**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
**INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**
**FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

**STATE:** Mississippi  
**COUNTY:** Lee  

---

### 1. NAME

**COMMON:** Tupelo Battlefield Site (No. 260-3D)  
**AND/OR HISTORIC:** Battle of Harrisburg

---

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Mississippi Hwy 6, 2 miles west of U.S. Hwy 45, Rural Route 1, MT-143 in Tupelo  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Tupelo  
**STATE:** Mississippi 38801

---

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**  
- Agricultural  
- Government  
- Park  
- Private Residence  
- Transportation  
- Military  
- Religious  
- Other (Specify)  

---

### 4. AGENCY

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway

**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS:** Southeast  
**STREET AND NUMBER:** 3401 Whipple Avenue  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Atlanta  
**STATE:** Georgia 30344  
**CODE:** 13

---

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, Etc.:** Chancery Clerk's Office  
**STREET AND NUMBER:** 300 West Main  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Tupelo  
**STATE:** Mississippi 38801  
**CODE:** 28

---

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:** Natchez Trace Parkway Survey, United States Government Printing Office  
**DATE OF SURVEY:** 1941  
**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** Library of Congress  
**STREET AND NUMBER:**

---

**CITY OR TOWN:** Washington  
**STATE:** District of Columbia  
**CODE:** 001
The Battle of Tupelo was fought in and around the hamlet of Harrisburg and the town of Tupelo. Today, the low rolling hills around Harrisburg, which, since the war, have been incorporated into the town of Tupelo, is now a residential section. The battle was fought in a typical southern countryside of cleared fields, forests, cornfields and orchards. Today, banks, churches, residential homes, streets and highways crisscross the area.

The position selected by Union General A. J. Smith to receive the Confederate attack was well suited for defense. After the running skirmishes of the 13th, General Smith wanted to occupy a strong position in and around Tupelo and await attack. This and two other goals made him choose the site that he did. His other goals—secure Tupelo and gain a lodgement on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. His battleline, forming a right angle several hundred yards north of Pontotoc road, was on the crest of a low ridge overlooking Harrisburg Branch. From the position held by the 12th Iowa and Murray's brigade, the Federals looked westward toward Pontotoc, the direction from which the Confederate Generals Lee and Forrest would advance. To the Union front, the terrain sloped gradually down to Harrisburg Branch, beyond which the country was an undulating woodland with scant undergrowth and heavily timbered. From Smith's line, which was slightly over a mile and one-half in length, the distance to the edge of the timber in front varied with the meanders of Harrisburg Branch, which marked the limit of the clearings. Opposite the sector held by Murray's brigade, about 300 yards separated the Union battle line from the timber, but the woods were so open that the Confederates would be visible for the final 500 yards of their approach. Along other sectors of the front, the Rebels, as they advanced to the assault, would be exposed to artillery and small arms fire for distances varying from one-fourth mile to 1,000 yards.

The monument at the site is made of granite and rests on a granite base 12" thick.

No scale

Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary cost estimate for above: 0
Photographs enclosed
The Battle of Tupelo was fought on July 13-15, 1864. General Stephen D. Lee was in command of all Confederate forces in Alabama, Mississippi, and Eastern Louisiana. He relied on Major General Nathan B. Forrest to protect the rich prairie section of Eastern Mississippi. Forrest had protected the prairie and in July of 1864 he was called to battle again when A. J. Smith's Federal army moved toward Tupelo. Grant's tactics called for a diversionary attack in North Mississippi to keep Forrest occupied while General William T. Sherman moved from Tennessee to Georgia on his march to the sea. As for the battle, neither side could claim complete victory.

Sherman wanted Forrest destroyed for if he wasn't he would be free to fall upon and wreck the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad over which Sherman received his tools of war. To wreck Forrest, he sent General A. J. Smith with more than 14,000 soldiers and 24 cannon. General Lee, on July 14, had 9,500 effectives, supported by 20 cannon. Forrest's men opened the battle as they dashed on foot toward the Federal position. For three hours they attacked and fell back. After a lull this continued but to no avail. That night, because of the condition of his troops, Smith fell back four miles. Again on the 15th, the fighting resumed and the next day Smith moved his army toward LaGrange. The Confederates followed but without making another major attack. The important result was that Smith had kept the railroad safe and supply lines open.

The site is located on a slight hill overlooking the area and because of landscaping and no high rise buildings one does not have a sense of congestion. This memorial is interpreted by two interpretive panels and as the terrain has not been altered immensely, other than erection of buildings, one may still sense and understand the flow of events that occurred here. However, more and more construction is going on in this area and the open area to the west is being rapidly developed.

Significance: 1st order
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Seconds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seconds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre Class VI

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE:</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY:</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY:</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Natchez Trace Parkway

STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route 1, NT-143

CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo

STATE: Mississippi CODE 38801

DATE: 10-01-74

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ None

State Liaison Officer Signature: William Cox

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
IN MEMORY
OF THE MEN OF THE
FEDERAL AND
THE CONFEDERATE
ARMIES
WHO TOOK PART IN THE
BATTLE OF TUPELO
OR HARDBOARD
JULY 14-15
1862
WHICH RESULTED IN
A VICTORY FOR THE
FEDERAL FORCES UNDER
MAJOR GENERAL
ANDREW J. SMITH
# Tupelo National Battlefield Site (No. 260-3D)

**STATE:** Mississippi  
**COUNTY:** Lee  
**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRY NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMON:** Tupelo National Battlefield Site (No. 260-3D)  
**AND/OR HISTORIC:** Battle of Harrisburg

**LOCATION**

- **STREET AND NUMBER:** Mississippi Hwy 6, 2 miles west of U.S. Hwy 45  
- **Rural Route 1, NT-143** in Tupelo  
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Tupelo

**STATE:** Mississippi  
**CODE:** 28  
**COUNTY:** Lee  
**CODE:** 081

**PHOTO REFERENCE**

- **PHOTO CREDIT:** William E. Cox  
- **DATE OF PHOTO:** September 2, 1974  
- **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38801  
- **Negative No.:** 11473

**IDENTIFICATION**

Describe view, direction, etc.

Facing south showing monument, Highway 6 behind photographer and Monument Drive to his right.
**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** Tupelo National Battlefield Site (No. 260-3D)

**AND/OR HISTORIC:** Battle of Harrisburg

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Mississippi Hwy 6, 2 miles west of U.S. Hwy 45

**Rural Route 1, NT-143** in Tupelo

**CITY OR TOWN:** Tupelo

**STATE:** Mississippi 38801

**CODE COUNTY:**

**STATE:** Mississippi 38801

**CODE COUNTY:**

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Paul Balch

**DATE OF PHOTO:** July 1959

**NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38801

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**

Looking south with monument facing north. Monument Drive is located on the west side of the property. Behind the vegetative screening is a row of residential buildings. The monument faces toward Main Street, which is also State Highway 6.