

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Mississippi	
COUNTY:	Hinds/Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:

Big Black River Battlefield

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Boundaries as shown on attached map.

CITY OR TOWN:

Smith's Station (Hinds County); Bovina (Warren County)

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

Mississippi

28

Hinds/Warren

049/149

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Big Black Battlefield - Robert Mashburn

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Edwards Bolton

STATE:

Mississippi

CODE

28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Hinds County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Raymond

STATE

Mississippi 39154

CODE

28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

CODE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER _____ DATE _____

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Big Black River Battlefield and affiliated fortifications and campsites encompass an area of approximately two square miles of land south of the old U. S. Highway 80, as well as 1/4 square mile north of this same highway, where U. S. Highway 80 crosses the Big Black River, in Hinds County.

The Union fortifications are situated on the bluffs on Clear Creek. Located on the south bank, they continue in a semi-circle west to east to south and terminate at the Big Black River railroad bridge in sections 21 and 22.

Union and Confederate campsites are bordered by Clear Creek on the north, Bovina on the west, the Big Black River on the east, and extend 1/2 mile south of old U. S. Highway 80.

The battlefield is under cultivation as it was at the time of the battle.

The fortifications and campsites are on cleared residential, pasture and wooded areas as when constructed in 1863.

Some remains of the Confederate defenses and Union fortifications are presently distinguishable today.

The wreckage of the CSS Charm and CSS Paul Jones can be seen when the Big Black is at low stage.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1863-1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> losophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> itarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Big Black River Bridge Battle was fought May 17, 1863, in an area where the river forms a horseshoe bend; it was in this region that the Confederates had constructed rifle pits as defenses after withdrawing from the Battle of Champion Hill 9.8 miles to the east. These defenses were on the east bank of the river and protected the approach to the bridge. The defenses along with the natural terrain of the area provided excellent cover for the brigades of Generals John C. Vaughn and Martin Green.

About 10:00 a.m. the Union forces of Brigadier General Eugene A. Carr under the command of General John A. McClearnand, engaged the Confederate pickets in the woods at Smith's Station, about 2 miles east of the bridge. After driving in the pickets, the Union forces were confronted with the Confederate troops, well-entrenched, but demoralized from the defeat of Champion Hill the day before. The bombardment from Battery A of the 2nd. Illinois Light Artillery and the 1st. Battery of the Indiana Light Artillery followed by a lightning charge of the 2nd. Brigade under Brigadier General Michael K. Lawler rolled up the left wing of the Confederate defenses. The Union forces then advanced to the bridge with little trouble, capturing vast numbers of prisoners, small arms and 18 field guns.

The steamers, CSS Dot, CSS Paul Jones, and CSS Charm were at the Big Black Bridge Landing, seeking safety from Union fleets operating on the Mississippi. The Confederates had placed these vessels parallel to the bridge. After crossing in retreat, the Confederates burned the steamers and bridge to hinder the advance by Union forces.

Union forces occupied these positions through the siege of Vicksburg until August, 1864.

Earthworks were constructed on the bluffs of the south bank of Clear Creek, extending to and along the west bank of Big Black River.

Union camp sites were located directly west along Clear Creek and south between Warrior's Trail Road and the west bank of the Big Black River.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bearss, Edwin. Decision in Mississippi. Pioneer Press, Little Rock, 1962. P. 297.

Stone, Col. William M. "History of the Twenty-Second Iowa Regiment From Date of Enlistment to Close of Service." Collections of William C. Wright, Clinton, Mississippi.

The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1889. Series 1, Vol. 24, pp. 266-269.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 32° 22' 18"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 90° 45' 59"			
NE	Degrees Minutes Seconds 32° 22' 18"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 90° 41' 10"			
SE	Degrees Minutes Seconds 32° 20' 54"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 90° 41' 10"			
SW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 32° 20' 54"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 90° 45' 59"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 1,450 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>Mississippi</u>	28	<u>Hinds</u>	049
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>Mississippi</u>	28	<u>Warren</u>	149
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

William C. Wright, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

DATE

May 13, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN:

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

Name _____
R. A. McLemore
Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History
Date May 13, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Mississippi	
COUNTY	Hinds/Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number of entries)

4. Mark Chaney
Bovina, Mississippi

Jack Filibaum
Bovina, Mississippi

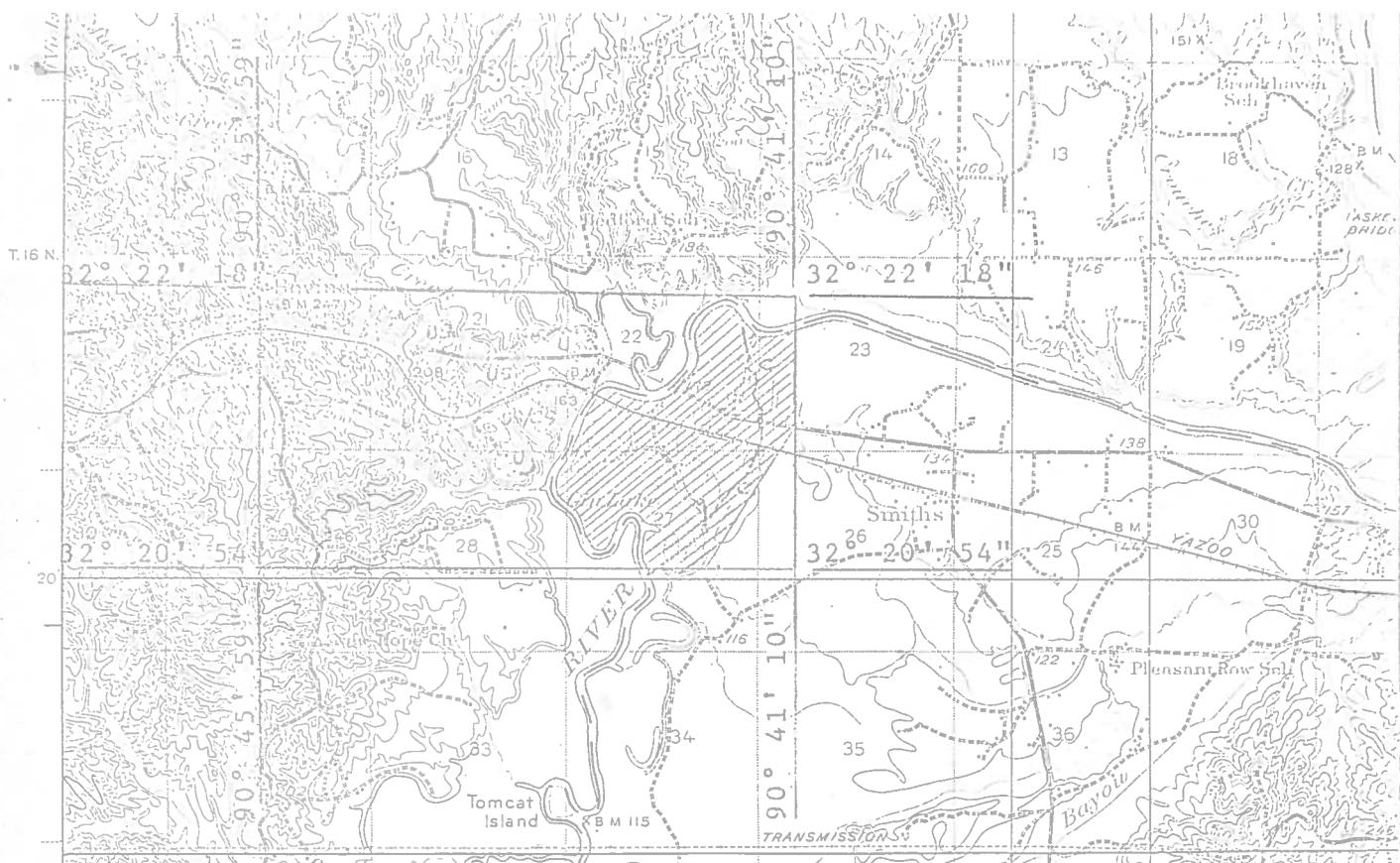
H. E. Taylor
Second North
Vicksburg, Mississippi

W. A. Brown
Bovina, Mississippi

Pennebaker Farm
Smith's Station
Edwards, Mississippi

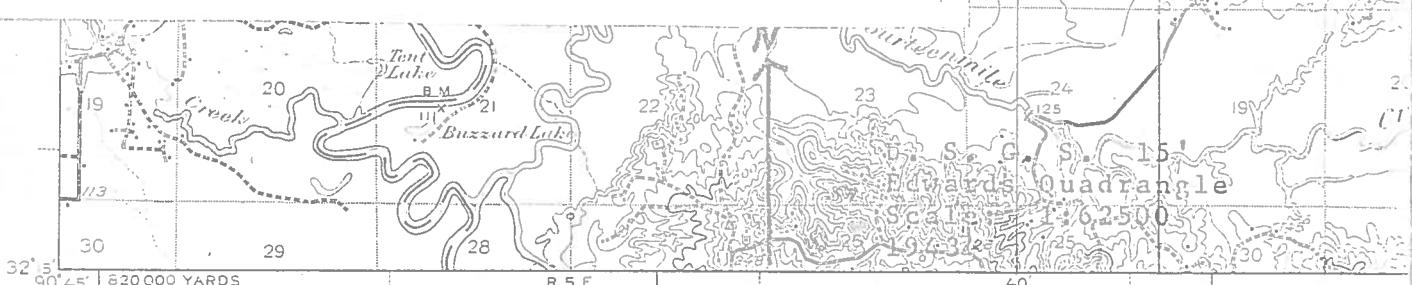
5. Chancery Court Building
Hinds County
Jackson, Mississippi

Warren County Courthouse
Vicksburg, Mississippi



BIG BLACK RIVER BATTLEFIELD
Hinds/Warren Counties

Hatched = Battlefield
Shaded = Fortifications and camp sites
C = Confederate lines of defense
CS = Confederate camp sites
U = Union fortifications
US = Union camp sites



Topography by Shirley Waggener, H.G. Warner, Rudolph Dossett,
T.R. Cheesman, E. Van Brunt, E.T. Fitzgerald, A.F. Striker,
J.G. Harrison, and E.M. Thompson
Surveyed in 1934-1935

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1935

1 1 0 1
5000 0 5000
1 1 0 1

Cont
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