

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Mississippi

COUNTY:

Lee

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

approved 9/21/78

1. NAME

COMMON:

Brices Cross Roads (No. 271-3C) *Historic Battlefield*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Brices Cross Roads

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

6 miles west of Baldwyn on Mississippi Hwy 370

Rural Route 1, NT-143

CITY OR TOWN:

Tupelo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

1

STATE:

Mississippi 38801

CODE

28

COUNTY:

Lee

CODE

081

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☐ Building
☒ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
In progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☒ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☒ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____
☐ Educational ☒ Military ☐ Religious _____
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____

4. AGENCY

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

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

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:

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

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

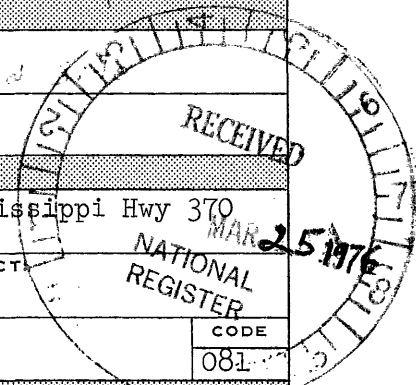
STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

001

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
MississippiCOUNTY:
Lee

ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

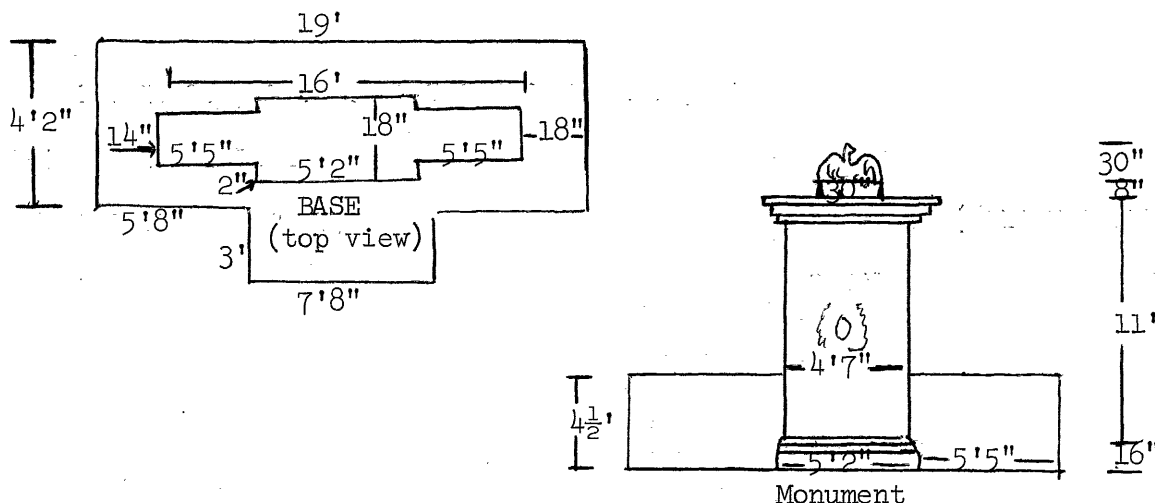
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the time of the battle around the Brice plantation house, there was a 6-acre clearing looking out over an undulating, heavily timbered landscape, with an undergrowth of black-jack and scrub oak in full leaf. Six hundred yards from Brice's house the road cuts through a cornfield with rail fences on each side. General Forrest of the Confederate army, just prior to the battle, described the country around Brices Cross Roads as "Densely wooded and the undergrowth so heavy that when we strike them they won't know how few men we have. Their cavalry will reach the crossroads three hours ahead of the infantry. We can whip their cavalry in that time. They'll send back to have the infantry hurried up. In this heat, and coming on at a run, five or six miles over a muddy road, their infantry will be so tired we will ride right over them." The crossroads is located on a slight rise overlooking Tishomingo Creek and was of strategic value in the battle.

The Cross Roads presently consists of a dirt road running north and south and a paved road running east and west. The vegetation now is primarily open with field crops or grass cover.

The monument at the site is made of granite and the dimensions are as follows:



It was erected by the War Department c.1930.

No scale

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: 0

Photographs enclosed

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) June 10, 1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the second half of 1863 Union armies won important victories at Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and Chattanooga.

The Union plan for war in the west was to bisect the South east of the Mississippi with Sherman's army working out of Chattanooga and Nashville. His task was to destroy the Confederate Army led by Joseph E. Johnston, occupy Atlanta, and if possible, go on to Savannah and Charleston.

Early in the Atlanta campaign, the Confederate high command had considered the possibility of attacking from Mississippi Sherman's vulnerable supply line--the one-track railroad from Nashville to Chattanooga. Late in May, Gen. Stephen D. Lee, who commanded the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, directed Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest to strike Sherman's line of communications in middle Tennessee. Forrest had distinguished himself by his ability to move fast and fight hard. He lacked formal training in military science, but he acted on the simple maxim that in warfare it was all-important to get to the decisive point of the battle first with the most men. Gifted with daring and inspirational leadership, he had an uncanny ability to carry into execution his theory of successful warfare. So on June 1 Forrest put his columns in motion at Tupelo, Mississippi, and three days later was in Russellville, Alabama, a day's march from the Tennessee River.

Sherman knew that his supply line was vulnerable and therefore charged Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis to move out of Memphis into northern Mississippi and hold Forrest there. Alerted by Lee of Sturgis' moves, Forest hurried back to Tupelo.

Forrest began concentrating his forces, which numbered approximately 3,500 men, along the railroad between Guntown, Baldwin, and Booneville. On the evening of June 9, he knew from his scouts that Sturgis, with about 8,100 men, was in camp at Stubbs Farm 8 to 10 miles from Brices Cross Roads. Both armies marched at dawn.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, D. Alexander. "The Battle of Brice's Cross Roads." Civil War Times Illustrated, vol. VII. (April 1968).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 30' 24 "	88 ° 43' 54 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			44	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre ~~class~~ (entire nat'l battlefield site)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter		DATE: 10-01-74
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Natchez Trace Parkway		
STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route 1, NT-143		PHONE: (601) 842-1572
CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo	STATE Mississippi 38801	CODE 28

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ None

Elmer R. Hilliard
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State

Charles A. [Signature] MAR 30 1975
Federal Representative Signature Date

Deputy Assistant Secretary

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

R. B. Rettig
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/21/78

ATTEST:

Charles A. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.20.78

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Lee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
101566	9/21/76

(Number all entries)

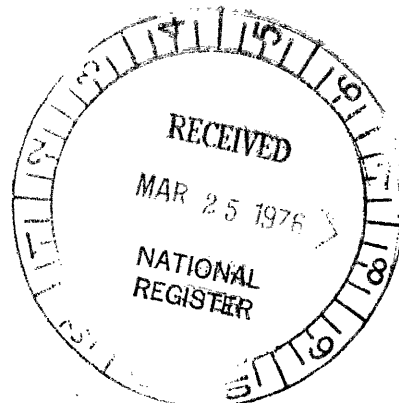
Item 8. Significance

Forrest, who had scouted his enemy well, planned to attack at Brices. But Sturgis' cavalry reached and passed the crossroads before the Confederates got there. Forrest, approaching along the Baldwyn Road, met the Union patrols about 1 mile east of Brices. The Confederates checked the Union advance and by noon, with rapid reinforcement, were attacking vigorously. The Union forces, called up on the double, were exhausted from the march along the muddy roads made almost impassable by torrential rains the night before. Many never even crossed Tishomingo Creek.

Forrest pressed his attack and by midafternoon pushed the Union lines back to the crossroads. Sturgis began a careful withdrawal. But at Tishomingo Creek bridge, a wagon overturned and created panic in the Union ranks. The confused retreat to Memphis degenerated into a rout, and most of the Union artillery, the wagon train, and more than 1,500 Federals were captured by Forrest.

Students and critics of military tactics agree that the engagement was characterized by the hardest kind of fighting and was a brilliant tactical victory for Forrest. Despite this, the battle at Brices Cross Roads did not bring relief to the Confederacy. Sherman, on this and other occasions, forestalled any attack on the Nashville-Chattanooga railroad by sending small commands into northern Mississippi. Assured of adequate reinforcements and supplies, he won the Atlanta and later campaigns which made the collapse of the Confederacy inevitable.

The one acre of land included in Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site constitutes only a symbolic token of the battle area developed in a commemorative manner with the monument, flanking cannon, and exhibit panels.





IN MEMORY
OF THE MEN OF THE
CONFEDERATE
AND THE
FEDERAL ARMIES
WHO FIGHTED IN THE
BATTLE OF
BRICES CROSS ROADS
ON JUNE 30, 1864
THIS MONUMENT WAS
ERECTED BY THE
CONFEDERATE FORCE
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP
OF GENERAL W. A. BURDET

DATE OCT 1957 PHOTO NO. 9564

PHOTOGRAPHER FRANCIS ELMORE

REDUCED CREDIT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
TURN TO NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY, RR No. 1
T-143, TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI 38801

SUBJECT BRICES CROSS ROADS 271-3C

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER