

SIEGE AND BATTLE OF CORINTH

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: **Siege (April 28-May 30, 1862)**
and Battle of Corinth (October 3-4, 1862)

Other Name/Site Number: _____

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Various locations Not for publication: _____

City/Town: Corinth Vicinity: X

State: MS County: Alcorn Code: 003 Zip Code: 38834
 TN Hardeman 069 38061

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X
 Public-local: X
 Public-State: _____
 Public-Federal: X

Category of Property

Building(s): _____
 District: X
 Site: _____
 Structure: _____
 Object: _____

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

4
15

19

Noncontributing

14 buildings
 _____ sites
1 structures
 _____ objects
15 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 4

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ Entered in the National Register _____
- _____ Determined eligible for the _____
National Register
- _____ Determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
- _____ Removed from the National Register _____
- _____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Defense

Sub: Battlesite

Current: Agriculture
Landscape
Landscape

Sub: Agricultural Field
Park
Forest

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:
Mid-19th-Century
Mixed

Materials:
Foundation: Brick
Walls: Wood, Brick
Roof: Asphalt
Other Description: _____

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**GENERAL**

Corinth, Mississippi, a small town with an 1860 population of less than 400, was established at the crossover of the Memphis and Charleston and the Mobile and Ohio Railroads during the 1850s. It was initially known as Cross City. It is located in the northeast corner of Mississippi near the Tennessee border, 22 miles southwest of Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee River, where on April 6-7, 1862, the terrible battle of Shiloh was fought. In the years since the Civil War, Corinth has grown into a small city, but the general landscape has changed little. Several small streams (Cane, Bridge, Phillips, Elam, and Turner creeks) meander through the area. The soft rolling hills, mixed pine and hardwood forests, and open farmland resemble the terrain of southern Tennessee.

During the siege and battle of Corinth, Union and Confederate troops constructed miles of earthworks guarding the approaches to Corinth from the north, east, and west. In the late summer and early autumn of 1862, Union soldiers erected a line of redoubts on commanding ground within one-half to three-quarters of a mile of the railroad crossover.

The Union advance on and partial investment of Corinth--April 28-May 30, 1862--by Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck's powerful "Army Group" has been described as the "most extraordinary display of entrenchment under offensive conditions witnessed in the entire war." After a cautious march from Pittsburg Landing and Hamburg, Tennessee, Halleck's Army Group, having by May 2 closed to within 12 miles of Corinth, felt its way forward from one line of entrenchments to another. The Confederates had constructed a defensive line of earthworks anchored on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad to the west, continuing around to the north of Corinth, crossing the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and Purdy Road, then turning south following the high ground commanding Bridge Creek and crossing the Memphis and Charleston Railroad well east of the crossover, and anchoring on the Danville Road, one-half mile east of the Mobile and Ohio. These earthworks guarded the eastern and northern approaches to Corinth. Several miles of these earthworks are extant. Of the existing earthworks, all except Batteries F and Robinett are from this period of construction.

Battery F and Battery Robinett belong to a series of earthworks commenced by Union forces under General Halleck after the Confederates withdrew from Corinth on the night of May 29-30, 1862. Work on these defenses was expedited by troops under Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, laboring under supervision of Capt. Frederick E. Prime, in the days following the September 19, 1862 battle of Iuka. Batteries F and Robinett are the only earthworks extant from these fortifications.

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The earthworks built previously by the Confederates, and later improved by occupying Union forces, did not adequately protect the approaches to Corinth from the west and northwest, in the opinion of Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Rosecrans' immediate superior. The earthworks Grant had constructed consisted of redoubts connected by rifle-pits. These positions were strengthened by an abatis (series of felled timber, with the tree branches sharpened and fronting the expected direction of an enemy's attack) where the lines entered forested areas. Beginning 4200 feet south of the crossover of the Mobile and Ohio and the Memphis and Charleston Railroads, in clockwise order, the redoubts were: Battery Lothrop, Battery Tannrath, Battery Phillips, Battery Williams, Battery Robinett, Battery Powell, and ending with Battery Madison 400 feet south of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. Detached works were constructed to protect approach roads and the railroads. Lettered batteries were built to the south and west of town. They commenced with Battery A, sited on the watershed where the southeastern end of the original Confederate earthworks anchored. The batteries were placed and lettered clockwise covering the southern and western approaches to Corinth. Battery F, 2200 feet south of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, anchored these six strongpoints west of town.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**FIRST PHASE, BATTLE OF CORINTH: October 3, 1862**

The Battle of Corinth, October 3-4, 1862, opened as Maj. Gen. Mansfield Lovell's Confederate division--spearheading the march of Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn's three-division Army of the West--advanced along the Chewalla Road (present day Wenasoga Road) paralleling the Memphis and Charleston Railroad (present day Southern Railroad). The fight began as Lovell's soldiers crossed Cane Creek and were fired upon by Union soldiers of Brig. Gen. John McArthur's command posted on the ridge ahead and to the right and left of the railroad. This ridge is crossed by both the railroad and the Wenasoga Road.

The area retains its pastoral character. It is primarily farmland, mostly pasture, with some areas of forest. Only five buildings (all non-contributing, built after the Civil War), located near the crossing of the Southern Railroad and Wenasoga Road, encroach within the boundary. The buildings are a farmhouse, a barn, and three sheds.

BATTERY F

Battery F is located about a two-thirds of a mile southeast of the opening battlefield at the corner of Bitner Street and Davis Street. The battery is on the point of a ridge approximately 2200 feet south of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad (present day Southern Railroad).

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Battery F is a well-preserved earthwork approximately 150 feet long. The parapet is between three and six feet high, with a ditch in front. There is evidence of the glacis, which can be seen in front of the ditch. The battery has a slight curve in the shape of a crescent.

Facing northwest, Battery F protected the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The battery was the northernmost of the detached batteries protecting approaches along roads and railroads. A heavy abatis, extending toward the area of the "opening battlefield," fronted the battery.

The area around the battery is under development. Many of the adjacent lots are being subdivided, with new construction in progress. The battery will soon be surrounded by new houses.

BATTERY ROBINETT

Battery Robinett is one of the six major batteries erected and armed by Union soldiers during the summer of 1862 at a distance of one-half mile from the crossover of the Memphis and Charleston and the Mobile and Ohio Railroads to enable the Federals to better guard against Confederate forces approaching from the west and south. The battery is located on a hill approximately 400 feet north of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad (now the Southern Railroad). It was connected by rifle-pits with Battery Williams, to the south, and Battery Powell, to the northeast. Battery Robinett was leveled in the winter of 1863, some 12 months after the Battle of Corinth, when Union forces evacuated the area. At an unspecified later date, the site was used for residential purposes. The current battery is a reconstruction based on archeological and documentary investigations.

In July 1978, an archeological excavation was conducted by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The site was re-established through the use of maps showing the defenses of Corinth, as drawn by Union engineers, and topographical configurations. The archeologists established the western line of the earthwork by excavating four test trenches with a backhoe. Three of these revealed the line of an infilled trench, believed to be the western ditch, in the soil profile. Civil War period photographs show that Battery Robinett had irregular angular sides, giving it somewhat of a horseshoe appearance.

Today, the site is a park-like setting. Reconstructed Battery Robinett dominates. Historical markers are strategically located throughout the site. Several concrete walkways traverse sections of the area. A stone wall borders much of the park area. To the east of the earthwork is an obelisk erected in memory of Col. William P. Rogers. His grave is to the right of the monument. Also located in the park is the grave and memorial of Confederate Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Hogg, who died on May 16, 1862, during the Siege of Corinth and whose remains were reinterred here in 1918. Also located in the park are the graves of six Confederate color bearers, their gravesites identified by markers.

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To the east of the park is a housing project targeted for demolition and inclusion in the park by the city. Included are fifteen one-story brick buildings built by the government in the mid-20th century that do not contribute to the significance of the site. They are architecturally nondescript, low-budget tenant houses, and are in various stages of disrepair. This site, the park, and reconstructed Battery Robinett include the area where the October 4 fight for Corinth raged in all its fury and the ability of Col. John W. Fuller's reinforced brigade to repulse desperate human wave attacks by the Confederates was decisive in turning back two Rebel brigades and insuring the success of a Union counterattack.

CONFEDERATE EARTHWORKS BETWEEN THE MOBILE & OHIO RAILROAD AND THE PURDY ROAD

These earthworks represent the northern extent of the Confederate fortifications built around Corinth from mid-March to May 29, 1862. The earthworks are in excellent condition. With a few exceptions, the earthworks are a continuous line extending approximately 8500 feet. They are between six inches and fifteen feet in height, averaging three to five feet high along most of the line. Their average width is ten to twelve feet.

The northernmost point of the earthworks is at the end of the entrance driveway from Farris Lane. From this point, the earthworks extend west and curve south about 1000 feet through heavy underbrush. The integrity of the earthworks in this area varies considerably. There are some areas broken by erosion. The best earthworks in this line are about one foot high and one foot wide. The earthworks continue along a ridge line into an area of hardwood trees. The condition of the earthworks improves dramatically for the next 3000 feet. The earthwork line continues 1500 feet, with a height of four to six feet, to an extensive artillery emplacement with parapet fifteen feet high. The earthworks continue past a traverse (a wall erected perpendicular to a main earthwork to prevent enfilade or reverse fire along the line), twenty-five feet long and five feet high, 1500 feet to a high point on a ridge where the line follows an old road bed approximately 2500 feet. The line becomes barely visible after 1500 feet. The last 1000 feet of earthworks are badly damaged and eroded.

The earthworks extend from the entrance driveway east and south about 2000 feet (opposite from the first section of earthworks). The height of these earthworks ranges from two to four feet for the first 1000 feet. The earthworks follows the crest of the ridge into a forest of pine where they are badly eroded and come to an end.

HARPER ROAD UNION EARTHWORKS

Approximately 1000 feet south of the intersection of Harper Road and Mississippi State Highway 2 is a section of earthworks on the

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west side of Harper Road. Union rifle-pits thrown up by Brig. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbutt's Division, Army of the Tennessee, and Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Davies' Division, Army of the Tennessee, they are 1164 feet long, three to four feet high, and about ten to twelve feet wide. They run in a north-to-south line parallel to Harper Road. The earthworks have some underbrush growing on them and are covered by both hardwood and pine trees. Between Harper Road and the earthworks, grass and brush are growing. On the west side of the earthworks, there is a plowed field. A smaller section of the earthworks exists about 500 feet to the south. This area was not included because of the lack of integrity and buildings built on and about the earthworks.

UNION SIEGE LINES: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's and Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Davies' Divisions

There are two sections to this line. The largest earthworks are in a stand of trees surrounded by cultivated fields. They are about 2000 feet north of Mississippi State Highway 2. The only access is by an unimproved field road. These earthworks are 1322 feet long, average two to four feet high, and 10 feet wide. The earthworks are situated in a west to east line. There are two battery emplacements dividing the line into thirds. The batteries are 78 feet (west) and 60 feet (east), with slight breaks in the earthwork line. A "V" shaped earthwork, measuring 25 feet at its open end, 20 feet on each side, and fifteen feet behind the main line of earthworks, is 400 feet east of the west end of the earthworks. Both the east and west ends of the earthworks end abruptly in cultivated fields.

The next line of earthworks continues for 475 feet beginning at a gravel drive, proceeds east and ends at Mississippi State Highway 2 after being broken for 25 feet by a dirt road. The earthworks average one to two feet high and two to three feet wide. The area is covered with mowed grass and an open canopy of trees.

UNION SIEGE LINES: Army of the Tennessee (Brig. Gens. Thomas McKean's and Thomas W. Sherman's Divisions) and Army of the Ohio (Brig. Gens. T.J. Wood's and William Nelson's Divisions)

This line of earthworks extends south from Henderson Road, parallel to the unimproved field road, for approximately 2500 feet. This section is about one to two feet high and two to three feet wide. These earthworks are rifle-pits. A portion of these earthworks have been leveled during cultivation. Most of the line is covered by undergrowth and trees. The rifle-pits have been broken in two places for unimproved field roads.

About 50 feet southeast of the end of the earthworks is a large artillery emplacement. The emplacement has been partially leveled by bulldozing for a farm equipment parking area. The parapets are ten to fifteen feet high, ten feet wide, and 75 feet long. There is a large erosion in the north end. Approximately 175 feet south of the emplacement is a mound of earth overgrown

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with grass and underbrush. This is a bombproof (a structure designed to provide protection from artillery fire) or powder magazine. The mound is three to five feet high and 25 feet deep by 25 feet wide. The mound is depressed in the center and on the northeast side, having collapsed when the timber linings rotted.

Five hundred feet southwest of this emplacement and bombproof is another emplacement and bombproof in the same configuration as the previous set. The emplacement is two to four feet high, eight to ten feet wide, and 250 feet long. A bombproof is located at the end of the battery. (The second emplacement and bombproof resemble the configuration of the first emplacement and bombproof.) The bombproof is three to five feet high and 25 feet deep by 25 feet wide. The center is depressed in the same configuration as the first, with the northeast side depressed more than the other sides.

UNION SIEGE LINE: Army of the Mississippi (Brig. Gen. E.A. Paine's Division)

There are two lines of rifle-pits along the ridge line. The line lower on the ridge is 168 feet long, one to two feet high, and approximately two feet wide. The second earthwork is about 50 feet above the lower and is 200 feet long, one to two feet high, and approximately two feet wide. The earthworks at the north end have been badly eroded. The area is kept as a grassy mowed field. A few hardwood trees shade the area.

CONFEDERATE RIFLE-PIT

The rifle-pit is crescent-shaped in plan and is oriented to face northeast. It consists of a low earthwork behind which was a shallow trench. The front trench has been infilled by slope wash from the embankment. The earthwork is devoid of sod and is subject to erosion. The earthwork is approximately three feet high, ten to twelve feet wide, and fifty feet long.

CORINTH NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Corinth National Cemetery is situated approximately three quarters of a mile southeast from the railroad depot in Corinth. Established in 1866 by an Act of Congress, it is part of the National Cemetery System administered by the Department of Veteran Affairs and comprises approximately 16 acres. Fighting during the Battle of Corinth (on the morning of October 4, 1862) took place on the grounds.

The interment of the remains of Civil War soldiers at this cemetery began in September 1864. The remains were gathered from approximately 20 battlefields. By 1870, when the interment program was nearly completed, Corinth was the sixteenth largest National Cemetery. There were 5,688 interments, of which 1,793 were known and 3,895 were unknown. The interred represent 273 regiments from fifteen states. Today, there are 6,500 interments. Headstones mark the site of each grave.

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There are two noncontributing buildings within the National Cemetery boundary. The superintendent's house is a two-story, Tudor style house built in 1934. The maintenance building is an architecturally non-descript T-shaped structure with a tile roof. It was also built in 1934.

RAILROAD CROSSOVER

The crossover of the Memphis and Charleston and Mobile and Ohio Railroads was the catalyst for Corinth's existence and military significance. The crossover is represented today by the crossing of the Illinois Central Gulf and the Southern Railroads. There is a depot, which is the third depot to stand at this site, built in 1917.

DAVIS BRIDGE: Battle of the Hatchie (October 5, 1862)

Davis Bridge is the site of the savage fight on October 5, 1862, between Confederate Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn's Army of the West retreating from Corinth and a Union force under Maj. Gen. E.O.C. Ord. The bridge spanned the Hatchie River two miles south of Pocahontas, Tennessee, the latter three miles north of the Mississippi border.

The site of the battle is forested with hardwood and pine and heavy undergrowth. An unimproved trail/road, on the historic roadway, serves as access to the site. There are several stone monuments commemorating the battle and those who fell there. The bridge has long since washed away and the river banks may have eroded slightly, but the site maintains a high degree of integrity.

DUNCAN HOUSE

The Duncan House--at the northeast corner of Bunch and Polk streets--was the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gen. John C. Breckenridge in April and May 1862. The house has undergone many changes since it was constructed. The most obvious is that the house was moved, from around the corner on Bunch Street, during the early twentieth century. The exterior of the Duncan house was covered with asbestos shingles; a full-width porch was constructed on the front facade; the rear facade was altered; and many interior features, including partitions and trim, were removed. The front fenestration--a central door with transoms and sidelights, flanked by two windows on each side--appears to be original. The windows are two over two replacements.

The bracketed cornice in the front is intersected by a central gabled roof, presumably the remnants of the original portico depicted on a Civil War-era sketch of the house. Presently, a full length front porch, roofed below the cornice and supported by paired square wood columns, is a replacement that was added, likely when the house was moved to the present site. Little of the original interior remains. The central hall wall has been removed to make a large living room. The existing wood trim

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appears to date from the late 19th or early 20th century, and all original fireplace surrounds have been removed. Layers of various flooring materials further obscure the original plan.

OAK HOME

Oak Home--at the northeast corner of Bunch and Fillmore streets--was the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk from late March to May 29, 1862. The house was built in 1857 and rehabilitated circa 1930. The house was enlarged and garden structures were added in the then popular "Williamsburg" interpretation of the "colonial" style (hereafter referred to as "colonial"). The simply detailed mid-19th-century home was enhanced with detailing reminiscent of the "colonial" era. The four-room block was enlarged with a bedroom wing attached at the front facade and a kitchen addition at the rear. The roofline of the bedroom wing was embellished with a wood balustrade and urns were added at the roof line. A garage with living quarters on the second level is connected to the front facade by a breezeway. All the additions were constructed with "colonial" architectural detailing.

The grounds were formally landscaped with brick pavers and geometric plantings. A wood picket and brick pier fence was also constructed around the property to replace the earlier board fence. A "colonial" garden pavilion with domed cupola was constructed adjacent to the house among the plantings.

The interior was also remodeled, circa 1930, in the "colonial" manner. The floors were covered with wide, pegged, hardwood flooring. The fire surrounds were replaced with mantels in various revival styles, as was most of the rest of the interior wood trim. Ceiling medallions and deep ceiling cove moldings were added in the primary rooms.

The structure has retained its original strong projecting front portico with paired square columns supporting a deep entablature. The front door is bordered with ornamental sidelights and a transom. The central block appears much as it did in a circa 1860 sketch of the building. The circa 1930 alterations to the house were of high quality and blend with the original building fabric.

FISH POND HOUSE

Fish Pond House, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Kilpatrick and Childs streets, was built in 1857, and served as the headquarters of Confederate Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard from late March until May 29, 1862. The house has undergone many changes since its initial construction. The most prominent is the removal of the projecting cupola on the roof that housed a cistern that purportedly gave the house its name. Other exterior changes include alterations to the original windows, enclosure of the masonry piers, the addition of a bay window, and the construction of a kitchen and side porch at the rear.

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The exterior decorative millwork appears to be original and is significant. This detailing is used around the deep cornice of both the house and the projecting porch. The porch has square columns and was supported historically by masonry piers similar to those found on the main block of the house. The sidelights and transom are original, but this is not the case for the glazed paired entry doors.

The interior plan has been altered by the removal of a sidewall that opened off the central hall into the front parlor. With some alterations, such as reducing the size of the doors, much of the interior wood trim is extant.

CURLEE HOUSE

Located on the northwest corner of Jackson and Childs streets in Corinth and originally called the Veranda House, the Curlee house served as the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gens. Braxton Bragg and Earl Van Dorn in April and May 1862, and of Union Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck from May 30 to mid-July 1862. The Curlee House is a significant example of Greek Revival architecture modified and adapted to a domestic scale. Although the architect is unknown, the excellent proportions and unified composition of the design indicates that the house was the product of a single, well-trained man.

Standing on a foundation of brick piers, the house is three bays wide, one story high, and surrounded on three sides by a narrow veranda. The exterior walls are finished with white stucco applied to lath on frame and scored to imitate ashlar masonry. Physical evidence indicates that the stucco was painted a straw color at an early date to cover what originally appears to have been a marbleized finish. The veranda, which projects slightly on each elevation to form small porticoes, is composed of slender chamfered columns on pedestals supporting a full entablature detailed with delicate water leaf carvings below the frieze and simple starlike designs on the cornice.

A narrow parapet wall is placed above the entablature to screen the structure's low-pitched roof. Large, full-length windows, placed symmetrically on each elevation, are hung in substantial eared architraves which are ornamented with applied rosettes and which support a shallow cornice. Each window opening retains its original set of louvered blinds. Recessed behind an opening which repeats the exact details and dimensions of the windows, is the entrance to the Curlee House. It is contained in a substantial frontpiece designed with pilasters that separate the door from narrow, flanking sidelights, and is capped by a large, seven-light transom. Alterations to the exterior of the house include the replacement of two pairs of octagonal chimneys with lower, more conventional stacks, roof alterations and replacement, the removal of simple, sawn antefixes from the parapet wall, and the construction of a frame addition to the rear elevation in the early 1930s.

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The plan of the Curlee House is based on the traditional double-piled formula, with a broad central passage separating the drawing and dining rooms on the south side from two chambers currently furnished as a library and bedroom on the north. Two simple plaster chandelier medallions and a chair rail with panel-like moldings applied to the dado below emphasize the entrance hall. The drawing room is a sixteen-foot nine-inch cube with giant pilasters, and with egg and dart molding on the capitals, doorframe, mantel, and windows. The pilasters visually support an ambitious entablature with an architrave carved with a delicate water leaf design, a frieze ornamented with an elaborate guilloche, and a cornice of deeply undercut acanthus leaves which twist around a center rod. Other major interior features include wooden mantels designed with simple paneled pilasters supporting uncarved friezes and shelves; deep, well-proportioned cornices with rosettes applied to the friezes which run beneath; and the battered and eared architraves surrounding six-paneled doors.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 1, 2

NHL Theme(s): V. The Civil War
 C. War in the West

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance	Significant Dates
Military	April 1862-October 1862	April 28-May 30, 1862 October 3-4, 1862

Significant Person(s): Gen. Pierre G.T. Beauregard; Maj. Gens. Henry W. Halleck, Ulysses S. Grant, George H. Thomas, William T. Sherman, Don Carlos Buell, John Pope, William S. Rosecrans, Braxton Bragg, Leonidas Polk, Earl Van Dorn, and Sterling Price; and Cols. Philip H. Sheridan and Joseph Wheeler.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Siege of Corinth (April 28-May 30, 1862) and the Battle of Corinth (October 3-4, 1862) are of national significance under criteria 1 and 2 of the National Historic Landmarks program. Criterion 1 is met because the Corinth Siege and Battle are nationally significant milestones in Civil War campaigns and battles in that they "are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with ... broad national patterns of United States history... ." A number of officers significant to the military history of the Civil War and the United States played key roles or first distinguished themselves at Corinth in 1862, thus addressing criterion 2.

I. JUSTIFICATION FOR MEETING CRITERION 1

To appreciate their significance, these events must be placed in context.

CORINTH'S STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

Two of the most important trunk railroads in the Confederacy passed through Corinth, Mississippi. The first of these--the Memphis & Charleston--was the only through railroad in the South providing service from the Mississippi River at Memphis, by way of Chattanooga, to Richmond and Atlanta and beyond. The other was the north-south Mobile & Ohio, connecting Mobile with Columbus, Kentucky. The railroad crossover gave to Corinth a strategic significance that made it the most significant transportation hub in the western Confederacy during the period March-May 1862.

CORINTH: SPRINGBOARD TO SHILOH

Following February Union victories at Forts Henry and Donelson, Tennessee, the loss of Nashville, and the hurried evacuation of Columbus, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, Confederate commander in the West, selected Corinth as the rendezvous for the army which he planned to lead against Federal forces under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant that had ascended the Tennessee River and gone into camp near Pittsburg Landing, 22 miles northeast of Corinth. On April 3, apprised of the approach of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio, marching overland from Nashville to join Grant's army, Johnston put his four corps in motion. He planned to attack and rout Grant's army before Buell arrived. The battle of Shiloh (April 6-7) resulted. Johnston was killed and the Confederates, now commanded by Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, returned to their camps in and around Corinth to regroup and call up more reinforcements.

TWO GREAT UNION ARMIES PRESS AHEAD

In April and May 1862, Richmond in the east and Corinth in the west engrossed the attention of the Lincoln and Davis

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administrations, their major armies, and the public, both North and South. In the east, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan and his Army of the Potomac were bogged down on the lower Peninsula in front of the Yorktown-Warwick Line from April 5 until the morning of May 4. On May 4, finding that the Confederates had disappeared from their defenses and were retreating up the Peninsula, McClellan followed. By June 2 McClellan's troops had inched their way to within 5 miles of Richmond. In doing so, they had fought two major battles--Williamsburg on May 5 and Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) on May 31 and June 1.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, with an "army group" larger by 20,000 than McClellan's command, had advanced on and laid siege to Corinth, held by a Confederate army that was greater by 10,000 than the force Gen. Joseph E. Johnston hurled against McClellan at Seven Pines. The evacuation of Corinth by the Confederates on the night of May 29 led to the early loss of Fort Pillow, the surrender of Memphis, and the dispatch of Union ironclads down the Mississippi to cooperate with the deepwater navy in the capture of Vicksburg.

JUNE 25, 1862: GLOOM AND DOOM IN THE CONFEDERACY

Seldom in the history of modern warfare has there been such a dramatic shift in fortunes as took place during the 11 weeks between June 26 and mid-September 1862. Late June found Union military power, except in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, ascendant along a 1,000-mile front, extending from Virginia's tidewater to the hills and prairies of the Indian Territory. General McClellan's 115,000-man Army of the Potomac had established itself within five miles of Richmond. Maj. Gen. John Pope, called from the West where he and his troops had "always seen the backs of our enemies," had arrived in the Nation's Capital from Corinth to assume command of and organize into the Army of Virginia the disparate forces that Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson had bested and baffled in his heralded Valley Campaign. In western Virginia, Union troops held the crest of the watershed of those rivers and streams draining northward into the Ohio, and the right-of-way of the Baltimore & Ohio from Harpers Ferry to Parkersburg.

The 120,000-man "army group" led by General Halleck, following the occupation of Corinth and the surrender of Memphis, had consolidated its grip on West Tennessee and the northern tier of Mississippi counties. Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio was en route to Chattanooga, rebuilding the Memphis & Charleston as it advanced. Those soldiers of the Army of the Ohio who had marched south from Nashville since mid-April held much of Alabama's Tennessee Valley, north of the Tennessee River, centering on Huntsville and Athens.

Union amphibious forces--the deepwater Navy and soldiers from Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler's Army of the Gulf--had ascended the Mississippi River 400 miles to Vicksburg, forcing the surrender of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. River ironclads and

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rams of the Mississippi Squadron prowled the reaches of the great river upstream from Vicksburg.

In the trans-Mississippi, Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis' Army of the Southwest, victorious at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, on March 7-8, had marched east and then southeast, carrying the war into Arkansas's White River country. On May 3 Curtis' columns were at Batesville and on July 12 they would occupy Helena on the Mississippi. Out in the Indian Territory Union forces had thrust deep into the Cherokee Nation, while Cherokee and other Native Americans disenchanted with their leaders, who had allied with the Confederacy, were being organized into Indian Home Guards at Fort Scott.

And in New Mexico and the trans-Pecos Region of West Texas, Confederate forces that had in late March held Santa Fe and Albuquerque and threatened to bring the war into Colorado had been turned back at Glorietta Pass. Recoiling, the Confederates had abandoned the Rio Grande Valley and West Texas and were back in San Antonio.

To tighten and better enforce the blockade of the Confederacy, Union amphibious task forces had, during the past nine months, scored numerous successes. The Union, because of these victories, underscoring its power afloat, held key bases on the North Carolina Sounds; at Port Royal, South Carolina; Fort Pulaski, Georgia; Fernandina and St. Augustine, in East Florida; Pensacola, in West Florida; and Ship Island, Mississippi. These bases enabled the Federals to better enforce the blockade and to send punitive raiding parties into the hinterlands.

THE TIDE TURNS: JUNE 26-SEPTEMBER 16, 1862

By mid-September there was a dramatic change in the military situation on the far-flung land fronts, as well as on the all-important and, for the North, critical diplomatic drawing room "front." The South suddenly and, insofar as United States leadership was concerned, unexpectedly, boldly seized the initiative along the 1,000-mile front. They did so both in hard-fought battles and dramatic marches and carried the fight to the North.

Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia lashed out at McClellan's hosts and at the end of the Seven Days' battle had driven the Federals into a fortified camp at Harrison's Landing on the James River, 26 miles from Richmond. General Halleck, called to Washington to be General-in-Chief, recommended that McClellan's army be withdrawn from the Peninsula and returned to northern Virginia to bolster Pope's army preparatory to an overland attack on the Confederate capital from the north. General Lee took advantage of his interior lines and railroads to move against Pope's Army of Virginia before McClellan could join Pope.

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On the plains of Manassas, in five days of bitter fighting that began on August 28, Lee and his generals trounced Pope's army and sent it reeling back into the Washington defenses. While brash John Pope was rushed off to Minnesota to cope with the Sioux uprising, McClellan reorganized Pope's troops, integrating them rapidly into his Army of the Potomac, Lee was crossing the Potomac and carrying the war into Maryland. On September 14, four of Lee's divisions battled McClellan's soldiers in the South Mountain gaps. The next morning the Harpers Ferry garrison--11,000 strong--surrendered to Stonewall Jackson and Lee took position behind Antietam Creek and confidently awaited McClellan.

In western Virginia, Maj. Gen. William W. Loring's Confederates capitalized on the transfer of Union troops to assist in the defense of Washington to take the offensive. Sweeping down the New and Kanawha valleys, Loring's troops battered the Federals at Fayetteville on September 10, passed through Charleston 72 hours later, and by the 16th Union forces had retreated to Point Pleasant on the Ohio River.

In America's heartland, lean and fast-marching Confederate armies forged ahead. Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith's columns crossed the Cumberland Mountains, bypassed Cumberland Gap and its 10,000-man garrison, routed a Union army at Richmond, Kentucky, and entered the Bluegrass Region to be hailed as heroes at Lexington and Frankfort. By September 12, Smith's vanguard had closed to within ten miles of Covington and was threatening Cincinnati. Gen. Braxton Bragg, with the Army of the Mississippi, employed the iron horse to beat Buell's columns to Chattanooga. Bragg then crossed the Tennessee River and struck north across the Cumberland Plateau. Buell misjudged Bragg's goal and marshaled his troops on the eastern approaches to Nashville. Bragg, however, was headed for Louisville. By September 10 Bragg was north of the Cumberland River and by the 12th his vanguard was astride the Louisville & Nashville Railroad at Cave City, 30 miles or a 2-day march closer to Louisville than Buell, who, on his march north from Nashville, had only reached Bowling Green. On the 17th, more than 4,000 Yankees posted at Munfordville surrendered to Bragg.

In northeast Mississippi, by the third week of September, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price and his Army of the West had advanced to Iuka, preparatory to crossing the Tennessee River and marching on Nashville. Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn had assembled a force at Holly Springs, braced to attack either Corinth or Bolivar.

On the Mississippi River, Union amphibious forces that had converged on Vicksburg had recoiled. The deepwater navy and its supporting army brigade had pulled back to New Orleans and Baton Rouge. The Confederates had followed and, though repulsed at Baton Rouge on August 5, occupied and fortified Port Hudson. The Rebel toehold on the Mississippi at Vicksburg had been expanded to 250 river miles. The river ironclads and rams had pulled back to Helena and Memphis.

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Confederate forces in western Arkansas and northeastern Indian Territory had been reorganized and revitalized by Maj. Gen. Thomas Hindman. Crossing the Boston Mountains and sweeping up the Grand River, the Confederates by mid-September had returned to southwest Missouri, taking possession of the Grandy lead mines, preparatory to attacking Fort Scott.

The British government headed by Lord Palmerston, impressed by these Confederate victories, prepared to undertake a diplomatic initiative that could tip the scales decisively against the North. Foreign Secretary Lord John Russell informed Palmerston that the time had come "for offering mediation ... with a view to the recognition of the independence of the Confederacy," in case of the failure of mediation.

SEPTEMBER 17-OCTOBER 8, 1862: THE CONFEDERATE TIDE CRESTS AND EBBS

But before Her Majesty's ministers acted, the Confederate flood tide crested. During the weeks between September 17 and October 8, Confederate armies suffered a series of defeats, followed by retreats. These caused Lord Palmerston and his government to reconsider and then drop their diplomatic initiative.

On September 17, the battle of Antietam was fought and, after dark, on the 18th, General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia abandoned the field and retreated back into Virginia. President Lincoln, four days later, announced his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, giving the war a new dimension.

Out in Mississippi, on September 19, Union forces attacked Price's Army of the West at Iuka, and the Confederates pulled back to Baldwyn. On October 3 and 4, Union troops led by Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans repulsed General Van Dorn's and Price's armies at Corinth. In this fight, Confederate losses, in percentage of those engaged, equalled those suffered by Lee's army at Antietam. Within six weeks of the Corinth disaster, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant would undertake the opening moves in north Mississippi in a campaign that was to lead to the surrender of Vicksburg and its 29,500 defenders on July 4, 1863.

The Confederates also failed in Kentucky. General Bragg, seeking to gain political advantage by inaugurating a Confederate governor of the State in Frankfort, moved aside and allowed Buell's army to reach Louisville. Reinforced, Buell took the field and battled Bragg at Perryville on October 8. The next day, Bragg pulled back, and the retreat into East Tennessee by way of Cumberland Gap, which had been evacuated by the Yanks on September 17, began.

Events also soured for the Confederates in the trans-Mississippi. In the three weeks following a Rebel success in the September 30 fight at Newtonia, Missouri, Union columns struck back. Advancing from Springfield, Missouri, and Fort Scott, they

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compelled the Confederates to once again abandon the region north of Arkansas' Boston Mountains and retreat to the Arkansas River and deep into the Cherokee Nation.

II. JUSTIFICATIONS FOR MEETING CRITERION 2

The Siege and Battle of Corinth were significant in the careers of certain Union and Confederate leaders. All the following officers were at the siege, while four were involved either directly or indirectly in both the siege and battle.

Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, although his strategy bought the Confederate four weeks, and his evacuation of Corinth was masterful, did not enhance his reputation with President Jefferson Davis. When he went on sick leave in mid-June without first securing authority from the War Department, Davis replaced him as army commander.

Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck's success as an "army group" commander led to his promotion to General-in-Chief of all Union armies, a position for which he proved ill-suited.

Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant--for him the Siege of Corinth meant weeks of disappointment and frustration. As second in command to Halleck, with little authority, he seriously considered resigning his commission and returning to Illinois.

Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas led the Army of the Tennessee with credit during the siege and demonstrated that he was self-reliant and capable.

Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, a Grant confidant, employed his persuasive powers to talk Grant into remaining with the army.

Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell, a cautious general devoid of charisma, at the Corinth siege exhibited traits that boded ill for the Union in the march for Chattanooga and almost proved disastrous during the race to Louisville.

Maj. Gen. John Pope's victory at Island No. 10 and aggressive actions at Corinth led to a call to Washington and command of the Army of Virginia.

Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans's defeat of the Confederates at Corinth, October 3-4, brought to him command of the Army of the Cumberland. His failure to better coordinate with General Grant at Iuka on September 19, and to press the pursuit of the Confederates at Corinth, on October 4 and 5, cost Rosecrans dearly in mid-October 1863, when Grant relieved him as leader of the Army of the Cumberland.

Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg, second in command to Beauregard at the Corinth siege and enjoying President Davis' confidence, was promoted to general and replaced Beauregard as commander of the Army of the Mississippi.

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Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk, a corps commander, led the Confederate left wing during the siege, and a corps, under first General Bragg and then General Joseph E. Johnston, until he was killed in action at Pine Mountain, Georgia, on June 14, 1864.

Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn commanded the Army of the West during the siege and the Confederate army at the October 3-4 battle. On two occasions, first at Pea Ridge and then at Corinth, Van Dorn, although deploying superior numbers, was defeated.

Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, popular former governor of Missouri and commanding the State Guard, led a division at the siege and the Army of the West at the battles of Iuka and Corinth.

Col. Philip H. Sheridan, in the last days of the siege, for the first time led troops into battle. By April 1865, Sheridan, along with Grant, Sherman, and Thomas, was acknowledged as one of the architects of the North's final victory.

Col. Joseph Wheeler, an active leader in small unit actions along the picket line during the siege, soon transferred to the cavalry and commanded the Army of Tennessee's mounted arm from the autumn of 1862 until after the September 1, 1864, evacuation of Atlanta.

HISTORY

The preceding statement of significance is based on the detailed narrative that follows:

I. Corinth: Springboard to Shiloh, March-April 1862

Early in 1862, the Union undertook campaigns aimed at dividing the Confederacy and recovering control of the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, to its mouth. Such an undertaking would have far-reaching military and political repercussions.

Flag Officer David G. Farragut's ocean-going fleet moved against New Orleans. While mortar-schooners hammered Forts Jackson and St. Philip, just above the Mississippi River's mouth 70 miles below the city, Farragut's ships, early on April 24, passed the forts, destroyed the Confederate fleets, and forced the surrender of New Orleans. The South had lost its largest city and most important port.¹ Ten weeks before, a Union amphibious force commanded by Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant had advanced against the strongholds guarding the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Fort Henry, on the Tennessee, was bombarded and captured by Union ironclads and timberclads on February 6, and Fort Donelson, on

¹ Alfred T. Mahan, The Gulf and Inland Waters, 52-86. The Night the War Was Lost by Charles L. Dufour is an excellent monograph detailing the attack on and capture of New Orleans.

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the Cumberland, with its 13,000-man garrison was unconditionally surrendered to General Grant on the 16th.²

These victories had immediate and far-reaching consequences. The Confederate stronghold at Columbus, Kentucky, on the Mississippi, was outflanked and had to be evacuated. The Confederates were forced back to Island No. 10. With Union gunboats ascending the Tennessee River to Muscle Shoals and his direct railroad connections with Memphis severed, the Confederate commander in the West--Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston--pulled his army out of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Nashville and Middle Tennessee were hurriedly abandoned.³

Johnston led his troops to Corinth. For the next several months, this northeast Mississippi town, where the Mobile & Ohio and Memphis & Charleston railroads crossed, became the most important point in the Confederacy. Over these railroads to join Johnston came thousands of soldiers. Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg and Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles arrived with units formerly posted on the Gulf Coast; Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard and Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk came with many of the commands withdrawn from Columbus.

General Grant's Army of the Tennessee ascended the Tennessee River on steamboats and went ashore at Pittsburg Landing, 22 miles northeast of Corinth. There most of the divisions camped on a plateau, near Shiloh Church, and awaited the arrival of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio, which had started from Nashville in the third week of March. When Buell arrived, the combined Federal armies were to advance on Corinth. General Johnston was aware of this. He planned to smash Grant before Buell arrived.⁴ Initially he had hoped to delay his attack until after the arrival of Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn's Army of the West, en route to Corinth from western Arkansas.⁵ The distance

² War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. VII, 159-161.

³ On January 19, 1862, Union troops led by Brig. Gen. George H. Thomas defeated a Confederate army led by Maj. Gen. George B. Crittenden at Mill Springs (Logan's Cross-Roads), Kentucky. Crittenden's defeated troops, who had advanced from Cumberland Gap, retired into Middle Tennessee, where they reported to Johnston and joined his army at Murfreesboro, on the march to Corinth.

⁴ Manning F. Force, From Fort Henry to Corinth, 91-121.

⁵ Earl Van Dorn was a Mississippian. The son of Peter A. and Sophia (Caffery) Donelson, Van Dorn was born at Port Gibson on September 17, 1820, and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1842. He served with distinction in the Mexican War and in many clashes with the Plains Indians. His Army of the West had been defeated by the Federals at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, on March 7-8, 1862. Ezra Warner, Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate

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was too great, and, with Buell's columns rapidly approaching the Tennessee River, Johnston was compelled to strike before Van Dorn arrived.

Shortly after daybreak on April 6, Johnston's battle lines, having advanced from Corinth, stormed out of the woods and assailed Grant's divisions in their camps near Shiloh Church. Grant, as well as many of his units, was surprised. The Federals quickly rallied and a desperate battle followed. The Confederates during the morning and early afternoon gained ground in savage fighting at Shiloh Church, the Sunken Road, the Hornet's Nest, and the Peach Orchard. But they were almost as disorganized by their successes as the bluecoats were by their disasters. Their assaults were no longer coordinated, and Johnston about 2:30 p.m. was mortally wounded as he rallied and led a regiment forward. Grant's troops, as they retired, took up a strong position. Massed artillery covered their front, deep hollows their flanks, and the Tennessee River their rear. Grant did not panic.

Late in the afternoon, advance units of Buell's Army of the Ohio crossed the Tennessee and reported to Grant at Pittsburg Landing. General Beauregard, who had succeeded to command of the army on Johnston's death, realized that with Buell's arrival his chances for victory were slim. The next day, April 7, Beauregard skillfully disengaged his now outnumbered command and retired to Corinth. The Federals, terribly mauled, did not press the pursuit, and Shiloh, which claimed more battle casualties than the Patriot forces suffered in all the engagements of the Revolutionary War, was over.⁶

II. The Corinth Siege, April 28-May 30, 1862

A. Halleck's "Army Group" Moves Out

April 7, 1862, was also a bleak day for the Confederacy on the Mississippi. Island No. 10 and its 6,900-man garrison was surrendered to a Union amphibious force led by Maj. Gen. John Pope.⁷ General Pope, with most of his army, in the third week

Commanders, 314.

⁶ Force, From Fort Henry to Corinth, 122-182. Total battle deaths in the Revolutionary War for the Patriot forces were 4,044, wounded not mortal 6,004, prisoners 6,642, and missing 2,124, for a total of 18,914. Union casualties (killed, wounded, and missing) at Shiloh were 12,163, while Confederate losses were listed at 10,699. The Army Almanac: A Book of Facts Concerning the Army of the United States, 411.

⁷ Force, From Fort Henry to Corinth, 66-90. Pope with his entire army had proceeded against Fort Pillow on April 14, but within a few days he was ordered to report with his command, less one brigade, to General Halleck at Pittsburg Landing.

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of April, was shifted by water to Hamburg Landing, a short distance upstream from Pittsburg Landing. There he joined the 123,000-man "army group" that Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, Union commander in the West, was organizing for an advance on Corinth.⁸

Halleck had a reputation as an intellectual in the "old army," and he was inclined to be petty. Jealous of Grant's successes at Forts Henry and Donelson and critical of the security measures adopted prior to Shiloh, Halleck relegated Grant to be his deputy as "army group" commander. This was a position so limited in responsibilities and in Grant's view so demeaning that he seriously considered resigning his commission.⁹

By April 28, when Halleck put his troops in motion from Pittsburg and Hamburg landings, Beauregard had been reinforced by Van Dorn's Army of the West. But even so, he was outnumbered about two to one. After the battle of Shiloh, Beauregard had turned his troops to fortifying the northern and eastern approaches to Corinth. These defenses extended in an arc about one and one half miles out from the railroad crossover and anchored to the northwest and east on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. This seven-mile line consisted of trenches and rifle-pits with artillery emplacements at key points. Only about one-eighth of the Confederate defense line is extant. (See Section 7, Description of Contributing Resources--Confederate Earthworks between the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and the Purdy Road.)

The Federal columns advanced on Corinth on a broad front: The Army of the Tennessee led by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas on the right, Buell's Army of the Ohio in the center, and Pope's Army of the Mississippi on the left. Marching by way of Monterey, Tennessee, Thomas' lead division--Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman's--by May 4 had closed to within eight miles of Corinth, and had entrenched astride the State Line road, one mile west of its intersection with the Corinth road. Here they were positioned to anchor the "army group's" right against a Confederate counterattack.¹⁰ Buell's columns marched via the

⁸ Halleck's "army group" included three armies: Pope's Army of the Mississippi, Buell's Army of the Ohio, and the Army of the Tennessee now led by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas.

⁹ Stephen Ambrose, Halleck: Lincoln's Chief of Staff, 41-54.

¹⁰ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 739. As of May 4, the other four Army of the Tennessee divisions were camped: Hurlbut's on Sherman's left and in close support; T.W. Sherman's on the Monterey-Corinth road; Davies's and McKean's in reserve. Billy Sherman's position is identified on Plate XIII, Fig. 6, of the Official Records Atlas. General McClernand's Army of the Tennessee Reserve Corps, on May 4, moved forward from its camps near the Shiloh battlefield and bivouacked

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State Line road. The vanguard crossed Lick Creek on the 2nd, and by nightfall had reached Mount Olivet Church, 12 miles northeast of Corinth. By the 6th, Buell's troops, pushing ahead slowly on three parallel roads, closed on the Mississippi state line along a three-mile front just north of Chambers Creek, a west-to-east-flowing tributary of the Tennessee River.¹¹

B. Pope Goads the Confederates: The May 3 and 9 Farmington Fighting

Pope's soldiers, on their advance from Hamburg Landing, traveled the old Hamburg road, crossed into Mississippi, and by dark on the 2nd occupied the high ground overlooking Sevenmile Creek, six miles east of Corinth.¹² The next morning Brig. Gen. Eleazer A. Paine's division forded Sevenmile Creek, pushed forward, and approached Farmington, four miles east of Corinth. Here they encountered and attacked a strong force of Confederates positioned in front of the village. In a short, sharp engagement, Paine's soldiers, spearheaded by Col. James D. Morgan's brigade, drove the Confederates from their camp, compelling them to leave 40 dead, as well as their tents and baggage, on the field.¹³ On May 4, the rest of Pope's army crossed Sevenmile Creek and camped within a mile and a half of Farmington, where Paine's troops had entrenched. The next day, the 5th, found Pope's Army of the Mississippi returning to its camps north of Sevenmile Creek to reestablish its connection with Buell's army. This retrograde was dictated by the failure of Buell's Army of the Ohio, on Pope's right, to keep pace with Pope's people, who, by their rapid advance to Farmington, had exposed themselves to Confederate counterattack. Buell's march had been slowed by rains and Halleck's and Buell's innate caution, exacerbated by the near-disaster suffered by Grant at Shiloh.¹⁴

as follows: Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah's First Division near Monterey and Maj. Gen. Lewis Wallace's Third Division at Mickey's White House. Lt. Col. William McCullough with 250 Illinois horse soldiers during the day had raided west to where the Memphis & Charleston Railroad crossed Cypress Creek, destroying three bridges, tearing up track, and cutting the telegraph. War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 754.

¹¹ Ibid., 672-673. In its march Buell's army crossed Lick Creek at Atkins' and Greer's and advanced along two narrow, unimproved dirt roads.

¹² Ibid., 714, 721, 727-728, 735. On April 29, Col. Washington Elliott with his cavalry brigade of Pope's army undertook a forced reconnaissance to Monterey, where he surprised and scattered the Confederates manning that outpost.

¹³ Ibid., 714, 728, 735.

¹⁴ Ibid., 721; Vol. X, pt. 2, 158, 160-161, 164.

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On May 4 and 5 torrential rains pelted the area, turning the roads into ribbons of mud. A number of bridges were swept away by normally placid streams turned into raging torrents. Confederate outposts clashed with blueclad skirmishers, as Yankee columns felt their way cautiously ahead. The countryside north and east of the Corinth earthworks was rural, featuring a number of small farms, the fields bounded by thick woods. About two miles east of the Rebel earthworks was a ridge. East of this watershed, Chambers and Sevenmile Creek and their tributaries discharged eastward into the Tennessee River. Bridge and Phillips creeks, between the ridge and the Confederate rifle-pits, flowed south and beyond their confluence turned west to mingle their water with the Tuscumbia.¹⁵

General Beauregard planned to take advantage of the terrain and blunders on the part of the Union generals to hurl a powerful force against any brigade or division that found itself isolated. Such an opportunity presented itself on May 9. The day before, General Buell's pioneers had begun bridging Chambers Creek, and, with the Army of the Ohio again inching its way southward, the aggressive Pope undertook a forced reconnaissance to determine if the Confederates were evacuating Corinth, as reported by deserters. Once again, he crossed Sevenmile Creek, reoccupied Farmington, and pushed forward two divisions to within cannon shot of Confederate fortifications commanding the Phillips and Bridge Creek bottoms. In the advance beyond Farmington, Paine's division was on the right and Brig. Gen. David S. Stanley's on the left. Warned that Buell's Army of the Ohio was not yet ready to advance beyond Chambers Creek, Pope recalled his troops. Most of them returned to their camps north of Sevenmile Creek. Col. John M. Loomis' brigade of Stanley's division was detached and remained behind to hold Farmington, where Pope had established a telegraph station.¹⁶

The advance to and occupation of Farmington by Pope's troops posed a threat to a prolonged defense of Corinth by General Beauregard's "army group" that could not be ignored. At Farmington, the Yanks were within two miles of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad and four miles of the Mobile & Ohio. The

¹⁵ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 673; Official Records Atlas, Plate XIII, Fig. 6.

¹⁶ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 715, 719, 721, 724, 728, 736-737. Maj. Zenas Applington with two companies of the 7th Illinois Cavalry accompanied Paine's division and he was shot and killed by a Rebel sharpshooter. While Pope's infantry occupied Farmington, Maj. Hiram W. Love and horsemen from the 2nd Iowa Cavalry sought to reach the Mobile & Ohio Railroad southeast of the village. But, after driving in Confederate pickets and closing on the right-of-way, they encountered enemy infantry and were compelled to return to their camp with the loss of four men killed and three wounded.

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latter railroad had to be kept open and operating or the defense of Corinth was doomed. In addition to two roads leading west from Farmington and passing through the Confederate fortifications commanding the Phillips Creek bottom, three roads converged on the village from the southwest and south. The most important of these--the Danville road--followed the ridge east of Bridge Creek and struck the Mobile & Ohio Railroad three miles south of the trestle carrying the tracks over Bridge Creek. The other two roads led to Jacinto, then the county seat of Tishomingo County.

To cope with this threat, General Beauregard, on May 7, redeployed his troops to strengthen his right, preparatory to attacking Pope's army at Farmington. General Van Dorn's three-division Army of the West was called from its camps south of Corinth, some from as far off as Rienzi, and took position on the right flank of Maj. Gen. William J. Hardee's corps, in rifle-pits being thrown up astride the Danville road on the ridge south of Bridge Creek. Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge's four-brigade division, formerly posted in the earthworks south of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad fronting on the Phillips and Bridge Creek bottoms, now became Beauregard's ready reserve.

On the evening of Thursday, the 8th, General Van Dorn took post beyond the works, forming his army into line of battle with his left flank (Brig. Gen. James H. Trapier's division) anchored on the high ground south of Bridge Creek; his center (Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles' division) on the Danville road, a mile northeast of where the road crossed the Memphis & Charleston Railroad; and Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's division massed in reserve and en echelon on Ruggles' right. Time was lost getting into position, and night closed in before all the troops were up. The attack was postponed, the soldiers sleeping on their arms.¹⁷

Soon after daybreak on the 9th, Van Dorn shifted his army farther east to extend across the three roads approaching Farmington from the south, from west to east--the Danville, old Jacinto and Jacinto roads--and attacked. Confederate battle lines debouched from the woods south of Farmington to see Loomis' Union brigade bivouacked on a ridge north of Farmington and covering a bridge over Sevenmile Creek. A battalion of the 8th Wisconsin, deployed as skirmishers, occupied the village. In accordance with General Pope's orders, Brig. Gen. James Palmer's brigade of Paine's division was crossing Sevenmile Creek preparatory to relieving Loomis' people. Loomis' and Palmer's Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin infantry regiments and their supporting artillery and cavalry engaged the onrushing Confederates and a bitter firefight ensued. The 2nd Iowa Cavalry was called up and crossed the Sevenmile Creek bridge and causeway to reinforce the hard-pressed Union infantry. Although the countryside was much broken up by ravines and ridges, Col. Edward Hatch, when called upon by General Paine, charged three Rebel batteries. The 1st Battalion

¹⁷ Ibid., 807-808; pt. 2, 496-497; Ephraim McD. Anderson, Memoirs: Historical and Personal, 195-196.

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was repulsed by the left battery, but the 2nd and 3d Battalions compelled the center and left batteries to cease fire and limber up their pieces.

Pope was satisfied that his two brigades were outnumbered at least seven to one and that he could not reinforce them without crossing to the south side of Sevenmile Creek with his army. To do so was contrary to General Halleck's instructions and would bring on a major battle before Buell's Army of the Ohio had closed on Pope's right. The two brigades, after five hours of combat, broke contact with the foe and retreated across Sevenmile Creek and burned the bridge. Van Dorn, alerted that General Buell had sent a division to reinforce Pope, did not attempt to force his way across the stream, but led his troops back to their camps. The Federals did not reoccupy Farmington until May 17.¹⁸

C. Buell has the Slows, May 3-17

A day late, General Buell, on May 10, took action to erase the three-mile gap between his army and Pope's that the Confederates had failed to exploit during the Farmington fight. Brig. Gen. William Nelson's division took position at the Nichols Ford crossing of Sevenmile Creek; T.J. Wood's division closed on Nelson's; and, on the 12th, Thomas L. Crittenden's advanced and took post on Nelson's left. The next four days--May 13-16--found Buell's pioneers opening roads across Sevenmile Creek and, on the evening of the 17th, Buell's army crossed Sevenmile Creek on a 1-3/4 mile front, driving back Confederate pickets. Upon halting, the troops entrenched. The right of the Army of the Ohio was anchored by Wood's division at Driver's house on the Monterey-Corinth road. The center was held by Nelson's division, with Crittenden on the left, the latter's flank resting across the Farmington-Corinth road. Pope's army, its left flank refused, was on Buell's left and Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman's Army of the Tennessee division on the right. The works thrown up by the Army of the Ohio, as depicted on Plate XIII, Fig. 6, were within two miles of the Rebels' defenses and separated from them by "diversified country."¹⁹

¹⁸ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 715, 719, 721, 729, 737, 803-808; pt. 2, 175-178, 505-507. The May 9 engagement was the subject of a large number of "after action reports" filed by Confederate officers during the week of May 11-16. Union casualties in the fight numbered 16 killed, 148 wounded, and 13 missing. Only one of the three Confederate division commanders, General Ruggles, made a report of his losses. He listed 8 killed, 89 wounded, 2 missing. Copies of these "after action reports" are found in War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 808-831.

¹⁹ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 674-675, 678, 682, 706-707. On May 9, Col. Joseph Wheeler, at the head of a combat patrol drawn from his regiment--the 19th Alabama--joined by volunteers from the 22nd Alabama,

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D. Thomas's Army of the Tennessee Squeezes the Confederate Left, May 11-16**1. The Russell House Fight**

The "army group's" right wing--General Thomas' Army of the Tennessee--clawed its way ahead, its goal being to reach the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and invest the Confederate defenses north of Corinth. On May 11, coincident with Buell's advance to Sevenmile Creek, Thomas' divisions moved forward a mile and entrenched two miles north of the Mississippi border. Billy Sherman's division on the right faced west and was astride the Purdy road at Locust Grove; Brig. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, in the center, fronted south and held the Purdy-Farmington road; and Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Davies, on the left, guarded the Monterey-Corinth road. Within 48 hours, the three divisions gained another two miles and dug in on high ground overlooking Phillips Creek. Sherman's division on the right still faced west and commanded the Purdy road and Davies's left looked south. Skirmishers screening this movement clashed repeatedly with Rebel pickets.²⁰

On Saturday, May 17, "Task Force Sherman" (including troops from three brigades [Denver's, Morgan L. Smith's, and one of Hurlbut's]) crossed Phillips Creek and, in a savage fight, compelled Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers' Mississippians to abandon a strong point at the Russell house. The house was located on the state line, a half mile east of the Purdy road. This position possessed great natural strength and Sherman's people lost no time fortifying it. The general reported:

A very excellent parapet was constructed.... Men worked day and night, and as soon as it was done and the dense trees and undergrowth cleared away in front, to give range to our batteries, I directed our pickets

attacked Union outposts held by two squadrons of the 3rd Ohio Cavalry, detachments from the 77th Pennsylvania and 29th Indiana Infantry, and the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, near the Lee and Shoeff farms, some 1300 yards northeast of Driver's house. After a few shots were fired the Yanks fled, abandoning four horses, their arms and accoutrements, and a mortally wounded comrade. Ibid., 831-839.

²⁰ Ibid., 739; War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. XX, pt. 2, 178, 189. On May 11, General McClernand had Judah's division, then encamped near Monterey, strike its tents and move 2-1/2 miles nearer to Corinth. Its new camp was on Fielder's farm, at the intersection of the Purdy-Farmington road and the old state line. Meanwhile, Governor Richard Yates of Illinois, a political crony of McClernand's, visited and reviewed Judah's division. On May 14 two brigades from McClernand's reserve corps made a forced reconnaissance as far west as the Mobile & Ohio and returned to their camps.

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to drive the enemy farther back behind a large open field to our front and right.²¹

2. The Troops Gain the Phillips Creek Watershed

By nightfall on the 21st, other units of the Army of the Tennessee advanced from the rifle-pits they had occupied since the 13th. On coming forward, they took position, as follows, from right to left: Hurlbut's division, its left anchored on Sherman's right at the state line, and then Davies's. These two divisions dug in along the watershed overlooking Phillips Creek. On Davies's left, an artillery emplacement embrasured to mount six cannon was thrown up. Brig. Gen. Thomas J. McKean's division took position at right angles to Davies and extended east across the Bridge Creek bottom to link up with Brig. Gen. T.W. Sherman's division. No serious opposition to this advance was made by the Confederates, except on Davies's front. His skirmishers encountered Rebels posted on the west side of Phillips Creek, but several rounds from one of his batteries sent the butternuts scampering.²²

E. The Confederates Muff Their May 22 Opportunity

On May 17, the day of the Russell House fight, General Pope's Army of the Mississippi--the "army group's" left wing--for the third time crossed Sevenmile Creek and occupied Farmington. The troops--Paine's division on the right, its flank linked into Crittenden's Army of the Ohio division; Stanley's in the center; and Hamilton's on the right--encamped in "double lines" and threw up earthworks. The trenches "were made to conform with the nature of the ground, following the crest of the ridges.... They consisted of a single ditch and a parapet ... and only designed to cover our infantry against the projectiles of the enemy." Paine's and Stanley's divisions fronted west--the latter's flank refused and anchored on the densely wooded Bridge Creek bottom--and Hamilton's faced south to hold the road. The next day, fatigue parties from Paine's division constructed two lunettes--the first in front of the division's center and the other on the right commanding the Corinth road--in which artillery was emplaced. This time Pope's soldiers had come to stay.

There was a "red alert," on May 22, when the cavalry reported the Confederates advancing in strong force. The long roll beat and the soldiers filed into the earthworks. Although Hamilton's pickets were driven in, no attack came, and there were those who

²¹ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 746, 840-843. The attack was spearheaded by eight companies of the 8th Missouri and two companies of the 55th Illinois of Col. Morgan L. Smith's brigade. Union losses in the fight, all from Smith's brigade, were 10 killed and 31 wounded. The Rebels left 12 dead on the field.

²² Ibid., 739.

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believed this to be a scare on the cavalry's part. Subsequently, Pope and his generals learned that a formidable Rebel force led by General Van Dorn had moved out of the Corinth defenses, their mission to assail and overwhelm Hamilton's division and drive the Army of the Mississippi into the Sevenmile Creek swamps.²³

Meanwhile, General Beauregard, concerned about the slow, but constant, approach of the Union forces, determined to counterattack before the Yanks could fortify and consolidate their gains. Orders went out late on May 21 alerting his generals to have their divisions formed and ready to take the offensive at daybreak. Van Dorn's Army of the West, supported by Hardee's corps, was to take deploy southeast of Bridge Creek and advance northeast toward Farmington; Bragg's two-division corps would cross Phillips Creek and advance on Farmington from the west. Bragg was to govern his movements by the sound of Van Dorn's guns. General Polk pulled his corps out of their works and masked them between the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and the Purdy road. Breckinridge's corps formed along the tracks facing east. Polk's mission was to assail and dislodge Thomas' Army of the Tennessee before they entrenched.²⁴

Beauregard's bold gamble came to naught. Van Dorn, whose three divisions were to trigger the attack, was unable to get his men into position by daybreak. At 8 a.m., he notified Beauregard:

I have been delayed by bad management and stupidity of officers, unexpected defiles, etc., and I am sick with disappointment and chagrin....²⁵

At 10 a.m., Beauregard acknowledged Van Dorn's note, and wrote, "I hope everything will yet go right. We are all ready here ... let us know when Bragg should commence his attack." Time, however, had run out, and Van Dorn, unable to bring order out of chaos, called off the attack and recalled his troops.²⁶ Since their actions were dependant on Van Dorn's, Hardee's, Bragg's, Polk's and Breckinridge's corps returned to their camps.

²³ Ibid., 715, 719, 724. The four cannon were manned by Company C, 1st Illinois Artillery.

²⁴ Ibid., 778; War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 2, 552-556.

²⁵ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 2, 538.

²⁶ Ibid.

F. Halleck Tightens the Screws, May 27-29**1. Billy Sherman's People Close to 1300 Yards**

By the evening of May 27, Halleck's "army group" was ready to again squeeze the Confederates. Billy Sherman's troops, on the left near the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, were confronted by a salient work located on commanding ground several hundred yards east of the railroad. Here from a loop-holed double log house, sharpshooters harassed Sherman's pickets. Responding to orders from General Halleck "to drive the rebels from the house," Sherman at 8 a.m., on the 28th, led a reinforced division quietly and unseen through the timber. Two 20-pdr. Parrotts were advanced silently and masked. When all was ready, the cannon were unlimbered, loaded, and manhandled to the crest. Opening fire, the cannoners of Company H, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, wrecked the house and dislodged the defenders. Sherman's troops, at the first cannon shot, "dashed forward in fine style, crossed the field, drove the enemy across the ridge and the field beyond into another dense and seemingly impenetrable forest." The attack, giving Sherman possession of a ridge within 1300 yards of the Confederate fortifications guarding the ground where the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and Purdy road entered the works, was excitedly watched by Generals Grant and Thomas.

By 10 a.m., Sherman brought up artillery and threw out a host of skirmishers. The Confederates had reinforced their picket line and their cannon mounted in the salient east of the railroad hammered the Yanks with shot and shell. At 3 p.m., Sherman's skirmishers were attacked by a strong force of Rebels and compelled to give ground. Reinforcements were called up, resistance stiffened, and the Confederates withdrew.

Under cover of darkness, the engineers having examined the terrain, Sherman's reinforced division entrenched. It took position within 1300 yards of the Rebels' main line of resistance. Sherman's right was anchored near the railroad at the Bowie Hill Cut and his left on the Purdy road at the crest of a ridge, where he connected with Hurlbut's division. By 4 p.m., on May 29, artillery had been brought forward and emplaced in the works completed by Sherman's people during the previous night.²⁷

2. Buell's Army of the Ohio Presses the Confederate Center

All was quiet along the two-mile front held by the Army of the Ohio from May 18 until the 27th except on Wednesday, the 21st. On that day, Col. Thomas D. Sedgewick's brigade of Nelson's

²⁷ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 739-743, 756, 760-761, 856. Sherman, in advancing, deployed his reinforced division (from right to left): Brig. Gen. John A. Logan's brigade (Judah's division), Brig. Gen. James W. Denver's, Col. Morgan L. Smith's, and Brig. Gen. James Veaches (Hurlbut's division).

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division, having assembled at the Driver house, made a forced reconnaissance. He advanced one mile, crossed a "high open ridge," and gained a "position in front of Widow Serratt's house," within a mile of the Rebel fortifications. Here his skirmishers encountered Confederates in large numbers. Sedgewick reinforced his skirmish line and called up and unlimbered his artillery. The Confederates upped their commitment, and for three-quarters of an hour a desperate small unit action ensued before the Rebels pulled back. At dark, in response to orders from General Buell, Sedgewick and his soldiers returned to their camp, bringing their casualties with them.²⁸

On the 27th, the day before Billy Sherman's fight for and occupation of the double log house, General Buell called up his reserve division--Brig. Gen. Alexander McD. McCook's--and formed it in front of Tom Sherman's and Wood's rifle-pits. McCook's people then pressed ahead and, after a spate of small arms fire, compelled the Confederate pickets to withdraw across Bridge Creek. Cannoneers of Company H, 5th U.S. Artillery, took advantage of McCook's thrust to establish a gun battery on high ground to the right, from where they enfiladed the Bridge Creek bottom and the road to the Widow Serratt's.²⁹

The next day--May 28--General Buell exploited these gains by advancing three of his four divisions. On the right, McCook's people drove the enemy from and occupied Serratt's Hill, giving them a commanding position with 1,000 yards of the Confederate works. Nelson's division, spearheaded by Sedgewick's brigade, crossed Bridge Creek on the Farmington-Corinth road, and took position 1,300 yards east of the Rebel defenses overlooking Phillips Creek. Crittenden gained 1,200 yards and occupied ground to Nelson's left and rear with his left flank refused. These forward movements were resisted by Confederates skirmishers, but Union losses were light. The Rebels employed artillery and the combative little Alabaman Col. Joe Wheeler counter-attacked three times in futile efforts to recover the Farmington road bridge seized by Sedgewick's soldiers. Entrenching tools were brought up and, by daybreak on the 29th, the three divisions had thrown up earthworks.³⁰

²⁸ Ibid., 675, 682, 844-845. In the fight at the Widow Serratt's, the Federals lost 3 dead and 23 wounded. After the Confederates evacuated the area, the Yanks found 35 newly dug graves.

²⁹ Ibid., 675, 678-679.

³⁰ Ibid., 675, 679, 682-683, 702-703, 704, 853. Colonel Wheeler's command consisted of detachments from the 19th, 25th, and 26th Alabama Infantry Regiments. The Rebel pickets driven in by Buell's advance numbered 200 Mississippians from Chalmers' brigade, supported by two cannon manned by Robertson's Florida Artillery.

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3. Pope's Army of the Mississippi Pounds the Confederates

During the five days following the May 22 alert, General Pope's division commanders rotated responsibility for throwing out combat teams to drive in Rebel pickets and reconnoiter the ground to their front. On the 24th, General Stanley, concerned about the punishment meted out by enemy sharpshooters to his pickets, called out his most aggressive regimental leader, Col. Joseph Mower. Taking with him a battalion each from the 11th Missouri and 39th Ohio and the 3rd Michigan Battery's 10-pdr. Parrotts, Mower charged into the woods and sent the Confederates skedadling. He then brought up two of the rifled Parrotts and the Michiganders fired a dozen shells into Corinth. On the 26th, General Hamilton sent Col. Nicholas Perczel of the 5th Iowa, reinforced, and two sections of artillery on a "bold reconnaissance" along the Danville road. Confederates were encountered in superior numbers and, after a brisk skirmish, Perczel recalled his troops and returned to his camp.³¹

Meanwhile, Pope's army had been strengthened. The division led by Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis (the "Yankee Davis")--recently detached from Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis's Army of the Southwest--had marched from West Plains, Missouri, to Cape Girardeau. Boarding steamboats on May 22, it had ascended the Tennessee River and had debarked at Hamburg Landing on the 25th and 26th. The troops marched inland the next day and nightfall on the 27th found them going into camp on the Hamburg road, two miles east of Farmington.³²

On May 28, in cooperation with the forward movement of Buell's Army of the Ohio, Pope's divisions pressed ahead on a broad front. Paine's troops gained a mile and, after occupying the Danville-Farmington road ridge, entrenched. Stanley's advance brought his division into line on Paine's right. Reaching the White House overlooking Bridge Creek, his troops halted in double lines and dug in. His right flank was within 1800 yards of the nearest Rebel works and his center faced the formidable Confederate artillery emplacements on Railroad Hill, a hundred yards south of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. At noon Union and Confederate artillery opened fire: two of Stanley's batteries--Company C, 1st Michigan, and Company F, 2nd U.S. Artillery--engaged four guns in the Railroad Hill emplacements. A large Confederate force, approaching in three columns, took advantage of this diversion to cross Bridge Creek and assailed the Yanks at the White house. After a bitter but brief fight,

³¹ Ibid., 716, 719, 722.

³² Ibid., 726; War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. XIII, 373-376, 385, 395.

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the Southerners recoiled, leaving more than 50 dead for the Federals to bury.³³

Hamilton's and Davis's divisions likewise moved out. Hamilton's people went out the Jacinto road and, on coming into line on Paine's left, halted and entrenched. A six-gun battery was established with its cannon sighted to the southeast to guard against a flank attack. Davis's troops, each soldier carrying two days' rations and 100 rounds of ammunition, filed into and occupied the Farmington earthworks erected by Paine's and Stanley's people following their May 17 occupation of the village.³⁴

General Pope, for ease of handling, now organized his Army of the Mississippi into two wings--the right and the left. Brig. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, a newcomer to the region, assumed command of the right wing, consisting of Paine's and Stanley's divisions, and General Hamilton, as senior officer, led the two left wing divisions--his and Davis's.³⁵

May 29 was Rosecrans's first day at the front. During the morning Rebel guns in the Railroad Hill Battery exchanged "compliments" with the two 20-pdr. Parrotts manned by Company F, 2nd U.S., emplaced on White House Ridge. The Yankees soon ceased fire in response to orders from General Pope. Later, Capt. George Williams fired, by Pope's order, and three 30-pdr. Parrott shells were sent screaming into Corinth. One of these burst near the railroad crossover, killing a locomotive engineer and wounding four trainmen. This alarmed the Confederate generals because they feared that the foe was about to begin an indiscriminate bombardment of the town.³⁶

General Hamilton on this day sent out a two-regiment combat patrol under Col. Samuel A. Holmes. The Yanks reconnoitered the

³³ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 716, 719-720, 722-723; pt. 2, 219-220, 555, 557. General Stanley proudly reported: "My division was the advanced salient point of the line investing Corinth, and the energy and industry by our troops made our position so strong by morning of the 29th that it would have been a bold enemy that would have disturbed us."

³⁴ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 725, 726.

³⁵ Ibid., 709-710; pt. 2, 190, 224. On May 14, 1862, the War Department had issued orders detaching General Rosecrans from the Mountain Department, where he had served since June 1861, and directing him to proceed to Pittsburg Landing, where he was to report to General Halleck.

³⁶ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 709-710, 723.

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Jacinto road, encountered aggressive Confederates, and shots were exchanged. They then returned to their camps.³⁷

G. The Booneville Raid of May 27-30

Meanwhile, Col. Washington Elliott with two cavalry regiments--the 2nd Iowa and 2nd Michigan--had ridden out of their camps northeast of Farmington. Elliott was "to penetrate by some circuitous route the country to the south, and strike if possible, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad at some point 30 or 40 miles below Corinth." Hitting the road at 1 a.m. on the 27th, the horse soldiers rode east through rugged countryside. They crossed successively Yellow Creek and the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, and bivouacked at 2 a.m., on the 28th, at Thompson's, six miles south of Iuka.

At daybreak, Elliott had his men back in the saddle. They traveled southwest via poor roads that passed through the Tombigbee swamps, and entered Booneville, on the Mobile & Ohio 25 miles south of Corinth, at daybreak on May 29. The town was crowded with between 2,000 and 3,000 sick and convalescent Confederates. An infantry regiment was said to be camped on the railroad south of Booneville and a battalion of cavalry up the railroad guarding the bridge and trestle spanning Kings Creek.³⁸

³⁷ Ibid., 725; pt. 2, 223, 561.

³⁸ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 731, 863, 864-866; pt. 2, 217, 560. Col. William R. Bradfute, posted at Jacinto, learned on May 27 that a formidable column of Yankee cavalry was en route to Burnsville, and he called out Lt. Col. F.N. McNairy's battalion of Tennessee cavalry and one cannon and headed for that village. He reached Burnsville at dusk, where he found Lt. Col. Robert "Black Bob" McCulloch and 300 horse soldiers of the 2nd Missouri Cavalry. Bradfute deployed McNairy's and McCullough's people to cover the approaches to Burnsville only to discover that the Yanks had passed through Iuka, and were headed for the Mobile & Ohio Railroad to tear up track, being well provided with tools for that purpose, and to burn the bridge carrying the roadbed across Twentymile Creek. Whereupon, Bradfute marched his two battalions to Booneville, where he arrived on the night of the 28th. He posted McCulloch's Missourians (reinforced by Capt. Henry Milner's Company H, 3d Tennessee Cavalry) and the cannon west of the railroad to cover the Marietta road--the Yanks' march route--and McNairy's battalion one and one-half miles south of Booneville. Soon after taking position, Col. J.A. Orr, whose three-regiment "Independent Brigade" was charged with guarding the Mobile & Ohio bridges and trestles north and south of Booneville, unknown to Colonel Bradfute, contacted McCulloch and sent the battalion north to guard the Kings Creek bridge. Thus, there were no organized Confederate commands in Booneville, at daybreak, on May 29.

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Standing near the depot was a disabled locomotive and 26 cars.³⁹ The telegraph line was cut and the tracks north and south of town torn up, rails bent, and ties burned. While Col. Philip H. Sheridan's 2nd Michigan wreaked havoc on the railroad south of Booneville, they were interrupted in their work by a detachment of Tennessee horse soldiers led by Col. W. R. Bradfute. Sheridan had many more men and he had no trouble in rallying his Michigan-ers and driving off the Confederates.⁴⁰ The cars, five of them loaded with artillery ammunition, and the depot were torched. Before doing so, the Yanks saw that most of the hospitalized Confederates were removed beyond the blast zone when the powder and shells exploded.⁴¹

After paroling some 500 to 700 convalescent Rebel infantry and taking with them about 40 mounted butternuts as prisoners, Colonel Elliott recalled his horse soldiers and at 9 a.m. evacuated Booneville and headed northeast. As they rode along, for the first two to three hours, they heard explosions as fires reached and exploded ammunition. The brigade returned to its Farmington camp at 8 p.m., on the last day of May, having been absent four days, during which the cavalymen had ridden 180 miles. They now learned that Halleck's "army group" had been in possession of Corinth for more than 36 hours.⁴²

³⁹ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 862, 864. Five of the cars were loaded with small arms (10,000 stands of arms, 1,000 pistols and revolvers, many of them boxed); five boxcars with ammunition (800,000 rounds of ball cartridges and 100,000 rounds of fixed artillery ammunition for 6-pdr. and 12-pdr. guns); 1 car load of accoutrements (cartridge-boxes, canteens, and knapsacks for 10,000 soldiers); and several flatcars with three field guns and four coehorn mortars. Inside the depot were stored 3,000 additional stands of arms, medical stores, and 300 kegs or barrels of powder, marked "Alabama Powder Company."

⁴⁰ Philip Sheridan had taken command of the 2nd Michigan Cavalry upon its departure for the Booneville raid. This was his first combat command in a war that was to see him emerge as one of the Nation's most successful and electrifying battlefield leaders. Richard O'Connor, Sheridan: The Inevitable, 62-63.

⁴¹ Colonel Bradfute, following the raiders' departure, charged them with a revolting atrocity. He reported that, in the charred ruins of the depot and cars, were found the bodies of nine Confederates, who, too sick to help themselves, had suffered terrible deaths in the fires set by the Yanks. War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 867.

⁴² Ibid., 731, 737-738, 863-865.

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H. The Confederates Evacuate Corinth and Beauregard Saves an Army

The 48 hours following General Van Dorn's May 22 failure to get his army of the West in position to trigger an all-out attack on Halleck's 120,000-man "army group," before it could entrench the ground occupied on May 21, caused Confederate leaders to reevaluate their situation. Beauregard and his generals now concluded that Corinth was untenable. The water was bad and typhoid and dysentery had felled thousands and sent hundreds, including Brig. Gen. Joseph H. Hogg, to early graves.⁴³ General Thomas's Army of the Tennessee had a stranglehold on the Mobile & Ohio north of town, while Union cavalry from Pope's Army of the Mississippi had, on May 3, and again on the 22nd, struck the Memphis & Charleston between Glendale and Iuka, cutting the telegraph and wreaking havoc on the right-of-way by torching trestles, bending rails, and destroying switches. Earlier, in mid-April, a Union combat team led by Billy Sherman had gone ashore from steamboats at Chickasaw Landing, Alabama, and, before returning to Pittsburg Landing, had destroyed the 220-foot bridge carrying the Memphis & Ohio across Bear Creek.⁴⁴

General Beauregard, on May 27, issued detailed instructions to govern the evacuation of Corinth and its defenses and a withdrawal down the Mobile & Ohio to Baldwyn. The evacuation of Corinth was skillfully carried out. On the night of May 29, the soldiers pulled out of the rifle-pits. Union patrols, when they moved out the next morning, found the Confederates gone. Beauregard had stolen a march on Halleck, and the Union pursuit was ineffective.⁴⁵

Beauregard had saved his 53,000 soldiers to fight again, in spite of the overwhelming numbers that Halleck had deployed against him. Combat losses were not high, because, after Shiloh, neither army was eager for another savage stand-up fight. The generals evaluated their tactics in a futile effort to adjust to the technological revolution in weaponry underscored by the infantry

⁴³ Ibid., 766-768, 776-777, 784; Warner, Generals in Gray, 139-140. General Hogg died on May 16 of dysentery and was initially buried near Mount Holly School. In 1918 the body was disinterred and buried at the Confederate Cemetery adjacent to Battery Robinett.

⁴⁴ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. X, pt. 1, 644-665, 728, 730-731, 735.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 766-768; Force, From Fort Henry to Corinth, 189; T. Harry Williams, P. G. T. Beauregard: Napoleon in Gray, 153-154. To cover the evacuation of Corinth, which was facilitated by use of the railroad, the troops, on the night of the 29th, whenever a locomotive whistled, cheered, "as though reinforcements" were arriving. Beauregard sent off by railroad his sick and wounded, his heavy artillery, and tons of valuable supplies.

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now being armed with rifle-muskets, with a killing range of 600 yards, instead of smoothbore muskets, with a 60-yard effective range. Halleck, a cautious leader, was not about to be surprised as U. S. Grant had been at Shiloh. As his men inched ahead, they entrenched. Like Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery of World War II fame, Halleck was careful to tidy up his positions before pressing ahead. To buy time, Beauregard had employed large numbers of skirmishers to slow the Union advance and to keep the Yanks from seizing ground from which their artillery commanded the Confederate fortifications and roads and railroads linking Corinth with Memphis to the west and Tupelo to the south. To defeat the enemy, the Confederate sought to take advantage of errors on the part of Halleck and his generals "to draw the enemy out of his entrenched positions and separate his closed masses for a battle." But, in this, they had failed, once on May 9 and again on the 22nd.

III. A Long, Hot Summer

A. The Federals Capitalize on the Capture of Corinth

The loss of Corinth and its strategic railroad crossover had immediate and grave consequences for the South. On the Mississippi River, 120 miles to the northwest, the Confederates, who since April 17 had checkmated the ironclads and rams of the Mississippi squadron, were outflanked. Under cover of darkness on June 4, the Southerners pulled out of Fort Pillow, and it was occupied by the foe on the 5th. The squadron started downstream. On June 6, while thousands watched from the Memphis bluffs, the Union vessels smashed the Confederate River Defense Fleet.⁴⁶ Memphis was surrendered, and the Federals soon secured the Memphis & Charleston Railroad to beyond Corinth. While the gunboats prepared to run downriver against Vicksburg, Union patrols carried the war into the entire northern tier of Mississippi counties.

After the occupation of Corinth, the Yanks began to rebuild the area's railroads. They felt their way toward Tupelo, but did not force the Confederates to retreat farther south. There were important changes in command: General Pope went to Virginia to lead the newly constituted Army of Virginia, and Halleck was called to Washington in mid-July to become General-in-Chief. Grant resumed command of the District of West Tennessee, and, under him, General Rosecrans took charge of Pope's Army of the Mississippi, which assumed responsibility for defense of the Corinth area. Buell's Army of the Ohio headed eastward into the Tennessee Valley, rebuilding the Memphis & Charleston Railroad as it marched.

⁴⁶ Francis V. Greene, The Mississippi, 15-17.

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B. Confederate Flood Tide

General Beauregard went on sick leave in mid-June, and President Jefferson Davis capitalized on this opportunity to replace Beauregard, in whom he placed little faith, with General Bragg, an aggressive fighter commanding his confidence.

Bragg started off furiously. He employed railroads to shuttle his army to Chattanooga, where he arrived ahead of Buell.⁴⁷ On his departure from Tupelo, Bragg left the Army of the West, now led by Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, to guard northeast Mississippi. Bragg did not rest and put his army in motion for Kentucky. Buell followed. Both armies marched hard and fast with the Confederates at first enjoying the advantage. This was lost when Bragg turned his columns eastward into the Bluegrass counties to rendezvous with the army Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith had led into eastern Kentucky in late August. Buell was permitted to reach Louisville, where he regrouped and reorganized his army preparatory to taking the offensive.

During the race for Kentucky, Bragg, having received reports the Federals were pulling troops out of northeast Mississippi to reinforce Buell, called on General Price to cross the Tennessee River and threaten Nashville. Price was also being pressured by General Van Dorn--his immediate superior--to join the force Van Dorn was concentrating at Holly Springs and march into West Tennessee. Confronted by these contradictory orders, Price hesitated for several days. He then marched as Bragg directed. Advancing northeastward from Baldwyn and Guntown, Price's column entered Iuka on September 13, where he hesitated.⁴⁸

C. The Battle of Iuka, September 19

General Grant took advantage of Price's pause. Reinforcements were rushed to Corinth and a converging attack on Price planned. Grant, with three divisions, advanced from Corinth by way of Burnsville and approached Iuka from the west; General Rosecrans, with two divisions of his Army of the Mississippi, marched from

⁴⁷ Bragg's infantry divisions were shifted from Tupelo to Mobile over the Mobile & Ohio Railroad; across the head of Mobile Bay to Tensas Station by boats; and from there to Chattanooga by way of the railroads passing through Montgomery, West Point, and Atlanta. Bragg's cavalry, wagon trains, and artillery marched across from Tupelo to Chattanooga. Stanley Horn, The Army of Tennessee: A Military History, 159-160.

⁴⁸ Bragg's sweep across Middle Tennessee had so alarmed the Federals that two divisions, soon followed by a third, were pulled out of northwest Alabama and northeast Mississippi and sent to reinforce Buell. A strong Union garrison continued to hold Nashville, as Buell pulled back to protect Louisville and the line of the Ohio River. Greene, The Mississippi, 35-36.

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Jacinto southwest of Iuka. The Federals would attack at daybreak on September 19.

Rosecrans's column was delayed, and Grant deployed his troops four miles west of Iuka and waited. Price formed his two divisions to confront Grant and watched the Jacinto road with cavalry. About 2:30 p.m., Price learned of Rosecrans's approach and rushed an infantry brigade to defend the Jacinto road. Other brigades followed and savage combat raged in the rugged wooded countryside on the eastern slopes of Woodall Mountain. Price's veterans, though outnumbered two to one, more than held their own.⁴⁹

Throughout the late afternoon, as Rosecrans's troops gave ground, Grant's divisions faced a decreasing Confederate battle line west of Iuka. The wind was from the northwest, and no noise of battle reached Grant. As the sound of Rosecrans's guns was to signal the advance, Grant's troops continued to hold their ground. Price at first hoped to resume the fight on the 20th, but, confronted as he was by superior numbers, he listened to reason. The Confederates took advantage of the darkness to disengage their troops, steal a march on the bluecoats, and return to Baldwyn.⁵⁰

IV. The Battle of Corinth: The Western Antietam

There would be no rest for Price's Army of the West. From Baldwyn it marched to Ripley, where on September 28, Price rendezvoused with Van Dorn's column. As senior officer, Van Dorn took command.⁵¹ He marched northward with 22,000 men and 64 cannon and, on October 1, occupied Pocahontas on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, 18 miles or a day's march northwest of Corinth.⁵² From there he turned his columns southeast toward

⁴⁹ E. C. Bearss, Decision in Mississippi, 32-62; W. Dudley, The Battle of Iuka, 4-16. Rosecrans's losses in the battle of Iuka were 144 killed, 598 wounded, and 40 missing. Price listed his casualties as 86 killed and 496 wounded. Among the Confederate dead was Brig. Gen. Henry Little, a particularly valuable officer.

⁵⁰ Greene, The Mississippi, 41-43; Bearss, Decision in Mississippi, 57-62.

⁵¹ Van Dorn, on learning that Price had returned to Baldwyn, requested him to march to Ripley. At the same time, Van Dorn started his column from at and near Holly Springs for the rendezvous. Greene, The Mississippi, 43.

⁵² On reaching Pocahontas, Van Dorn found three strongly held bases before him--Memphis, Bolivar, and Corinth. He believed that the capture of Memphis would be of little advantage, because without heavy artillery it could not be held when shelled by Union ironclads. To advance on Bolivar would expose his flanks to Federal columns thrusting out from Memphis and Corinth. But a

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Corinth, crossed the Hatchie, and bivouacked at Chewalla. The advance was resumed at daybreak on the 3rd.

Before Halleck left Corinth in mid-July for Washington, he had ordered that a defense line be constructed to protect Corinth against a Confederate force approaching from the west or south. General Rosecrans deemed these fortifications too extensive to be manned by the forces available and questioned General Grant, his immediate superior, about them. Grant agreed to a modification of the line so that it only protected the vital supply magazines in and around the crossover of the two railroads. Several of the completed battery positions of the projected Halleck line, among them Battery F, lay between the Confederate entrenchments and Corinth. Thus, when Rosecrans learned of the Rebels' occupation of Pocahontas, his line was much shorter and more easily defended than Beauregard's Confederate lines had been the previous spring.

These inner defenses consisted of Batteries Robinett, Williams, Phillips, Tannrath, and Lothrop, in the College Hill area. Rosecrans gave orders to connect them by breastworks and to strengthen them, where possible, by abatis--logs sharpened and pointed outward in front for greater defense (the Civil War forerunner of barbed wire). The line was also extended to cover the northern approaches of the town. Battery Powell, although it was unfinished when the fighting started, was laid out for this purpose.⁵³

On October 2, Rosecrans learned that Van Dorn's Confederates were closing on Corinth from the northwest. This put Van Dorn between Rosecrans and any reinforcements that he might receive from General Grant at Jackson and Bolivar, Tennessee.

Arriving near Corinth at 10 a.m., on the 3rd, Van Dorn formed his three divisions and pressed toward the line of works erected by the Confederates six months before. Maj. Gen. Mansfield Lovell's division was on the right and Price's Army of the West on the left.⁵⁴ General Rosecrans had called in his detachments and had massed four divisions, 23,000 strong, for the defense of Corinth. Before daybreak on the 3rd, three of his divisions--McKean's on the left, Davies's in the center, and Hamilton's on the right--moved out from their camps and took position midway between the redoubts thrown up in and around Corinth and the old Beauregard trenches, north and northwest of town. Several regiments

successful attack on Corinth from the northwest would pin the defeated garrison against the Tennessee River, and open the way for the recovery of West Tennessee. Greene, The Mississippi, 44-45.

⁵³ William S. Rosecrans, "The Battle of Corinth," Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. II, 740-741.

⁵⁴ Greene, The Mississippi, 45. Price's Army of the West consisted of two divisions--Louis Hebert's and Dabney H. Maury's. Cavalry screened the flanks of Van Dorn's battle line.

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advanced and took cover in the rifle-pits. The fourth division--Stanley's--was held in reserve south of Corinth.⁵⁵

On the Confederate right, Lovell's brigades drove the Union skirmishers across Cane Creek and engaged three regiments of McKean's division deployed on the ridge where the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and the Chewalla road passed through the Beauregard line. Brig. Gen. John McArthur, commanding McKean's 1st Brigade, deemed it vital to hold this ridge and advanced five regiments to reinforce the three already posted there. General Davies also asked and secured permission from Rosecrans to move his division forward to the Beauregard defenses. McArthur's and Davies's advances were eccentric, and a large gap opened between the former's right and Davies's left. A bitter fight ensued along the ridge south of the railroad and in front of the Beauregard line north of the Chewalla road between McArthur's eight regiments and Lovell's three brigades.⁵⁶ East of Turner Creek and west of the Mobile & Ohio's tracks, Davies's division grimly held the Beauregard line against a slashing attack by Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury's Army of the West division.⁵⁷

About 1 p.m., the Confederates exploited the gap and, to prevent a disastrous breakthrough, McArthur's and Davies's troops pulled back one mile, closed the gap, and reformed some 900 yards in front of the Rosecrans redoubts. Davies refused his right flank and McArthur his left, anchoring that flank on Battery F. Lovell's Confederates, extending farther to the south, outflanked McKean's troops posted in Batteries D and E, and approached the College Hill redoubts from the west. This caused McArthur and Brig. Gen. Marcellus M. Crocker's Hawkeye Brigade of McKean's division to retreat into these redoubts.

At the same time, General Price's Army of the West assailed Davies's division, hurling it back upon Battery Robinett, where

⁵⁵ Ibid., 45-47.

⁵⁶ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. XVII, pt. 1, 167-168, 337, 354. Col. John N. Oliver of McKean's division, with three infantry regiments and a section of artillery, had advanced out the Chewalla road to Alexander's, and, on the approach of Lovell's Confederates, retired across Cane Creek and took position on Cane Creek Ridge south of the Chewalla road. McArthur, when he came forward, posted the 16th Wisconsin and 21st Missouri on Oliver's left and south of the railroad and Col. Silas D. Baldwin of Davies's division and his three regiments on Oliver's right in the rifle-pits of the Beauregard line.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 168, 252-253. In advancing from his first position at the forks of the Chewalla and Columbus roads, Davies sent Brig. Gen. Richard J. Oglesby's and Pleasant A. Hackleman's brigades north along the latter road, and they filed into the Beauregard line entrenchments. When they did, Hackleman's people were on the right and Oglesby's on the left of the Columbus road.

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it rallied.⁵⁸ Col. Joseph H. Mower's brigade of Stanley's division was rushed to Davies's assistance during his retreat. Stanley had alerted his other two brigades to march, when, at 6 p.m., General Van Dorn took cognizance of his troops' exhaustion. Certain that he could win a complete and overwhelming victory in the morning, he called a halt to the day's fighting. Rosecrans had been driven back about two miles and three of his four divisions had taken refuge in the redoubts. Confederate pickets spent the night within several hundred yards of these strongholds.⁵⁹

Rosecrans's troops, notwithstanding Confederate successes, were not disheartened. During the night both generals redeployed their armies. Rosecrans's brigades were massed on the arc of a circle, less than two miles in length, with redoubts at key points. McKean's division was posted on the left in the neighborhood of Battery Phillips, south of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. Stanley's division anchored its left at Battery Williams and its right in and around Battery Robinett. He relieved Davies's mauled division, which retired to Battery Powell, north of Corinth, and there formed facing northwest. Hamilton's division constituted the army's right beyond Davies's people and faced north.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ Ibid., 168; Rosecrans, "Battle of Corinth," Battles and Leaders, Vol. II, 746. General Rosecrans reported that, during the day's fighting, Davies's division had "covered itself with glory, having Brigadier-General Hackleman killed, Brigadier-General Oglesby desperately wounded," and nearly 25 percent of its personnel listed as casualties.

⁵⁹ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. XVII, pt. 1, 379. General Van Dorn wrote in his "after action report," he had hoped that

one day's operations would end the contest and decide who should be the victors on this bloody field, but a 10 mile march over a parched country, on dusty roads, without water, getting into line of battle in forests and undergrowth, and the more than equal activity and determined courage displayed by the enemy ... prolonged the battle until I saw, with regret, the sun sink behind the horizon as the last shot of our sharpshooters followed the retreating foe into their innermost lines. One hour more of daylight and victory would have soothed our grief for the loss of the gallant dead who sleep on that lost but not dishonored field. The army slept on their arms within 600 yards of Corinth, victorious so far.

⁶⁰ Rosecrans, "Battle of Corinth," Battles and Leaders, Vol. II, 748. Col. J.K. Mizner with his cavalry guarded the Army of the Mississippi's flanks.

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Van Dorn, in rearranging his divisions, placed Lovell's on the right, south of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad; Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury's in the center in front of Battery Robinett; and Hebert's on the left. Brig. Gen. Louis Hebert was to open the fight at daybreak and, pivoting on his right, assault Battery Powell; Maury was to open with his artillery on Battery Robinett and then send his infantry into town; and Lovell, as soon as the divisions to the left were engaged, was to attack vigorously from the southwest.⁶¹

Van Dorn's plan miscarried when Hebert was taken sick. It was 9 a.m., on October 4, before his replacement took charge and sent his troops forward. When Hebert's division finally advanced, it was with four brigades in echelon, the left thrown forward. As the division pivoted on its right, the troops advanced and stormed Battery Powell. Maury's three brigades now took up the attack.⁶² Four regimental columns, 100 yards apart, moved against Battery Robinett, and as they surged forward they were pounded by Union artillery, first with shell and then canister.⁶³ The left column--the 9th Texas Cavalry (dismounted)--

⁶¹ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Vol. XVII, pt. 1, 379. Brig. Gen. William L. Cabell's brigade was detached from Maury's division and formed en echelon on Hebert's right. Frank Armstrong's cavalry brigade watched the Army of the West's left, well to the east of the Mobile & Ohio, and William H. Jackson's horse soldiers were posted on the army's right, fronting the College Hill redoubts. Three batteries (Tobin's, McNally's, and Sengstak's) unlimbered their cannon on the ridge "overlooking" Corinth from the west, "just where the hills dip into the flat extending" to the railroad crossover.

⁶² Ibid.; Greene, The Mississippi, 48-49. Martin E. Green, as senior brigade commander, took charge of Hebert's division.

⁶³ War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Vol. XVII, pt. 1, 184-185, 248, 394, 398. Colonel Fuller's Ohio Brigade, on the morning of October 4, was posted: the 43rd Ohio near the crest of the ridge fronting to the west, its right anchored on Battery Robinett; the 63rd Ohio fronted to the north with its right resting near the road which passed within 30 yards of Battery Robinett; the 27th Ohio was on the right of the 63rd Ohio; and the 39th Ohio held the right flank of Fuller's Robinett line. Like the 63rd Ohio, the 27th and 39th Ohio fronted north. Emplaced in Battery Robinett were three 20-pdr. Parrotts manned by a detachment from the 1st U.S. Infantry commanded by Lt. Henry C. Robinett.

Brig. Gen. C.W. Phifer's brigade spearheaded the attack, advancing in four close columns by regiment--the 6th Texas Cavalry (dismounted) in the road, the 9th Texas Cavalry (dismounted) north of the road, and the 3rd Arkansas Cavalry (dismounted) and Stirman's Arkansas Sharpshooter Battalion south of the road. Close behind Phifer's brigade came Brig. Gen. John L. Moore's brigade. Colonel Fuller, on sighting the oncoming Rebels, had the 43rd Ohio

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sought to make its way down into the low ground to the right of the redoubt, but was checkmated by bluecoats of Col. John W. Fuller's Ohio Brigade. The two right assault columns--the 3rd Arkansas Cavalry (dismounted) and Stirman's Sharpshooters--came on rapidly, because they were on a ridge where there were only a few felled trees. General Rosecrans had rushed to the point of danger and called on the 27th Ohio and 11th Missouri to knell to the right and rear of Robinett to get out of the enemy's line of fire, and--the moment the Confederates came to a stand--to charge with bayonets.

Brig. Gen. John Moore's brigade now came forward, passed over and through Brig. Gen. C.W. Phifer's Texans and Arkansans, and fought its way toward Battery Robinett. Col. William P. Rogers, a Mexican War comrade of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, advanced at the head of his regiment--the 2nd Texas. Rogers' horse was shot from under him. Scrambling to his feet, Rogers snatched from the hands of a wounded color-bearer the 2nd Texas's regimental flag and planted the flagstaff on the lip of the ditch fronting Robinett, only to be shot dead by a drummer boy.

Capt. George A. Williams of the 1st U.S. Infantry, whose men manned the three 20-pdr. Parrotts emplaced in Battery Robinett, reported that the Confederates:

gained the ditch, but were repulsed. During this charge 8 of the enemy, having placed a handkerchief on a bayonet and calling to the men in the battery not to shoot them, surrendered, and were allowed to come into the fort. They then reformed, and restoring, carried the ditch and the outside of the work, the supports having fallen a short distance to the rear in slight disorder.

The men of the First U.S. Infantry, after having been driven from their guns . . . , resorted to their muskets and were firing from the inside of the embrasures at the enemy on the outside, a distance of about 10 feet intervening; but the rebels, having gained the top of the work, our men fell back into the angle of the fort, as they had been directed to do in such an emergency. Two shells were thrown from Battery Williams into Battery Robinett, one bursting on top of it and the other near the right edge.

The ranks of Moore's brigade, like Phifer's before, were decimated by the deadly fire of the Ohio Brigade. "Charge! Charge!" came the order, and the 11th Missouri and 27th Ohio sprang to their feet and pursued the shattered Confederate

"change front forward to better protect the battery," and called up the 11th Missouri of Mower's brigade, posting them 25 yards in rear of the 63rd Ohio.

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regiments back into the woods from which less than 30 minutes before they had so confidently debouched.⁶⁴

A number of Maury's troops, advancing southward down the Elam Creek bottom, to the east of Battery Robinett and west of Battery Powell, fought their way into Corinth. Caught in a counter-attack, they were driven back in disorder. Battery Powell was recovered by the bluecoats, and by noon Van Dorn's army was in retreat. Rosecrans, after reconnoitering the field, decided not to begin the pursuit until the next day.⁶⁵

The battered Confederate divisions spent the night of the 4th at Chewalla. Early the next day, Van Dorn continued his retreat. At Hatchie Bridge, he found his route blocked by a Federal column rushed southeast from Bolivar. The bluecoats held their ground, and Van Dorn, if Rosecrans had pressed the pursuit, would have

⁶⁴ Ibid., 184-185, 248, 399. Margaret Greene Rogers, "The Battle of Corinth," The Battle of Corinth, 5. Rosecrans, "Battle of Corinth," Battles and Leaders, Vol. II, 751. General Moore recalled that soldiers of the 42nd Alabama

from their position in line, were brought in front of a strong bastion [Battery Robinett], the walls of which they found too high to scale, but rushing to the embrasures they fired three or four volleys, driving the enemy from their guns, and then entering the work mounted the parapet and planted their flag on the walls. After entering the works we found ourselves opposed by an overwhelming force, and being without support and our lines broken and disordered in the assault, had no other motive left but to fall back, which was done.

⁶⁵ Greene, The Mississippi, 49-51. Soldiers from Moore's and Brig. Gen. William Cabell's brigades "penetrated to the very heart of Corinth, driving the enemy from house to house and frequently firing in at the windows and driving them out."

Capt. Edward H. Cummins, a Confederate staffer, reported:

We ... entered Corinth. Our division [Maury's] obtained the ground from the Tishomingo Hotel, back of Bragg's headquarters [the Curlee House], and nearly to the house where Major Smith had his quarters. Hebert was on our left and occupied the works on the ridge northwest from your house [the Fish Pond House]. But we scarcely got in when we met and were overwhelmed by the enemy's massive reserves. Our lines melted under their fire like snow in a thaw. The fragments who escaped formed again before we got beyond the fire of the batteries and [General] Lovell came over and became the rear guard, and we fell back 9 miles that night.

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been faced with the loss of his army.⁶⁶ Unable to force his way across the bridge, Van Dorn turned his columns southward and crossed the Hatchie at Crum's Mill. The next day he continued his march to Holly Springs, followed as far as Ripley by the foe.

For the numbers engaged, Corinth was one of the war's bitterest fights. Union losses in the two-day fight totaled 2,359 and Confederate, 4,838. Van Dorn was criticized for his conduct of the campaign, and serious charges were brought against him by one of his subordinates.⁶⁷ A court of inquiry convened at Abbeville, however, exonerated Van Dorn. But at Corinth, as at Pea Ridge in March, Van Dorn had demonstrated that he was incapable of leading an army to victory. Soon he would be transferred to the cavalry, where, in the few months left to him, he would score his only spectacular successes--the Holly Springs Raid and the battle of Thompson's Station.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Rosecrans had been reinforced by Brig. Gen. James B. McPherson's division, at 4 p.m. on October 4, 1862. Ibid., 51-52.

⁶⁷ Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen was the officer who preferred charges against Van Dorn. War of the Rebellion: Official Records, Army, Series I, Vol. XVII, pt. 1, pp. 414-464.

⁶⁸ Van Dorn was shot to death in his headquarters on May 7, 1863, at Spring Hill, Tennessee, by Dr. George B. Peters, who charged the General had "violated the sanctity of his home" by trifling with the affections of his wife. Warner, Generals in Gray, 315.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register. (6 properties)
Battery Williams
Federal Siege Trench (Harper Road Union Earthworks)
Fort Robinett (Battery Robinett)
Battery F
Veranda (Curlee) House
Battle of Corinth Confederate Assault Position
 (The Confederate Assault Position and Battery Williams are not included as contributing resources of the NHL District because they do not possess the requisite integrity.)
- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
- Federal Agency: National Register of Historic Places
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Specify Repository: _____

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Approximately 485 acres.

UTM References:**Corinth Quadrangle****First Phase, Battle of Corinth, October 3, 1862**

- A) 16.356710.3870420
- B) 16.356780.3869630
- C) 16.357630.3869630
- D) 16.357330.3870420

Battery F

- E) 16.358270.3868170

Battery Robinett

- F) 16.360520.3867010
- G) 16.361020.3867010
- H) 16.360020.3866890
- I) 16.360140.3866800
- J) 16.360470.3866820

Fish Pond House

- K) 16.361620.3866680

Curlee House

- L) 16.361000.3866900

Oak Home

- M) 16.361120.3866860

Duncan House

- N) 16.361000.3867000

Railroad Crossover

- O) 16.3866600.360940

Confederate Earthworks Between the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and the Purdy Road

- P) 16.360530.3870310
- Q) 16.361710.3870260
- R) 16.361750.3870700
- S) 16.360520.3870750

Harper Road Union Earthworks

- T) 16.362980.3871440
- U) 16.362980.3871080
- V) 16.362920.3871090
- W) 16.362940.3871440

Confederate Rifle-Pit

- X) 16.361970.3867240

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Corinth National Cemetery

- Y) 16.362230.3865860
- Z) 16.362220.3865580
- AA) 16.361930.3865590
- BB) 16.361930.3865860

Kendrick Quadrangle**Union Siege Line: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's and Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Davies' Divisions**

- A) 16.364260.3872640
- B) 16.363440.3872640
- C) 16.363440.3871840
- D) 16.364500.3871840
- E) 16.364380.3872020
- F) 16.364260.3872020

Union Siege Line: Army of the Tennessee (Brig. Gen. Thomas McKean's and Brig. Gen. T.W. Sherman's Divisions); Army of the Ohio (Brig. Gen. T.J. Wood's and William Nelson's Divisions)

- G) 16.365860.3869420
- H) 16.365860.3868410
- I) 16.365640.3868410
- J) 16.365640.3869300
- K) 16.365780.3869300
- L) 16.365780.3869420

Union Siege Line: Army of the Mississippi (Paine's Division)

- M) 16.367040.3866940
- N) 16.367200.3866740
- O) 16.367140.3866700
- P) 16.367040.3866740

Pocahontas Quadrangle**Davis Bridge (Battle of the Hatchie), October 5, 1862**

- A) 16.335820.3877280
- B) 16.336200.3877360
- C) 16.336200.3877280

SIEGE AND BATTLE OF CORINTH

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Verbal Boundary Description:

First Phase, Battle of Corinth, October 3, 1862

Beginning at a point where the south curb of the Wenasoga Road meets the east bank of the west branch of Cane Creek (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point A); proceed south approximately 3500 feet along the east bank of Cane Creek, past the junction of the east and west branches, to a point (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point B); proceed east approximately 2700 feet to the Southern Railroad tracks (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point C); proceed north along the eastern edge of the railroad right-of-way approximately 2800 feet to the railroad crossing with the Wenasoga Road (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point D); and follow the south curb of the Wenasoga Road 2100 feet to the point of origin.

Corinth Quadrangle
157 acres

Battery F

Beginning at a point on the northeast curb of the corner of Davis and Bitner Streets and proceed east along the north curb of Davis Street 445 feet to a point; thence north, following the eastern property line of Billy Glisson and Harold Isbell, 520 feet to a point; thence west 435 feet, following the northern property line of Harold Isbell and Charles Lane to Bitner Street; and thence south 520 feet along the west curb of Bitner Street to the point of origin. Battery F is UTM point E on the Corinth Quadrangle.

Corinth Quadrangle
1 acre

Battery Robinett

Beginning at the southwest curb of the corner of Coleman Street and Linden Street (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point F); proceed west following the south curb of Linden street 1740 feet to a point (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point G); thence south 490 feet to the south side of the Southern Railroad right-of-way (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point H); thence east 563 feet to a point (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point I); thence north 357 feet to a point; thence east 60 feet to a point; thence north 70 feet to a point; thence east 100 feet to a point; thence north 65 feet to a point on the north curb of Waldron Street (Corinth Quadrangle, UTM point J); proceed east 940 feet following the north curb of Waldron Street to the northwest curb of the intersection of Waldron and Coleman Streets; and thence north following the west curb of Coleman Street 570 feet to the point of origin.

Corinth Quadrangle
20 acres

SIEGE AND BATTLE OF CORINTH

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Fish Pond House

The west half of the center one-third of block Two (2) of Graham's addition to the City of Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi, said lot being 56-2/3 feet north and south by 100 feet east and west.

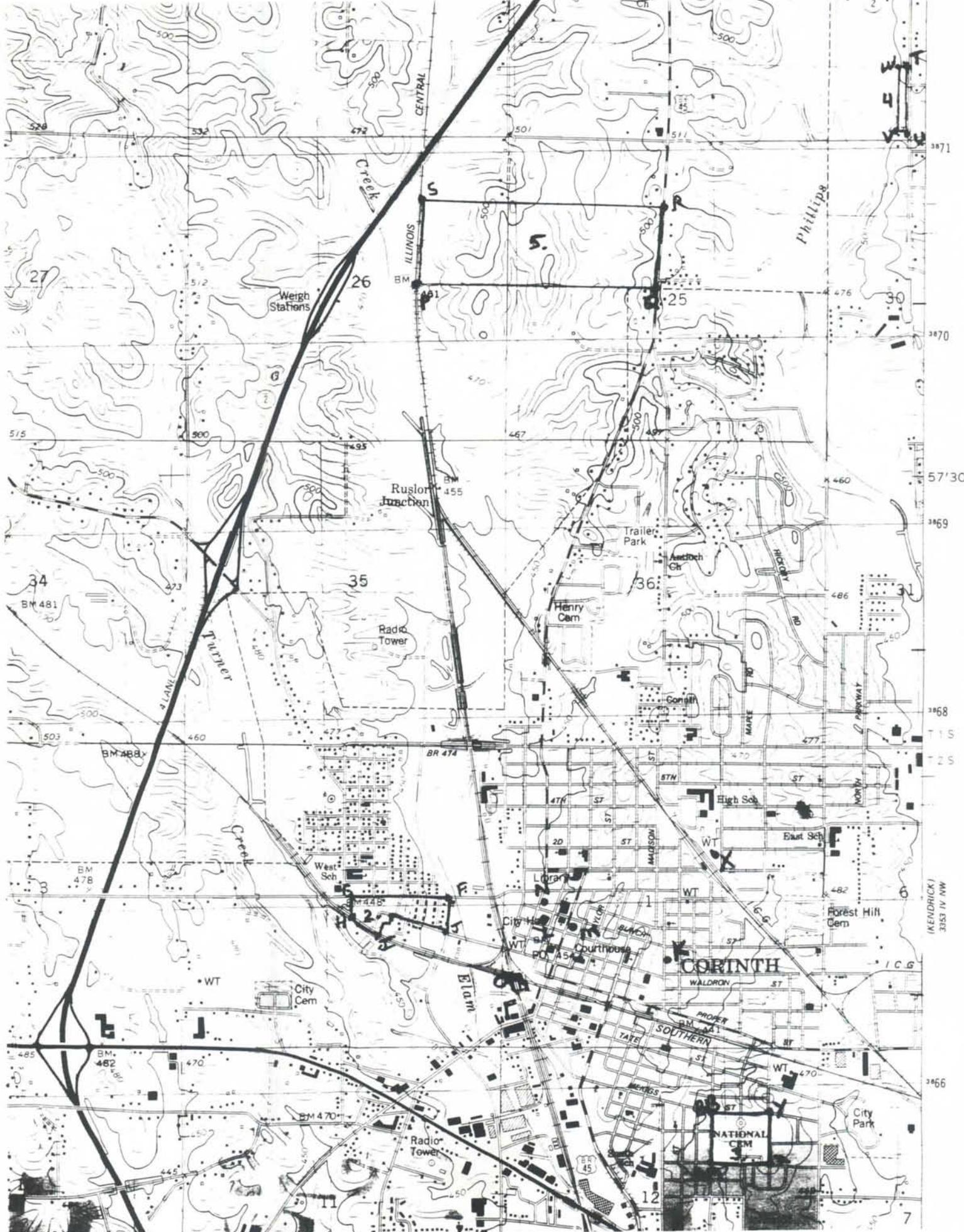
Also: Beginning at northwest corner of said block Two (2) of Graham's addition to the City of Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi, at south edge of the concrete sidewalk along the north side of said block, thence south along west boundary line of said block 125 feet and 7 inches to an iron stake, which iron stake is located at the northwest corner of the south one-third of said block, and the southwest corner of the central one-third of said block, for a true beginning point; thence south 14 feet to an iron stake; thence east 100 feet, more or less, parallel with the north boundary line of said block; and thence west along the south boundary line of the center one-third of said block, 100 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

UTM point K
Corinth Quadrangle
less than 1 acre

Curlee House

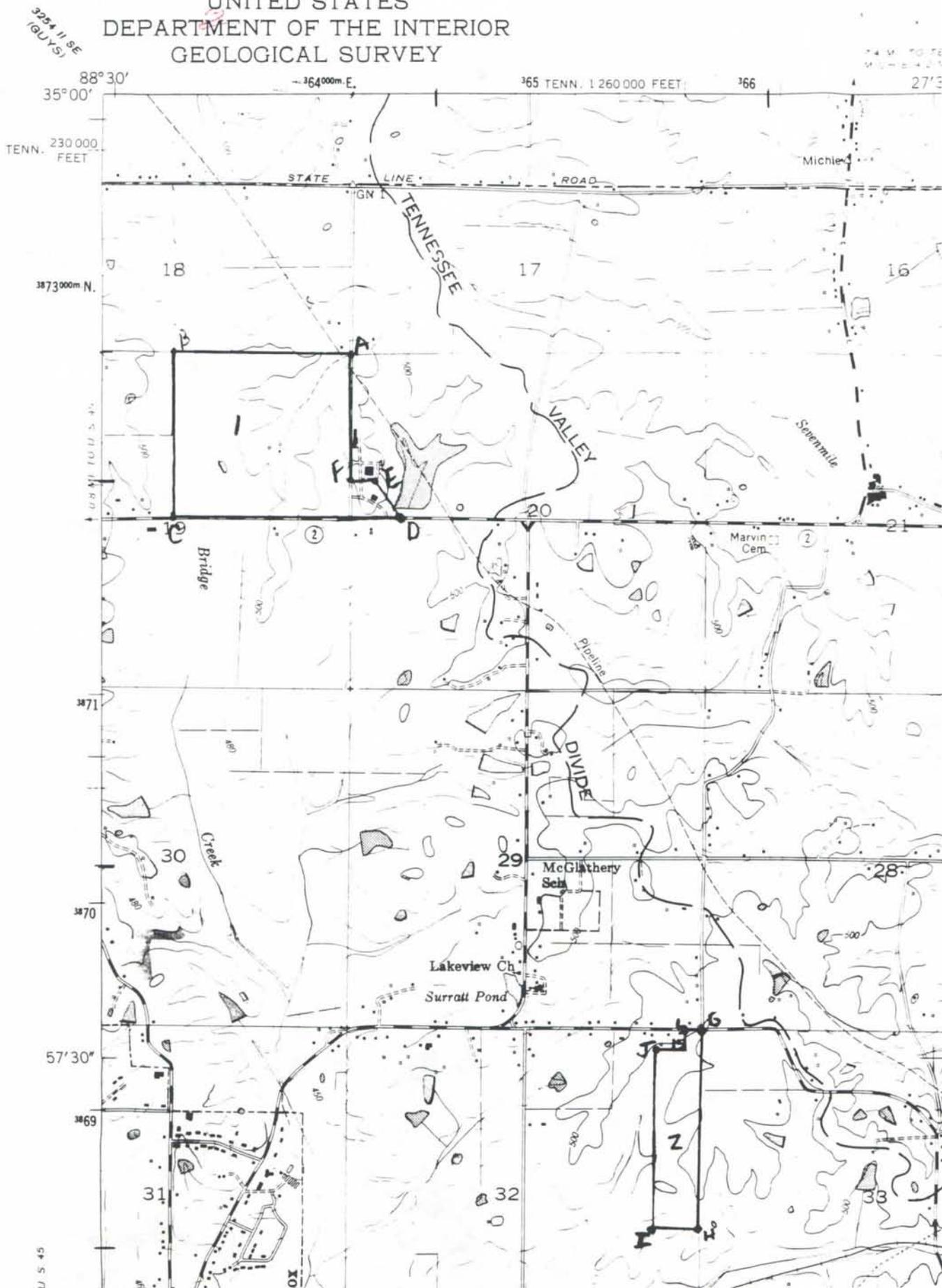
Commencing at the outside southeast corner of the brick fence around block #79, Mitchell and Mask's survey of the said city of Corinth, and thence in a northerly direction, with the outside edge of the said brick fence along the east side of said block, a distance of 110 feet, for the beginning point of the lot; thence in a westerly direction, parallel with the south line of the said block, a distance of 104 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of the lot which was conveyed by Shelby H. Curlee IV to the City of Corinth, Mississippi, by deed dated December 19, 1962, and recorded in book 124, pages 147-150, in the Chancery Clerk's office of said county; thence in a northerly direction, with the east line of the said lot conveyed by the said deed of December 19, 1962, a distance of 94 feet, more or less, to the extreme north edge of the brick fence along the north side of the block; thence in an easterly direction, with the north edge of said brick fence, approximately 104 feet, to the outside corner of the brick fence in the northeast corner of block; and thence in a southerly direction, with the east outside edge of brick fence, 94 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

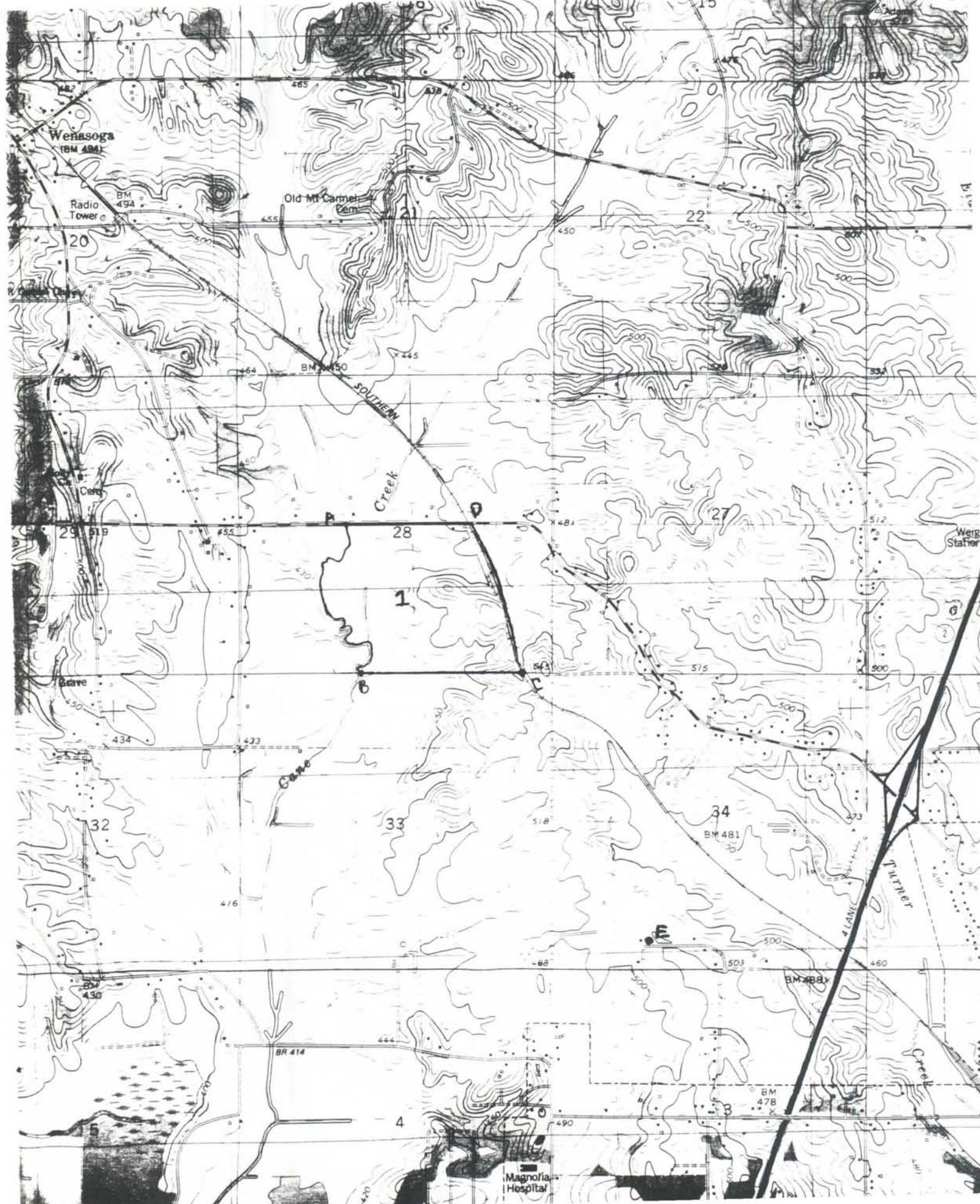
UTM Point L
Corinth Quadrangle
less than one acre



(KENDRICK)
3353 IV NW

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





Wenasoga
(BM 494)

Radio
Tower

Old Mt. Carmel
Cem.

SOUTHERN
Creek

Weig
Station

Turtlet
Creek

Magnaolia
Hospital

20

22

28

27

29

1

B

34

32

33

416

518

473

500

430

BR 414

444

490

BM 478

478

470

490



334 WALNUT 162500 335 47'30" 337 338
3253 IV

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

CORINTH BATTLE
 DAVIS BRIDGE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
 AND TENNESSEE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

