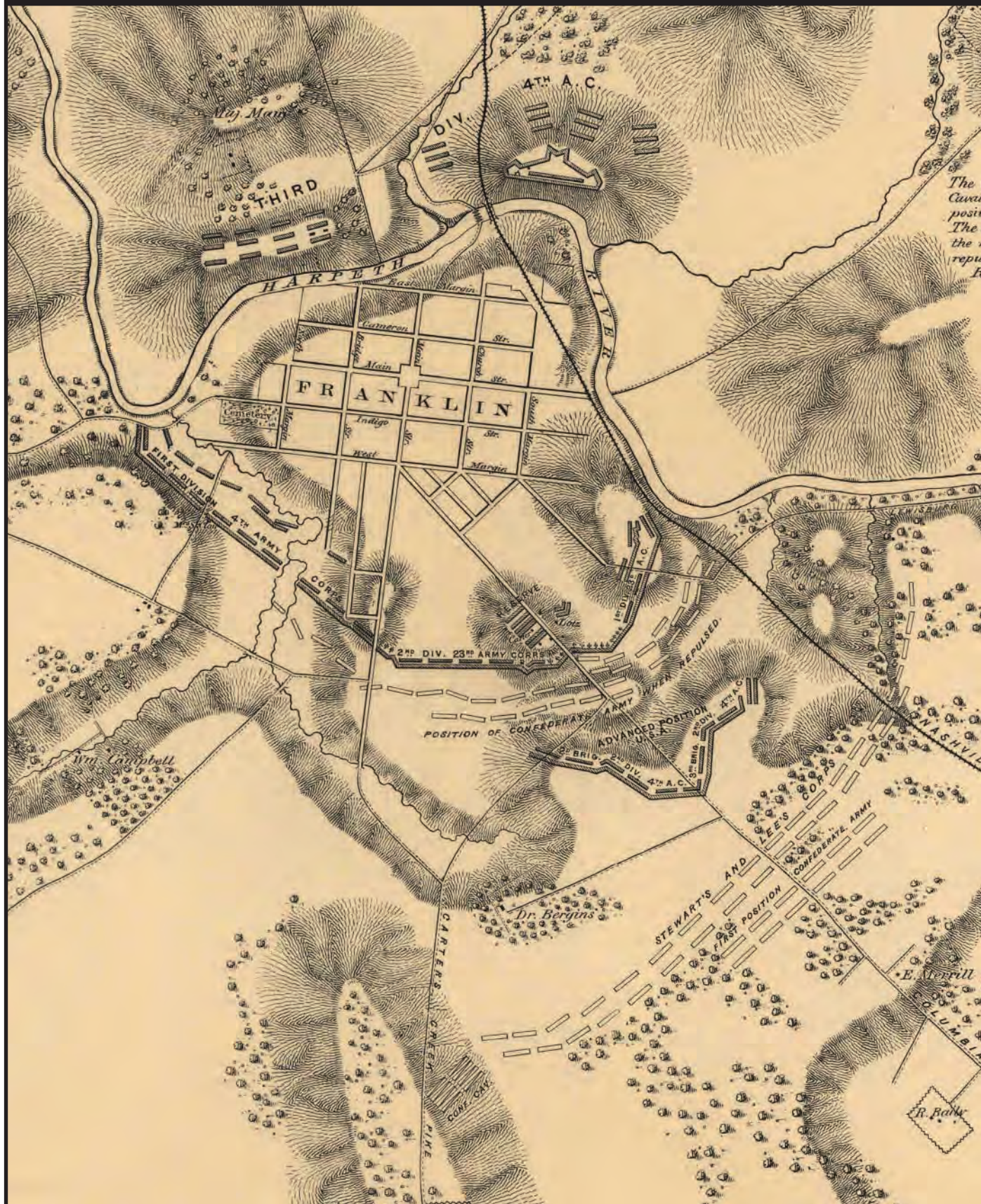


# National Park Service

## Battle of Franklin Sites, Williamson County, Tennessee Special Resource Study





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Battle of Franklin Special Resource Study

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Public Law 109-120, the *Franklin National Battlefield Study Act*, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Special Resource Study for Battle of Franklin related sites in Williamson County, Tennessee. The study is to assess the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of the sites for potential designation as a new unit of the national park system, an addition to an existing unit of the national park system, or other federally designated unit in the State of Tennessee. This report constitutes the results of the study undertaken by the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service (NPS).

On November 30, 1864, 100 regiments of the South's best soldiers, 20,000 men in all, deployed along a two-mile-wide front and began a spectacular converging assault upon 17,000 Federals strongly entrenched on the southern edge of the small town of Franklin, Tennessee. Five hours of fighting resulted in a devastating blow to the Confederate Army. For the size of the forces engaged and the short duration of the engagement, the Battle of Franklin ranks among the bloodiest of the Civil War. The terrible loss of the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Franklin and its near-disintegration two weeks later at the Battle of Nashville essentially ended the war in the Western Theater.

Several unsuccessful Congressional bills were introduced between 1900 and 1925 to create a federally managed military park in Franklin. By 1925 land development pressures in the town had fostered the subdivision of the first large agricultural tracts in the core battlefield area. The battlefield landscape was progressively fragmented over the next 50 years. Despite a mounting loss of battlefield properties, preservation minded citizens still managed to protect several significant battle related resources on smaller tracts during this period.

Greatly accelerated growth in the early 1960s threatened both the historic architecture of downtown Franklin and the last remaining fragments of undeveloped battlefield. Sensing that these losses would forever alter their community identity and reduce its quality of life, concerned citizens began organizing and advocating for better growth management and preservation planning.

The citizen groups that formed in the 1960s and 70s nurtured a community preservation ethic which, over time, matured into broad community support for historic preservation. Their commitment to historic preservation principles resulted in the election of preservation minded officials and the creation of a well coordinated network of local, state, and community organizations. Together, these organizations are working to preserve the area's few remaining Civil War resources and to begin the reclamation of others.

Chapter 1 of this report describes the purpose and background of the study, including the criteria used by the NPS to determine if a resource is eligible for potential designation as a unit of the national park system. The chapter concludes with a description of the study area and activities associated with the preservation of battlefield resources.

Chapter 2 provides a description of how the NPS identified and categorized Battle of Franklin associated resources within the study area. A summary evaluation of the resources, their association with the Battle of Franklin, National Register status, and potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark is provided. The chapter concludes with a brief historical narrative on the Battle of Franklin.

Chapter 3 provides the analysis to determine if the existing battle related resources meet the various criteria for potential designation. Assessments of national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management are presented.

Chapter 4 describes the required consultation and coordination that occurred during the study, including a summary of public meetings and written communications.

Based on the analysis conducted during the study, the NPS concludes that Battle of Franklin related resources in the study area meet the criteria for national significance. The NPS is unable, however, to conclude that battle related resources in the study area meet the criteria for suitability, feasibility, or the need for NPS management for the reasons stated in Chapter 3. No further action is proposed for the study area, and therefore no management alternatives were created and no environmental compliance has been performed.

The study will be concluded by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior transmitting this report to Congress.

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# CHAPTER 1 – STUDY PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

## Chapter Overview

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Chapter 1 describes the purpose and background of the study, including the criteria used by the National Park Service (NPS) to determine if a resource is eligible for potential designation as a unit of the national park system. The chapter concludes with a description of the study area and activities associated with preserving battlefield resources in Franklin.

## Purpose of Special Resource Study

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New areas are typically added to the national park system by an act of Congress. However, before Congress decides to create a new park it needs to know whether the area's resources meet established criteria for designation.

The NPS is responsible for conducting professional studies of potential additions to the national park system when specifically authorized by an act of Congress. The purpose of this study is to provide Congress with information about the quality and condition of sites associated with the Battle of Franklin and their relationship to the established criteria.

## Need for Special Resource Study

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On April 28, 2005, Congressional Representative Marsha Blackburn introduced H.R. 1972. The legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Special Resources Study (SRS) of certain sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, relating to the Battle of Franklin. On the same day Senators Frist and Alexander introduced S. 955 which contained identical language.

H.R. 1972 passed the House, as amended, on November 15, 2005, and was sent to the Senate where it passed by unanimous consent on November 16, 2005. On December 1, 2005, the President signed Public Law 109-120 to authorize the study (Appendix 1).

Congress directed in its legislation that the study analyze Battle of Franklin related sites for their potential as:

- A new unit of the national park system
- An addition to an existing unit of the national park system or other federally designated unit in the State of Tennessee.

The legislation further requires that the SRS study process follow Section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.) and that the Secretary submit a report describing the findings of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate no later than three years after funds are made available.

## Criteria for Recommendation

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In the National Park System General Authorities Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 825), Congress declared that areas comprising the national park system are cumulative expressions of a single national heritage. Potential additions to the national park system should therefore contribute in their own special way to a system that fully represents the broad spectrum of natural and cultural resources that characterize our Nation.

Section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383, Section 1.3 of NPS Management Policies 2006, and NPS Special Directive 92 outline the primary criteria used to identify and assess potential new units of the national park system. The criteria set forth were established to ensure that only the most outstanding examples of the nation's natural and cultural resources are included in the system. To receive a favorable recommendation from the Service, a proposed addition to the national park system must:

- Possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources
- Be a suitable addition to the system
- Be a feasible addition to the system
- Require direct NPS management instead of protection by other public agencies or the private sector.

An area or resource may be considered nationally significant if it is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource; possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage; offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study; and retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource. National significance for cultural resources, such as those comprising the Battle of Franklin site is evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination process contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 65.

Suitability is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the resources being studied to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The suitability analysis also addresses the rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The suitability comparison results in a determination of whether the potential new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond its boundaries), and be capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost.

If a site is determined eligible for consideration as a new unit of the national park system, the NPS will create and analyze potential management alternatives in the SRS. Management alternatives are developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders including interested government agencies, public and private organizations, and individual citizens. If a site is determined not eligible, the study process may be terminated by the NPS before the development of management alternatives.

## **Study Limitations**

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Only Congress may create legislation designating a new unit of the national park system. Consequently, an SRS is not a decision making document but rather just one of many reference sources available to members of Congress.

## **NHL Amendment and SRS Processes**

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The NHL nomination process is the primary and most thorough means of documenting the national significance of historic properties. Ideally, nominations for NHL designation are prepared and taken through the review process as part of a SRS. However, the schedule for developing and reviewing NHL nominations related to the Battle of Franklin sites will be more time intensive than

the time available to complete the SRS. Therefore, to allow the SRS to conclude in a timely manner, the effort to update and/or amend the Battle of Franklin NHL nomination will occur on a parallel but independent track.

The Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University is revising the existing NHL nomination for the Battle of Franklin. The City of Franklin is managing and funding the amendment revision process. Information from the ongoing amendment revision process was used to support the SRS but completion of the respective documents will occur separately. Absent an approved NHL amendment, the NPS's evaluation of national significance for Battle of Franklin sites was coordinated with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and responsible programs in the Washington Office of the NPS (WASO) to avoid the potential for disagreements about the level of significance of specific properties.

## **Overview of Study Area**

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This study is focused on the Civil War resources most relevant to the Battle of Franklin in Williamson County. Battle of Franklin resources located in the core battlefield area near the City of Franklin are considered to be especially important. However, in order to provide the NPS leadership and Congress with the most relevant and comprehensive report possible, several additional historic resources with close associations to the Battle of Franklin outside of Williamson County were also analyzed in the study.

### **Region and Vicinity**

Tennessee is divided into three Grand Divisions. The divisions are geographic, cultural, and legally recognized regions, each constituting roughly one-third of the state. East Tennessee is mountainous and historically isolated. Middle Tennessee is rolling to steeply sloping with good transportation connections. West Tennessee is largely flat, rural, and closely tied to the Mississippi River.

#### Middle Tennessee

The distinctly different landforms, waterways, and soils of the Grand Divisions spawned equally distinctive cultures within them. Even in the early 1800s, Middle Tennessee began to develop differently because it had better soils and better accessibility by river than East Tennessee did. The Middle Tennessee economy grew and diversified into tobacco, livestock, and distilling while East Tennessee continued as an area of relatively isolated small farms. The West Tennessee economy remained largely agricultural and was dominated by the cotton trade.

#### Nashville

Nashville was founded by James Robertson and a party of Wataugans in 1779 and originally called Fort Nashborough after the American Revolutionary War hero Francis Nash. The town grew quickly due to its prime location on the Cumberland River. In 1806, Nashville was incorporated as a city and became the seat of Davidson County. Nashville prospered and was designated the permanent state capital in 1843. By the 1850s, Nashville had already earned the nickname "Athens of the South" by having established numerous higher education institutions and the first public school system in a major southern city.

The city's significance as a shipping port and state capital made it a desirable military and political prize during the Civil War. In February 1862, Nashville became the first state capital to fall to Union troops. The aftermath of war left Nashville in dire economic straits but the city quickly rebounded by developing a solid manufacturing base and reclaiming its important shipping and trading positions.



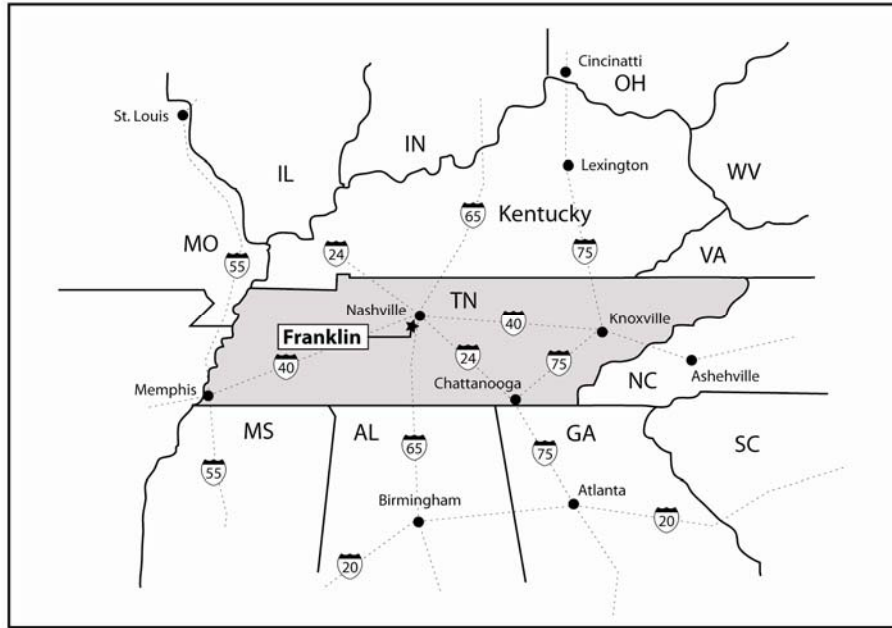


Figure 1. Regional Map

Nashville's business economy became increasingly diversified and service oriented during the early 1900s. Following World War I, insurance, banking, and securities dominated the economic scene with downtown's Union Street becoming known as the "Wall Street of the South."

Although modern Nashville is renowned as a music recording center and tourist destination, its largest industry is actually health care. As of 2006, it is estimated that the health care industry contributed \$18.3 billion per year and 94,000 jobs to the Nashville-area economy. The automotive industry is also a strong contributor to the Middle Tennessee economy. Nissan North America has its largest North American manufacturing plant in Smyrna, Tennessee and moved its corporate headquarters to Franklin, Tennessee in 2008.

Between 1970 and 1990, Nashville's population grew by 28% and its urbanized area by 41% (Sierra Club, 2008). As its economy expanded, demand for new homes in the city increased exponentially. Overwhelming consumer preference for homes that insulated them from the perceived negatives of urban life led to site plans emphasizing dead-end streets, limited traffic circulation, and separation from other developments. To satisfy this demand, developers generally located new home sites on the urban/suburban periphery forcing residents to rely on their cars to get to work, school, or shopping. The commercial and transportation infrastructure necessary to serve the large number of people living on the urban fringe caused sprawl. In 2001, USA Today listed Nashville as the city with the highest sprawl index among big metro areas. The root causes of sprawl are varied and a complete discussion of this complex topic is well beyond the scope of the SRS. None-the-less, it is almost universally recognized that Nashville's economic success and resultant population increase are, and will continue to be, the primary driver for the development of rural properties in Middle Tennessee.

#### Williamson County

Williamson County was established on October 26, 1799 and named for Dr. Hugh Williamson, surgeon general of the North Carolina militia. Williamson was a member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Constitution.

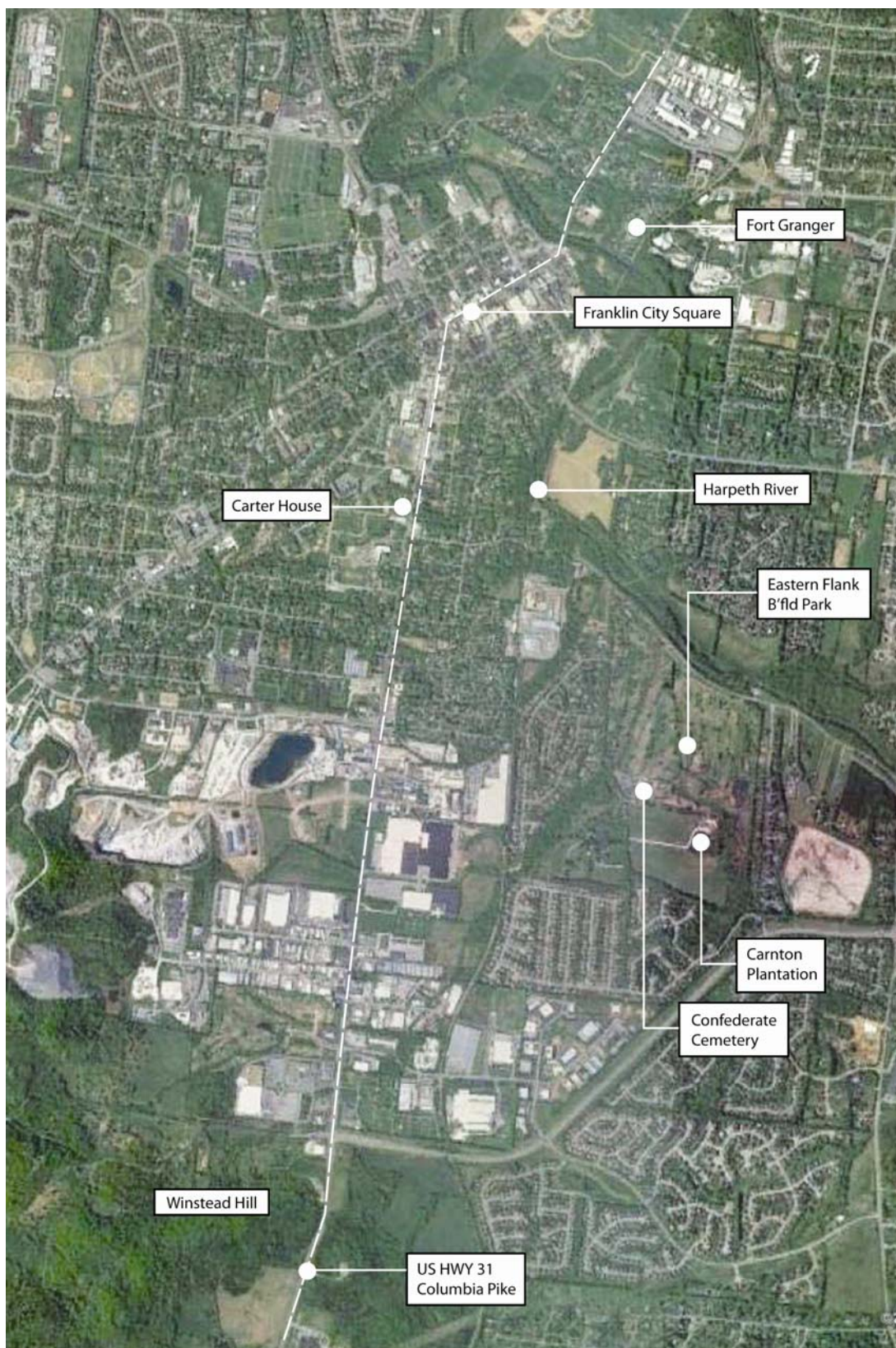


Figure 2. Aerial View of the City of Franklin with Selected Battlefield Historic Sites

In the years prior to the Civil War, Williamson County was one of the wealthiest counties in Tennessee. The County's plantation economy was devastated after the Civil War but unlike Davidson County, it remained largely agriculture based with tobacco becoming the primary cash crop.

Adjacent to Davidson County, Williamson County now lies within the Nashville-Davidson metro area and has grown and prospered substantially along with Nashville.

#### City of Franklin

The City of Franklin was founded October 26, 1799, and was named after Benjamin Franklin, a close friend of Dr. Hugh Williamson. As the county seat, Franklin was the center of the successful plantation economy of Williamson County prior to the Civil War.

On November 30, 1864, the Battle of Franklin was fought on the immediate outskirts of the small city. The 5-hour battle caused more than 8,000 casualties and almost every serviceable home and building in the city was used as a hospital to treat the wounded and dying.

A victim of the same economic devastation that affected the rest of the southern economy after the Civil War, Franklin remained a small, agricultural community for most of the next century. Land development surged during the 1960s in response to the economic expansion of Nashville. The population nearly doubled during the 1990s, reached 42,000 people in 2000, and is expected to double again over the next 20 years. Once considered a bedroom community to Nashville, Franklin has established an economic presence of its own. Today, the city boasts a blend of residential, commercial and corporate citizens and is one of the wealthiest cities in one of the wealthiest counties in the United States. Downtown Franklin is comprised of a 15 block historic district that offers shopping, restaurants, antique shops, a variety of clothing stores, art galleries, government, and professional services. The city's quality of life has attracted a number of commercial and industrial employers, including the headquarters or regional offices of several national and international corporations. Figure 1 places the city of Franklin in the context of the State of Tennessee and the city of Nashville. Figure 2 shows an aerial view of Franklin and highlights selected battlefield historic sites near the downtown area.

#### City of Spring Hill

The City of Spring Hill is located approximately eight miles north of Columbia, Tennessee and fourteen miles south of Franklin on U.S. Highway 31. Considered by most local residents a part of Maury County, the Spring Hill battlefield extends partially into southern Williamson County.

From the late 1800s through the mid 1980s, Spring Hill remained a small rural village typified by an abundance of antebellum architecture, rolling pastures and small woodlots. In 1985, the General Motors Corporation (GM) began construction of a Saturn Automobile Plant on 2,422 acres of land leased from the Industrial Development Board of Maury County.

The relocation of many individuals and families from GM's other facilities changed the demographics of local society as much as construction altered the landscape. From its inception, however, the Saturn Corporation made unprecedented efforts to orient and ease the transition for its relocated employees and their new neighbors. Classes, town meetings, tours of the facility, landscape design to buffer intrusion, additional environmental controls, and contributions too many local charities have helped to ease some of the concerns and criticisms. Saturn also donated the antebellum Rippavilla Plantation to Maury County, along with funds to assist in its renovation as a visitor's center.

Not all of the ensuing growth and development have been welcome, nor have they been planned as well as longtime residents and newcomers might wish. Over a period of 10 years, the local

population increased to nearly 8,000 residents putting a significant strain on local utilities, services, and community infrastructure. Perhaps the most visible change in land use was the construction of the Saturn Parkway which connected the plant to Interstate 65, five miles to the east. A modern four-lane divided highway, the Saturn Parkway sits predominantly upon the main battlefield landscape and presents a serious intrusion for which there is no viable mitigation.

The same growth pressures that so damaged the Franklin battlefield also affected Spring Hill. While some vestiges of Spring Hill's pre-1985 history remain, the preservation of additional Civil War Battlefield property is inextricably bound to the fortunes of GM. Partnering with Maury County, the Civil War Preservation Trust was able to preserve 110 acres of the historic battlefield, but more decisive action and cooperation is needed to protect additional land before it is lost.

In May 2009 GM donated 98.77 acres of its property adjacent to Rippavilla to the non-profit foundation responsible for running it and will contribute \$1 million over 10 years toward the historic home's upkeep.

## **Battlefield Preservation in Franklin**

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The following paragraphs provide a brief overview of battlefield preservation efforts in Franklin. A more detailed discussion of the topic is presented in Appendix 2.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the number of living Civil War veterans had dwindled significantly. Eager to continue honoring them, citizens throughout the nation commissioned numerous local memorials and monuments to commemorate their service. Such monuments represented a considerable emotional and financial investment by the citizens that labored to erect them and it often took years to secure enough resources to place one. A monument association existed in Franklin as early as 1883 but progress lagged until 1897 when the Franklin Chapter #14, United Daughters of Confederacy (UDC #14) began soliciting funds in earnest. The efforts paid off on November 30, 1899, when a Confederate monument was dedicated on the downtown public square during the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Battle of Franklin. By the early 1900s, the citizens of Franklin were actively petitioning the Federal government to establish a military park at Franklin. At least five unsuccessful bills were introduced in Congress between 1901 and 1925 to create one.

Demand for residential homes close to downtown Franklin in the mid 1920s fueled development pressures and fostered the first subdivision of large agricultural properties in the core battlefield area. Fragmentation of the battlefield landscape continued at a steady pace through the early 1960s. During this period, and despite waning civic and political will for battlefield preservation, preservation minded citizens in Franklin still managed to protect several significant battle related resources on smaller tracts of land. Two important preservation achievements during this period were Winstead Hill and the (Fountain Branch) Carter House.

The Franklin Battlefield finally achieved Federal recognition in 1960 when it was designated a NHL, one of the first historic properties so recognized. Contributing properties in the NHL nomination include the Carnton Plantation, including the McGavock Cemetery, Fort Granger, the Carter House, and Winstead Hill.

A period of accelerated growth during the mid 1960s threatened both the historic architecture of downtown Franklin and the last remaining fragments of undeveloped battlefield. Sensing that these losses would forever alter their community identity and reduce quality of life, concerned citizens began organizing and advocating for better growth management and preservation planning.

The citizen groups that formed in the 1960s and 70s nurtured a community preservation ethic which, over time, matured into broad community support for historic preservation. Their

commitment to historic preservation principles resulted in the election of preservation minded officials and the creation of a well coordinated network of local, state, and community organizations. Together, these organizations are working to preserve the area's few remaining Civil War resources and begin the reclamation of others.

## **Chapter Summary**

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The NPS is responsible for conducting professional studies of proposed potential additions to the national park system. To receive a favorable recommendation from the Service, a proposed addition must meet specific criteria. These criteria are designed to ensure that the national park system includes only the most outstanding examples of the nation's natural and cultural resources. The purpose of this study is to provide Congress with information about the quality and condition of sites associated with the Battle of Franklin and their relationship to the established criteria.



## CHAPTER 2 – HISTORICAL RESOURCES AND CONTEXT

### Chapter Overview

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Chapter 2 describes how the NPS identified and categorized Battle of Franklin associated resources within the study area. A summary evaluation of the resources, their association with the Battle of Franklin, National Register status, and potential for designation as a NHL is provided. The chapter concludes with a brief historical narrative about the Battle of Franklin.

### Identifying and Categorizing Historic Resources in the Study Area

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Working with citizen groups, scholars, local and state government agencies, and the general public, the NPS compiled a list of known historic properties related to the Battle of Franklin. Many of the properties identified were already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When listed, a property's National Register nomination was used to verify site specific details such as date of construction, early owners or occupants, association with the Battle of Franklin, and level of historical significance. The NPS reviewed with particular interest the four National Register properties already recognized as NHLs. National Register nominations for properties with State or local historic significance were reviewed for potential amendment to NHL designation. Only the Harrison House was thought to have such potential and, for the purposes of this study, is considered to be nationally significant.

Historic properties not presently listed on the National Register were visited in the field by the NPS when possible. In partnership with the SHPO and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA), NPS personnel collected and reviewed existing documentation for potential national significance. None of the unlisted properties with strong associations to the Battle of Franklin were found to have potential for NHL designation at this time.

The full list of historic properties was then organized into the following categories for easier documentation in this report:

- Nationally significant properties located in the study area
- State or locally significant National Register properties located in the study area
- Properties undocumented or ineligible for listing in the National Register located in the study area
- Civil War properties not associated with the Battle of Franklin located in the study area
- Civil War properties located outside of the study area

To keep this document as brief as possible, properties that clearly do not satisfy the criterion for national significance are listed at the end of the category to which they most generally apply without a detailed description.

### Nationally Significant Properties Located in the Study Area

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The Franklin Battlefield NHL was designated in December 1960. At that time, the NHL nomination process was very different and documentation requirements were significantly less stringent than they are today. In 1985, the original NHL nomination was re-examined by the NPS and formal boundaries established around the Carter House, the Carnton Plantation and McGavock Confederate Cemetery, Fort Granger, and Winstead Hill.

In 2008, a draft amendment to the Franklin Battlefield NHL nomination was prepared by the TCWNHA. The amendment is presently being reviewed by the City of Franklin and has not been submitted for official review by the SHPO or NPS Advisory Board. The draft amendment was made available to the NPS as a reference document. The resource descriptions contained in the revised nomination are the most comprehensive and up-to-date available and were used extensively in this report.

## **Carter House**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

The Carter House served as the command post of Union General Jacob D. Cox and was located at the center of some of the heaviest fighting during the Battle of Franklin. The Union lines were constructed just south of the Carter house and it was occupied during the Battle of Franklin by Federal commanders. Designed and built under the supervision of Fountain Branch Carter in 1830, the Carter House was occupied successively by three generations of his family. Confederate Captain Theodorick (Tod) Carter, eldest son of the Carter family, was mortally wounded during the Battle of Franklin and died in the house on December 2, 1864.

### Resource Description

The Carter House, built in 1830, is a Federal style, central hall plan house constructed in brick on a cut limestone foundation. The central entrance features double doors that are flanked by sidelights with Doric pilasters topped by a semi-circular fanlight transom. The gable ends of the building feature stepped parapets with central projecting chimneys. One six-over-six double hung sash windows is located on either side of the front entrance.

A frame one-story addition forms an ell to the rear. The addition is sheathed in clapboards; and features six-over-six double hung sash windows. A porch extends along the rear of the brick main dwelling and the side of the addition; the porch has plain posts, railings and lattice. An exterior brick chimney extends above the roofline. The original six-panel back door of the main dwelling accessed from the porch features a bullet hole and opening where a Federal soldier crouched to avoid rifle fire.

In 1951 the Carter House was purchased by the state of Tennessee. After restoration, the house was opened to the public in 1953. The grounds of the house include three outbuildings and 8 acres of preserved battlefield. In 2006, an additional half-acre of the historic Carter property was purchased by the Carter House Association. The State of Tennessee unveiled plans in 2007 for a new visitor center to better accommodate the high number of visitors. The new visitor center will be housed in a 1930s era gymnasium adjacent to the Carter House property.

### National Register Status

The site received NHL designation in 1960 as a contributing resource to the Franklin Battlefield NHL. The Carter House's NHL property consists of 14.4 total acres with three contributing and two non-contributing structures.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The Carter House received NHL status in 1960.

## **Carnton Plantation and the McGavock Confederate Cemetery**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

Lying on the eastern flank of the battlefield, Carnton Plantation served as the largest field hospital in the area. Hundreds of wounded and dying Confederate soldiers were brought to the site for surgeries and medical care. On the morning of December 1, the bodies of four Confederate generals

killed during the fighting (Patrick Cleburne, Hiram Granbury, John Adams and Otho Strahl) lay on the back porch.

After the battle, John and Carrie McGavock designated two acres of Carnton land adjacent to their family cemetery as a final burial place for nearly 1,500 Confederates. The McGavocks maintained the cemetery at their personal expense until their respective deaths.

#### Resource Description

Carnton was built in 1826 by former Nashville mayor Randal McGavock. Carnton is a five-bay, central hall plan Greek Revival style house with a two-story pedimented front porch and a side gable roof. The porch covers the entrance bay and has four square Doric columns with recessed panels on each level and pilasters where the porch meets the brick facade. Paired brackets appear on the entablature above each column on the first level; these brackets are not present above the columns on the second level. There is a balustrade on each porch level. The building is sheathed in brick with a stone foundation. Windows are twelve-over-sixteen double hung sash on the first level and twelve-over-twelve double hung sash on the second level. All windows feature flat stone sills and lintels; the lintels have beveled ends. The standing seam metal roof has two gable dormers with broken returns and six-over-six double hung sashes. Paired chimneys connected by a parapet above the roof line are located at each gable end; paired six-over-nine double hung sashes are located between the chimneys at attic level. Two plain doorways pierce the east facade at ground level; an addition on this elevation has been removed.

The rear facade features a full width two story porch with a projecting extension to the west. The porch features full height, square Doric columns with recessed panels and pilasters where the porch meets the wall of the main dwelling. Balustrades extend around the porch on both levels. The overhanging cornice has paired brackets probably added when Italianate architecture was popular. The five-bay rear facade of the house has an offset central entrance flanked by twelve-over-sixteen double hung sash on the second level. All windows have flat stone sills and lintels; the lintels have beveled ends.

There are three outbuildings at Carnton including a smokehouse, slave house, and spring house that pre-date the Civil War era.

The McGavock family sold Carnton in 1911 and the property changed hands only a few times after that. In 1977 Dr. and Mrs. W.D. Suggs deeded the Carnton Plantation and 10 acres of land to the Carnton Association. The Carnton Association restored the house, and today Carnton Plantation and surrounding acres are open to visitors. The State of Tennessee owns 38 acres of the historic McGavock property adjacent to Carnton. The McGavock Confederate Cemetery is deeded to a trustee board composed of members of the UDC #14. The Carnton Plantation, State of Tennessee property, and McGavock Confederate Cemetery are adjacent to the City's 110 acre Eastern Flank Battlefield Park.

#### National Register Status

The site received NHL designation in 1960 as a contributing resource to the Franklin Battlefield NHL. Carnton's NHL property consists of 20 acres total with five contributing and two non-contributing structures.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

Carnton Plantation and the McGavock Cemetery received NHL status in 1960.

## **Fort Granger**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

Fort Granger served as Union General Schofield's headquarters. The fort's artillery shelled Confederate troops with great effect as they charged the eastern flank of the Union defensive works near the eastern bank of the Harpeth River.

### Resource Description

Built along Figures Bluff on the west bank of the Harpeth River by Union troops in the spring of 1863, Fort Granger overlooks the historic railroad corridor of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad. The fort was used primarily as a deterrent to Confederate cavalry raids.

The fort is an earthen work structure, approximately 900 feet long with perimeter walls averaging six to eight feet in height. The inside face of the fort's walls were shored with wood and splayed in places at the top to allow cannon to project through from elevated earthen platforms inside. There were two main blastwalls within the fort along the west walls. The fort was armed with two high-powered rifled siege guns mounted on revolving platforms. The trunks of two trees, used as outposts, were left standing within the fort. The main structure within the fort was a powder magazine approximately 65 square feet in size. The Fort is presently located at Pinkerton Park and is owned and maintained by the City of Franklin.

### National Register Status

The site received NHL designation in 1960 as a contributing resource to the Franklin Battlefield NHL. The NHL property consists of 20 acres.

### Potential for National Significance

Fort Granger received NHL status in 1960.

## **Winstead Hill**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

As the Confederates arrived in Franklin on November 30th Winstead Hill proved to be a superior spot from which to view the town of Franklin, two miles to the north. General Hood set up his command post on Winstead Hill and ordered his frontal assault from this post. Today, Winstead Hill still provides a panoramic view of the Franklin Battlefield terrain.

### Resource Description

The Walter A. Roberts family deeded 9.75 acres on Winstead Hill to the UDC #14 in 1948 for preservation as a memorial to the Confederate soldiers who fought at Franklin. Under the UDC's stewardship, the property remained predominantly undeveloped. The Tennessee Historical Commission installed a metal Tennessee Highway Historical Marker titled "Hood and Schofield" on the site in the early 1950s.

In 1982, the UDC transferred ownership of the site to the Sam Davis Chapter, No. 1293, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) whose members were more able to maintain the sloping site. Since 1982, several chapters of the SCV have installed their own monuments, typically ranging from one to five feet in height and consisting of rectangular stone blocks. There is no statuary in the park. A single cannon emplacement, facing northeast, and a metal flagpole that flies the Confederate battle flag, stand along a concrete walkway. About mid-way up the north side of the hill is a stone interpretive overlook that has wood posts supporting a wood shingle shed roof. Installed within the overlook is a large rectangular metal interpretive plaque about the battle.

Adjacent to the SCV property is a 52 acre public park operated by the City of Franklin. The park contains a parking area, a paved walking trail, and two kiosks. The city acquired the property in

1996 and installed the improvements in 1999. Both properties are open to the public. While the SCV and the City of Franklin reserve sole management control of their respective properties, they maintain an effective and cooperative relationship that encourages visitation and stewardship of the site's historic character.

#### National Register Status

The site received NHL designation in 1960 as a contributing resource to the Franklin Battlefield NHL.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

Winstead Hill received NHL status in 1960.

### **Harrison House**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

The Harrison House property comprises approximately 68 acres. The farm is associated with the gathering of Confederate forces on November 30, 1864. As Hood approached Franklin from Columbia Pike on the south, he and his commanders breakfasted and laid out a battle plan for Franklin at the Harrison House, which was two miles south of the Union fortifications surrounding Franklin. Some scholars contend that it was at Harrison House that Hood's anger and feelings of humiliation about Schofield's escape from Spring Hill drove him to order the desperate frontal assault on the Federal defenses despite the strong misgivings of his senior staff (McDonough and Connelly, 59). The strategic and tactical plans laid out by Hood at the Harrison House had direct effects on the Battle of Franklin and on the Franklin-Nashville campaign.

#### Resource Description

The house, which is Greek Revival in style, is an interesting combination of two distinct parts: a circa 1810 two-story, hall-parlor plan, that once faced to the west, and a later 1848 expansion, in a two-story, central-hall plan form, that was attached to the east side of the circa 1810 dwelling. The house, at the time of the American Civil War, thus exhibited a H-shape, with the two-story Greek Revival-styled portico (the house's east façade) facing the Columbia Pike while the earlier c. 1810 hall-parlor dwelling served as a rear wing.

The east façade has three symmetrical bays, with the central bay consisting of a two-story Greek Revival styled portico of two large squared columns. As the original National Register nomination notes, "the entrance doorway and gallery entrance are identical and feature narrow side light panels with flanking pilaster molding and glass light transom. Paired windows are fitted with closing type wood shutters."

The interior plan of the dwelling is largely intact, with an especially high degree of integrity in the 1848 section. On either side of the central hall are large, similarly sized rooms that retain original floors, mantels, and baseboards. The National Register nomination notes: "the hall floors and stair landings are cedar while the other floors are poplar. The newel post and central hall staircase are constructed of cherry wood."

The parlor (the northeast room of the first floor), associated with Hood's meeting with his officers on November 30, 1864, retains a high degree of integrity in its doors, baseboards, flooring, and mantel.

#### National Register Status

The Harrison House was entered in the National Register on June 18, 1975 for its local significance in architecture and military history.



### Potential for NHL Designation

The SHPO and the NPS believe that the Harrison House property has the potential to satisfy the criteria for NHL designation because of its important association to the Battle of Franklin and high level of historic integrity.

## **State or Locally Significant National Register Properties in the Study Area**

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Nationally significant properties are inexorably linked to state and local history and their place in United States history is better understood when experienced in the full historical context of the community that shaped them. State and locally significant properties play an important contributing and supporting role when considering the creation of a National Park. However, by law and policy, they cannot, by themselves, serve as the foundation for establishing a new national park because they do not satisfy the required national significance criteria.

### **Absalom Thompson House**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

Also known as Oaklawn, the Absalom Thompson House served as General Hood's Spring Hill headquarters on November 29, 1864. Confident that Schofield's Union troops were trapped at Spring Hill, Hood retired for the evening only to learn the next morning that Union troops had escaped. This sparked a fury in him that is said to have influenced his judgment the following day.

#### Resource Description

The Absalom Thompson House is located on Denning Road, south of Spring Hill in Maury County. Built in 1835, it was the home of Rev. Absalom Thompson who came to Maury County from his native Williamson County sometime prior to 1830 and acquired a plantation about 3 miles south of Spring Hill.

Historically, the house had one floor. The ceilings were 16 ft. high and the rooms large (20' by 20'). A large fireplace heated the high front parlor and a wide hall led to dining room and bed rooms. About ten years later a second floor was added, as was the front porch, second-story balcony and tall, square columns. When finished, it was, and still is, one of the most imposing structures in the county.

Oaklawn passed by inheritance into the possession of Dr. J. T. S. Thompson and, later, to his descendants. In 1911 the family disposed of it and the mansion passed through several owners. For some years it was abandoned as a dwelling place and was even used for hay storage for some time. In the 1950s the Allen Sloans acquired the house, restored it and added modern facilities such as a heating system, bathrooms, electric lights, etc. In 1973 it was acquired by singers George Jones and Tammy Wynette who sold it the following year to Tower Real Estate Development Corp. who in turn sold it to Dr. John and Martha L. Smith. The Smiths sold the property in recent years to Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Parker.

#### National Register Status

The Absalom Thompson house was entered on the National Register on September 11, 1979 for its local significance.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The Absalom Thompson House does not meet the high level of national significance necessary for NHL designation. While the events of Spring Hill did have a direct influence on the outcome of the Battle of Franklin, the role of the house as Hood's headquarters during the Spring Hill battle is not thought to be nationally significant.

## **Lotz House**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

The Lotz House is situated less than 500 feet north of the Carter House on the opposite side of Columbia Ave. The structure is positioned just north of the Union Army's main line at the point where it was almost broken by the Confederate forces. The occupants of the Lotz House took shelter from the battle in the basement of the Carter House.

### Resource Description

Constructed in 1858, the Lotz House is a frame three-bay Greek Revival dwelling with a full height, pedimented porch. The house is sheathed in clapboards and sits on a stone foundation. The porch has four square Doric columns with decorative paterae in the frieze of the capitals and also in the pediment above. Decorative brackets articulate the frieze under the overhanging cornice on front and sides; no brackets appear on the rear façade. The abbreviated entrance way features a rectangular, four light transom and architrave trim; this entrance way is mirrored on the second floor above. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An interior chimney pierces the roof on the south section of the hipped roof. Windows are six-over-six double hung sash with decorative metal grillwork.

A gable roof addition was added to the rear elevation, south of and parallel to the original ell; space between the two additions has been filled in. Fenestration is six-over-six double hung sash with decorative grillwork. There is a centrally located wooden stairway providing access to modern exterior doorways on each level.

The original floor plan was three-over-three, and the house presented an L-shaped appearance. There is a curving hallway staircase with walnut banister and carved newel post. Original mantels remain in the three downstairs rooms, and floors are blue poplar. Interior ceiling and wall surfaces are sheathed in drywall; crown moldings were added.

### National Register Status

The Lotz House was entered on the National Register on December 12, 1976 for local significance in architecture.

### Potential for NHL Designation

While located in very close proximity to the worst of the fighting, the Lotz House's role in the battle does not meet the high level of national significance necessary for NHL designation. In addition, the structure's integrity of materials has been compromised by interior and exterior alterations.

## **McPhail-Cliffe Office**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

A small, brick building that served as the office of two distinguished doctors, Dr. Daniel McPhail, who died while serving as a surgeon in the Mexican War, and Dr. Daniel Cliffe, who was Confederate General Zollicoffer's brigade surgeon. Upon Zollicoffer's death, Dr. Cliffe returned to Franklin where he gained the reputation of being "a well known Federal man." His office served as Maj. General John M. Schofield's first headquarters prior to the beginning of fighting on November 30, 1864, where Schofield and General David Stanley first mapped out their defense strategy in the morning hours of November 30, 1864. Cliffe and Stanley had grown up together as boys in Wayne County, Ohio. After the battle, Dr. Cliffe accompanied the Federal army to Nashville for his own safety. His wife, however, stayed and was later identified by the U.S. Sanitary Commission as one of the Federal women in Franklin who took care of federal soldiers after the battle (Shellenberger 1902)

### Resource Description

The McPhail-Cliffe Office is a small, one and one-half story brick commercial building built circa 1815. The building has an exterior of Flemish bond brick, a stone foundation, and a gable end metal roof. The main entrance is a two-light glass and wood door with a two-light transom. The windows are one-over-one wood sashes.

### National Register Status

The McPhail-Cliffe Office is a contributing property in the Franklin Historic District National Register nomination. The Franklin Historic District was entered on the National Register on October 5, 1972. The nomination's boundary has been adjusted twice since 1972, once in 1988 and again in 2000.

### Potential for National Significance

The McPhail-Cliffe does not meet the high level of national significance necessary for NHL designation. While, the McPhail-Cliffe office's association with Union General Schofield's headquarters is important, the General's primary headquarters during the battle was at Fort Granger.

## **Rippavilla**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

Hood set up his headquarters for the Battle of Spring Hill at Rippavilla, the Home of Nathaniel Cheairs. Arriving early from Oaklawn, Hood held a breakfast meeting with his commanders in Rippavilla where he roundly criticized them for the failed maneuvers of the previous night.

### Resource Description

Rippavilla was constructed by Nathaniel Francis Cheairs IV in 1855. The house is a two-story, brick, central hall plan residence styled in the Greek Revival with a stone foundation. The front façade features a full-height entry porch topped with a traditional classical pediment. The porch covers an entrance bay and has four fluted, round Corinthian columns. Pilasters are found where the porch meets the brick façade. The north facade entry is adorned with a simple entablature with a transom and sidelights. The second story porch is trimmed with a decorative iron balustrade. The windows are six-over-six double hung topped with flat stone lintels. The house features an entablature that is adorned with dentils. The east façade also features a full-height entry porch supported by Corinthian columns. The north façade has a one story enclosed porch with casement windows featuring two paned transoms. The house has a standing seam metal roof.

In 1985, the Saturn Corporation acquired the property and along with the Maury County government formed Rippavilla Inc. A 501C3 Non-Profit Corporation dedicated to historic preservation and education.

### National Register Status

Rippavilla was entered on the National Register on July 19, 1996 for its local significance.

### Potential for NHL Designation

Rippavilla does not satisfy the national significance criteria necessary for NHL designation. Numerous changes to both the interior and exterior of the structure have compromised its integrity.

## **Tennessee and Alabama Railroad Freight Depot**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

The Tennessee and Alabama Railroad Freight Depot served as a transportation hub for troops and supplies throughout the region. It was also used as a makeshift hospital after the Battle of Franklin.

Ammunitions were housed in the depot at the time of the battle and Federal troops set the structure afire when they evacuated the city after the fighting. The depot structure was saved by local citizens who rushed in to throw buckets of water on the building's burning roof shortly after the Union troops departed.

#### Resource Description

The Tennessee and Alabama Railroad Freight Depot was constructed in 1858 in a gable end rectangular plan typical of the period's railroad architecture. It is one-story in height, of brick construction with a stone foundation and a gable crimped metal roof. The depot reflects the influence of the Italianate style in its arched window and door openings. The freight depot has recessed panels on each exterior wall divided by brick pilasters, and segmental brick arches over the doors and windows. The interior has an open floor plan with the exception of an original office and added bathroom located on the north end of the building. The building has not been extensively altered.

#### National Register Status

The freight depot was determined eligible for listing on the National Register in 2000 for local significance in transportation history, but it was not listed at the owner's request.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The freight depot does not satisfy the national significance criteria necessary for NHL designation.

### **Alpheus Truett House**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

About noon on November 30, 1864, Federal General Schofield moved his headquarters from Dr. Cliffe's office to the home of Alpheus Truett. When informed of the Confederate approach to Franklin, Schofield and his staff officers went to the upstairs south facing porch to observe them through field glasses. It was from this perch that Schofield directed the placement of the Union troops in preparation for Hood's attack. General David Stanley was one of those officers present. As battle became imminent, General Schofield moved his command post to Fort Granger.

#### Resource Description

The Alpheus Truett House is a gable-ended, two-story, wood-clad, central hall plan residence styled in the Greek Revival with an ell extension. The front (west) façade features a full-height entry porch. The porch covers an entrance bay and has four square Doric columns with recessed panels on each level and pilasters where the porch meets the frame façade. There is a balustrade on each porch level. The windows on this façade feature flat stone lintels. The entablature of this part of the columns is decorated with brackets. The Neoclassical style of the north façade indicates that this was added later in the house's history. The north façade features a curved full-height entry porch with lower full-width porch. The full-height porch is supported by four round fluted Doric columns. Paired brackets appear on the entablature above each full-height column. The lower porch is supported by eight, round, fluted, Doric columns with a simple entablature. The windows on this façade feature flat lintels with decorative dentils.

#### National Register Status

The Alpheus Truett house was entered on the National Register on April 13, 1988 for local significance in architecture and military history.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The Alpheus Truett House does not satisfy the national significance criteria necessary for NHL designation. Also, the house has recently received a large addition that compromises its historic integrity.

## **Spring Hill Battle - Weavers Hill**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

Weavers Hill is located on the northern portion of the core battlefield where the Spring Hill battle occurred. The nominated land is where Confederate troops and cavalry (General John C. Brown's Division) were situated on the evening of November 29, 1864. The nominated acreage is also where Confederate troops assaulted Brig. Gen. Luther Bradley. Bradley was wounded in the assault, becoming the highest ranking officer on either side to become a casualty at Spring Hill.

### Resource Description

The portion of the Spring Hill Battlefield included in the nomination includes 110 acres located in the curve of Kedron Pike between US Highway 31 and the Saturn Parkway interchange. Except for a modern house and its outbuildings (located outside the nominated property), the battlefield site consists of rolling farmland. From the crest of the site, much of the surrounding landscape can be seen, including the nearby town of Spring Hill and new commercial and residential development. A few interpretive wayside panels give information about the Battle of Spring Hill to visitors of the park.

The Battle of Spring Hill site has been mentioned by several preservation groups as being endangered. The 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) Report (NPS 1993: ref TN035) and 2009 Tennessee Update (NPS 2009) listed the Spring Hill site as part of their "Priority 1" group indicating a strong need for nationwide action.

### National Register Status

A National Register nomination form has been submitted for the site but, at this time, the Spring Hill Battlefield does not qualify for listing because the nominated property does not include enough of the core battlefield. If a greater portion of the core battlefield is included in a revised nomination, the Spring Hill battlefield may meet eligibility requirements at the state or local level.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The 1993 and 2009 CWSAC reports classified the Battle of Spring Hill as Class B (having a direct effect on the outcome of a campaign). At present time, the site does not meet standards necessary for NHL designation because of its low level of association. The NPS believes that attaining NHL status with a revised nomination would still be difficult due to the negative impact of the Saturn Parkway on the main battlefield landscape.

## **Hospitals**

Various buildings throughout the city of Franklin were used as makeshift hospitals after the Battle of Franklin. These buildings ranged from private residences to the Williamson County Courthouse. Below is a list of properties that have been identified as hospitals after the battle.

Properties:

- 328 Bridge St. (Walker-Baagoe House), ca. 1846
- 402 Bridge St. (Walker-Halliburton House), ca. 1863
- 143 S. Fifth Ave, ca. 1835
- 244 S. First Ave, ca. 1839
- 136 N. Fourth Ave, ca. 1835
- 217 N. Fourth Ave, ca. 1810
- 135 S. Fourth Ave, ca. 1830
- 209 E. Main St (Dr. McPhail's Office), ca. 1815
- Williamson County Courthouse, 1858



- 115 S. Second Ave (Hiram Masonic Lodge), ca. 1825
- 202 S. Second Ave (Clouston Hall), ca. 1821
- 211 S. Second Ave (Bearden-Robinson House), ca. 1838
- 217 S. Second Ave (Davis-Still House), ca. 1810
- 236 S. Second Ave (Eelbeck-Johnson Office), ca. 1820
- 117 N. Third Ave, ca. 1815
- 118 N. Third Ave (Maney-Gault House), ca. 1828
- 125 N. Third Ave (John Eaton House), ca. 1818
- 137 N. Third Ave, ca. 1820
- 120 S. Third Ave, (Moran-Pope House), ca. 1828
- 224 S. Third Ave (Saunders-Marshall House), ca. 1805
- 805 W. Main St, 1831
- 1101 W. Main St, ca. 1828
- 1014 W. Main St, 1850
- 1010 W. Main St, ca. 1850
- 700 W. Main St, 1820
- 510 W. Main St, (St. Paul's Episcopal Church), 1834, remodeled 1869
- 1012 Fair St, 1850
- 724 Fair St, 1850
- 612 Fair St, (McEwen House), 1849
- 501 S. Margin St, (Otey-Campbell House), ca. 1830
- 119 S. Margin St, (Nashville and Decatur Railroad Depot), 1858

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

After the battle, “Franklin became one massive field hospital. Churches and homes were filled with the wounded.” A lieutenant with the 5th Arkansas, Govan’s brigade, observed “all the churches and vacant houses in Franklin were converted into hospitals, but could not accommodate near all the wounded. The remainder were cared for in cloth tents.” Fannie Courtney of Franklin wrote: “there were forty-four hospitals in town—three for the Federal wounded and the rest for the Confederates. Red flags were waving from unoccupied dwellings, the seminaries, churches, and every business house in town.” Col. Emerson Opdycke, one of the Federal heroes of the fighting at the Carter House, reported that as late as December 21, 1864, some 1600 Confederate wounded with 400 to 500 attendants were still in Franklin. “The town seems ruined beyond hope of recovery,” he noted.

#### National Register Status

Some of the properties included on the list of hospital buildings are contributing resources to the Franklin Historic District National Register Nomination. National Register status and eligibility vary by property.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The NHL potential of hospital sites varies by property. Generally, the role of hospital properties in the Battle of Franklin does not meet the level of national significance required for designation as a NHL. The Hiram Masonic Lodge has received NHL designation; however, that designation is for national significance unrelated to the battle.

### **Properties Undocumented or Ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places**

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The following properties cannot serve as the foundation of a new national park because they do not meet the high significance requirements for listing on the National Register or designation as a

NHL. However, these properties do play an important role in telling the larger story of the Battle of Franklin and are worthy of mention for the purposes of this study.

### **Breezy Hill**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

Adjacent to Winstead Hill, Breezy Hill also was used by General Hood as an observation point for viewing the Battle of Franklin.

#### Resource Description

Breezy Hill is adjacent to Columbia Pike, across from Winstead Hill, just south of Mack Hatcher Parkway. The property consists of 80 acres of privately owned land.

#### National Register Status

The Breezy Hill parcel of land has not been evaluated for National Register status. It is unlikely the parcel would meet the standards for the National Register due to lack of historic integrity.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

Breezy Hill's role in the Battle of Franklin does not meet the high level of national significance necessary for NHL designation.

### **Cedar Hill**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

The redoubt located atop Cedar Hill was used as a supporting defense for the Union's Fort Granger, which is located just southwest of Cedar Hill.

#### Resource Description

The redoubt on Cedar Hill is situated on a one-acre parcel of land that is owned by the Save the Franklin Battlefield. The adjoining one acre to the east is owned by a neighborhood association. The parcels are landlocked by subdivisions and are not accessible from the street nor open to the public.

#### National Register Status

The redoubt on Cedar Hill has not been evaluated for the National Register.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The role of the redoubts located on Cedar Hill's to the Battle of Franklin does not meet the high level of national significance necessary for NHL designation.

### **Cotton Gin Assault Site**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

Located just southeast of the Carter House, the site is believed to be the historic location of the Carter cotton gin. The site saw some of the heaviest fighting in the battle and is believed to be where General Patrick Cleburne was killed.

#### Resource Description

This small public park, named by the city "Assault at the Cotton Gin" is located at 1259 Columbia Avenue and consists of approximately one-half acre of land. The site is defined by a reproduction split-rail wood fence around its boundary with an approximately three-foot high cannonball pyramid monument in the center of the property. The site was reclaimed in 2005 by the city of Franklin through purchase of the infamous Pizza Hut restaurant and its subsequent demolition.

### National Register Status

The Cotton Gin Assault is currently not listed on the National Register. The construction of the Pizza Hut on the site and its later destruction severely compromised the historic integrity of the site. Due to its compromised integrity, it is unlikely that the site will ever be eligible.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The compromised historic integrity of the Cotton Gin Assault site makes it ineligible for NHL status.

## **Collins Farm**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

The Confederate Army received heavy artillery fire from Fort Granger as it marched across the land that now comprises Collins Farm to attack the Federal lines northwest of the property. The heaviest fighting occurred near the railroad bed of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad which created a temporary shelter against the persistent shelling.

### Resource Description

The Collins Farm is at 418 Lewisburg Pike and consists of 3.22 acres. It is owned and maintained by the Save the Franklin Battlefield organization as a public park.

The parcel is bounded by the original corridor of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad at the northern end of the property, the historic route of the Lewisburg Pike on the eastern side of the property, and commercial businesses on the south and west sides of the property. The property rises westward from Lewisburg Pike that then tapers to the north, leaving a large open space between a surviving historic dwelling and the roadbed of the railroad. The circa 1867 with 1912 additions farmstead sits atop a slight rise on the property. The majority of the property remains unobstructed and retains its historic association with both the railroad and the Lewisburg Pike.

The city of Franklin purchased the Collins Farm property in 2007. The property was initially purchased for preservation by the STFB in 2001.

### National Register Status

The Collins Farm property is currently not eligible for listing on the National Register because post battle site improvements have reduced its historic integrity to low levels.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The compromised historic integrity of the Collins Farm site makes it ineligible for designation as an NHL.

## **Eastern Flank Battlefield**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

The Eastern Flank property was largely farmland and woodlands from the time of the battle through the middle decades of the twentieth century. The woodlands were known as McGavock's Grove and consisted of a well-treed area used for community events and political rallies in the 1840s and 1850s.

Existing descriptions of the Battle of Franklin from commanders and soldiers do not note the existence of extensive woods or undergrowth that impeded the advance of the Confederate divisions over this land. It is reasonable to assume from the historical record that most of the property was under cultivation for crops or livestock at the time of the battle.

### Resource Description

Consisting of 110 acres along the Lewisburg Pike, the Eastern Flank Battlefield property is presently under restoration as a public park and represents the largest, intact section of the Franklin Battlefield. The property's western boundary is contiguous with the property of Carnton Plantation. The northern and southern boundaries are edged by suburban homes that are partially screened by trees and vegetation. The eastern boundary is formed by the historic route of the Lewisburg Pike. Near the southern end of property is a wetlands area formed by beaver dams in the twentieth century.

In 1975, the property was converted into a golf course and it remained in use as a golf course until 2005 when it was purchased by a consortium of local government and preservation organizations. The well respected cultural resources management firm John Milner and Associates completed a park master plan and phased implementation strategy for the site in 2008. The city, in consultation with its many local and regional partners, is in the initial stages of implementing the plan.

### National Register Status

The Eastern Flank property is currently not listed on the National Register, nor has it been determined eligible. There is some concern that the property will not satisfy the criterion for listing due to the disturbances caused by construction of the golf course.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The compromised historic integrity of the Eastern Flank property makes it ineligible for NHL status.

### **Minor Properties**

The properties included in the following list were recommended by stakeholders but determined to fall well short of the criterion for national significance.

- County 4-H Stock Pen: This four acre parcel owned by Williamson County was part of the original Fort Granger fortifications. Federal batteries were positioned here during the Battle of Franklin that fired on Confederate troops advancing towards the Collins Farm area.
- Hill 732 (Turnpike Fort): The sixteen acre hill is located between the Highway 31 and CSX railroad north of Morning Side Drive. Historically, this parcel was the strong point of the Fort Granger complex.
- Harpeth River Crossing: Hood ordered this river crossing to be shelled on the night of the battle, not knowing the Federals had already departed.
- Carter Gin House, 109 Cleburne St: The house on the site is owned by the Heritage Foundation and is roughly the site of the Carter cotton gin house that was the epicenter of the battle. The house on the site is contemporary to the Battle of Franklin and would not be eligible to the National Register as a significant resource associated with the Battle of Franklin.
- Parkview Dead-end: Federal reserve troops gathered here during the Battle of Franklin, and Confederate prisoners were held on this parcel.
- Cleburne Street: The many contemporary improvements to the land along Cleburne Street on either side of the main Union line deems the land ineligible to the National Register for the reasons of lost historic integrity.
- Battleground Academy Campus: the land on which the school is situated was core battlefield at the time of battle. Much of this land has been developed or has plans for development.
- Willow Plunge: The 15 acre property adjoins the Collins Farm property. Some of the Battle of Franklin was fought on or around this parcel of land. Specifically, Confederate Brig. Gen. Loring's troops advanced across this area of Franklin during their advance on Union lines.

- Henpeck Lane & Lewisburg Pike: These roads were used for troop movement by Confederate Lt. Gen. A.P. Stewart's troops coming into the Franklin before the battle. Stewart hoped to flank Union commander Brig. Gen. George D. Wagner's troops
- Merrill Hill (Worthen Property): This 72 acre property south of Downs Blvd. and across from Plus Mark Corporation was the scene of the early fighting of the November 30 battle. Today's clump of trees on the low hill was the location of the Merrill farmstead and was used as a field headquarters for the Cheatham's Corps. It currently is a large agricultural open space.
- Ulman Property (Parkway Commons Shopping Center): This parcel consists of open space located to the North of Winstead Hill. Part of the space now features Kroger and Target stores. It was in this general area that the Confederates began their assault on Union lines.
- Union Trench Line: at U.S. 96 and Fair St.
- Nashville and Decatur Railroad Bridge: The bridge is in the vicinity of N. First Avenue at the Harpeth River. It is located immediately west of Fort Granger. Its strategic importance to the transport of supplies for the Union army was the impetus for Fort Granger's Location.
- Franklin Turnpike Bridge Abutment: The abutment is located on First Avenue between Main Street and Bridge Street. The stone abutment once supported a bridge that crossed the Harpeth River. The bridge was burned during the war and a pontoon boat was built by the Federal army as one of the only means to cross the Harpeth River during their withdrawal to Nashville.
- Adams Street Parcel: This is the site where part of the Army of Tennessee's right flank crossed the railroad tracks as it attacked the Union lines.
- Berry Circle Parcel: This site, located at the end of Berry Circle, was located at the end of the Union eastern flank near the railroad tracks and the Harpeth River, which are to the immediate east.

## **Civil War Properties Within the Study Area but not Associated with the Battle of Franklin**

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Some of the sites recommended by stakeholders or listed in the legislation authorizing the SRS are associated with the Middle Tennessee Operations Campaign or the Battle of Nashville and subsequent retreat rather than the November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin.

Included in the Middle Tennessee Operations Campaign are the Battle of Thompson's Station (March 5, 1863), Battle of Brentwood (March 25), and the first Battle of Franklin, or Franklin I, (April 10, 1863). All three battles were minor battles with CWSAC report classification of D (Brentwood and Franklin I) or C (Thompson's Station).

### **Brentwood, Downtown Overlook**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

Not associated with the Battle of Franklin. The overlook is more closely associated with the Battle of Brentwood and Hood's retreat from Nashville.

#### Resource Description

The overlook is located on "Water Tank Hill" north-east of downtown Brentwood. The wooded tract provides an elevated overlook of the downtown area from Old Hickory Boulevard to the Kroger Center. The viewable downtown area was a fortified outpost to guard the railroad pass during most of the Civil War years.



#### National Register Status

The Overlook area is not listed on the National Register. It is likely to remain ineligible because the viewable downtown area has been overtaken by contemporary development and lost most, if not all, of its Civil War period historic integrity.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The events associated with the downtown overlook are not nationally significant nor would the site's integrity meet the standards for NHL status.

### **Brentwood, Railroad Bridge at Little Harpeth River**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

This resource is not associated with the Battle of Franklin. It is more closely associated with the Battle of Brentwood.

#### Resource Description

A garrisoned stockade fort protected the important railroad bridge from Confederate raiders for most of the Civil War years. The wooden stockade fort was replaced by a strong earthen fort in 1863. Federal troops leveled the earthworks before abandoning the fort later in the year (Lassus, J. 2003:5).

#### National Register Status

The railroad bridge at the Little Harpeth is not on the National Register. It is unlikely that the bridge would qualify for National Register status due to the site's lack of integrity.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The Battle of Brentwood is not a nationally significant battle and the resources associated with the battle would not meet the standards for NHL status.

### **Brentwood, Turnpike Bridge at Little Harpeth River, Children's Home, and Holly Tree Gap**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

The sites are not directly associated with the Battle of Franklin. They are more closely associated with Hood's retreat from Nashville.

#### Resource Description

High ground near bridge at Franklin Pike and Murray Lane is the presumed camping ground of General Hood and troops on December 16, 1863. Children's Home and Holly Tree Gap are located a short distance from the Turnpike Bridge on Franklin Pike and sites of small delaying actions between retreating Confederates and advancing Federals on December 17.

#### National Register Status

The sites are not listed and likely ineligible. The surrounding area has been overtaken by contemporary development and has lost most, if not all, of its historic integrity.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The river bridge, the land surrounding the Children's Home, and the Holly Tree Gap are associated with the Confederate Army's retreat from Nashville. These events and resources do not meet the high standards established for NHL designation.

## **Thompson's Station Battlefield**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

In a period of relative inactivity following the Battle of Stones River, a reinforced Union infantry brigade, under Col. John Coburn, left Franklin to reconnoiter south toward Columbia. Four miles from Spring Hill, Coburn attacked with his right wing, a Confederate force composed of two regiments; he was repelled. Then, Maj. Gen. Van Dorn seized the initiative. Brig. Gen. W.H. "Red" Jackson's dismounted 2nd Division made a frontal attack, while Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's division swept around Coburn's left flank, and into his rear. After three attempts, characterized by hard fighting, Jackson carried the Union hilltop position as Forrest captured Coburn's wagon train and blocked the road to Columbia in his rear. Out of ammunition and surrounded, Coburn surrendered. Union influence in Middle Tennessee subsided for a short period thereafter.

This resource is more closely associated with the foraging, reconnoitering, and raiding that occurred south of Nashville during the spring and summer of 1863, a part of the Middle Tennessee Operations Campaign.

### Resource Description

Some of the core battlefield remains in the bottom-land around the Thompson Station railroad station. Much of the surrounding landscape is still in agricultural use, some of which is preserved by conservation easements.

### National Register Status

The Thompson's Station Battlefield has not been evaluated for National Register eligibility. It has potential to be locally significant as the site retains some of its historic integrity.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The Battle of Thompson's Station has been received a Class C battlefield rating in the 1993 CWSAC report and 2009 Tennessee Update Report. Class C indicates that the battle had an "observable influence on the outcome of a campaign." The events of the battle are not thought to meet the high level of national significance necessary for NHL designation.

## **Triune**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

Built by Federal forces in the spring of 1863, these sprawling hilltop earthworks commanded the Nolensville and Murfreesboro-Franklin Roads. The site served as a signal relay and a Federal way-station between Franklin and Murfreesboro.

The fortifications at Triune are not directly associated with the Battle of Franklin.

### Resource Description

The Triune Fortifications are composed of three redoubts connected by an entrenchment located approximately one- and one-half miles north of the community of Triune. The redoubts are on a series of hills which are 1,000 to 1,100 feet in elevation. The fortifications were built by Union General James B. Steedman between January and March, 1863. These fortifications served as a signal post between Murfreesboro and Franklin. Due to the Federal garrison and Triune's important location at the crossroads of the Franklin-Murfreesboro Pike and the Lewisburg-Nolensville Pike, the fortifications saw numerous skirmishes. Both were built with the intention of defending Middle Tennessee which the Union controlled after the Battle of Stones River.

#### National Register Status

The Triune Fortifications were listed on the National Register on February 5, 1999 as part of the Archeological Resources of the American Civil War in Tennessee Multiple Property Submission.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The Triune fortifications were not involved with a nationally significant event. While they do have a high degree of integrity, it is unlikely that they would fully meet the standards established for NHL designation.

### **Roper's Knob Fortifications**

#### Association with Battle of Franklin

The fortifications at Roper's Knob were used between 1863 and 1865 as a signal station for the Union army. Roper's Knob gave the Union army visibility of up to 6 miles in all directions of the Harpeth River valley. The fortifications were abandoned as Federal troops retreated from Franklin to Nashville following the Battle of Franklin and then reoccupied following the Union victory at Nashville and continued to be so until the end of the war.

#### Resource Description

Roper's Knob Fortifications, built in 1863, is located off Liberty Pike and consists of 58 acres. The State of Tennessee owns the 22 acres of the summit and the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County own an adjacent 36 acres. This archaeological site contains the remains of an earthen redoubt, a blockhouse for 60 men, entrenchments surrounding the redoubt, and an abatis. An engineer's report also reveals that the site had two cisterns and a magazine. Another component of Roper's Knob is the site of a house that probably dates to the first half of the nineteenth century.

#### National Register Status

The Roper's Knob Fortifications were entered on the National Register on April 6, 2000 as part of the Civil War Historic and Historic Archeological Resources in Tennessee Multiple Property Submission.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

The fortifications' role in the Battle of Franklin does not meet the high level of national significance necessary for NHL designation.

### **Minor Properties**

The following properties were recommended by stakeholders for consideration in the study. These were found to fall well short of the criterion for national significance.

- Nashville and Decatur Railroad Underpass (Franklin): The railroad underpass at Old Liberty Pike was the site of heavy fighting during Hood's retreat from Nashville as troops passed through the area on December 17, 1864.
- West Harpeth River bridge crossing (Franklin): This area near the West Harpeth was the site of significant fighting during Hood's retreat from Nashville as troops passed through the area on December 17, 1864.

### **Civil War Properties Located Outside of the Study Area**

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In order to provide the NPS leadership and Congress with the most relevant and comprehensive report possible, several historic resources associated with the Battle of Franklin that are located in areas which lie outside of the legislatively defined study area, are listed below.

## **Ashwood Historic District**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee advanced towards Franklin through Columbia in their attempt to overcome Schofield's Union forces on November 24 and 25 1864 (just days before the Battle of Franklin). Some fighting occurred in Columbia as each army tried to prevent the other from crossing the Duck River and moving northward to Spring Hill. Some of the fighting took place in close proximity to the contributing resources of the Ashwood Rural Historic District.

### Resource Description

Located on US 43 between Columbia and Mount Pleasant, Tennessee.

The district includes the Rattle & Snap, Pillow-Bethel House, and Clifton Place plantation complexes, significant examples of Greek Revival architecture in Middle Tennessee and Canaan, a small black community formed after the Civil War that illustrates life for African Americans in antebellum rural Middle Tennessee.

### National Register Status

The district is listed on National Register on February 10, 1989 for multiple areas of significance.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The Ashwood Rural Historic district's role in the Battle of Franklin does not meet the high level of national significance needed for NHL designation. Rattle and Snap is already listed as a NHL for its significance in architecture.

## **Minor properties located near Columbia Tennessee**

Undocumented or unlisted historic properties outside the study area that were considered by the NPS to have low potential for national significance for or limited association with the Battle of Franklin, are listed below:

- Davis Ford: Hood, in attempt to get ahead of Schofield's Union troops, crossed the Duck River at Davis Ford when he left Columbia on November 25, 1864.
- James K. Polk home: This house, childhood home to President James K. Polk, is located in downtown Columbia. The house has little associations, if any at all, with the events of the Battle of Franklin.\*

### National Register Status

The Davis Ford and the James K. Polk home would not likely be eligible for listing on the National Register for their associations with the Battle of Franklin.

### Potential for NHL Designation

The Polk home is a NHL and was designated so for its association with President Polk, not for its association with the Battle of Franklin. There is very low potential that Davis Ford would meet the high standards necessary for NHL designation.

## **Nashville Properties**

### Association with Battle of Franklin

The following properties have limited association with the Battle of Franklin and are more closely associated with the Battle of Nashville. The properties range in levels of national significance.

### **Properties**

- Shy's Hill (Nashville): Shy's Hill is located off of Benton Smith Road and is owned by the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society. Shy's Hill is the site where Federal troops finally

broke the Confederate line on the left flank, resulting in the retreat of Confederate soldiers and a decisive Union victory. Today, the site is surrounded by residential development.

- Redoubt #1: Redoubt# 1 was one of five redoubts built by Hood's Confederate Army as it occupied the countryside south of Nashville in December 1864. On the first day of the Battle of Nashville, December 15, the U.S. Army attacked all five forts. Redoubt No. 1 was the last to fall. This redoubt is one of the last remaining sites of the Battle of Nashville and has been purchased and preserved, by the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society. The redoubt is surrounded by residential development.
- Redoubt #4: Redoubt #4 was another of the Confederate Army's redoubts built during its occupation of Nashville. Redoubt #4 fell to Union forces on December 15. The site is surrounded by residential development.
- Fort Negley: Fort Negley was the most prominent of the fortifications built by the occupying Federal army around Nashville and was the largest inland stone fortification built during the Civil War. After the war, the fort was abandoned and allowed to deteriorate. During the 1930s, WPA work crews reconstructed the remains, but those works also fell into disrepair.
- Travelers Rest: Built in 1799, the house was home to John Overton. Gen. John Bell Hood made it his headquarters after he arrived in Nashville on December 2, 1864 following the Battle of Nashville. Hood remained there while his troops prepared for the Battle of Nashville on December 15 and 16, 1864.

#### National Register Status

Fort Negley was listed on the National Register on April 21, 1975 for its significance in architecture and engineering history. Travellers Rest was also listed on the National Register on December 30, 1969 for its significance in architecture, military and politics/government. The other resources discussed in associated with the Battle of Nashville would most likely not meet the criteria for the National Register due to lack of historic integrity.

#### Potential for NHL Designation

Like Franklin, there is little doubt that the Battle of Nashville was a nationally significant military event. The potential designation of Nashville Civil War resources would, of course, vary by individual property. Although closely tied to the fighting at Franklin, the Battle of Nashville is recognized by most historians as a distinct military engagement with its own unique historic context.

### **Historic Overview Narrative**

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The following narrative provides a brief historical overview of the Battle of Franklin. The narrative is not an exhaustive historical account. Rather, it is intended to serve as a basis for public understanding of battlefield related resources sufficient to determine whether the study area meets applicable criteria for designation as a nationally significant resource. Readers unfamiliar with the economic, political, and military environment in Tennessee during the Civil War may find the expanded narrative in Appendix 3 a helpful aid to understanding the battle in a broader context.

#### **Hood's Tennessee Campaign**

Though beaten at Atlanta, the Confederate Army of Tennessee remained a potent fighting force with 38,000 soldiers supported by 108 pieces of artillery. Acknowledging his inability to fight a large scale engagement immediately after Atlanta, the Confederate commander, General John Bell Hood, was initially content to harass Federal lines of supply and communication which stretched back through Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky to the Ohio River.

Always one to take the fight to the enemy, Hood believed that if his troops could retake Nashville, he would be in position to cut major Union supply and communication lines, recruit new troops, and perhaps draw Union General William T. Sherman out of Georgia. Revitalizing his army in Nashville, Hood further believed he could then take them east through Appalachia to join Robert E. Lee in Virginia. To that end, the Army of Tennessee marched out of Florence, Alabama on November 20, 1864 heading north toward Nashville.

Sherman initially pursued Hood, but turned back towards Atlanta upon receiving permission to begin his “March to the Sea” offensive. Acknowledging the potential danger of leaving Hood’s army unchecked in his rear, Sherman positioned a Union force composed of about 30,000 men under General Thomas at Nashville, a 22,000 man contingent commanded by General John Schofield at Pulaski (TN), and large garrisons in Florence (AL), Athens (AL), Chattanooga, and Murfreesboro.

Hood quickly realized that his best chance for victory was to get between Thomas’ and Schofield’s forces and destroy them individually (Groom 1995:111-135). Hood’s army headed toward Columbia, Tennessee, hoping to get behind Schofield there. Schofield, having been informed of Hood’s plans, stayed ahead of them and was entrenched at Columbia when the Army of Tennessee arrived.

The Federals built two lines of earthworks south of Columbia. After skirmishing with Union cavalry on November 24 and 25, Hood advanced his infantry toward the city on the following day but did not assault. Learning that Hood was closing on the city, Schofield made the decision to leave two divisions to hold the town and evacuated the remainder of his forces to the north. His plan called for a complete evacuation on the evening of November 26. Unfortunately, heavy rains had swollen the Duck River stalling the strategic retreat until the river became passable.

Beaten to Columbia, Hood devised an alternative plan to cut the retreating Schofield off from Nashville by getting behind him at Spring Hill. Sending most of the army’s artillery to demonstrate outside of Columbia, two corps of Hood’s army were sent to Davis Ford, some five miles eastward on the Duck River to cut off Schofield’s retreat. Schofield correctly interpreted Hood’s moves, but the foul weather continued to delay him until the early morning hours of November 28 where upon the remainder of his troops crossed over to the north bank and set out for Spring Hill forthwith.

The first Union troops arrived in Spring Hill just ahead of the Confederates. Darkness was falling as the two armies, gradually growing in number, struggled for control of the town’s major roads and intersections.

Reports from the field led Hood to believe that Confederate troops held the Columbia Pike north of the city. With Schofield’s only line of retreat blocked, Hood decided to rest his troops and prepare for a morning assault on the trapped Union force. However, a series of Confederate miscommunications about tactical objectives and troop locations left the Columbia Pike open and unsecured. Commanding from the saddle, Schofield adeptly guided his army quietly past the Confederate positions and up Columbia Pike during the night toward Franklin. While brief skirmishing did occur as each side probed the others defenses, there was surprisingly little confrontation at Spring Hill. Indeed, the Spring Hill “engagement” has been described by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) as one of the most controversial non-fighting events of the entire war.

Hood learned of the Union Army’s night time escape the next morning. Furious about having lost a prime opportunity to defeat them, he openly blamed his officers for the mistake. Filled with an uncontrollable determination to make Schofield fight before his troops could reach the safety of Nashville, Hood quickly ordered his army towards Franklin in hot pursuit of the escaping Federals (Groom 1995:136-155; Sword 1992:110-155).

## The Battle of Franklin

The lead elements of the Union Army entered Franklin at dawn on November 30 at about the same time that its rear guard was leaving Spring Hill. General George Wagner's Division made up the rear guard with Colonel Emerson Opdycke's Brigade fighting a delaying action against pursuing Confederate troops.

Schofield had not intended to fight at Franklin, but upon his arrival found that the railroad bridges over the Harpeth River were damaged thus preventing immediate evacuation of his supply wagons. Having arrived more than 8 hours before the Confederates, the Federals spent the day repairing the bridges and entrenching around the city to discourage an attack.

Hood's army arrived at Winstead Hill on the south of Franklin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Determined to make an attack, Hood deployed them for a frontal assault despite some strong reservations expressed by his commanding officers. Hood received word from General Benjamin F. Cheatham and General A.P. Stewart that the troops were formed for the assault shortly before 4:00 p.m. Upon his order, 20,000 Confederate soldiers marched forward toward the Union works (Figure 3).

Soon after their arrival from Spring Hill, Wagner's brigade occupied a skirmishing position about one-half mile in front of the main Federal line. The Confederate troops advanced in waves. Due to confused orders, the men in Wagner's brigade stayed in their forward position until the Confederates were upon them. Quickly outflanked and overrun, Wagner's men turned and ran toward the main defensive line. A race ensued as both blue and gray clad soldiers ran headlong toward the main Union entrenchments. There was very little defensive firing as the crowd of retreating Federal and advancing Confederate troops neared the main works because Union defenders were afraid of harming their own men. Both armies swarmed into the works. Confederate divisions under Cleburne and Brown hit first and pushed through the rampart. It looked as if the Union line would break from the force of the initial attack as many Federal defenders turned and bolted for the rear.

Just when the tide of battle seemed like it was turning in favor of the Confederates, Colonel Emerson Opdycke's troops charged forward from their position behind the Carter House (Sword 1992:186-202; McDonough and Connelly 1983:104-118). Earlier in the day, Opdycke's brigade was among the last organized units of Union soldiers to come down from the Winstead Hills into the valley of Franklin. Opdycke, a capable and experienced military leader, knew that Wagner's exposed position was a suicidal one that could not be defended. Disobeying Wagner's orders to man the forward position, he instead marched his men behind the main Union line and rested them some 200 yards behind the Carter House. When the time came, his men saved the Union army by charging into the melee and driving the Confederates outside the defensive works in furious hand-to-hand combat.

With the defensive works again between them, the opposing forces fired at each other point blank in a savage duel. The Confederates reformed for more than a dozen charges, adding to the already terrible carnage in front of the Carter House. The fighting went on even as darkness engulfed the battlefield (Sword 1992:202-231; McDonough and Connelly 1983:118-151).

The moon rose over the battlefield as the fighting faded away, illuminating thousands of dead and dying strewn about the field. Meeting with his officers at midnight, Hood announced that the attack would be renewed in the morning, but it was soon discovered that the Federals had already abandoned the works and were quickly moving toward Nashville (Groom 1995:205; Sword 1992:245-248).

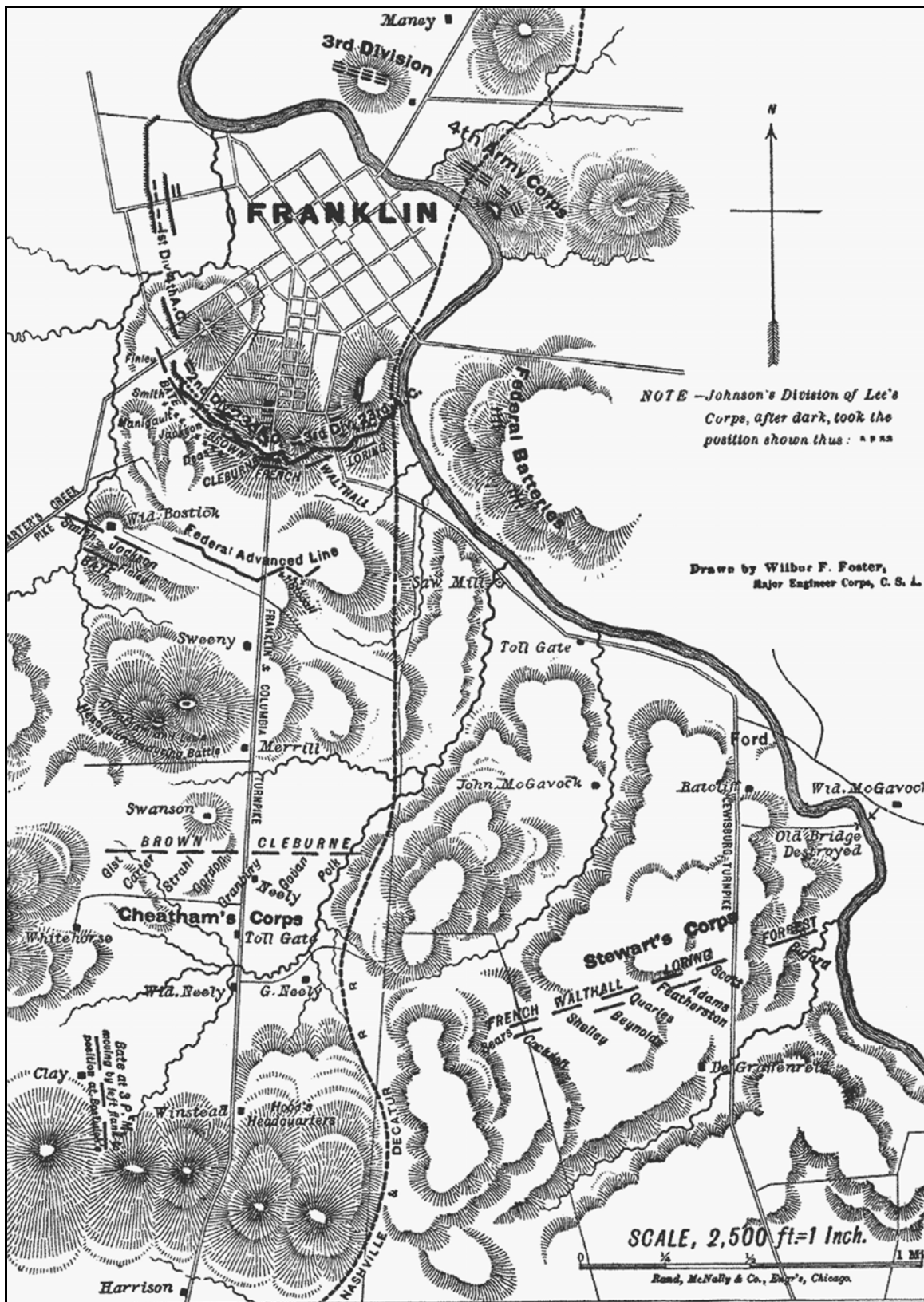


Figure 3. Map of Battle of Franklin



Hood's army sustained nearly 7,000 casualties during the five-hour assault on Schofield's position. Included in the casualty list were five Confederate generals killed, seven wounded, one mortally, and one captured. About half of the regimental commanders engaged on the Confederate side were killed.

When the Federals reoccupied Franklin after the Battle of Nashville, they reported 1,750 graves and 3,800 wounded men in the many hospitals in town. Added to the 702 prisoners taken during the battle, their estimate of casualties equaled 6,252. This estimate does not include the slightly wounded or the dead or seriously wounded that were taken elsewhere. The Federal casualties during the Battle of Franklin totaled 2,326 killed, wounded and captured.

## **Chapter Summary**

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On November 30, 1864, 100 regiments of the South's best soldiers, 20,000 men in all, deployed along a two-mile-wide front and began a spectacular converging assault upon 17,000 Federals strongly entrenched on the southern edge of the small town of Franklin, Tennessee. Five hours of fighting resulted in a devastating blow to the Confederate Army. For the size of the forces engaged and the short duration of the fighting, the Battle of Franklin ranks among the bloodiest of the Civil War. The terrible loss of the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Franklin and its near-disintegration two weeks later at the Battle of Nashville essentially ended the war in the Western Theater.

The local community's commitment to historic preservation is clearly evidenced by the growing presence of national register listed properties in it. The region's Civil War heritage is reflected in the number and variety of properties identified during scoping. While many properties do not reach the level of significance needed for NHL status, they all contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the story of the Battle of Franklin and Hood's Tennessee Campaign.

## CHAPTER 3 – DESIGNATION ANALYSIS

### Chapter Overview

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To receive a favorable recommendation from the NPS, a proposed addition to the national park system must possess nationally significant resources, be a suitable addition to the system, be a feasible addition to the system, and require direct NPS management instead of protection by other public agencies or the private sector. Chapter 3 evaluates the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management of Civil War resources associated with the Battle of Franklin. A summary of these findings can be found on page 60.

### Analysis of National Significance

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NHL designation serves as official recognition of a property's national significance by the Federal Government. The standards for NHL designation are high and require that designated places retain a high level of integrity that communicates an association with a nationally significant event or trend. For this study, Civil War sites associated with the Battle of Franklin were screened using the NHL criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65.

#### Criteria for National Significance

The quality of national significance can be ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage. NPS Management Policies 2006 provide that a resource will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following criteria:

- Be an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- Possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.
- Offer superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or scientific study.
- Retain a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of the resource.

In addition to the four basic standards, nationally significant cultural resources must also satisfy at least one of the following specific criteria:

- Criterion 1: be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
- Criterion 2: be associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
- Criterion 3: represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
- Criterion 4: embody the distinguishing characteristics or an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style, or method of construction, or represent a significant, distinct, and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Criterion 5: be composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity or exceptional historic or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or

- Criterion 6: have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation of large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts, and ideas to a major degree.

### **Battle of Franklin Sites NHL Designation**

The Battle of Franklin sites received NHL designation in December, 1960. At that time, the NHL nomination process was different and documentation requirements significantly less stringent than they are today. In 1985, the Battle of Franklin NHL nomination was amended by the NPS and official boundaries established around Fort Granger, Winstead Hill, the Carter House, and the Carnton Plantation (including the Confederate Cemetery). Although not directly expressed in the 1985 amendment, the NPS has assumed that each of the four NHL designated properties satisfies the basic standards for national significance and qualifies as a nationally significant cultural resource under specific Criterion 1 - association with a nationally significant event.

### **Period of Significance**

The Period of Significance for a Civil War battle normally encompasses the duration of the actual engagement and any time period immediately before or after considered significant to that event. The NPS has established the Period of Significance for the Battle of Franklin SRS as November 29 to December 1, 1864. This time period includes the following battle related events:

- Schofield's escape from Confederate encirclement at Spring Hill
- Retreat of Federal troops to Franklin
- Reinforcement of defensive works in Franklin by Federal troops
- The advance of Confederate troops from Spring Hill to Franklin
- Confederate battle planning and staging of troops
- The battle engagement
- The withdrawal of Federal forces from Franklin towards Nashville, and
- The evacuation and treatment of wounded soldiers immediately following the battle.

An examination of the legislative history for the bill authorizing the Battle of Franklin SRS indicates that Congress expects the focus of this study to be the November 30, 1864 military engagement. However, the legislation also directs the NPS to investigate several other Williamson County Civil War resources not directly associated with the Battle of Franklin. This study evaluates the non-associated Civil War properties as potential contributing resources for a future Battle of Franklin National Battlefield Park rather than as unique park entities with wholly different historical contexts.

### **Statement of National Significance**

The following Statement of Significance is taken from the 1985 NHL nomination amendment and is considered by the NPS to be the current and official Statement of National Significance for the Battle of Franklin sites:

"The annals of war may long be searched for a parallel to the disparate valor of the charge of the Army of Tennessee at Franklin, a charge which has been called 'the greatest drama in American History.' Perhaps its only rival for macabre distinction would be Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. A comparison of the two may be of interest. Pickett's total loss at Gettysburg was 1,354; at Franklin, the Army of Tennessee lost over 6,000 dead and wounded. Pickett's charge was made after a volcanic artillery preparation of two hours had battered the defending line. Hood's army charged without any preparation. Pickett's charge was across an open space of perhaps a mile. The advance at Franklin was for two miles in the open, in full view of the enemy works, and exposed to their fire.

The defenders at Gettysburg were protected only by a stone wall. Schofield's men at Franklin had carefully constructed works, with trench and parapet. Pickett, once repelled, retired from the field. The Army of Tennessee renewed their charge, time after time. Pickett survived his charge unscathed. Cleburne was killed, and eleven other general officers were killed, wounded, or captured. Pickett's charge at Gettysburg has come to be a synonym for unflinching courage in the raw. The slaughter-pen at Franklin even more deserves the gory honor."

### **Summary of National Significance Analysis**

When evaluating national significance in congressionally authorized SRs, resources that have been designated as NHLs are considered to be nationally significant and require no further analysis. The properties comprising the Franklin Battlefield NHL, The Carnton Plantation (including the Confederate Cemetery), the Carter House, Winstead Hill, and Fort Granger, are recognized as nationally significant resources. The NPS, in consultation with the Tennessee Historical Commission and the SHPO, also believes that the Harrison House has high potential for NHL designation. For the purposes of this study, the Harrison House will be considered nationally significant under specific criterion 1 - association with a nationally significant event. None of the other historic properties analyzed in Chapter 3 of this report satisfy the minimum criteria for national significance for their contribution to the events associated with the November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin.

### **Analysis of Suitability**

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To be suitable for inclusion in the national park system, sites associated with the Battle of Franklin must represent a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector.

#### **Criteria for Suitability**

Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential addition to similarly managed areas representing the same resource type. The comparison considers differences or similarities in the below attributes:

- Quality of historic resources,
- Quantity and/or combination of resource values,
- Rarity of the historic resources,
- Historic character,
- Interpretive and educational potential,
- Similarity to resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership.

The study's analysis of suitability must result in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource-protection or visitor-use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

#### **Quality of Historic Resources**

Quality is a subjective term for which each person often has his or her own definition. Within the context of historic preservation, the concept of "integrity" is commonly used as an expression of quality. Integrity is defined by the National Register of Historic Places as a property's ability to convey its historic significance through seven aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Generally, the aspects of location, setting, feeling, and association contribute most to the integrity of a battlefield (NPS 1993:10; NPS 1983:44-49) and are

used in this study for comparison purposes. The following definitions were used to frame the analysis of overall integrity:

- **Integrity of Location:** For a battlefield, integrity of location is present if the area defined as the core battlefield is the place where the battle occurred. This aspect of integrity is particularly important when complimented by integrity of setting in recapturing the sense of historic events for visitors.
- **Integrity of Setting:** Integrity of setting is defined as the physical environment of a historic battlefield property. Whereas location refers to the specific place where the battle occurred, setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historic role. Specifically, integrity of setting involves how, not just where the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space. The physical features of a battlefield that make up its setting can be natural and man made. They often include topographic features (the physical geography of the battlefield), vegetation (the pattern of fields and woodlands), man made features (roads, paths, stone walls, fences, buildings, earthworks), and the relationship between buildings and open space.
- **Integrity of Feeling:** A battlefield is composed of character-defining features such as roads, forests, military engineered structures, fields, towns, and farms, all of which evolve over time. These features, both individually and collectively, contribute to the landscape's past and present appearance. Integrity of feeling is a battlefield's expression of the historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character.
- **Integrity of Association:** Association is the direct link between the important historic event or person and historic property. A property retains integrity of association if it is the place where the event occurred and its essential physical features are sufficiently intact to convey that relationship. A property that is significant for its historical association should retain the essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association with the historical event.

## **Integrity**

The NPS grounded its evaluation of integrity on information provided by stakeholders, on-site visual inspections, and historical research. This approach allowed the NPS to more fully understand the range of properties, their unique physical features, and their relationship to the essential or distinctive historical associations and attributes of the Battle of Franklin. The NPS chose four Western Theater Civil War parks to compare and contrast the quality of Battle of Franklin associated resources. The selected comparison parks are:

- Chickamauga Battlefield, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
- Fort Donelson National Battlefield
- Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site
- Stones River National Battlefield

The comparison parks were selected because:

- They collectively represent a reasonable cross section of Civil War battlefield parks associated with fighting in Middle Tennessee.
- Each is ranked as a "Class A" Civil War battle. Class A battles are defined in the 1993 Civil CWSAC Report as having a decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war. Franklin Battlefield received a Class A ranking.
- Each park is professionally managed by a Federal or State agency.

- They collectively represent a wide range of battlefield integrity levels as ranked in the 1993 CWSAC Report and the 2009 CWSAC Update Report for the State of Tennessee

#### Existing Integrity: Battle of Franklin Sites

**Historic Context:** In the fall of 1864, Franklin was a small Williamson County village located on the south side of a bend in the Harpeth River. The town itself consisted of little more than a central downtown grid and a few accessory roads set on a level plane of ground adjacent to the river. The landscape surrounding the town consisted of broad rolling farm fields punctuated by a number of large hills, farmsteads, and a few wooded areas. Several major turnpikes connected Franklin with adjacent communities, and there were few other roads outside of the town.

The battlefield occupied virtually all of the land south of Franklin that lay between the shores of the Harpeth from Lewisburg Pike on the east to Carter's Creek Pike on the west. Over this broad stretch of ground, Hood's Confederate forces marched north in an attempt to break through the hastily built yet sturdy Federal breastworks guarding the southern approach to the village.

**Resource Condition:** From 1870 through 1960, much of the once open and rolling farmland that characterized the Franklin battlefield was incrementally replaced by residential, commercial, and light industrial development. Despite preservation efforts by local citizens, the rural landscapes, gateways, and corridors that characterized the Franklin battlefield began to give way to suburbanization in the 1960s. Ultimately, citizen driven preservation groups like the Heritage Foundation were able to reintroduce a balance between growth and preservation but not before the original agricultural setting of the core battlefield was lost.

**Assessment of Integrity:** The overall historic integrity for Franklin Battlefield has been significantly compromised by suburban development. While several important resources are preserved, their relatively small size and dispersed locations do not represent a high enough percentage of the core battlefield to invoke a sense of the area's historic pastoral setting. Moreover, the density of development in the core battlefield area hinders a comprehensive understanding of the massive scale and strategy of the Confederate assault.

#### Comparison: Chickamauga Battlefield, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

**Historic Context:** Unlike many other Civil War battles that were fought in open fields, the battle of Chickamauga occurred in predominantly wooded terrain. In 1863, the forests near Chickamauga were composed of hickory and oak trees interspersed with stands of cedar and pine. In many places, a dense understory of shrubs and vines impeded movement and severely limited visibility to the extent that Generals on both sides had trouble keeping track of their troops, much less directing them.

Local roads were used extensively to position troops before and during the battle. The Confederates advanced upon the Union troops on Reed's Bridge Road and Alexander's Bridge Road, which ran northwest from the bridge crossings of Chickamauga Creek to the Lafayette Road. Also running east from the Lafayette Road into the woods were the Brotherton Road and the Viniard-Alexander Road. The Jay's Mill Road ran north-south about a mile and one-half east of the Lafayette Road and was an important route for Confederate couriers. The Federal Army relied on the Lafayette Road, the Dry Valley Road, and the Glenn-Kelly Road, a cut-off route between the two main roads that ran generally in a north-south direction. Many Federal troops moved to and from the front on the Dyer Road.

**Resource Condition:** Immediately following the war, farmers returned to their homes, planted crops, and built new roads in and around the former battlefield. The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Commission began purchasing property to create the nation's first National Military Park in 1890. Seeking to restore the battlefield landscape to historically

accurate conditions, the Commission had the advantage of working with veterans of the battle to fully define the historic setting of the battlefield. Lines of battle, headquarters, and other landmarks were identified with a high degree of accuracy and illustrated with monuments and detailed markers. Battle era structures that were later damaged or removed were restored. Likewise, roads and buildings that did not exist at the time of the battle were removed. Farmers who sold their land to the Federal government to create the park were allowed to lease it back provided they maintained the roads and buildings and preserved the outlines of fields and forests as they appeared at the time of the battle.

In 1896, Congress passed legislation permitting the use of national military parks as maneuvering grounds for U.S. troops. Under that legislation, Chickamauga Battlefield was used intermittently until World War II for military training, camping, transportation routes, and as a source of timber. Nearly 72,000 army troops caused significant damage to the site while training for the Spanish-American War. During WWI, troops practiced digging trenches up to twelve feet deep on the historic battlefield, constructed temporary buildings and encampments along Lafayette Road, ran heavy trucks and other vehicles on park roads, and created new roads that confused the historic scene. Restoration of the damaged battlefield landscape after WWI continued up to the park's transfer to the NPS in 1933. A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was established in the park in 1933 under provisions of the Federal Unemployment Relief Act. The last CCC camp at the park closed in 1942.

The battlefield landscape has been altered to improve visitor access and provide park administration facilities. To accommodate motor vehicles, the park's historic roads were improved. New structures such as the visitor center (and subsequent expansion), non historic connecting road segments, a Superintendent's Residence, and a Maintenance Facility were also constructed on the core battlefield.

The city of Chattanooga grew considerably after the Civil War. Residential and strip commercial development now dominate the Lafayette Road corridor from the park's northern boundary to Chattanooga. The construction of residential subdivisions around the park has increased demand for recreational use of park areas. Farming on park land is all but ceased and several historically open agricultural fields are shrinking due to reforestation.

Comparison to Battle of Franklin sites: Despite notable impacts caused by 20th century military training practices, park development projects, and surrounding suburban sprawl, historic resources within the core battlefield area remain largely intact. Through a combination of preservation and restoration efforts, integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association for the site is very good. The presence of monuments and markers, although not consistent with the battle-era scene, represents the earliest attempts to commemorate Civil War battlefields and is not incongruous with the park's overall mission. The following bullets highlight specific findings of a comparison between the integrity of resources associated with Chickamauga Battlefield and the Battle of Franklin study area:

- The wooded landscape at Chickamauga conveys a true sense of the natural obstacles that made fighting there so difficult. The landscape at Franklin Battlefield is greatly affected by post battle development and does not convey nearly the same level of integrity of setting.
- Civil War era roads at Chickamauga and Franklin are similar in that they maintain their historic alignments. The historic road system at Chickamauga, however, contributes to a much better understanding of the way troops moved strategically during the respective battles as they are not encumbered by a dense overlay of non contributing secondary roads as in Franklin.
- Chickamauga Battlefield has benefited from over 100 years of Federal protection. While national emergencies sometimes compelled the Federal government to lower its protection

standards to achieve more pressing national goals, the subsequent damage inflicted on the historic environment was, for the most part, repaired so that the present landscape accurately reflects the historic setting.

- Approximately 75% of the core battlefield at Chickamauga Battlefield is preserved and open for public visitation. The largest protected contiguous core battlefield segment contains over 5,000 acres. Less than 5% of the core battlefield at Franklin is preserved and open for public visitation. The largest protected contiguous core battlefield segment in Franklin contains about 200 acres.

#### Comparison: Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Historic Context: At the time of the Civil War the Cumberland River and Tennessee River flow northward into the Ohio River and served as the primary water transportation corridors into Middle Tennessee.

Fort Donelson was built by Confederates on the crest of a hill on the south bank of the Cumberland River, about a mile north of the small town of Dover. The strategic mission of the fort was to control river traffic and prevent Federal gunboats from advancing southward. A sister fortification named Fort Henry was constructed 14 miles west of Fort Donelson on the Tennessee River for the same purpose.

Telegraph Road and Ridge Road, connected Fort Donelson to Fort Henry. Telegraph Road and Ridge Road merged into a single road known as the Eddyville Road two and one-half miles west of Fort Donelson. The Eddyville Road traversed inner portions of Fort Donelson and formed the major entrance to the town of Dover.

Dover was surrounded by thick forests before construction of the fort. Much of the woodland near the town was consumed to construct the river batteries, rifle pits, abatis, and cabins of the fort. Just prior to the battle, it is likely that most vegetation inside the abatis had been removed. After the battle Fort Donelson was reduced to a highly disturbed mountain ridge consisting of mud, felled trees, and scattered debris. In 1863, the Federals abandoned the Confederate Fort Donelson and erected a new fort approximately one-half mile upstream, closer to the town. The new earthen entrenchments were located at the site now occupied by the Fort Donelson National Cemetery.

Resource Condition: Shortly after the Civil War ended, agriculture became the economic mainstay of the region and many battlefield earthworks were leveled for planting. Logging of the area's plentiful woodlands continued well into the 20th century.

Only a faint outline of the Union Fort Donelson remained in 1867 when that site was purchased by the Federal Government for use as a National Cemetery. After National Military Park status was achieved in 1928, active measures were taken to "landscape" the fort and earthworks. Trees and shrubs were planted in the area between the rifle pits and primary earthworks of the Confederate fort for aesthetic purposes and erosion control.

Little historic fabric from the 1862 battlefield remains today. Many of the historic earthworks have become eroded and fragmented. The landscape within the Confederate Fort's primary earthworks remains open and relatively free from large trees and other woody vegetation. The area between the western facing forward rifle pits and the primary earthworks, which was historically open, is now substantially reforested.

The Cumberland River, which was dammed in the 1960s and is currently referred to as Lake Barkley, covers an area roughly similar to the original river while at flood stage, as it was during the battle. The town of Dover grew slowly until the creation of Lake Barkley. Establishment of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area has contributed to the demand for housing in the local



area. Several residential subdivisions have sprung up around the battlefield and some battle associated resources have been lost.

U.S. Highway 79 provides access to the park, city and the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. U.S. Highway 79 bisects the park, severing the southern arc of Confederate rifle pits from the main park unit, and is a significant modern intrusion on the core battlefield. Within the park itself, some historic roadways have been incorporated into the park road system while others exist only as traces in the preserved landscape. Low density residential development outside the park boundary has fragmented the majority of the area from which the Federal Army assaulted in 1862.

Comparison to Battle of Franklin sites: The integrity at Fort Donelson National Battlefield has been compromised by residential development, highway construction, forestation of historically unvegetated areas, non-contributing park “improvements,” and the impoundment of the Cumberland River. In spite of these drawbacks, the remaining resources are able to communicate the important roles they played during the battle. The following bullets compare Fort Donelson National Battlefield integrity to that of resources associated with the Battle of Franklin:

- Unlike Franklin, the interplay of woodland, open space, river, and town at Fort Donelson reflects of the historic landscape, even when the distribution of those elements is not altogether historically accurate.
- The strongest character setting elements of the core battlefield at Fort Donelson is the viewshed extending from the fort’s reconstructed gun emplacement over the Cumberland River. The view in all directions is relatively unencumbered by modern intrusions and clearly illustrates how the fort controlled river access and protected the capital city of Nashville -- the essence of its strategic military value. The Carter House at Franklin Battlefield provides similarly strong character setting elements but the site’s small size, isolation from other contributing resources, and surrounding development limit its ability to present a fuller understanding of the overall historic setting.
- Approximately 34% of the core battlefield at Fort Donelson is preserved and open for public visitation. The largest protected contiguous core battlefield segment contains approximately 500 acres. Less than 5% of the core battlefield at Franklin is preserved and open for public visitation. The largest protected contiguous core battlefield segment in Franklin contains less than 200 acres. There are no remaining agricultural properties on the core battlefield in Franklin to be acquired.

#### Comparison: Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

Historic Context: Located astride the Chaplin River in central Kentucky, the town of Perryville prospered as a farming community for decades prior to the Civil War. A line of commercial buildings on Main Street called Merchant’s Row served as the town’s center.

Once fighting commenced, the main engagements took place in the rolling agricultural fields located two miles north of town, although small skirmishes did occur in the town towards the end of the battle. The most intense fighting occurred on the fields of “Squire” Henry Bottom, a wealthy farmer.

Resource Condition: By 1890, there was little left to suggest that a major battle once took place in Perryville. Squire Bottom’s heirs returned his land to productive agricultural use as did other farmers in the local area. By 1945, the Perryville site had again fallen into a state of neglect and the ruins became a source of community embarrassment. Local advocates for restoring the site convinced the Kentucky State Conservation Commission to establish a State Battlefield Park at the site in 1954. State workers rebuilt the stone wall around the Confederate cemetery that was put in

place shortly after the battle by Henry Bottom, placed two cannon at its gate, sandblasted the older Confederate monument (erected in the 19th century), erected a marker that described the battle, and instituted regular upkeep. The site received NHL designation in 1960 and a museum and visitor's center was opened in 1962 to celebrate the battle's one hundredth anniversary.

The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association (PBPA) was created in 1991 to preserve, enlarge and protect the park. Almost 700 acres of the Perryville Battlefield have been preserved through the efforts of PBPA and others. Among the most significant acquisitions were 149 acres of farmland from Melvin Bottom, Henry's descendent.

Today, with the exception of a few power lines and modern farm structures, the Perryville Battlefield maintains strong historic integrity. Agriculture still dominates the landscape and the town's antebellum commercial district is preserved apart from the more modern small town structures built after the Civil War.

Comparison to Battle of Franklin sites: Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site has a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. The following bullets compare Perryville Battlefield integrity to that of resources associated with the Battle of Franklin:

- The historic road network at Perryville is essentially intact. A few non-contributing roads exist but their impact on the landscape is very light. While battle era roads have been paved to meet modern safety standards, they are still narrow in width and their alignments little changed from historic conditions. The historic roadways at Franklin are present but their contribution to a broader understanding of the battle is lessened by the high number of non battle era secondary roads.
- Approximately 58% of the core battlefield at Perryville is protected and open for public visitation. What is not currently inside the park boundary is still primarily in agricultural use. The largest segment of core battlefield managed by the park is 580 acres in size. Less than 5% of the core battlefield at Franklin is preserved and open for public visitation. The largest protected contiguous core battlefield segment in Franklin contains about 200 acres.
- The potential to acquire additional agricultural property near the Perryville Battlefield is very high. There are no remaining agricultural properties on the core battlefield in Franklin to be acquired.

#### Comparison: Stones River National Battlefield

Historic Context: The city of Murfreesboro is set on level or gently rolling land that drops steeply along the banks of the Stones River. During the Civil War the Federals approached Murfreesboro from the north along the Nashville Pike. Composed of a compacted gravel bed with drainage ditches, the Nashville Pike was exceptionally well constructed for a road of its day. Other roads that played important roles in the battle include Wilkinson Pike (now Manson Pike) and Van Cleve Land (formerly known as Old Bowen Lane or McFadden Lane). The Nashville and Chattanooga (N&C) Railroad linked Nashville to Murfreesboro, its track running more or less parallel to Nashville Pike. Telegraph wires ran parallel to the railroad bed. Two bridges carried the Nashville Pike and N&C Railroad across the Stones River in Murfreesboro.

The land over which Confederate General Bragg attacked was characterized by irregularly ordered stands of cedar forest or "cedar brakes," mixed stands of cedars and hardwoods, and open agricultural fields. Interspersed within the brakes were open areas of shallow soil and exposed rock called cedar glades. Not suitable for crops, cedar glades supported a mixture of native grasses, mosses and herbaceous plants.

Shortly after the battle, Federal troops began building Fortress Rosecrans, the largest earthen fort constructed during the war. The fortress structure enclosed nearly 200 acres and was surrounded

by a line of curtain walls, lunettes and rifle pits nearly 15,000 feet long. Located on the outskirts of the city, the structure dominated the landscape. Trees and brush within a thousand yards of the fort were cleared to provide unobstructed lines of fire for the defenders. Nearly five thousand troops worked on the construction effort for over six months. Federal troops occupied Fortress Rosecrans until 1866.

Resource Condition: The immediate post battle setting reflected little of its former agricultural character. The number of small woodlands that once dotted the landscape was significantly reduced by battle action; its trees had been felled to construct battlefield defensive positions or stripped by massed artillery fire. The character defining wood rail fences that had marked local farmsteads and fields were gone, either consumed as firewood or used as battlefield building materials.

After the war, the area returned to its former pastoral and agricultural setting. Most of the land composing the historic battlefield remained in private hands until 1928 when the War department began to acquire property to establish Stones River National Military Park. 324 acres thought to encompass the battle's heaviest action were initially purchased. The Hazen Brigade Monument (erected in 1863 by Union Soldiers) and the National Cemetery, already owned by the Federal Government since 1867, were incorporated into the original park. It was hoped that the site might be expanded if future funds were secured. Indeed, several small tracts including the Artillery Monument and Redoubt Brannan have since been acquired by purchase or donation.

The War Department began rehabilitation of the battlefield landscape as properties were acquired. The administrative functions of the park and national cemetery were consolidated in 1927. A tour road was created and formal entrance features constructed including stone walls, columns, and gates erected at the tour road entrances. Stones River National Military Park was transferred to NPS control in 1933. Under NPS management, the exotic plant species planted by the War Department were gradually removed. However, the relationship of open (mown) space to woodland remained about the same from 1938 until 1962. No vestige of the dense cedar brakes that so characterized the historic battlefield remained.

During the national park system's Mission 66 initiative, the park received a new visitor center, parking lot, and the tour road was converted to a closed loop. Mowing practices were curbed to allow the infill of native trees but there was no systematic effort to restore the 1863 appearance of the battlefield. Since 1978, NPS management of vegetation in the park has incorporated agricultural plantings and successive woodland growth to approximate the vegetative condition at the time of the battle.

Because of its close proximity to Nashville, Murfreesboro, like Franklin, has grown exponentially over the last thirty years. Growth pressure has resulted in significant residential and commercial development on core battlefield lands outside the park boundary. The most incompatible development has occurred along U.S. Highway 41, across the railroad tracks from Stones River National Cemetery. Also significant is construction of the Thompson Lane Connector and Medical Center Parkway. Two bridges associated with the Thompson Lane Connector have particularly degraded historic integrity at the main battlefield segment, National Cemetery, and McFadden Crossing.

Comparison to Battle of Franklin sites: The overall historic integrity at Stones River National Battlefield has been compromised by the construction of new roads, residences, and commercial buildings. However, like Fort Donelson, the remaining physical resources associated with the battle are able to communicate their historic associations. The following bullets compare Stones River National Battlefield integrity to that of resources associated with the Battle of Franklin:

- Unlike Franklin, the interplay of woodland, open space, river, and railroad at Stones River National Battlefield generally reflects the historic landscape.
- One of the most important elements on the core battlefield is the park's close association with the rail line. Although heavily impacted by industrial development on one side, the line provides a central reference point for fully understanding the ebb and flow of the battle. Franklin's connections to the Columbia Pike and the Harpeth River are significantly obscured.
- The Stones River National Battlefield protects approximately 618 acres (12%) of the 5,148 acre core battlefield. The largest protected contiguous core battlefield segment contains approximately 350 acres. Less than 5% of the core battlefield at Franklin is preserved and open for public visitation. The largest protected contiguous core battlefield segment in Franklin contains less than 200 acres.
- The Stones River National Battlefield is fragmented into six non-contiguous sections. However, each of these sections is adjacent to a 4 ½ mile paved, handicap-accessible trail system maintained by the City of Murfreesboro which helps ensure a minimum continuity of understanding. The battlefield fragments remaining at Franklin are not as well connected.
- The historic turnpikes in Murfreesboro have maintained their original alignments and form the framework of the modern surface road system. While there has been considerable infill of secondary roads between them outside of the park, McFadden Lane still reflects much of its historic character inside the park boundary.
- Like Franklin, the potential for acquiring additional agricultural properties at Stones River National Battlefield is low.

## Rarity

Rarity can be defined as something unique, unusual, or uncommon relative to an established parameter. This study compares the rarity of the Battle of Franklin sites relative to three parameters:

- As a principal battle of the Civil War
- As a potential Civil War battlefield park in the national park system
- As a Civil War site in the State of Tennessee

### Rarity as a principle battle of the Civil War

Some 10,500 armed conflicts occurred during the Civil War ranging from battles to minor skirmishes. The 1993 CWSAC Report identified 384 conflicts as principle battles (3.7 percent of all conflicts identified). The Commission further classified the 384 principle battles according to their historic significance. Class A and B battlefields represent the principle strategic operations of the war. Class C and D battlefields usually represent operations with limited tactical objectives of enforcement and occupation. The 1993 CWSAC report shows that:

- 45 principle battles (12%) were ranked "A" (having a decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war);
- 104 principle battles (27%) were ranked "B" (having a direct and decisive influence on their campaign);
- 128 principle battles (33%) were ranked "C" (having observable influence on the outcome of a campaign);
- 107 principle battles (28%) were ranked "D" (having a limited influence on the outcome of their campaign or operation but achieving or affecting important local objectives).

Conclusion: The Battle of Franklin received a Class A ranking in the 1993 CWSAC Report, placing it among the highest 12% of all Civil War battlefields, an attribute that is considered rare in terms of

national significance. The 2009 CWSAC Tennessee Update Report did not change the Class A ranking of the Battle of Franklin.

The 1993 CWSAC Report established four preservation priority groups covering the 384 principle battlefields:

- Priority I: Battlefields with critical need for coordinated nationwide action. Priority I includes 50 (13%) Class A and B sites in good or fair condition facing high or moderate threats.
- Priority II: lists 78 (20%) battlefields with opportunities for comprehensive preservation.
- Priority III: lists 114 (30%) battlefields needing additional attention.
- Priority IV: lists 142 (37%) fragmented battlefields with poor integrity. It is important to acknowledge that while there have been significant preservation successes over the past 20 years at Franklin Battlefield, the site remains highly fragmented and did not qualify for a higher classification when reconsidered in the 2009 Tennessee Update of the CWS

Franklin Battlefield was classified as a Priority IV battlefield in both the 1993 CWSAC Report and 2009 Tennessee Update.

Conclusion: Priority IV battlefields represent the most common battlefield preservation priority type. The fragmented nature of the Franklin battlefield landscape is neither a rare or desirable attribute of Civil War battlefields.

#### Rarity as a potential Civil War battlefield park in the National Park System

Of the 384 principle battlefields described in the 1993 CWSAC Report, 16 (4%) were owned by the Federal government or by other public agencies and 164 battlefields (43%) were completely in private ownership in 1993. An additional 187 (49%) were under some combination of Federal, state, local, or private ownership. After adjusting the data in the 1993 CWSAC report data for Federal ownership changes through 2008, it is estimated that 58 (15%) of all principle Civil War battlefields have some portion of their core battlefield area managed by the NPS. The distribution of NPS managed battlefields by Class is:

- Class A - 27 (47%)
- Class B - 23 (40%)
- Class C - 6 (10%)
- Class D - 2 (3%)

The distribution of the NPS managed battlefields by preservation priority is:

- Priority I - 24 (41%).
- Priority II - 3 (5%)
- Priority III - 18 (31%)
- Priority IV - 13 (23%)

In 2008, 20 (35%) of the 58 principal Civil War battlefields with some portion of their core battlefield area managed by the NPS were located in the NPS Southeast Region. The distribution of these battlefields by Class in the Southeast Region is:

- Class A - 7 (35%)
- Class B - 7 (35%)
- Class C - 4 (20%)
- Class D - 2 (10%)

The distribution of principal Civil War battlefields located in the NPS Southeast Region by Preservation Priority is:

- Priority I - 6 (30%).
- Priority II - 2 (10%)
- Priority III - 7 (35%)
- Priority IV - 5 (25%)

Of the 20 principal Civil War battlefields in the NPS Southeast Region that have some portion of their core battlefield area managed by the NPS, 5 are located in Tennessee:

- Fort Donelson (Class A, Preservation Priority I)
- Chattanooga (Class A, Preservation Priority I)
- Murfreesboro (Class D, Preservation Priority II)
- Shiloh (Class A, Preservation Priority III)
- Stones River (Class A, Preservation Priority IV)

The NPS Southeast Region currently manages 5 principal Civil War battlefield parks in Tennessee and more than 42% of all protected battlefield land in Tennessee (NPS 2009: p20).

Conclusion: From the perspective of adequacy of representation only, the addition of another NPS managed principal Civil War battlefield park in Tennessee would not be considered unique.

#### Rarity of Civil War sites in Tennessee

More Civil War battles occurred in Tennessee than any other state except Virginia (Figure 4).

The Tennessee Division of Archeology conducted an extensive survey of Civil War sites in West and Middle Tennessee from 1990 to 1993. A follow-up study concentrating on East Tennessee began in 1996 but by its completion in 1999, the study's scope had grown to include supplemental field work in West and Middle Tennessee. Recognizing the need for a state-wide comprehensive document, the archeology division published a complete revised Survey of Civil War Era Military Sites in Tennessee in 2003. The study devised a series of terms referred to as "components" to classify the archeological remains of such things as battlefields, encampments, headquarters, military hospitals and a variety of earthwork and fortification types.

The number of known Civil War archeological sites in Tennessee is substantial. Figure 4 shows the distribution of archeological components for Civil War sites in Williamson County compared to statewide and Middle Tennessee Civil War resources.

Conclusion: When examined in context of state-wide civil war archeological components, the resources found at Franklin Battlefield are not rare within the State.

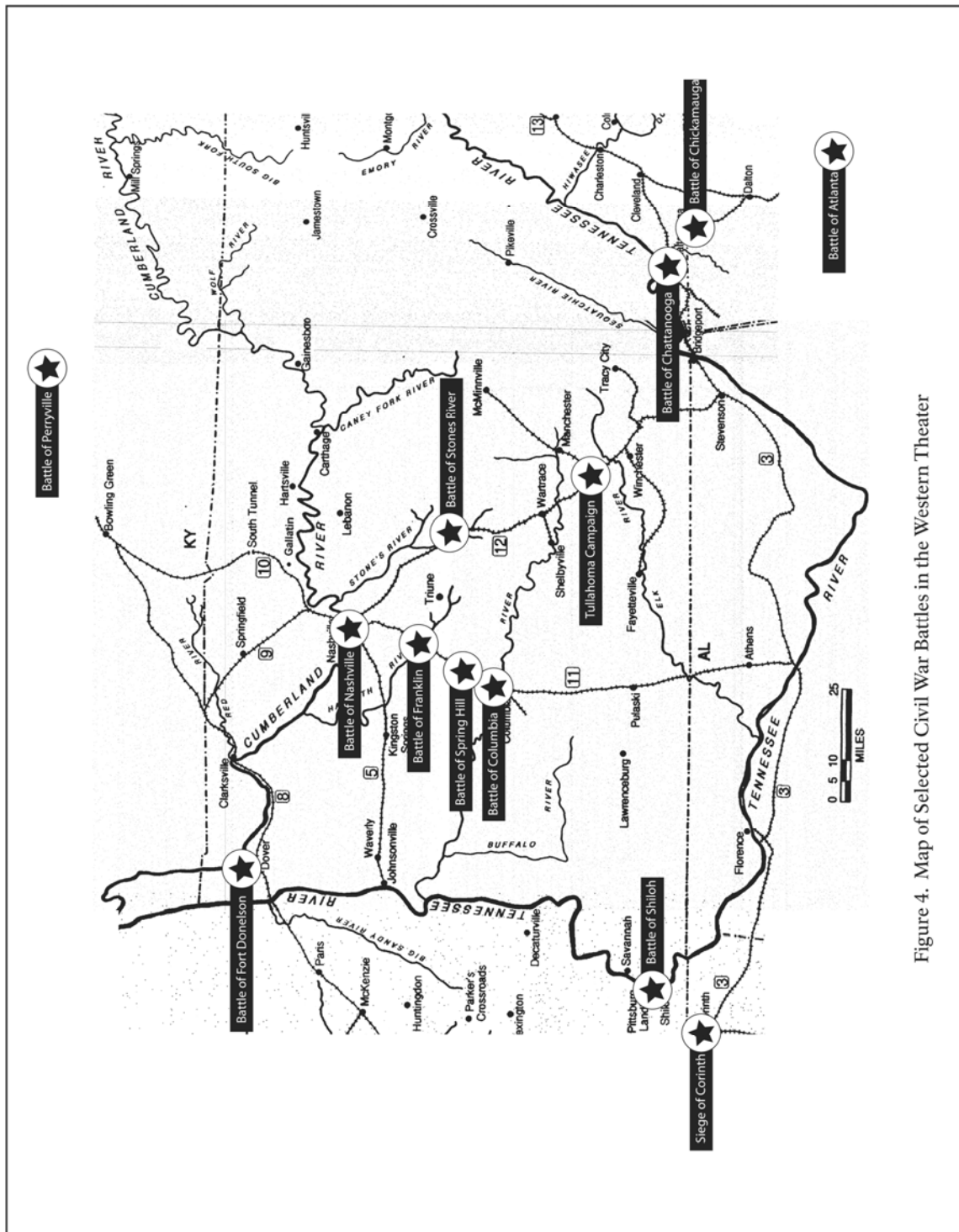
### **Historic Character**

Historic character is defined as the sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and spaces associated with a property's history. The NPS compared the historic character of Franklin Battlefield to the comparison parks by rating the four previously discussed aspects of integrity (location, setting, feeling, and association). Ratings of High, Fair, and Low were assigned to each park based on the below indicators.

#### Indicators of High Historic Character

Specific indicators of a "High" Character rating include:

- A participant in the battle would immediately recognize the most significant portions of the battlefield as it exists today.



- When considered holistically, the universe of historic resources associated with the battle show no or only minor evidence of negative disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Such disturbances would not be immediately obvious to the average visitor.
- Fragmentation of the core battlefield is limited.
- The overall historical and natural values are well preserved and clearly convey the battlefield's historic significance to visitors.

#### Indicators of Fair Historic Character

Specific indicators of a "Fair" rating include:

- A participant in the battle would likely recognize some of the most significant portions of the battlefield as they exist today.
- When considered holistically, the universe of historic resources associated with the battle show evidence of disturbance and or deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Such disturbances would be noticeable but not overwhelming to the average visitor.
- Fragmentation of the core battlefield has occurred but the most important segments remain large and in close proximity to each other.
- The overall presence of historical and natural values are mostly preserved or restored and are capable of conveying the battlefield's historic significance to visitors with the aid of wayside exhibits and self-guided interpretive programs.

#### Indicators of Low Historic Character

Specific indicators of a "Low" rating include:

- A participant in the battle would have difficulty recognizing the most significant portions of the battlefield as they exist today.
- When considered holistically, the universe of historic resources associated with the battle show evidence of significant disturbance and or deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Such disturbances would be obvious and distracting to the average visitor.
- Severe fragmentation of the core battlefield has occurred and the remaining segments are relatively small and isolated from each other.
- The overall presence of historical and natural values cannot be clearly conveyed to most visitors without the aid of a park guide or interpreter.

A numeric value was ascribed to the High, Fair and Low rating as follows:

- High = 3 points
- Fair = 2 points
- Low = 1 point

Results of the comparison are shown in Figure 6.

Conclusion: The Battle of Franklin sites have low historic character when compared to the study comparison parks.

### **Interpretation and Educational Potential**

The following discussion summarizes the potential for interpretation and education at Battle of Franklin sites with comparably managed properties in the national park system.

#### NPS Thematic Framework

The Service's "thematic framework" for history and prehistory is a conceptual tool used to evaluate the significance of cultural resources within or outside the national park system. The framework provides an outline of major historical themes and concepts and helps identify those cultural resources that best embody America's past. The thematic framework's most valuable use is helping



Site No.	Union(U) / Confederate (C)	Historic Name	Military Component Terms																				Other Component Terms										
			Entrenchment	Redoubt	Redan	Lunette	Priest Cap	Artillery Emplacement	Earthwork (Undetermined)	Fort	Stockade	Blockhouse	Railroad Guard Post	Battlefield (Small)	Battlefield (Large)	Encampment (Short Term)	Encampment (Long Term)	Hospital (Short Term)	Hospital (Long Term)	Headquarters	Prison	Signal Station	Magazine	Cemetery	Extant Relevant Building	Foundry	Grist Mill	Petroglyph	Railroad Depot	Saltpeteer Mine	Shipyards	Train Wreck	Non Civil War Components
40WM92	C	Carnton																1					1		1							yes	
40WM100	U	Fort Granger	1					1																									
40WM101	U	Roper's Knob	1	1							1											1	1										
40WM102	U	Franklin (defenses)				1										1																	
40WM103	U	Franklin (defenses)				1																											
40WM104	U	Franklin (defenses)				1										1																	
40WM105	U	Battle of Franklin	1										1																				
40WM106	U	Triune (defenses)	4	2					1				1										1	1								yes	
40WM107	U	Triune (defenses)	1																														
40WM108	C/U	Carter House	1										1					1	1						1							yes	
40WM120	C/U	Masonic Hall																1							1							yes	
40WM121	C/U	County Courthouse																1	1						1							yes	
40WM122	C/U	Figuers House																1	1						1							yes	
40WM123	C/U	St. Paul's Church																1							1							yes	
40WM124	C	Harrison House																1	1						1							yes	
40WM178	C	Westview																															
Williamson County Total			9	3	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	5	7	0	4	0	2	1	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Middle Tennessee Total			67	21	5	6	1	7	12	7	23	39	16	20	9	48	15	6	13	0	5	4	3	26	1	0	1	1	1	1	0		
Statewide Total			136	41	12	9	1	31	14	22	10	34	70	41	43	33	189	33	12	44	2	10	5	12	65	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	

Figure 5. Comparison of Tennessee Civil War Archeological Resources

	Franklin Battlefield		Chickamauga Battlefield		Fort Donelson Battlefield		Perryville Battlefield		Stones River Battlefield	
Aspect of Integrity	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score
Location	High	3	High	3	High	3	High	3	High	3
Setting	Low	1	High	3	Fair	2	High	3	Fair	2
Feeling	Low	1	High	3	Fair	2	High	3	Fair	2
Association	Low	1	High	3	High	3	High	3	High	3
<b>Total</b>		6		12		10		12		10

Figure 6. Analysis of Historic Character

describe and analyze the multiple layers of history encapsulated within each resource. The thematic framework helps guides the NPS when preparing an SRS by:

- evaluating the significance of resources for potential listing in the National Register of Historic Places, for designation as NHLs, or for potential addition to the national park system;
- assessing how well the themes are currently represented in existing units of the national park system and in other recognized areas.

#### NPS Interpretive Theme Categories and Topics

Service-wide interpretive themes, theme topics, and theme sub-topics provide a framework that connects interpretation at all national park system units directly to the overarching mission of the NPS.

The NPS thematic framework is composed of eight broad thematic categories which incorporate the broader concepts of people, time, and place to help define and understand their interconnections:

- Theme I: Peopling Places
- Theme II: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
- Theme III: Expressing Cultural Values
- Theme IV: Shaping the Political Landscape
- Theme V: Developing the American Economy
- Theme VI: Expanding Science and Technology
- Theme VII: Transforming the Environment
- Theme VIII: Changing the Role of the United States in the World Community

Most cultural resources associated with NPS Civil War parks are closely associated with Theme Category IV, Shaping the Political Landscape. This theme encompasses tribal, local, state, and federal political and governmental institutions that create public policy and those groups that seek to shape both policies and institutions. Sites associated with political leaders, theorists, organizations, movements, campaigns, and grassroots political activities all illustrate aspects of the

political environment. Battlefields and forts commemorate watershed events that shaped policies and institutions.

#### NPS Interpretive Theme Sub-topics

Theme sub-topics link specific interpretation programs at individual parks to the broader categories and theme topics. Theme sub-topics are particularly useful in comparing the interpretive potential of specific NPS units with other cultural resource entities.

#### Potential Battle of Franklin Interpretive Theme Sub topics

The importance of interpretation at Franklin Battlefield was acknowledged in the 2004 Franklin Battlefield Preservation Plan, a professionally prepared document that, among other accomplishments, outlines a strategy to preserve and enhance portions of the battlefield that can be salvaged or reclaimed. The preservation plan identified the following eight interpretive themes as central to achieving its educational goals. The themes recommended in the preservation plan for Franklin fit smartly within the NPS thematic framework as theme sub-topics.

- Hood's Recklessness
- Effectiveness of the Union Army
- The Level of Carnage
- The Loss of Confederate Generals
- Western Theater: Beginning of the End
- Community as Hospital
- Occupied Franklin
- Reconstruction

Interpretive Theme Sub-topic	NPS Unit
Recklessness by commanding officers	Gettysburg National Military Park Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP Vicksburg National Military Park
Effectiveness of the Union Army - more soldiers - better logistics - military strategy and leadership	Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Battlefield Gettysburg National Military Park Fort Donnellson National Military Park Petersburg National Battlefield Shiloh National Military Park Stones River National Battlefield Vicksburg National Military Park
Number of battle casualties	Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Battlefield Gettysburg National Military Park Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP Shiloh National Military Park Stones River National Battlefield Vicksburg National Military Park
Loss of General Officers	Gettysburg National Military Park
Loss of Western Theater: beginning of the end of the Confederacy	Gettysburg National Military Park Stones River National Battlefield Vicksburg National Military Park
Community as hospital - state of medical technology - locations of field hospitals	Gettysburg National Military Park Fort Donnellson National Military Park Stones River National Battlefield
Living under military occupation	Fort Donnellson National Military Park Stones River National Battlefield Vicksburg National Military Park
Reconstruction	Andrew Johnson National Historic Site Natchez Historical Park Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

Figure 7. NPS Units with Similar Interpretive Theme Sub-topics

Figure 7 lists existing units of the national park system that interpret directly or similarly each of the eight interpretive themes identified in the 2004 Franklin Battlefield Preservation Plan. A more detailed comparison of interpretive themes is presented in Appendix 4.

Conclusion: The potential interpretive themes that could be presented at the Battle of Franklin sites duplicates those found in existing units managed by the NPS.

### **Summary of Suitability Analysis**

The NPS acknowledges that battlefields cannot be frozen in time and that even where efforts to preserve a battlefield were initiated almost immediately, as at Gettysburg, it proved impossible to perpetuate the scene in the exact form and condition it presented during the battle. However, based on the previously discussed analysis, the NPS finds the affect of noncontributing buildings and roads on the integrity of setting, feeling, and association at Franklin Battlefield too significant to recommend it as a new unit of the national park system. Further, the NPS believes that the fundamental visitor use opportunities found in Franklin, while worthy of continued historic preservation action, duplicate those found in existing units managed by the national park system.

Based on these findings, the NPS is unable to conclude that the Battle of Franklin sites in Williamson County meet the established criteria for suitability.

### **Analysis of Feasibility**

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In evaluating feasibility, the Service considers a variety of factors, such as: size; boundary configurations; current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands; land ownership patterns; public enjoyment potential; costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation; access; current and potential threats to the resources; existing degradation of resources; staffing requirements; local planning and zoning for the study area; the level of local and general public support; and, the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system. The evaluation also considers the ability of the NPS to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected constraints on funding and personnel.

An area that is nationally significant and meets suitability criteria must also meet feasibility criteria to qualify as a potential addition to the national park system. To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, Battle of Franklin associated sites must be:

- Of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries)
- Capable of efficient administration by the Service at a reasonable cost.

In evaluating feasibility, the NPS assessed the following factors:

- Access
- Size
- Land ownership patterns
- Local planning and zoning
- Existing degradation of resources
- Current and potential threats to the resources
- Public enjoyment potential
- Current and potential uses of the study and surrounding lands
- Staffing requirements of potential alternatives
- Costs associated with acquisition
- Economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system

- Level of local and general support, including land owners of those properties under consideration.

## **Access**

Williamson County is within a day's drive of nearly 60% of the United States. Located approximately 16 miles south of Nashville, the county is easily accessible via Interstate 65 and major state highways. State Route 840 connects Franklin conveniently with Interstates 24 and 40.

Williamson County is served by Nashville International Airport which is located approximately twenty miles northeast off Interstate 40. Nashville International Airport is served by 16 airlines and operates 400 average daily flights to 89 markets and 49 non-stop markets.

The four NHL sites associated with the Battle of Franklin are located close to the central business district of Franklin and directly accessible by road. The NHL sites and many state and locally significant battle associated historic sites can be reached using public ground transportation.

Although battle associated resources are easily accessible by road, their dispersed locations would present significant logistical challenges for the efficient transport of NPS personnel and equipment to service them.

## **Size**

Less than 5% of the core battlefield landscape remains intact in the contemporary landscape. The majority of the preserved properties are non-contiguous fragments less than 5 acres in size.

The four designated NHLs and the Harrison House property represent the largest remaining nationally significant battlefield segments. These sites are of sufficient size and configuration to ensure adequate resource protection and to interpret their specific resource values to visitors.

The Harrison House property and Winstead Hill (including the 52 acre tract owned by the City of Franklin) are the only contiguously located nationally significant properties. Their combined acreage equals approximately 130 acres. A 160 acre tract composed of Carnton Plantation (and the Confederate Cemetery), adjacent State owned property, and the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park forms the largest contiguous preserved segment of the core battlefield.

## **Land Ownership Patterns**

A high percentage of core battlefield area has been developed for non-agricultural uses. The southerly portion of the battlefield contains mostly commercial, industrial, and residential properties built within the past 50 years. Development in the northern portion, which includes the location of the Union defensive works, was first subdivided for residential structures in the early 1900s and formed the City's earliest neighborhoods. Many of these areas have attained a level of historic significance wholly apart from the battle. All four of the City's recognized historic districts, none of which derive their significance from the Battle of Franklin, occupy portions of the core battlefield. There is little, if any, Battle of Franklin associated property remaining in the core battlefield that retains a high degree of historic integrity.

## **Local Planning and Zoning**

The City of Franklin and Williamson County are progressive in community planning and implementation. Both governments employ and maintain adequate planning and enforcement personnel to manage growth, encourage compatible development, and protect natural and cultural resource values in and around the established resources. Both the County and City governments employ trained and certified Law and Code Enforcement officers who routinely patrol areas containing historic resources, adjacent rights of way, observe and report problems, enforce laws and

regulations, and facilitate access during periods of high visitation. The City of Franklin Planning Department employs a trained and certified Historic Preservation Officer.

### **Existing Degradation of Resources**

The most significant degradation of the battlefield landscape occurred during the mid to late 1900s. The historic core battlefield today is highly fragmented and, to varying degrees, no longer conveys a historic sense of setting for the battle. Beginning in the mid 1960s, community preservation groups and local government agencies began to acquire and rehabilitate important properties associated with the Franklin Battlefield. Although compromised somewhat from the perspective of national significance, many of these properties still contain important historic resources quite suitable for interpretation, museums, and commemoration.

### **Current and Potential Threats to the Resources**

There are few major threats to the four designated NHL properties; each is presently in some form of public ownership, adequately funded, and maintained by dedicated and qualified government or non-profit organizations. The Harrison House is privately owned but under no immediate threat. Threats to state and locally designated National Register properties vary by individual property. Where threats to these resources exist, the most significant tend to stem from incompatible developments on adjacent properties.

### **Current and Potential Uses of the Study Area and Surrounding Lands**

Historic properties associated with the Battle of Franklin are functioning well as a network of independently operated community parks. The four NHL designated sites represent the core Civil War properties in Franklin and contribute greatly to the overall historic character of the city. The Carter House and Carnton Plantation are attractive destinations because of their compelling interpretive stories, fully restored grounds, visitor service facilities, and cadre of well trained staff and volunteers.

### **Potential for Public Enjoyment**

The potential for public enjoyment of Civil War resources in Williamson County and the City of Franklin is high. In aggregate, the number and variety of historic sites in Williamson County provides a strong foundation upon which to build the area's heritage tourism economy. Each unique site contributes in its own way to the eclectic mix of historic destinations and visitor services that tourists find so appealing. Franklin's historic downtown commercial area provides a strong sense of historic ambiance without sacrificing the ability to provide all the conveniences modern tourists demand.

### **Staffing Requirements**

It is not possible to estimate staffing requirements in this report because a full range of management alternatives was not developed.

### **Property Acquisition**

The City of Franklin has indicated a willingness to discuss transferring ownership of Fort Granger and the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park to the NPS as part of a more comprehensive agreement involving other parties. However, the owners of the other nationally significant properties (listed below with their associated decision making bodies) have indicated that they do not wish to transfer ownership to the Federal government in order to facilitate the creation of a federally managed battlefield park.

- Carnton Plantation (Carnton Association Board of Directors)

- Confederate Cemetery (McGavock Confederate Cemetery Board of Trustees)
- Carter House (State of Tennessee, Tennessee Historical Commission)
- Harrison House (Private property owner)
- Winstead Hill (Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sam Davis Chapter No. 1293)

The NPS does not believe that acquisition of the Fort Granger and Eastern Flank Battlefield Park properties by themselves constitutes a large enough land base to establish a traditional “on-the-ground” NPS management presence in Franklin.

### **Economic and Socioeconomic Impacts**

It is not possible to estimate economic and socioeconomic impacts in this report because a full range of management alternatives was not developed.

### **Public Interest and Support**

#### Congressional Support

Congressional Representatives Marsha Blackburn (R-7th) and Lincoln Davis (R-4th), and Senator Lamar Alexander (R) strongly support the protection and interpretation of Battle of Franklin Resources. Each has indicated a general support for the idea of creating a National Park Unit in Williamson County. Acknowledging that specific management alternatives were not developed or discussed with the public, it is presumed that any future input by the Congressional delegation will reflect the level of support or opposition expressed by their constituents.

#### City and County Governments

The City of Franklin and Williamson County governments have worked in close partnership with a variety of stakeholders to acquire and protect Battle of Franklin related resources. Both governments have expressed a willingness to work closely with the NPS in good faith to explore the potential of establishing a park in Williamson County. The city government would consider donating property to the NPS to form a National Battlefield park as part of a more comprehensive agreement involving other parties.

#### State Government

The State of Tennessee’s interest is represented by the Tennessee Historical Commission. The THC has been a consistent advocate for the preservation of the State’s Civil War resources and strongly supports the protection of and interpretation of properties associated with the Battle of Franklin. Upon consulting with the THC, it was determined that the State is willing to support the creation of a National Park Unit in Franklin but desires to maintain ownership of the Carter House.

#### NHL Property Owners

NHL property owners have been a consistent advocate for the preservation of the State’s Civil War resources and strongly support the protection of and interpretation of all properties associated with the Battle of Franklin. However, each has made it very clear to the NPS that they, respectfully, have no desire to transfer ownership of their property to the Federal government in order to form a federally managed battlefield park.

#### Interest Groups and other Stakeholders

The interests of certain groups and individuals in the study area include concerns about natural and cultural resource preservation, the context of future interpretive programs, and potential economic benefits. Generally, regional and local interest groups such as historic preservation associations, Civil War historians, African-American heritage groups, and local business support the creation of a National Battlefield Park provided they are afforded an appropriate opportunity to participate in future operational and development decisions.

The Civil War preservation agenda in Williamson County has historically been spearheaded by the largest and most active property owners in association with community preservation groups. The City and County governments, Heritage Foundation, Carnton, Carter House, and Franklin's Charge share primary leadership responsibilities and communicate with each other informally on an as needed basis.

A healthy competition for visitors, community support, tourism dollars, grants, and donations has developed over the past decade among the largest historic property owners. There is broad recognition within the greater preservation community that a formal partnership among the principle enterprises might result in more efficient use of community resources. An umbrella preservation coordination organization has recently been formed but the most influential property owners do not yet seem ready to reconcile various self-interests. While negotiations and strategies addressing this topic are likely to continue, considerable obstacles remain and the eventual implementation of a mutually satisfactory preservation management approach is not at all certain.

#### Potential Park Neighbors

It is not possible to precisely report on the level of public interest and support by potential park neighbors in this study because a full range of management alternatives was not developed. It can generally be assumed from the scoping comments that potential park neighbors would be concerned with preventing excessive automobile traffic on neighborhood streets, reducing visual and sound impacts from potential park activities, maintaining property resale value, and the protection of personal property rights. Park neighbors are thought to be generally supportive of an NPS presence if appropriate setbacks and buffering are maintained between future park development and neighboring private property and any future enabling legislation for a federally managed park included language guaranteeing that property or easement acquisition by the NPS would occur only on a willing seller-willing buyer basis without the exercise of eminent domain.

#### **Summary of Feasibility Analysis**

Many projects that are technically possible to accomplish may not be feasible in light of current budgetary constraints and other NPS priorities. This is especially likely where development or management costs are high, the resource has lost its significant values before acquisition by the NPS, or other protection action is possible.

The unwillingness of a majority of land owners to transfer nationally significant property to the NPS severely limits the Service's ability to play a traditional land management role in Franklin. Moreover, even if a majority of the nationally significant properties could be acquired, the NPS finds that their scattered and non-contiguous arrangement would make efficient management and administration at a reasonable cost unattainable. By the same reasoning, remote management of the same Franklin resources by another Unit of the national park system, (for instance Shiloh National Battlefield, Stones River National Battlefield, or the Natchez Trace Parkway) is similarly not feasible. Therefore, the NPS is unable to conclude that the Battle of Franklin sites in Williamson County meet the criteria for feasibility.

#### **Analysis of Need for NPS Management**

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Inclusion in the national park system provides properties with a mandate and a base level of funding for resource protection and visitor use and enjoyment. There is a need for NPS management if current or potential management authorities cannot provide these same opportunities. During the course of the study, NPS has determined that all nationally significant properties are adequately protected and available for education and public enjoyment. Current site managers and collaborations in Franklin have provided a significant amount of funding for these properties. NPS



management is not desired by the current owners and operators, nor would it necessarily provide better resource protection or visitor enjoyment. Therefore, there is no demonstrated need for NPS management in Franklin.

## **Study Conclusions**

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This congressionally authorized Special Resource Study concludes that the Battle of Franklin related resources in Williamson County, Tennessee meet the criteria for national significance but, at present, do not meet the criteria for suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management.

Because the Battle of Franklin sites do not meet established criteria, and because all nationally significant resources are currently well protected and managed, the study does not create or analyze any other potential management alternatives. No federal actions are proposed, and the study is concluded.

## **Environmental Compliance**

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Since this study concludes that the resources associated with the Battle of Franklin sites in Williamson County do not fully meet the criteria for potential designation as a unit of the national park system, no federal action is anticipated. Therefore, a notice will be placed in the Federal Register that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

## CHAPTER 4 - CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

### Chapter Overview

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Solicitation of public comment on SRSs is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NPS policy. More importantly, however, public input helps the NPS shape and improve its preliminary ideas to better meet the mission of the NPS, the goals of NEPA, and the interests of the American public.

This chapter describes the required consultation procedures, public meetings, and comments related to the preparation of the Battle of Franklin Special Resource Study.

### Notice of Intent

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A notice of intent to conduct a Special Resource Study/Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on July 2, 2007.

### History of Public Involvement

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This document culminates a 3-year planning process. Public participation has been thorough and comprehensive throughout the scoping phase.

The project was initiated with focus group meetings with each of the owners and managers of National Historic Landmark properties within the study area in September 2007.

Open House style public meetings were held in Columbia Tennessee on November 27 and Franklin Tennessee on November 29, 2007. Each meeting had approximately 50 attendees. A series of user group focus meetings was also held during the same week.

A briefing on the project was provided to the home office staff of Congressional Representatives Marsha Blackburn (R-7<sup>th</sup>) and Lincoln Davis (R-4<sup>th</sup>) in January, 2008.

Ongoing consultations and briefings with a wide variety of stakeholders occurred regularly thereafter.

The planning team spent more than twelve months researching and assessing the many properties recommended by stakeholders for consideration as a component of a new NPS unit. During this period, the NPS planning team had extensive discussions with the THC and TCWNHA to determine potential National Register eligibility and identify the potential contributions these properties could make to a new unit of the national park system.

An overview of the project and data collected to date was presented at the 2008 Franklins Charge Symposium on June 20, 2008. Over 100 persons attended the presentation.

The project has been covered extensively in the local print media. The NPS distributed information to persons inside and outside the local area through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website.

### Preparers and Planning Team Members

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NPS personnel contributing to this project function as planning team members or technical advisors. Generally, the responsibility of planning team members includes active participation in the analysis, development, and decision making processes of the project. The planning team relies

on technical advisors to provide in-depth professional and technical consultation on specific topics identified during the planning process.

### **NPS Planning Team Members**

- Tim Bemisderfer – Project leader, Planning and Compliance Division, Southeast Region, NPS
- Stuart Johnson – Superintendent, Stones River National Battlefield, NPS
- Mark Kinzer – Environmental Compliance Specialist, Planning and Compliance Division, Southeast Region, NPS
- Bethany Serafine – Historian, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Region, NPS

### **NPS Technical Advisors**

- Stacy Allen – Historian, Shiloh National Military Park, NPS
- Tanya Gossett – Preservation Planner, American Battlefield Protection Program, NPS
- Fred Prouty – Director of Programs, Tennessee Wars Commission, Tennessee Historical Commission
- Laura Holder – Federal Liaison, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
- Jimmy Jobe – Historian, Fort Donelson National Military Park, NPS
- Jim Lewis – Chief Ranger, Stones River National Battlefield, NPS
- Jim Ogden – Historian, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, NPS
- Erika K. Martin-Seibert – Archeologist, National Historic Landmarks Survey, Washington Support Office, NPS
- Claudette Stager – Historic Preservation Specialist, National Register Program, Tennessee Historical Commission
- Carroll Van West – Director, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

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## APPENDIX 1

### Legislation Authorizing Study

# One Hundred Ninth Congress of the United States of America

## AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,  
the fourth day of January, two thousand and five*

### An Act

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, relating to the Battle of Franklin.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Franklin National Battlefield Study Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means the cities of Brentwood, Franklin, Triune, Thompson’s Station, and Spring Hill, Tennessee.

#### SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of sites in the study area relating to the Battle of Franklin to determine—

(1) the national significance of the sites; and

(2) the suitability and feasibility of including the sites in the National Park System.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the analysis and recommendations of the Secretary on—

(1) the effect on the study area of including the sites in the National Park System; and

(2) whether the sites could be included in an existing unit of the National Park System or other federally designated unit in the State of Tennessee.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) appropriate Federal agencies and State and local government entities; and

(2) interested groups and organizations.

