestern Railroad extension project became the top Union priority in Middle Tennessee, and a ready source of labor was needed to complete it. In 1862 and early 1863, wartime military activity and Union occupation had hastened the demise of slavery in Tennessee. Thousands of slaves fled the countryside and sought safety within Union lines and occupied towns as contrabands. Free blacks, as well as former slaves who had fled their masters and sought freedom in Union-occupied Nashville, were conscripted into service by the Federal army as laborers. They were ordered to undertake the majority of the construction work necessary to complete the seventy-eight mile line to Johnsonville and were organized into a series of labor battalions for this and other projects in Middle Tennessee. The blacks quickly illustrated that they could function effectively in

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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

disciplined units. Against the protests of Governor Johnson, who preferred they be utilized mainly as laborers, the War Department authorized the large-scale recruitment of blacks into the Union army. By October 1863, the recruitment of ex-slaves in Tennessee was the primary responsibility of the Bureau of United States Colored Troops, which had opened an office at 38 Cedar Street in Nashville on September 10 of that year. Many of these ex-slaves came from Nashville contraband camps and saw military service as a way to gain and ensure permanent freedom.¹²

Organization and enlistment of USCT regiments from labor battalions proceeded rapidly after October 1863 and several of these units continued to work on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. The task of completing the line went to the 12th and 13th USCT. The 12th was organized in Nashville in July and August 1863, and commanded by Colonel Charles R. Thompson. Formed at Nashville on November 19, 1863, the 13th USCT was commanded by Colonel John A. Hottenstein. On November 3, 1863, the 12th USCT reported to Union Army of the Cumberland Brigadier General Alvan C. Gillem for duty on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. From November 1863 until they were relieved on April 23, 1864, an average of two hundred men at a time from this regiment worked on the project. The 13th USCT labored on the line from November 19 to May 10, 1864, and furnished an average of five hundred men as construction workers during this period.¹³ Both regiments raised the roadbed and laid the track through Humphreys County in the winter and spring of 1864. Despite continual harassment from Confederate guerrillas, they completed the rail extension to Johnsonville quickly. These black soldier-laborers had the additional task of building the warehouses, barracks, rail station, fortifications, and other facilities at Johnsonville.¹⁴ Between 5,000 and 7,300 blacks were estimated to have worked on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad project.¹⁵

In addition to building the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad from Kingston Springs to Johnsonville, black troops were primarily used to guard it. After completion of the line, the 12th USCT guarded the trestles and bridges by constructing log blockhouses and earthen field fortifications along the route. Consequently, the regiment's headquarters shifted up and down the line between Kingston Springs and Johnsonville. On August 1, 1864, Colonel Thompson assumed command of all troops assigned to duty along the rail line and made his headquarters at Johnsonville.¹⁶ The 13th USCT under Colonel Hottenstein guarded Johnsonville, Waverly, and other key points along the line between May and December 1864, and again from mid-January 1865 to the end of the war.¹⁷ Other USCT units that guarded the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad before and after the Battle of Johnsonville included portions of the 40th USCT (August-October 1864) and 100th USCT. White units such as the 8th Iowa Cavalry and 1st Kansas Battery also served with blacks in this capacity.¹⁸

Building and garrisoning fortifications were two other tasks commonly performed by black soldiers in Tennessee and elsewhere.¹⁹ The trestles and bridges along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad were primary targets of Confederate cavalry and guerrilla raiders. A network of field fortifications was needed to defend the line. Blacks helped construct and occupy many of these, including the earthen redoubts and rifle pits at Johnsonville.²⁰

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
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On September 25, 1864, portions of the 13th USCT stationed at Johnsonville repulsed a Confederate guerrilla attack on that place. According to historian Dr. Bobby L. Lovett, members of the 13th USCT had been in the process of erecting fortifications around the [Johnsonville supply] depot since July 21, 1864.²¹ The "Record of Events" for the 13th USCT specifically lists Company G as being assigned the duty of building fortifications at Johnsonville from July 10 to August 27, 1864.²² The fortifications referred to by the Record of Events are those comprising the Lower Redoubt. The Record of Events also indicated that Companies A, D, F, H, and I were summoned to Johnsonville in July 1864 from various points along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. They remained here through August, indicating that they likely aided Company G in constructing and garrisoning the Lower Redoubt. Companies B, C, E, and K of the 13th USCT were stationed at Johnsonville from May to August 1864. In May, all four are listed as being at "Camp Hottenstein," so named for the regimental commander. Much of the 13th remained concentrated at Johnsonville until mid-October when they were directed by Special Orders No. 19 to guard a twenty-mile stretch of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad from Johnsonville eastward. This order referred to Johnsonville as the headquarters for troops along the railroad.²³ That same month, in accordance with Special Orders No. 14, Company I of the 12th USCT under Captain Ancil M. Bowdle was detached to Johnsonville for provost guard service and remained here through November.²⁴

Black troops occupied the "Lower Redoubt" at Fort Johnson on the eve of and during the Battle of Johnsonville. On October 16, 1864, Forrest embarked on his last independent raid of the war from Corinth, Mississippi. His intentions were to sever Sherman's supply and communications line to Georgia and the Carolinas, delay the concentration of Union troops and supplies at Nashville, and support Hood's advance into Middle Tennessee. By late October, Union authorities realized that his primary target was Johnsonville. Union Captain and Assistant Quartermaster Henry Howland reported that the 1st Kansas Battery, seven hundred men from the 43rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment (white), and one company of the 12th USCT occupied Fort Johnson as of October 31 under the overall command of Colonel Thompson. That same day, Colonel Thompson summoned all available reinforcements to Johnsonville from points along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad to counter Forrest's threat. About five hundred men from the 12th, 13th, and 100th USCT then proceeded to Johnsonville, and arrived there between November 1 and 3.²⁵ About the same time, Battery A of the Second United States Colored Light Artillery (USCLA) commanded by Captain Josiah V. Meigs accompanied forces of volunteer Quartermaster Corps under Colonel J.C. Peterson from Nashville to Johnsonville. In the days leading up to the battle, these forces, about five hundred citizens and quartermaster employees pressed into service by Howland and Peterson, and twenty members of the Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry, worked to strengthen the existing redoubt in preparation for battle. This collective mixture of white and black units constituted the entire Union garrison present during the Battle of Johnsonville.²⁶

Prior to the battle, a portion of Forrest's command, under Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford, had already met with considerable success in a raid at Fort Heiman thirty miles north (downriver) from Johnsonville. Buford's command was able to capture three supply-laden Union steamers, the *Mazepa*, *Venus*, and the *J.W. Cheeseman* and a tinclad (lightly armored) gunboat, the *USS Undine*, on October 29-30. *The Undine* was a large boat armed with

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eight 24-pounder brass howitzers and Forrest planned to use the *Undine's* firepower in his attack on Johnsonville. Forrest himself arrived on October 31 and pressed some of his cavalrymen into service to operate the *Undine* and the captured transport *Venus* to create his own navy of "horse marines." The transport *Venus* was armed with the two 20-pounder Parrot guns and was to accompany the *Undine* down the river.

By the time Forrest's boats and ground forces started for Johnsonville on November 1, word of Forrest's presence had reached the Federal army and navy commanders at Paducah, Kentucky. Six gunboats started upstream for Johnsonville, but two gunboats that were already at Johnsonville (*Tawah*, *Key West*) intercepted Forrest's navy on November 2. As the *Venus* rounded a bend, she found herself facing the Federal gunboats *Tawah* and *Key West*. The gunboats attacked at once, and quickly damaged the *Venus* and forced her to shore where the Confederates abandoned her. The Federals were able to board the *Venus* and recapture the ship. One of the prizes captured aboard the ship were the two 20-pound Parrot guns placed on board by Forrest. These cannons were taken to Johnsonville and added to the depot's defenses.

At noon on November 3, the *Undine*, supported by Forrest's land forces, made an appearance alongside Reynoldsburg Island, less than four miles north of Johnsonville. They attempted to lure the Federal gunboats into the range of land batteries several times that day, but the Federal commander refused to take the bait. When Forrest realized that his opponent would not be lured into a trap, he moved his land forces to a point directly across from Johnsonville. Forrest and his chief artillery, Captain Morton, placed their artillery across from the depot. Their work was done so covertly during the evening that the Federals across the river had no idea that Confederate cannon were facing them.

Forrest's main concern was the placement of his artillery on the west bank of the Tennessee River, above and below Johnsonville. The town and depot, on the river's east bank, contained two wharves, rail sidings, warehouses, and Fort Johnson. Besides, the two gunboats engaged on November 3, a third was docked at Johnsonville along with 11 transport steamers and 18 barges. The 1st Kansas Battery, the 443rd Wisconsin, portions of three regiments of USCTs, and armed quartermaster employees and 20 troopers from the 11th Tennessee Cavalry made up the garrison.

In the morning of November 4, the *Undine* inadvertently created a diversion for the repositioning of some of the Confederate guns by again challenging the *Key West* and the *Tawah*, reinforced by a third tinclad, the *USS Elfin*. The gunboats from Johnsonville were joined at this time by a group of six gunboats from Paducah. The Confederates' "horse marines" put up a determined fight but were overwhelmed by the firepower of the nine Union tinclads. Captain Gracy, the commander of the *Undine* ran the ship aground and instructed his men to abandon ship after they had set her afire. At 2 p.m. on November 4, Forrest's well-placed artillery commenced firing on the Federal vessels, Fort Johnson, and the dock facilities. The Federal garrison was not aware that Forrest was in the area and was going about their normal routine.

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On the morning of November 4, the artillery and part of the infantry were posted in and around the redoubt (today this is the Lower Redoubt) fortifications. The remaining infantry occupied the supporting rifle pits "that had been thrown up on the flat north of the railroad" in anticipation of Confederate cavalry charges.²⁷ Thompson also armed the five hundred quartermaster employees and placed them in the entrenchments. Except for the 1st Kansas Battery, none of these troops had ever been under fire. The black troops here "were the only ones that were drilled."²⁸ Despite their lack of combat experience, the black troops manning Fort Johnson performed well. According to Colonel Reuben D. Mussey of the 100th USCT, several eyewitnesses to the affair commented on their excellent showing. Meigs' Battery forced a Confederate battery placed across the river to change its location several times, and dismounted one of its guns. Under heavy shelling, the men of Meigs' Battery "stood their ground well." Armed with the Enfield rifle, portions of the 13th USCT positioned on the riverbank as sharpshooters "did good execution."²⁹ The three tinclads received damaging hits and the Federal navy commander scuttled his boats, for which he was later criticized. The six gunboats that had steamed upriver from Paducah could not help because the Confederate guns that had been positioned to the north of Johnsonville held them to long-distance firing. By nightfall, with Fort Johnson silenced, the docks, boats, and barges were ablaze. Under the cover of darkness, Forrest began moving the bulk of his command six miles south leaving a rearguard detachment to deter any Federal pursuit. As the Confederates prepared to leave the next morning, some black troops emerged from the earthen fort to shout oaths across the river at them. The Confederates, in response, fired a parting volley.³⁰

At a cost of two killed and nine wounded, Forrest's attack had destroyed 33 vessels including barges and more than \$6 million of Federal property according to Forrest's estimates, and taken 150 prisoners. (Estimates for casualties at this battle vary from as high as 80 U.S. casualties and 150 prisoners in the *Civil War Times* June 1965 issue [page 57] to 8 casualties and 120 prisoners in the *Civil War Dictionary* by Boatner, 1987.) Federal figures for all the destroyed equipment were just over \$2 million. As successful as the raid was, it had few lasting long-range effects on General Sherman's march to the sea. Sherman had stockpiled a large reserve of supplies before cutting his supply lines, and his men were ordered to live off the land taking what they needed from the countryside. Even so, Forrest's campaign ensured that Federal communication lines in the West would never again be whole. The raid was important in that it displayed Forrest's tactical genius, particularly his aptitude for improvising an attacking force to meet unforeseen circumstances.

Black troops remained at Johnsonville until late November 1864 when all available white and black units stationed along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad were ordered to Nashville in anticipation of an attack on the city by Hood's advancing army. Battery A of the 2nd USCLA left Johnsonville on November 25. By November 30, the 12th USCT, 13th USCT, and other black units present during the battle had followed suit. Before leaving, the USCT units obeyed orders to destroy surplus gun carriages and dispose of excess cannon in the river. They accompanied train loads of supplies, materials, and contraband camp dwellers to Nashville, where they arrived by December 7.³¹

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In response to Thompson's repeated pleas for reinforcements in the days before the battle, Union General George Thomas, commander of all Federal forces in the Department of the Cumberland, directed Schofield's entire XXIII Corps to Johnsonville instead of its original destination of Pulaski. They began to arrive on November 5 after the battle had ended. Schofield soon left for Pulaski with the bulk of his forces. However, Union authorities feared the possibility of future attacks on Johnsonville by Forrest and other Confederate cavalry reported to be in the vicinity. For this reason, Schofield directed Colonel G.W. Gallup's and Colonel Moore's Brigades of Brigadier General Joseph Alexander Cooper's Second Division to remain at Johnsonville "to fortify the place as rapidly as possible" and make it "strong enough to be held by a brigade or less force." Colonel Gallup assumed command of all forces at Johnsonville upon his arrival on 5 November and began construction of the Upper Redoubt that same day.³² The two brigades worked on the fortifications and performed picket and other duties until November 24 when they were sent to Waverly.³³ Colonel Thompson then reassumed command of all forces at Johnsonville.³⁴

Most of the black troops that had manned the Lower Redoubt during the battle were still present and fell under Gallup's jurisdiction when he assumed command of the Johnsonville post. Many of these troops were well equipped to build fortifications as evidenced by their previous experience in constructing the Lower Redoubt at Fort Johnson.³⁵

Furthermore, some of the black troops present at Johnsonville during construction of the Upper Redoubt were mounted infantry. On 27 November, Colonel Thompson reported "the mounted men of the Twelfth and Thirteenth U.S. Colored Infantry" to be scouting the area above the Duck River around Johnsonville, while the white Second Tennessee Cavalry picketed the lower fords. Although the 100th USCT had "no effective mounted men" at this time due to a shortage of saddles, Thompson had "directed them to get some without delay."³⁶ The proximity of the Horse Corral to the Upper Redoubt strongly suggests that these black troops would have worked on and occupied these fortifications.

After arriving in Nashville, the 12th, 13th, and 100th USCT were consolidated by Army of the Cumberland General George Thomas into the Second Colored Brigade and placed under the command of Colonel Thompson. At the Battle of Nashville, the Brigade participated in the decisive Union assault on Overton Hill on December 16 that precipitated Hood's retreat into Northern Alabama. The Brigade participated in the pursuit until January 15, 1865 when it returned to Nashville. The Brigade was then ordered to reoccupy its former stations along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad.³⁷

A week earlier, Thompson's Second Colored Brigade had received orders to return to Johnsonville and reestablish the supply depot there. Through Department of the Cumberland Captain and Adjutant-General Henry M. Cist, Colonel Thompson was directed to return with his command to Johnsonville and "occupy the [Nashville and] Northwestern Railroad as before the recent demonstrations of the rebel army in front of Nashville."³⁸ A white regiment that had occupied Fort Johnson while these black troops were engaged against Hood was present when

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Thompson's brigade returned. Other white units were slated to be posted here with the black soldiers. Thompson was also ordered to mount between two hundred and five hundred of his men to clear the region of guerrillas.³⁹ Portions of the 13th USCT remained at Johnsonville to guard the railroad line and bridges until the end of the war.⁴⁰ On July 7, 1865, the 13th USCT was transferred to St. Louis, Missouri. The 12th USCT continued to guard points along the Nashville and Northwestern line until it was mustered out of service on December 11, 1865.⁴¹

By July 1865, the Union army had ceased operations at Johnsonville. After the war, the railroad line, port, and supply depot facilities continued to be a major river-rail transfer and distribution point. New manufacturing establishments sprang up around the town and waterfront, and Johnsonville became the site of a Freedmen's Bureau agency. Many black Union veterans settled here to work and raise their families. The 1890 Civil War Veterans Census for Tennessee lists thirty veterans of the 12th and 13th USCT as residing in Johnsonville and at least a dozen of these veterans were stationed here during the Civil War. Examples are: Private Dempsey Green, Company A, 13th USCI, and Private Jacob Anderson, Company E, 13th USCT.⁴²

The local military importance of Fort Johnson is clearly evident through its association with the Civil War Battle of Johnsonville and role as a defensive post along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. From spring 1864 on, the Union war effort in Tennessee depended upon the vital Johnsonville supply depot complex at the western terminus of this rail line. The Nashville and Northwestern served as a primary supply, transportation, and communication lifeline for Union armies based in Nashville and throughout the Western Theater. Fort Johnson, consisting of two earthen redoubts, known today as the Lower Redoubt and Upper Redoubt, with corresponding sets of rifle pits is perhaps most significant for its association with various USCT regiments that helped construct and garrison it before, during, and after the battle. After extending the Nashville and Northwestern line to Johnsonville, the 12th and 13th USCT spent much of their wartime service here. This included building and occupying Fort Johnson. Thus, Fort Johnson is militarily significant for its local role as the protector of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad line and supply depot at Johnsonville, and its construction and occupation by African-American troops during the Civil War.

ENDNOTES

¹See Edward F. Williams, III, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 28, no. 3 (Fall 1969): 226, 238, and 241-243; and Colonel Donald H. Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville: Rebel Cavalry and Yankee Gunboats* (Rogersville, Alabama: Elk River Press, 1994), 10-14; and Wayne C. Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley: Humphreys County, Tennessee, 1785-1980," Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Rochester, 1980, 150-152.

²See Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 83-84 and 103; "Johnsonville State Historic Area: Tennessee State Parks Trails Map," brochure (Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee State Parks), January 1997; and Paul Ashdown, "Johnsonville, Battle of," entry in *The*

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Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture, ed. Carroll Van West (Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Historical Society, Rutledge Hill Press, 1998), 490.

³Report of Col. Reuben D. Mussey, One hundredth U.S. Colored Infantry, Hdqrs. Commissioner Organization U.S. Cold. Troops, Nashville, Tennessee 14 November 1864, in Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Scott, comp., *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865*, Series I, Volume 39, Part I, Serial no. 77 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office), 868. Hereafter cited as O.R. All 128 volumes reprinted and republished, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: The National Historical Society, 1971. All O.R. citations are to reprint editions.

⁴For the reference to the name "Fort Johnson," see O.R., Colonel J.C. Peterson to Col. Charles H. Irvin, Nashville, 11 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 52, Part I, Serial no. 109, 656; and for the contemporary names of the two redoubts comprising Fort Johnson, see "Johnsonville State Historic Area" brochure.

⁵For the construction date of the Lower Redoubt at Fort Johnson, see Janet B. Hewett, ed., *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Vol. 77, Part II—Record of Events, Serial no. 89 (Wilmington, North Carolina: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1998), "Record of Events for Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, November 1863-June 1865," 486-497; and Bobby L. Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866: A Socio-Military History of the Civil War," Ph.D. Dissertation, The University of Arkansas, 1978, 93-94 and 290. See also Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 150-151; and for the positioning of the Lower Redoubt and its associated system of rifle pits above the supply depot warehouses, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 13.

⁶See Williams, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," 242; and Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 86.

⁷For Schofield's order to construct a second set of fortifications at Johnsonville, see O.R., Major-General J.M. Schofield to Brig. Gen. J.A. Cooper, Johnsonville, Tenn., 7 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 39, Part III, Serial no. 79, 692. For secondary references to this second redoubt and associated set of rifle pits, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 85-86; and Williams, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," 245. For the date of construction for the second redoubt, see O.R., "Itineraries of the U.S. Forces under the command of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U.S. Army, Fourth Army Corps" [November-December 1864 and January 1865], Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 72.

⁸See Bobby L. Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville, Tennessee, 1780-1930, Elites and Dilemmas* (Fayetteville, Arkansas: The University of Arkansas Press, 1999), 64.

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⁹See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 98; for the order sending Thompson's 2nd Colored Brigade to Johnsonville, see O.R., Brigadier-General W.M. D. Whipple to Brig. Gen. R.S. Granger, Nashville, Tennessee, 8 January 1865, Series I, Vol. 45, Part II, Serial no. 94, 551; and for portions of the 13th USCI remaining at Johnsonville until the end of the war, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 102-103.

¹⁰See Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Archaeology, *A Survey of Civil War Period Military Sites in Middle Tennessee*, 1990, 26; and Mark Grindstaff, Shayla Allison, Sean Reines, and Carroll Van West, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, "Fort Hill Historic District," Humphreys County, Tennessee, 20 January 1999, Section No. 8, p. 7.

¹¹See Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 148-151; and Jill Knight Garrett, *A History of Humphreys County, Tennessee* (n.p., by the author, 1963), 36.

¹²See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 34-37; Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville, Tennessee*, 56-61; and for a discussion of the evolution of Union policy toward the utilization and recruitment of blacks in Tennessee during the Civil War, see Ira Berlin, Joseph P. Reidy, and Leslie S. Rowland, eds., *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867*, Series II, *The Black Military Experience*, 3d ed. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Cambridge University Press, 1988), 122-126.

¹³Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 288-291; Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 61; and Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War: A Military History of Confederate and Union Units With Available Rosters of Personnel*, Part I of II (Nashville: Civil War Centennial Commission; reprint, Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1984), 397-399 (page citations are to reprint edition).

¹⁴Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 150-151.

¹⁵See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 34; and Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 56.

¹⁶See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 289; Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 93 for the reference to Colonel Thompson's headquarters being at Johnsonville; and Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, 397.

¹⁷See *Ibid.*, 399; and Hewett, ed., *Supplement to the Official Records*, Vol. 77, Part II—Record of Events, Serial no. 89, "Record of Events for Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, November 1863-June 1865," 486-497; and Grindstaff, Allison, Reines, and West, National Register Nomination, "Fort Hill Historic District," Section No. 8, p. 10.

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¹⁸See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 311-312; and for the reference to these white units guarding the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad, see Garrett, *A History of Humphreys County, Tennessee*, 36.

¹⁹See Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 61-62; and Berlin, Reidy, and Rowland, eds., *Freedom, Series II, The Black Military Experience*, 483-485 and 519-520.

²⁰Tennessee Historical Commission, "Tennessee Civil War Railroad: In Service to a Cause, Experience the Conflict," driving tour brochure for Civil War sites along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad line, n.p., 1998.

²¹For this reference, see Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 94.

²²Hewett, ed., *Supplement to the Official Records*, Vol. 77, Part II—Record of Events, Serial No. 89, "Record of Events for Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, November 1863-June 1865," 495.

²³*Ibid.*, 486-487 and 489-497.

²⁴*Ibid.*, "Record of Events for Twelfth United States Colored Infantry, July 1863-June 1865," 473.

²⁵See Williams, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," 228 and 240; Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 18; and O.R., Captain and Assistant Quartermaster Henry Howland to Brig Gen. J.L. Donaldson, Johnsonville, Tennessee _____, 1864, Series I, Vol. 48, Part I, Serial no. 109, 122.

²⁶For the reference to Meigs' Battery going to Johnsonville with the Quartermaster Corps and Peterson's use of citizens, see O.R., Peterson to Irvin, Series I, Vol. 48, Part I, Serial no. 109, 656; and O.R., Howland to Donaldson, Series I, Vol. 48, Part I, Serial no. 109, 122; and for a complete listing of all Union forces present at the Battle of Johnsonville, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 13.

²⁷O.R., Report of Lieut. Col. William Sinclair, Assistant Inspector-General, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., 7 January 1865, Series I, Vol. 39, Part I, Serial no. 77, 861.

²⁸For this quote, see O.R., Report of Capt. Samuel J. McConnell, Seventy-first Ohio Infantry, Acting Assistant Inspector-General, District of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, 14 November 1864, Series I, Vol., 39, Part I, Serial no. 77, 865; and for the reference to the arming of quartermaster employees, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 73.

²⁹O.R., Report of Col. Reuben D. Mussey, Series I, Vol. 39, Part I, Serial no. 77, 868.

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³⁰Both primary and secondary sources mention this parting volley on black troops. See J.P. Young, *The Seventh Tennessee Cavalry. (Confederate), A History* (Nashville: M.E. Church, South, Barber & Smith Agents, 1890), 115; Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 81-82; and Williams, *The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park*, 244.

³¹See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 95-96; and Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 64.

³²For the summoning of Schofield's forces to Johnsonville, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 85-86; for Schofield's order to construct additional fortifications, see O.R., Schofield to Cooper, Series I, Vol. 39, Part III, Serial no. 79, 692; for Gallup assuming command of all Johnsonville forces upon arrival and beginning the construction of the Upper Redoubt, see O.R., Colonel G.W. Gallup to General Schofield, Johnsonville, Tennessee, 5 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 39, Part III, Serial no. 79, 655.

³³O.R., "Itineraries of the U.S. Forces under the command of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U.S Army," Fourth Army Corps, First Brigade, Second Division, Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 72.

³⁴O.R., Major-General Geo. H. Thomas to Col. C.R. Thompson, Nashville, November 24 [23] 1864, Series I, Volume 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 1008.

³⁵See Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 61-62; and Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1865," 288-289.

³⁶O.R., Colonel C.R. Thompson to Major-General Thomas, Johnsonville, Tennessee, 27 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 1100.

³⁷See Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 64-67; Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, 397-399; and Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 98 and 311.

³⁸For the return of Thompson's 2nd Colored Brigade to Johnsonville, see O.R., Whipple to Granger, Series I, Vol. 45, Part II, Serial no. 94, 551; for the reference to reestablishing the supply depot at Johnsonville, see O.R., Chief Quartermaster J.L. Donaldson to Maj. Gen. and Quartermaster-General M.C. Meigs, Nashville, Tennessee, 10 January 1865, Series I, Vol. 45, Part II, Serial no. 94, 561; and for the quote, see O.R., Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General Henry M. Cist to Col. C.R. Thompson, Eastport, Mississippi, 22 January 1865, 626.

³⁹*Ibid.*, 626.

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⁴⁰For the reference to portions of the 13th USCI remaining at Johnsonville until the end of the war, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 103.

⁴¹Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, 398 and 399.

⁴²See Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 156, 162-163, and 218-219. For a list of some of the black Union veterans from the 12th and 13th USCI listed as living in Johnsonville in 1890, see Byron and Barbara Sistler, trans. and comp., *1890 Civil War Veterans Census—Tennessee* (Evanston, Illinois: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1978), 4, 6, 89, 119, 122, 197, 215, 239, 306, 312, 335, 354. This list was derived from *1890 Special Census Schedules, Civil War Union Veterans & Their Widows: West Tennessee*, Microfilm Roll 98, "Benton Co. through Weakley Co.," Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. Reproduced from original microcopy of this census available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. entitled *Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890: Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Tennessee*, Bundles 168 and 169. The names of these veterans were confirmed by looking at the muster rolls of the 12th and 13th USCI, as accessed via a visit to the "Civil War Soldiers System" link of the National Park Service web site <http://www.crnps.gov/> on 13 April 2000

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundaries of the Johnsonville Historic District consist of the Lower Redoubt, the Upper Redoubt, the Upper Rifle Pits, the Horse Corral and the foot trail that connect them. All of the nominated property is within the boundaries of the Johnsonville State Historic Area.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain a concentration of extant significant Civil War-era cultural resources associated with Johnsonville during the Civil War

The tax map for this property has a scale of 1"=400'. This is the only scale map available for this rural part of Tennessee.

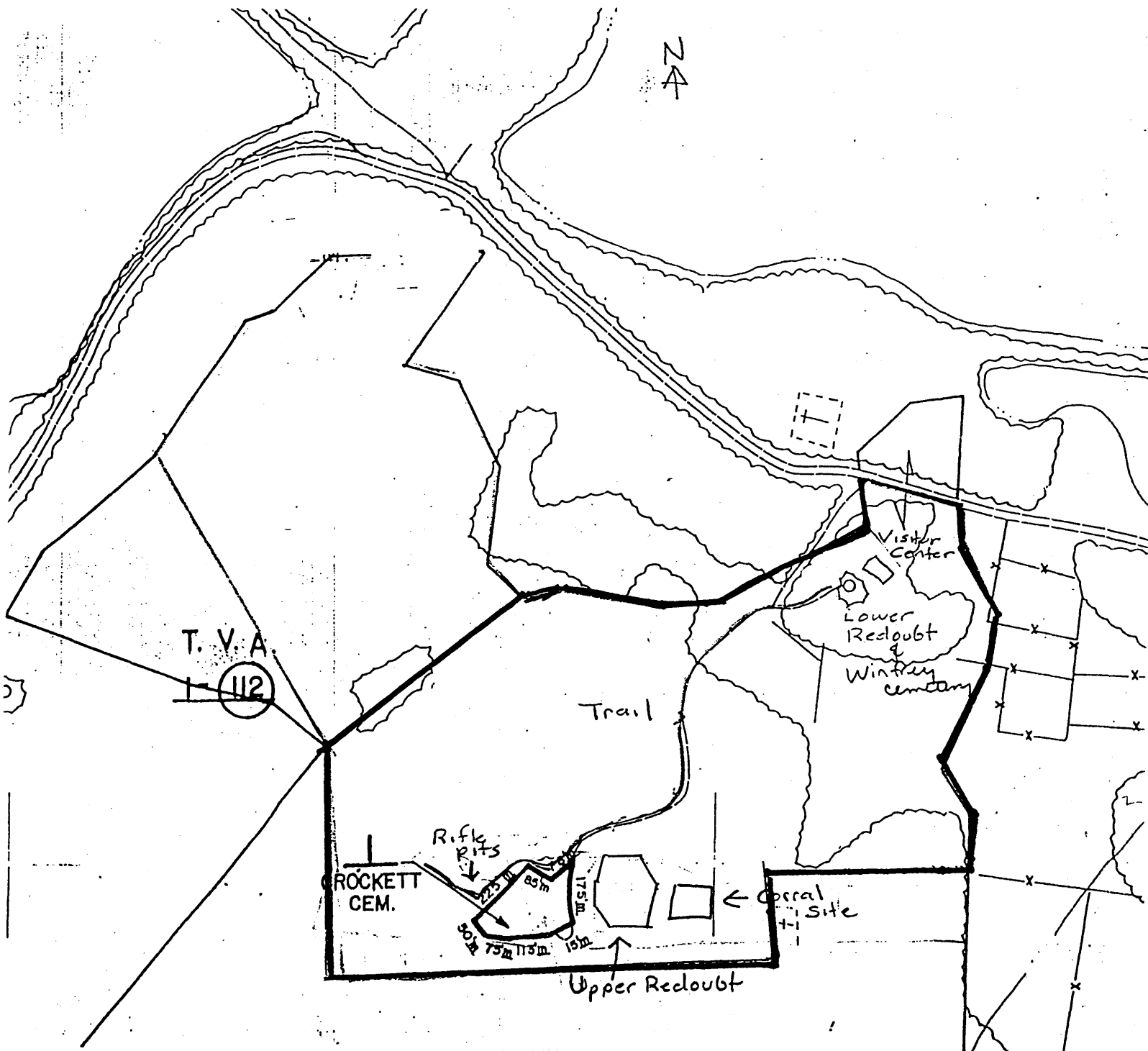
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1"=400'



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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Johnsonville Historic District
Humphreys County, TN

Photos by: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: January and April, 2000

East wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south
1 of 25

East wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson and Visitor Center, facing north
2 of 25

Visitor Center, facing southwest
3 of 25

Interior, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing southeast
4 of 25

Interior, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing southwest
5 of 25

West wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south
6 of 25

Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing north
7 of 25

John Green marker, Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south
8 of 25

"Angel" grave marker, Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south
9 of 25

Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing north
10 of 25

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Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,
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South wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing northeast
11 of 25

West wall, interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing west
12 of 25

West wall and rifle pits, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south
13 of 25

West and south walls, rifle pits, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south
14 of 25

East wall, interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing east
15 of 25

Interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south
16 of 25

Interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing southwest
17 of 25

Interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing north
18 of 25

Crockett Cemetery, entrance, facing northwest
19 of 25

Crockett Cemetery, facing northwest
20 of 25

Lee family group, Crockett Cemetery, facing west
21 of 25

Crockett Cemetery and Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing northeast
22 of 25

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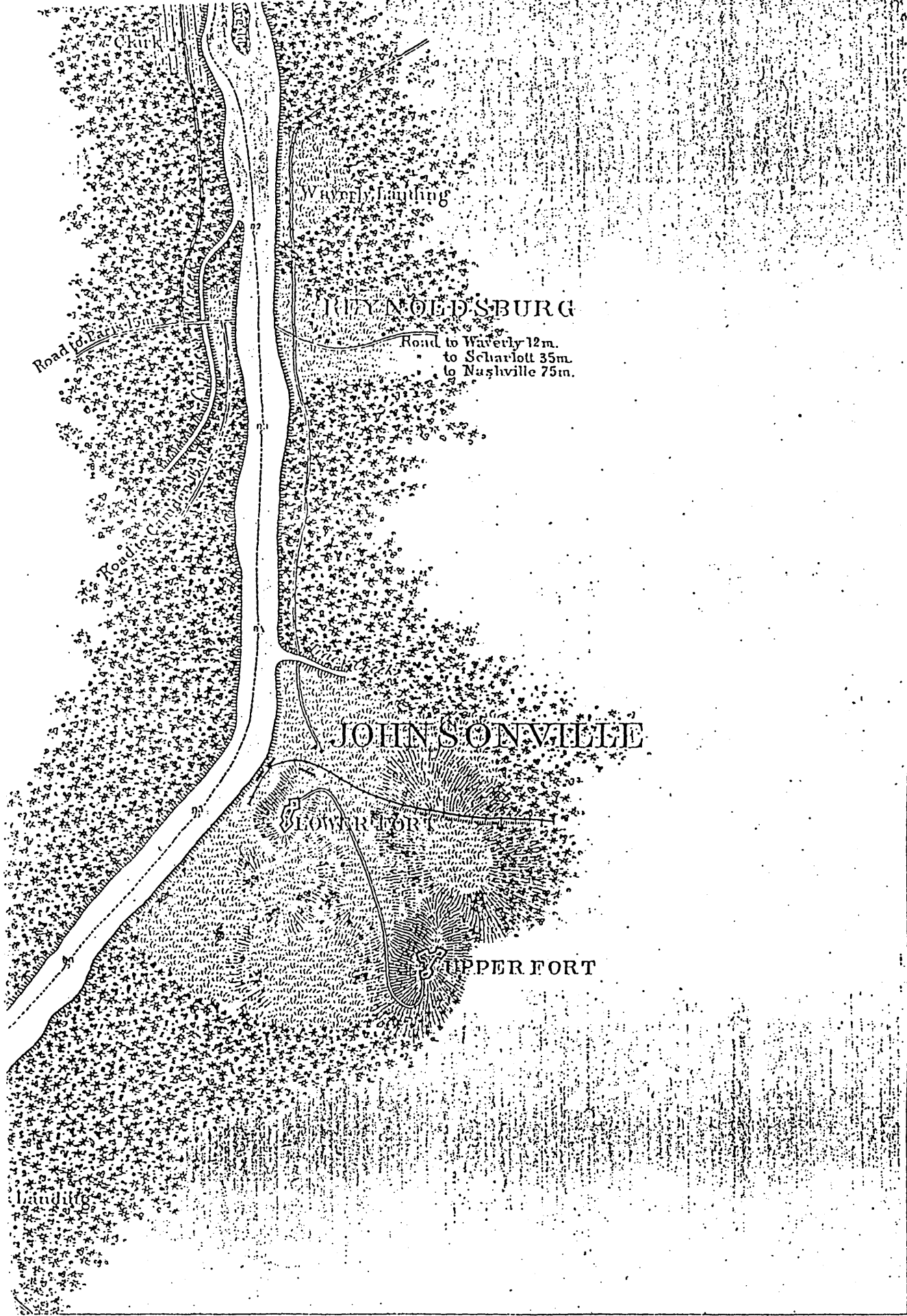
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Rifle pits, facing northeast
23 of 25

Rifle pits, facing northwest
24 of 25

Rifle pits, facing southwest
25 of 25



1865 Map of Tennessee River MVC CW39 #7 map of Tennessee River
at Johnsonville, Mississippi Valley Collection, University of
Memphis 1. Grades Memphis TN