

N 49

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Kentucky	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XIV, "The Civil War, 1861-1865"
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Perryville Battlefield	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 2,500
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Boyle County, west of Perryville	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Various private owners; one acre by State of Kentucky	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

On the hills west of the village of Perryville, October 7-8, 1862, was fought the battle which climaxed the major Confederate invasion of Kentucky. In the geographical sense that Gettysburg was the "high water mark" of Confederate operations in the Eastern Theater, Perryville had that distinction in the Central South.

Bragg, moving into Kentucky in mid-September to join forces with Kirby Smith, by vacillation lost the opportunity of capturing Louisville or of defeating Buell's army as it hurried north to protect that city. Buell occupied Louisville and reorganized his army, then marched out on October 1 to locate Bragg. Hardee's Confederate corps, withdrawing from Bardstown in the face of the Union advance, was pushed so hard that Hardee halted at Perryville on the evening of October 6 and called for reinforcements. As Bragg was moving reinforcements forward from Harrodsburg on the afternoon of October 7, a sharp clash occurred at Perryville when the van of the Union army pushed forward to find water. During the night of October 7 and the morning of October 8 both armies concentrated around Perryville, and the battle broke out with fury about 2 p. m. As fast as the troops arrived on the field, they were thrown into the fighting, which swept back and forth across the valley of Doctor's Creek. The fighting stopped at dark and Bragg, convinced that the arrival of Union reinforcements made his position hazardous, withdrew his army from the field during the night. The Confederate retreat was continued, by way of Cumberland Gap, into east Tennessee. The Confederate invasion of Kentucky had ended.

Status: The Perryville battlefield, mostly in farmland, probably is little changed from its wartime appearance. The majority of the field is in privately owned tracts of varying acreages. One tract of 17 acres, located near the northern end of the battle line, comprises the Perryville Battlefield Monument, owned by the State of Kentucky. It contains a Confederate cemetery and a monument erected in 1928 by the Federal government. Still standing on the battlefield are the Crawford house, used by Bragg as headquarters, and the Squire H. P. Bottom house, which marked the center of

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (70 vols., Washington, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vols. XVI, XI, LII; Stanley F. Horn, The Army of Tennessee (Indianapolis, 1911); Don C. Seitz, Braxton Bragg, General of the Confederacy (Columbia, S. C., 1924).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIABS, etc.)

Hambleton Tapp, "The Confederate Invasion of Kentucky, 1862" (Ms., 57 pp., n. d.); Roy E. Appelman, "Report on Battlefield and Battle of Perryville, Kentucky" (Ms. Historic Sites Survey report, Sept. 30, 1937), 35 pp., illus.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Mostly farm land	13. DATE OF VISIT April 6, 1959
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>[Signature]</i>		15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE July 17, 1959

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

1972

EDMUND HUR AND P. W. ...

Old Russell House was ...

Geo. ...

...

...

... Kentucky ... was ...

some of the heaviest fighting. The former is owned by the State of Kentucky and the latter by a private individual. The battlefield is unmarked.