

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi

COUNTY: Warren

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: MAR 14 1973



1. NAME

COMMON: Vicksburg Siege Cave

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Near Vicksburg City Cemetery

CITY OR TOWN: Vicksburg

STATE: Mississippi 39180 CODE: 028 COUNTY: Warren CODE: 149

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Site ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify)	☒ Comments <u>Unused</u>
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. Paul E. Ballard, D.D.S.

STREET AND NUMBER: 418 Groome Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Vicksburg STATE: Mississippi 39180 CODE: 149

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Chancery Court, Warren County

STREET AND NUMBER: Warren County Courthouse, Cherry Street

CITY OR TOWN: Vicksburg STATE: Mississippi 39180 CODE: 028

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None known

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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DATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hough's cave, the last remaining Civil War cave in Vicksburg, was dug at the base of the western side of a box-like ravine on the northern side of the city and directly behind the Confederate defenses. The cave was constructed with a small opening with a step-down immediately after entering. This step-down allowed the inhabitants room enough to stand. The two room "Y" shaped design provided the occupants some degree of privacy as well as allowing the dividing wall to act as a bearing wall. No doubt the cave was once shored with timbers, however, no remains of these are present at this time, but the squareness of the cuts indicate that timbers were used.

When the cave was constructed, it was in a box-like ravine, but the southern spur has since been cut away for an addition to the city cemetery. This removal of the south spur has allowed a better access to the cave. In developing this section of the cemetery, the City of Vicksburg installed a drainage system, which has carried off standing water, which otherwise, would have damaged the cave. The cave is in a heavily wooded section that provides a certain amount of protection from the elements.

The land containing the cave is owned by Dr. Paul E. Ballard, D.D.S. Dr. Ballard is the current president of the Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society and is very interested in the cave's preservation.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

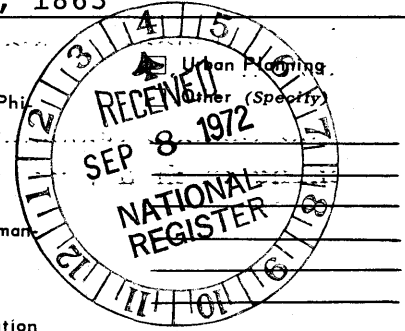
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) May 18-July 4, 1863

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Transportation |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of caves around Vicksburg during the Civil War measured the ebb and flow of military activity in and around the city. The first caves were mere depressions carved into the sides of the hills for protection against the naval bombardment from the Federal gunboats in the spring of 1862, when Vicksburg's military and civil officials refused the Federals' demand for immediate surrender. This defiance resulted in the immediate shelling of the city. Few civilian deaths resulted, however, as the civilians quickly sought the safety offered by the reverse sides of the hills.

Periodic visits to the city were made by the Federal fleet for a year, but cave digging did not become necessary again until the spring of 1863, when Major General Ulysses S. Grant brought a large combined force of army and navy against the Confederate troops of Major General John C. Pemberton. With the navy came the dreaded mortarboats carrying the squat 17,200 pound mortar which fired a 200 pound ball filled with a bursting charge of twenty pounds of black powder. The flat trajectory guns of the gunboats could not reach the back sides of the hills, but the mortars fired their deadly missile at a 45° angle, allowing it to fall almost perpendicularly until it would burst, scattering fragments of tremendous weight. On occasions, the mortar shells failed to burst and fell intact, often burying twenty feet into the earth.

Grant subsequently defeated the Confederates at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, and the Big Black River. Thinking that the Southern forces were demoralized, Grant pushed on to Vicksburg, where the Confederates were now firmly entrenched in the fortifications around the city, running in a half circle from the Mississippi River on the north, west to the river southwest of town.

The horde of Northern troops arrived at Vicksburg on May 18, 1863. Quickly surrounding the defenders, Grant ordered an all-out attack for the 19th. This assault failed as well as a more vigorous attempt on the 22nd of May. Grant, realizing the tremendous number of lives spent in these two assaults, ordered a siege. Large siege guns were placed in battery, and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews:

Paul E. Ballard, D.D.S., President, Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society and owner of the siege cave, Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society, Old Courthouse Museum, Vicksburg, Mississippi. April 9, 1972, July 30, 1972.

Van Blaine Russell, Retired journalist for the Vicksburg Evening Post, 1301 Prospect Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi. July 30, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		32° 21' 59"	90° 51' 41"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>William C. Wright, Historian</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>Miss. Department of Archives and History</u>	DATE <u>August 25, 1972</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Post Office Box 571</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Jackson</u>	STATE <u>Mississippi</u> CODE <u>28</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 ☒

Name R. A. McLemore
R. A. McLemore

Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date August 25, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/14/73

ATTEST:
W. J. Murty
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.9.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

SEP 8 1972

(Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL
REGISTER

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Warren	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8.
additional mortarballs ordered into position. The Vicksburg citizens could no longer be assured of their safety in open places, including the once safe positions behind the hills.

To shelter themselves from these raining, 200 pound missiles of death, the citizens resorted to going beneath the earth, and cave construction became a lucrative business. For twenty dollars a simple, one room affair could be dug. A deeper thick-roofed, several chambered cave, shored up by timber and with shelves cut into the earth, cost fifty dollars. One citizen described the city as "so honeycombed with caves that the streets look [ed] like avenues in a cemetery."

The people tried to make the caves comfortable by bringing furniture, carpets, and lamps into them, but still they were dark and damp. Many of the women avoided them as much as possible except when shelling was at its heaviest. Even then, many citizens took their chances on the outside. Many of the caves were not entirely bomb-proof; and, often death and destruction occurred when caves were destroyed by mortar balls penetrating the earth above.

A typical two room cave was constructed by a citizen named Robert S. Hough. Hough was a native of England who had married a girl from Tennessee and settled in Vicksburg sometime in the 1840s. Hough is listed in the Warren County census of 1850 as a farmer with \$600.00 real estate value. In the 1860 census, Hough is shown as a dairyman having \$8,000.00 in real estate, as well as \$500.00 personal property. Vicksburg and Warren County had been good to Hough as he owned 450 acres of land in 1860. This area of Vicksburg near the cave was called "Hough's Pasture" for many years.

This particular cave was probably dug by Hough and Henry Lester, a twenty-one year old laborer from Tennessee who was living in the Hough household. The location selected for the cave was an excellent choice. It was situated in a hollow with four sides providing protection from the Federal artillery and all but a direct hit overhead from the 13-inch naval mortar. The cave was dug into the east face of the west spur with the opening facing away from the river and the dreaded mortars; and at a right angle to the Federal siege guns to the north. The Confederate northern defenses were on the hill to the north of the cave. The "Y" shaped cave was a two room affair, large enough to accommodate Hough's family of eight and perhaps his laborer, Henry Lester.

Unlike the fate of the hundreds of Civil War caves in Vicksburg, Hough's has withstood the ravages of time, the elements and the shock of exploding shells. Hough and his family were not

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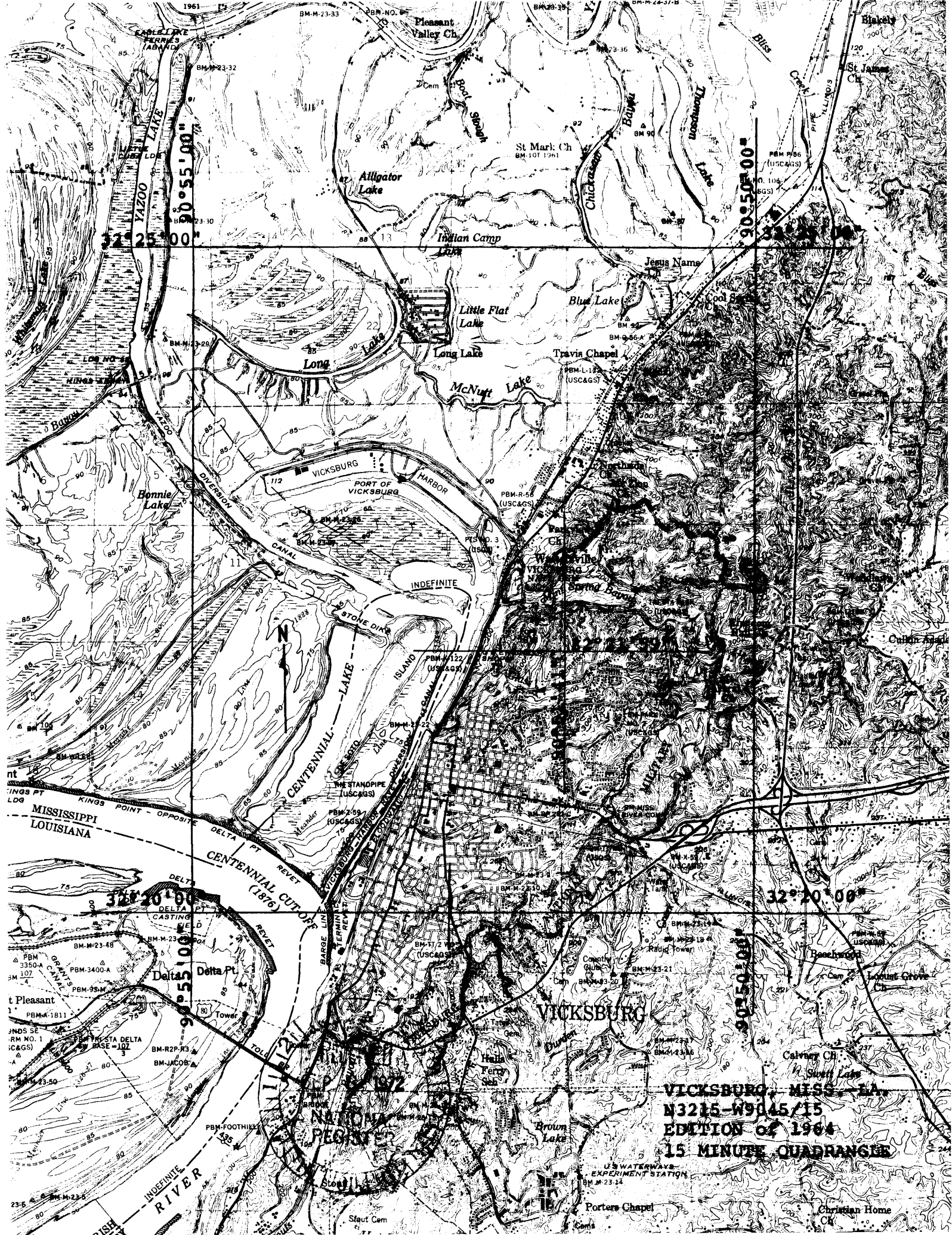
8.
without some harrowing experiences as several Federal artillery shells have been recovered in the hills above the cave. This cave and the many sunken depressions that dot the hills of Vicksburg stand as grim reminders of the hardships endured by the citizens during the forty-seven days and nights of continuous bombardment during the siege of Vicksburg.

9.
Personal inspection by William C. Wright, April 9, 1972, and July 30, 1972.

Warren County, Mississippi, Personal Tax Rolls, 1857-60.

Warren County, Mississippi, United States Census, 1850 and 1860.





VICKSBURG, MISS - LA
N3215-W9045/15
EDITION OF 1964
15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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1. NAME

COMMON: Vicksburg Siege Cave

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Near Vicksburg City Cemetery

CITY OR TOWN:

Vicksburg

STATE:

Mississippi 39180

CODE

028

COUNTY

Warren

CODE

149

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Donald F. Garrett

DATE OF PHOTO: April 9, 1972

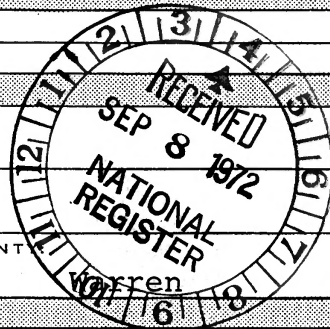
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

1010 Metairie Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39209

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Looking west into the cave's entrance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS