

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 26 1982  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Franklin Battlefield

and/or common

2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Franklin \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Tennessee code 47 county Williamson code 187

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williamson County Registrar

street & number Williamson County Courthouse

city, town Franklin state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This National Historic Landmark includes four non-contiguous properties associated with various aspects of the conduct of the Battle of Franklin: Fort Granger, Winsted Hill, the Carter House, and Carnton and the Confederate Cemetery. Each of these properties will be described below.

#### THE CARTER HOUSE

The Carter House built in 1830, is a red brick building with a front of fifty-four feet. At the center are double doors which, when closed, form an eight-panel colonial pattern. The sides of the door are Doric columns flanked by sidelights and topped by a fanlight transom. At some time after 1864 a small porch had been built before the doorway but this was removed in the restoration. Midway between the door and either end of the house is a twelve pane window, flanked by Doric columns with pediment and side lights.

The two ends of the house are distinguished by stepped parapet walls, culminating in the chimneys. From the front door, one enters a hall, twenty by twenty feet. On either side of the hall is a room nineteen by twenty feet. The half story above has two rooms flanking the stair landing. The basement is divided into three rooms each with thick stone walls and having the same dimensions as the rooms of the main floor. The basement rooms are now used for a museum. Six-panel colonial doors lead from the family room and the hall to the back porch, the right wing of which is front for C frame ell containing two smaller rooms. The south wall of this ell still shows bullet holes.

In the back yard, about forty-six feet from the main house, stands a brick kitchen with bullet marks from the battle. The kitchen had fallen into bad repair but is now in excellent condition; is furnished with equipment suitable to a kitchen of that day.

The brick smoke house stands on the south side of the yard, and just to the east of it is the frame building called the office. These buildings mark the line of the reserve earth-work built by the Federals to protect the gap in the main lines. The south walls of the two buildings bear numerous marks made by missiles fired during the battle.

There are two non-contributing structures located on the property. One is a log house that has been moved to the property. The second building is a new constructed frame building used as a museum. The museum contains an excellent scale model of the Battle of Franklin.

The Carter House is furnished with pieces that are in keeping with its time. However, little of the furniture in the house was there originally. Some restoration has taken place, such as replacing the parapet walls and stone capping. A one-room frame wing had been added to south end of the house and a porch to the north side. Both have been removed. The Carter House looks exactly the same today as it did on that eventful day in November, 1864.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1864

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

"The annals of war may long be searched for a parallel to the desperate valor of the charge of the Army of Tennessee at Franklin, a charge which has been called 'the greatest drama in American History.' Perhaps its only rival for macabre distinction would be Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. A comparison of the two may be of interest. Pickett's total loss at Gettysburg was 1,354; at Franklin the Army of Tennessee lost over 6,000 dead and wounded. Pickett's charge was made after a volcanic artillery preparation of two hours had battered the defending line. Hood's army charged without any preparation. Pickett's charge was across an open space of perhaps a mile. The advance at Franklin was for two miles in the open, in full view of the enemy works, and exposed to their fire. The defenders at Gettysburg were protected only by a stone wall. Schofield's men at Franklin had carefully constructed works, with trench and parapet. Pickett, once repelled, retired from the field. The Army of Tennessee renewed their charge, time after time. Pickett survived his charge unscathed. Cleburne was killed, and eleven other general officers were killed, wounded or captured. Pickett's charge at Gettysburg has come to be a synonym for unflinching courage in the raw. The slaughter-pen at Franklin even more deserves the gory honor."

BACKGROUND

The Civil War was launched with the great Battles of Bull Run in 1861 and Shiloh in 1862. Shortly after the fall of Ft. Donelson, Nashville, as well as much of Middle Tennessee, was occupied by Federal troops and remained in Federal hands until the end of the war. In the East it appeared that the ultimate aims of both the Federal and Confederate Armies were directed at seizing the two capitols: Lee forever threatening Washington and the many Federal commanders forever trying to capture Richmond.

On July 3, 1863, the great river fortress at Vicksburg fell to General Grant, while on July 4th, after three desperate days, the South again met disaster in the defeat at Gettysburg. Shortly thereafter General Bragg gave the Confederacy its most glorious victory by defeating Rosencrews at Chickamauga.

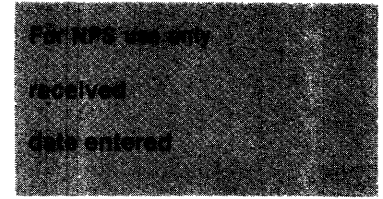
In the spring of 1864, General Grant was made Supreme Commander of all the Federal armies. His appointee in the West, General Sherman, pushed the Army of Tennessee back to Atlanta, as General Joe Johnston refused a show-down battle. Meanwhile, Grant and Lee engaged in bloody battles in Virginia where more than one hundred thousand men were lost in a single month's fighting. Finally, Grant began the seige of Petersburg, Virginia which lasted 9 months.

<sup>1</sup> Stanley F. Horn, The Army of Tennessee, (Indianapolis, 1941), pages 402-403.



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Winstead Hill

Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Brentwood, Tennessee

Fort Granger  
20 Acres

City of Franklin  
Franklin, Tennessee

Carnton  
20 Acres

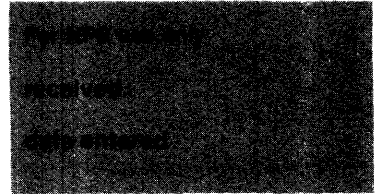
Carnton House Association  
Franklin, Tennessee

Carter House  
14.4 Acres

State of Tennessee

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CARNTON HOUSE

Carnton - A Greek Revival house with some Federal and Georgian influences, was built by Randal McGavock about 1825. The house contained more than twenty rooms, consisting of the main block of the house which had four rooms and a large hall one each two floors with a large ballroom on the third floor. In addition, a large ell was built on the east side, containing servants quarters, a smokehouse, workrooms, and a carriage house. This ell has since been removed.

The plan of the house is typical Middle Tennessee in arrangement, but is unusual in its use of entirely different verandas on opposite elevations. At the front is a small porch with superimposed columns; to the main cornice and supporting a second floor veranda. The entablature is characterized by the use of cornice brackets and omission of the architrave.

Carnton contains some excellent woodwork and mantel pieces, but its chief glory in its prime must have been its gardens. Randal McGavock planned his home in the midst of elaborate grounds. The garden was designed by his wife, who consulted with her friend, Mrs. Andrew Jackson, exchanging bulbs, slips, and advice, with the result that the Carnton garden was almost identical with the one at the Hermitage. Unfortunately, the gardens are no longer kept up and only traces of the original splendor remain.

The east wing, the original portion of the house, was removed in the early twentieth century. The stone structure that served as the kitchen is still standing but in poor condition. The main portion of the house is undergoing massive restoration. Upon completion, it will be as magnificent as it was during the Civil War.

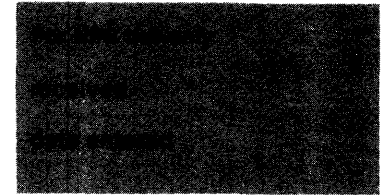
On the grounds of Carnton are the McGavock family cemetery and the two-acre Confederate cemetery. The Confederate cemetery is enclosed by ornamental iron fencing. There are 1,481 Confederate soldiers buried there. Many of the dead soldiers were not identified and buried in mass graves identified by stone markers. When the soldiers could be identified, they were buried in single graves with small markers with their names on them. The cemetery is well kept.

FORT GRANGER

Fort Granger - An earthen work structure 900 feet long with perimeter walls averaging 6 to 8 feet in height, was constructed in 1863. The inside face of the walls were shored with wood and were splayed in places at the top to allow cannon to project through from elevated earthen platforms inside. There were two main blastwalls within the fort along west walls. The fort was armed with two high powered rifled seige guns mounted on revolving platforms. The trunks of two trees, used as outposts, were left standing within the fort. The main structure within the fort was powder magazine approximately 65 feet square and believed to be partially sunk.

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At present the site is covered with light undergrowth and saplings, which are being cleared. The trenched, guns emplacements, blast walls, and perimeter walls are clearly discernible. The wood has either rotted or been removed. The powder magazine is no longer standing, but the site is still definable. The location of the powder magazine was determined by archeological investigation. No other significant artifact was discovered.

WINSTEAD HILL

Winstead Hill - is 840 feet above mean sea level, approximately 200 feet higher than the Town of Franklin, two miles to the northwest; it was obviously an excellent command and observation post

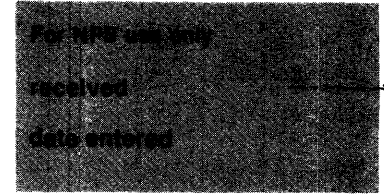
Throughout the area, there are wild flowers, trees, and geological formations--mostly, probably Ordovician limestones--a few inches under the soil--that are characteristic of, and identified with, the Nashville Basin.

Some alterations have taken place. Barbed wire fences are on the south, west, and north boundaries. The Columbia Pike, U. S. Highway 31, to its east, has been widened, and the State Department of Transportation maintains a six-to-eight car roadside park at the base of the hill.

About twenty years ago, a stone walk, with three sets of steps, with handrails was built by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, leading to a shelter at the 825 foot level. The stone used was quarried from the site. Under the shelter is a metal relief map, provided by the Tennessee Historical Commission describing the troop movement during the battle. The Hill is still quite discernible today.

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When the Army of Tennessee was on its retreat to Atlanta, President Jefferson Davis assigned General John Bell Hood to the army as a corps commander. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Hood received a bad wound which permanently deprived him of use of his left arm. At the Battle of Chickamauga, a bullet struck the thigh of his right leg requiring immediate amputation of his leg four and one-half inches from his body. As soon as the stump of his leg had healed, he returned to service, though still on crutches and so crippled that he could not sit on his horse unless strapped into the saddle.

After Hood took command of the Army of Tennessee, he engaged in battles around Atlanta in which he sustained heavy losses. Finally, Atlanta was evacuated by Southern troops and surrendered to Sherman, who entered the city in September 1864. Hood headed back into Tennessee. Hood was going back to Tennessee and on to the Ohio River, Louisville, and Cincinnati, with a remote idea of crossing the mountains and marching to Lee at Richmond. The strategy here was that if Hood was successful, he would draw Sherman out of Georgia. Earlier Sherman had sent General Thomas back to Nashville to gather an army to handle Hood in the event he decided to come north of the Tennessee River. Sherman also sent the Twenty-Third Corps, commanded by General Schofield and the Fourth Army Corps under General Stanley to Tennessee. These troops were stationed in Pulaski in a position to observe Hood's movements along the Tennessee River.

After a series of troop movements and minor encounters the two armies faced each other for a show-down in Franklin. On a hill on the north bank of the Harpeth River was Fort Granger built a year earlier. The railway bridge was well commanded by artillery in the fort. About a half-mile from town was the property of F. B. Carter. Approximately two-miles further south of the Carter property is a comparatively high-range of hills known as Winstead Hill.

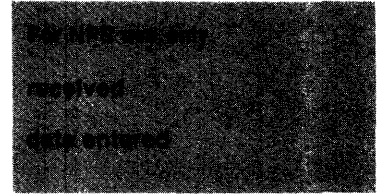
Hood had outflanked and passed Schofield at Columbia to reach Spring Hill, twelve miles from Franklin, on November 29, 1864. As the Confederate Army rested that night Schofield slipped past them headed back toward Franklin and Nashville. Schofield remained on the north bank of the Harpeth River at Fort Granger. Schofield then ordered General Jacob Cox to take command of the infantry and station them just south of town. On the morning of November 30, 1864, he commanded the Carter House as his command post. General Cox advised the Carters to remain at home.

Early on the afternoon of November 30, 1864, General John Hood, commanding the Army of Tennessee, stood on the northern slope of Winstead Hill. Against the advise of his generals, Hood ordered immediate attack, although some troops were still enroute to Franklin. At about four o' clock in the afternoon, 20,000 Confederate soldiers marched in steady lines across two miles of open field in full view of Union Troops. Thirteen assaults were made against the entrenched Federals, composed of 22,000 men. Opposing forces became so entangled that Federal batteries withheld, for a time, their cannon fire out of consideration for their own men. A breakthrough by Confederate Troops occurred in the trench in the vicinity of the Carter House and the trench became filled with "Blue and Gray" dead. The trench was so congested that there was not enough space for dead soldiers to fall down. Union Troops succeeded in filling the gap and the assaults continued. Sporadic fighting continued until around ten o' clock. By an hour after midnight, the Federals had withdrawn from their works, crossed the Harpeth, and were on



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their way to Nashville. The Battle of Franklin had come to an end.

Out of Hood's 20,000 soldiers in action he lost 6,202, killed and wounded, almost one third of the command in the fight. Schofield lost 2,326 of his 22,000 men. Twelve Confederate Generals were lost: Generals Cleburne, Gist, Granbury, Adams and Strahl were killed outright. On the next day the dead bodies of all five were laid out on the long back gallery of the McGavock House (Carnton).

SIGNIFICANCE

The Battle of Franklin signalled the end of all hope for the success of the Confederate cause. The news of the frightful carnage of their troops at Franklin and Nashville greatly depressed the South. The Southern desire to halt Sherman's march into central Georgia was not realized. Washington, D. C. was not threatened.

It is unfortunate that the battlefield as such does not have integrity. However, there are non-contiguous properties that commemorate this event.

Carter House - It was here that the Confederate soldiers broke through the Union lines before finally being repulsed. Also, it was here that a desperate man-to-man struggle raged in the yard and garden. As the Union command post, it was the center of the fighting.

Winstead Hill - This hill gave commanding view of the upcoming battlefield. And it was from this hill that Hood gave the command to attack, despite his generals' advice.

Carnton - It was here that the bodies of the five Confederate Generals were laid out. This site demonstrated the hopelessness of the Confederate cause. It is unprecedented to lose that many Generals in one battle.

Fort Granger - Served as a safety factor for a Union retreat. Schofield's command post. Unfortunately, the men became so entangled during the fighting that the fort's cannon could not be used.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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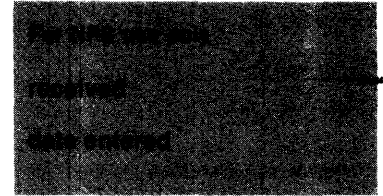
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Generals were lost in the Battle of Franklin, five by outright death, one by fatal wounds, one by capture, and five by wounds. The bodies of the five dead were laid out on the long back gallery of "Carnton," the home of Col. John McGavock. In 1865 Col. McGavock set aside a portion of his property for re-burial of the unclaimed Confederate dead and (there) is the only all-Confederate cemetery in Tennessee.

Most authorities feel that Hood should never have attacked such a formidable position. The Federals had achieved their object in impeding Hood. For the third time within a few days the Confederate Army had been frustrated.

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The area that constituted the Franklin Battlefield is populated with businesses, residential and farm properties. A portion of the battlefield is occupied by the Battleground Academy. A "battlefield" does not exist. We have identified and drawn boundaries around the most significant areas remaining, and with integrity associated with the Battle of Franklin.

Fort Granger - Beginning in the center of the Harperth River at the center of the Railroad Bridge, thence northerly with the center of the railroad 234.75 feet to a point; thence leaving said center line and with the ten new Interior lines as owned by the Williamson County Farmer Co-op; South 72 degrees 01 minutes East 311.8 feet, South 69 degrees 34 minutes West 96.0 feet, South 63 degrees 06 minutes East 101.68 feet, South 39 degrees 11 minutes East 175.0 feet South 71 degrees 56 minutes West 127.5 feet, South 76 degrees 31 minutes East 169.35 feet, South 19 degrees 33 minutes West 254.4 feet; South 35 degrees 06 minutes West 134.65 feet, and South 5 degrees 26 minutes East 85.2 feet to an interior corner of Haffner; thence South 3 degrees 59 minute West 208.96 feet to another corner of Haffner; thence North 63 degrees 34 minutes West 455.75 feet to the point of beginning.

UTMS

- A. 16.512 700 . 3975 720
- B. 16.512 730 . 3975 180
- C. 16.512 290 . 3975 140
- D. 16.512 260 . 3975 700

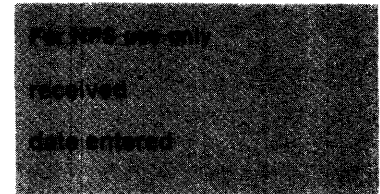
Carter House - Commencing at the centerline intersection of Columbia Avenue and Fowlkes Street; thence south along the centerline of said Columbia Avenue 18 feet, more or less; thence west 25 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, which is also the northeast corner of the Williamson County Schools property. Thence South 10 degrees - West 485 feet; North 78 degrees - 30 feet West 377 feet; South 8 degrees - West 75 feet; South 0 degrees - West 148 feet; North 83 degrees - West 378 feet; North 7 degrees - East 45 feet; North 28 degrees - West 178 feet; South 61 degrees - 30 feet West 239 feet; North 29 degrees - 30 feet West 363 feet; North 49 degrees - 30 feet East 455 feet to the south right-of-way line of Fowlkes Street; and thence along the south right-of-way line of said Fowlkes Street 960 feet to the point of beginning and containing 14.4 acres, more or less.

UTMS

- A. 16.512 800 . 3973 480
- B. 16.512 740 . 3973 260
- C. 16.512 360 . 3973 300
- D. 16.512 360 . 3973 500

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Carnton House

Beginning at a corner post, the northwest corner of the Confederate Cemetery and in the southern boundary line of the Carnton Club, thence with a fence line South 83 degrees East with the northern line of the Confederate and McGavock Cemeteries, passing the northeast corner of McGavock cemetery at 760 feet and continuing with an extension of this line, a total length of 1227 feet to an interior fence line of Sugg; thence with the following twelve calls along interior fence line of Sugg and include the Carnton Home within these boundaries South 8 degrees 30 feet East 76.2 feet, South 24 degrees 30 feet West 257.0 feet, South 1 degree 30 feet West 79.2 feet, South 83 degrees East 46.0 feet, South 12 degrees 30 feet West 207.0 feet, S 47 degrees 30 feet West 26.0 feet, South 87 degrees 30 feet West 77.0 feet, North 81 degrees 45 feet West 246.1 feet, North 86 degrees 45 feet West 83.7 feet and North 85 degrees 30 feet West 988.4 feet along a fence that is just south of the driveway to Kinnard's east fence line, thence with her east fence line northerly 625.3 feet to a point; thence South 83 degrees East crossing the road and with the southern margin of Carnton Club 314.0 feet to the point of beginning and containing 20 acres, more or less.

UTMS

- A. 16.512 800 . 3973 480
- B. 16.512 740 . 3973 260
- C. 16.512 360 . 3973 300
- D. 16.512 360 . 3973 560

Winstead Hill - Refer to USGS Map-Leipers Fork Quad

Beginning at point X, which is located on the west should of the Andrew Jackson Highway approximately 2000 feet north of the pipeline, proceed west 2000 feet, more or less, to a point, thence northeast 1250 feet, more or less, to point, thence east to the west shoulder of the Andrew Jackson Highway, thence south along said shoulder to the point of origin.

UTMS

- A. 16.511 000 . 3971 450
- B. 16.511 920 . 3971 080
- C. 16.511 340 . 3971 140
- D. 16.511 500 . 3971 480