(d) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

#### SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date funds are made available for the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.



## APPENDIX 2

### Expanded Narrative of Battlefield Preservation in Franklin

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Even before the guns fell silent in 1865, Americans began to commemorate the Civil War. The commemorations started with national cemeteries and local memorials and were later followed by the first National Military Parks towards the end of the century.

#### 1862 to 1880

The U.S. Congress enacted legislation in 1862 that authorized the President to purchase “cemetery grounds” to be used as national cemeteries “for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country.” Fourteen cemeteries were established that first year, including one in Sharpsburg where 4,476 Union soldiers were laid to rest after the Battle of Antietam.

By 1870, the remains of nearly 300,000 Union dead had been buried in 73 national cemeteries. Most of the cemeteries were located in the southeast, near the battlefields and campgrounds of the Civil War. After the war, Army crews scoured the countryside to locate the remains of Federal soldiers who had died in battle. They were buried with honor in the new national cemeteries (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. 2008).

The Confederate dead were not permitted to be reinterred in National Cemeteries. Throughout the South, Ladies Memorial Associations created cemeteries for the Confederate fallen (Piehler, G.K. 1999:124). Colonel John and Carrie McGavock took it upon themselves to provide a resting place for Confederate soldiers killed at the Battle of Franklin. In 1866 they designated two acres of land adjacent to their family cemetery as a final burial place for nearly 1,500 Confederates. John and Carrie McGavock maintained the cemetery at their personal expense until their respective deaths.

The years after the war in Franklin were marked with many events to honor those who died at the Battle of Franklin. Confederate veterans of the battle, calling themselves the “old comrades of the lost cause” began holding reunions in McGavock’s grove near the Confederate Cemetery in 1877. Subsequent gatherings would be attended by both Confederate and Union veterans to demonstrate reconciliation between them. Over 10,000 guests reportedly attended the 1892 event. The last veterans’ reunion was held in October, 1927 (Warwick, R. 2008:6).

#### 1881 to 1900

Almost no preservation activity occurred in the South immediately following the war, perhaps because many embittered Southerners believed it would merely serve as a reminder of the terrible loss suffered in life, property, and economic vitality (Boge and Boge. 1993:20). The passing of time eventually mellowed these feelings and a spirit of reconciliation, fostered initially by the veterans themselves, gradually emerged between northern and southern citizens. Twenty years after the war, all manner of concerned citizens began to protest the absence of a national military park commemorating both Federal and Confederate soldiers.

Before the 1890s, the federal acquisition of private property for Civil War commemoration purposes had been limited mainly to cemeteries. The Supreme Court’s landmark decision on the “Gettysburg Electric Railway” case, however, resolved two fundamental questions related to the future of national preservation policy: Does preservation of a historic battlefield site qualify as a public purpose, and if yes, does Congress have the authority to acquire relevant tracts of land through the power of eminent domain? The Supreme Court’s decision to affirm that historic areas could be obtained by the Federal government for the public good through donation, purchase, or eminent domain, if necessary (Boge and Boge. 1993:22-23) led to greater public acceptance for the

creation of National Military Parks. With a firm legal foundation from which to acquire property, the federal government authorized the first five National Military Parks at Chickamauga and Chattanooga (1890), Antietam (1890), Shiloh (1894), Gettysburg (1895), and Vicksburg (1899).

By the end of the nineteenth century, the number of living Civil War veterans had dwindled significantly. Eager to continue honoring them, citizens throughout the nation commissioned numerous local memorials and monuments to commemorate their service. Such monuments represented a considerable emotional and financial investment by the citizens that labored to erect them and it often took years to secure enough resources to place one. A monument association existed in Franklin as early as 1883 but progress lagged until 1897 when the UDC #14 began soliciting funds in earnest. Their efforts paid off on November 30, 1899, when a Confederate monument was dedicated on the downtown public square during the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Battle of Franklin. The elaborate ceremonies attendant to the Franklin dedication were repeated throughout Tennessee at the height of the monument-building boom (Lossen, C. 2008).

### **1901 to 1930**

Using the national cemetery system as a blueprint for the creation of national battlefields, the federal government adopted a policy of preserving them as they appeared at the time of the conflict. To carry out this policy, the government formed three-man commissions to purchase property and manage each of the first five military parks. Commission members were paid by the Federal government and operated under the general authority of the Secretary of War. Interestingly, this policy signaled one of the first times that the federal government recognized that “specialized knowledge was required to ascertain, mark, and preserve the main line of battle and the cultural features of the terrain” (Boge and Boge. 1993:16-23).

#### Proposed Central National Military Park Commission

The federal government’s acquisition of five Civil War battlefields during the 1890s laid the cornerstone for a national historic preservation policy. Once started, the idea of preserving historic battlefields and other sites as national military parks or memorials spread rapidly. Between 1901 and 1904 thirty-four bills were introduced in Congress to authorize additional historical reservations, some commemorating Revolutionary War and Indian Wars battles. The responsibility for reviewing these proposals fell to the Congressional Committee on Military Affairs (CMA) who expressed much concern about how to accomplish the volume of work represented by the pending legislation without incurring exorbitant costs.

Considering the number of new proposals, it became clear to all committee members that creation of a salaried commission for each new park was not in the nation’s best financial interest. Adding to confusion caused by the overwhelming number of bills was the absence of federal supervision for the existing park commissions which made their systematic management virtually impossible. (Boge and Boge. 1993:24).

To remedy the situation, Representative Clement Stevens of Minnesota, a CMA member himself, introduced H.R. 12092 which proposed repealing the existing laws that created the original five parks (and commissions) in favor of a central “national park commission” of five members to be placed in charge of the “restoration, preservation, and suitable marking, for historical and professional military study, of such battlefields of the war of the rebellion as are now or may hereafter be acquired by the United States.”

The CMA held public hearings on April 2 and April 14, 1902 to discuss H.R. 12092 along with the numerous special bills for battlefield park projects. Testimony presented at the hearings revealed that major questions remained about the proper Federal organization to carry out the historic

preservation work that lay at the heart of each bill. The responsibilities of a central commission were discussed at length and it soon became clear that the new commission's scope of responsibility should be expanded to include similar resources from other wars such as the Revolutionary and Indian Wars. The CMA quietly put off consideration of the individual projects pending resolution of the greater issue at hand.

The CMA reported its findings to the Congress on May 14, 1902. Accompanying the report was a new bill, H.R. 14351, which proposed establishment of a central National Military Park Commission with the general power to "restore, preserve, mark, and maintain, in commemoration of the valor of American Arms and for historical, professional, and military study, such battlefields, forts, cemeteries, or parts thereof, of the colonial, Revolutionary, Indian, or civil wars, or of any other wars of the United States, as may hereafter be acquired by the United States, and to establish military parks thereon." Unfortunately, determined opposition to the proposal by the existing battlefield commissions, which had tremendous influence in Congress, caused the House of Representatives to reject the recommendations of the CMA.

Though unsuccessful, formulation and introduction of H.R. 12092 and H.R. 14351 marked a significant step forward in congressional awareness of the need for a national historic preservation policy. Similar measures were introduced by chairman of the CMA, Representative Richard Wayne Parker of New Jersey, in 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1909. The CMA continued to support the bills with strongly favorable reports in 1904 and 1906. However, despite many attempts at reformation, the political influence of the existing commissions was too strong and the CMA stopped making reports on the proposal after 1906. Congressman Parker, the chief proponent of creating a national park commission, left Congress in 1911.

#### Proposals to create a National Military Park in Franklin

The citizens of Franklin were advocating for a military park at the turn of the 19th century. Mr. L.P. Padgett, Congressional Representative from Tennessee, introduced bills for the creation of a Franklin Military National Park to the CMA five times between 1901 and 1909:

- 57th Congress (1901-3): H.R. 4316
- 58th Congress (1903-5): H.R. 838
- 59th Congress (1905-7): H.R. 3184
- 60th Congress (1907-9): H.R. 310
- 61st Congress (1909-11): H.R. 5195 and S. 5316.

After the failure of previous legislative efforts, the UDC #14 formed a National Park Committee in 1909 to lobby for a favorable recommendation by the CMA and Congress. The Committee was headed by Mrs. Tennie Pinkerton Dozier of Franklin who rallied support in Williamson County which led to a County resolution supporting the effort. The resolution was forwarded to Senator J.B. Frazier and Congressional Representative L.P. Padgett along with petitions from the UDC #14, the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and numerous local Confederate Veterans. Plat maps noting locations of the most significant battlefield landmarks were included in the package. Representative Padgett submitted the bill (H.R. 310) to the House of Representatives, which assigned it to the CMA for committee action.

Hoping to enhance their prospects with the CMA, the UDC #14 dispatched Mr. P.E. Cox, Keeper of the State Archives and Museum in Nashville under Tennessee Governor Henry Horton to Washington D.C. to solicit support for the proposed legislation. The bill was apparently well received by several individual committee members but, unfortunately, the CMA as a body was not keen on considering legislation to establish individual parks before finishing its work to reform the existing park commission system. Reluctance by the CMA to consider individual park legislation

was expressed in letters written by both Senator Frazier and Representative Padgett to Mrs. Dozier in April, 1910. In those letters the congressmen report that “the Committee on Military Affairs in the House has determined that it will not pass any bill creating additional military parks.” Senator Frazier also informed Mrs. Dozier that, in his opinion, “President Taft would likely veto any bill for a military park if one was indeed passed by the Congress” (Franklin Review Appeal, 1910).

In 1914, Ohio Congressional Representative Brigadier General Isaac R. Sherwood, himself a decorated participant and officer in the 14th Ohio Infantry at the Battle of Franklin, proposed legislation creating a National Battlefield Park in Franklin. Included in the proposal was the construction of a grand memorial arch to span Columbia Avenue near the Carter House. The estimated cost for the park and monument was nearly \$250,000 (Warwick R. 2007:63). Hundreds of Confederate and Union veterans meeting in Franklin to celebrate the battle’s 50th anniversary loudly voiced their support for the idea but, despite its apparent appeal to both northern and southern veterans, the proposed legislation died in committee.

Congressman Sherwood again attempted to pass legislation in 1925 for “suitably marking the field of the battle of Franklin.” The proposal included a federal outlay of \$25-30,000 to create a park at the site and would be Sherwood’s last request before retiring from Congress at the age of 96. The report (No. 1315) accompanied H.R. 10771 and was presented to the CMA. Again the bill did not pass through committee.

#### 1926 Act for the Study of Battlefields

From 1900 to 1925, lengthy discussions within the CMA about reformation of the battlefield commission system, coupled with interruptions caused by World War I, allowed for little additional Congressional action on special acts to establish National Battlefield Parks. During this period, only five bills among the many introduced were enacted into law. In response to the growing backlog of proposed legislation for new military parks, Congress passed the 1926 Act for the Study and Investigation of Battlefields in the United States for Commemorative Purposes. The act called for a general study of battlefields to be carried out by the War Department.

The War Department study first divided battles into categories by conflict: Revolutionary War, War of 1812, War with Mexico, and Civil War. Once sorted by conflict, battles were then categorized using the following classification scheme:

Class I. Those battles of such great importance and far-reaching effect as to warrant commemoration by the establishment of national military parks. The study further suggested that “national military parks should as a general thing cover a comparatively large area of ground, probably some thousands of acres, and so marked and improved as to make them into real parks available for detailed study by military authorities, the battle lines and operations being clearly indicated on the ground. The expense of maintaining such a park is so great as to indicate that the number should be kept fairly low.”

Class II. The study suggests that “Less important and extensive engagements which have nevertheless a definite military and political effect should be listed under the second category, the idea being that limited areas of ground on the site of the battle could be purchased and appropriately marked and the whole aggregation of separate areas designated as a national monument.”

#### *Civil War Battles*

For battles of the Civil War, the study identified five Class I battlefields: Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Antietam, and Shiloh. All other battlefields were categorized as Class II. To further distinguish between the battles in Class II, sub classes IIa and IIb were created.

The study describes Class IIa battles as “battles of far-reaching importance, in which the numbers engaged and the losses sustained, or the resultant military or political effects, were so great as to warrant their inclusion. While the greater portion of these fields lies in the State of Virginia, the States of Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina are represented in the list. Should it be deemed important to preserve any one of these fields for professional military and historical study, it would be sufficient to mark the battle lines as on the field at Antietam, otherwise the battle might be commemorated as an important historical event by the erection of a single monument.”

The study lists class IIa battles in chronological order as the authors “found impracticable to arrange battles fought by different armies, in different theaters, with different objectives, in a satisfactory order of importance.”

- Battle of Bull Run, Va. July 21, 1861.
- Fort Donelson, Tn. February 14-15, 1862, Army of the Tennessee.
- Battles around Richmond, Va. June 26-July 1, 1862, Army of the Potomac.
- Second Manassas or Groveton, August 30, 1862, Army of Virginia and Army of the Potomac.
- Fredericksburg, Va. December 13, 1862, Army of the Potomac.
- Murfreesboro, Tenn. December 31, 1862, Army of the Cumberland.
- Chancellorsville, Va. May 1-4, 1863, Army of the Potomac.
- The Wilderness, Va. May 5-9, 1864, Army of the Potomac.
- Spotsylvania, Va. May 8-18, 1864, Army of the Potomac.
- Cold Harbor, Va. June 1-12, 1864, Army of the Potomac.
- Battles around Atlanta, Ga. July 20-September 1, 1864, Armies of the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Ohio.
- Battles around Petersburg, Va. June 15, 1864, to April 2, 1865, Army of the Potomac and The James.
- Battle of the Opequan (or Winchester), Va. September 19, 1864, Army of the Shenandoah.
- Nashville, Tenn. December 15-16, 1864, Corps of the Armies of the Cumberland, the Tennessee, and the Ohio.
- Bentonville, N.C. March 19-21, 1865, Army of Georgia.

Lieutenant Colonel C.A. Bach, author of the study, described the study’s approach for ranking Class IIb battles as follows:

“In a war covering a period of four years, fought over an extensive territory, in which there occurred over 2,000 listed battles, engagements, and sieges wherein organizations of various sizes participated, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to make a satisfactory list of all the battles and engagements that might be considered worthy of some form of monument as a memorial to the organizations and to the men who took part. It is believed, however, that a single monument should suffice to commemorate any battle or engagement not listed in Class IIb, since none can be more important in our history than some of the battles of the Revolutionary War thus commemorated, even though in the Civil War battles the forces engaged and the losses suffered were greater. Distinctions within this class—i.e., between important battles such as Franklin, Cedar Creek, Kennesaw Mountain, Champions Hill, Perryville, Pea Ridge, and smaller engagements, such as the Monocacy, Brandy Station, etc.—might fittingly be indicated by the size of the monument.”

Tennessee Congressional Representative E.E. Eslick, perhaps trying to position Franklin for a favorable evaluation in the 1926 study, asked Franklin Mayor Park Marshall in 1925 to prepare a cost estimate for the acquisition of certain properties that composed the historic battlefield. While the city cooperated by producing a cost estimate of \$872,000, it also adopted a resolution recommending against a new park “on account of the fact that some hundreds of homes of citizens would be taken” (Warwick R. 2007:63). It is unclear how the relatively high cost of acquiring



property and the Franklin city government's reluctance to fully endorse a new park influenced the classification of Franklin Battlefield in the 1926 study. It is interesting to note, however, that of the 30 Civil War battlefields mentioned specifically by name in the study, 22 had become units of the national park system by 2008.

The recommendations of the 1926 study greatly influenced the establishment of four new Civil War military parks: Petersburg National Military Park (Class IIa), established July 3, 1926; Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial, including also Chancellorsville and the Wilderness (Class IIa), established March 14, 1927; Stones River National Military Park (Class IIa), est. December 1, 1927; and Fort Donelson National Park (Class IIa), established March 26, 1928. Congress later passed two additional "special acts for special battlefields" in 1929 and 1930. These legislations created: Brice's Cross Roads and Tupelo (Class IIb, not listed), established February 21, 1929; Monocacy (class IIb), established March 1, 1929; Appomattox (Class IIb, not listed), established June 18, 1930. These parks were administered by the War Department until their transfer to the NPS in 1933.

### **1931 to 1960**

Williamson County grew modestly, if at all from the end of the Civil War to the early 1920s. By the mid 1920s however, land development pressures, fueled by the demand for residential homes close to downtown Franklin, fostered the subdivision of several large agricultural properties in the core battlefield area.

After more than 40 years of effort and, arguably, in acknowledgement of the low classification of Franklin in the 1926 Act for the Study of Battlefields, Williamson County and Franklin government leaders had come to grips with the fact that their prospects for a Federally managed National Military Park were low. Weary of the fight and perhaps sensing that further attempts would not be worth the effort, the city's 1925 resolution opposing a new park seems to indicate that the window of opportunity for preserving large expanses of original battlefield landscape was closing. None the less, preservation minded citizens still managed to protect several very significant battle related resources on smaller tracts.

Two important preservation achievements during this period were Winstead Hill and the (Fountain Branch) Carter House. Winstead Hill became protected in 1948 when the Walter A. Roberts family deeded 9.75 acres on Winstead Hill to the UDC #14 to be preserved as a memorial to Confederate soldiers. The land was later deeded to the SCV who maintains the Confederate Memorial Park on Winstead Hill today. In 1951 the Carter House was purchased by the State of Tennessee, restored, and opened to the public in 1953. The house is administered by the THC and operated by the Carter House Association, a non-profit corporation. Since its establishment as a historic site, the THC and the Carter House Association have been active proponents of battlefield preservation awareness.

The Franklin Battlefield received NHL designation in 1960, one of the first historic properties so recognized by the federal government as having national significance in American history. Contributing properties in the nomination include the Carnton Plantation, including the McGavock Cemetery, Ft. Granger, the Carter House, and Winstead Hill.

### **1961 to 1990**

The pace of land development in Williamson County began to accelerate in the mid 1960s, erupted in the 1980s, and continues at a high rate today. Numerous factors have fueled the area's growth. Among the most significant are:

- The economic success of Nashville and the availability of high paying jobs.
- Construction of the Saturn Automobile plant in Spring Hill.

- A high quality of life centered on the availability of public services and a pastoral suburban landscape.
- The construction of modern roadways and interstates which make commuting more feasible.

Increased growth during the early 1960s threatened both the historic architecture of downtown Franklin and the last remaining fragments of undeveloped battlefield. Alarmed, preservation-minded citizens sensed that these losses would forever alter their community identity and reduce its quality of life. Strongly advocating for better growth management and preservation planning, a group of citizens established the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County in 1967. Dedicated to the protection of all of the county's historic resources, including those associated with the Battle of Franklin, the organization's first success was saving the McPhail Office which served as Schofield's Union headquarters during the Battle of Franklin. Located in downtown Franklin, the McPhail Office now serves as the visitor information center for Franklin tourists.

The Heritage Foundation was instrumental in creating the Downtown Franklin Association in 1984. Working in partnership with property owners, preservationists, city and county government, merchants, and businesses, the Downtown Franklin Association has created a successful Main Street program, earning national recognition, including a Great American Main Street award. Today, the Heritage Foundation continues to promote regional historic preservation goals and is a founding member of the Tennessee Antebellum Trail, the Natchez Trace Corridor Association and the African American Heritage Society. The work of the Heritage Foundation has expanded to include the preparation of surveys and inventories of Franklin and Williamson county historic resources, raising community awareness of endangered historic resources, nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and sponsoring Heritage Classroom programs.

In 1975, construction of the 110 acre Country Club of Franklin on the largest remaining fragment of battlefield open space was seen as a significant set-back for battlefield preservation. The loss was somewhat tempered however, by the City of Franklin's purchase of Fort Granger that same year. Fort Granger would subsequently be stabilized, rehabilitated, and incorporated into the public park system under the leadership of Franklin mayor Jerry Sharber and Williamson County mayor Robert Ring.

In 1977, Dr. and Mrs. W.D. Suggs deeded the Carnton Plantation, historically owned by John and Carrie McGavock, and 10 acres of land to the Carnton Association, a community based private non-profit organization. Over the next several years, the Carnton Association raised funds and began implementing a restoration of the plantation house and its interior, associated structures, and landscape. The Plantation and surrounding acres were first opened to visitors in 1979.

The citizen groups that formed in the 1960s and 70s nurtured a community preservation ethic which, over time, matured into broad community support for historic preservation. In 1985, citizens mobilized against the proposed construction of a 52 acre industrial park adjacent to Winstead Hill. After a long negotiation, the City of Franklin agreed to purchase the land for use as a city park. Increased development near their properties coupled with the threat to Winstead Hill motivated the Carnton Association and the Carter House Association to strengthen their fund raising capability. Over time, both groups developed successful fund raising operations to support their individual preservation efforts.

Responding to community requests, the City of Franklin Board of Alderman passed a Historic Zoning Ordinance in 1986. This ordinance created the Historic Zoning Commission (HZA) which is composed of nine citizen appointees representing the disciplines of architecture, history or historic preservation, a member of the local planning commission and the community in general.

The mission of the HZC is to preserve and protect Franklin's historic resources through identification, designation and design review.

In 1989, the Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. (STFB) formed as a non-profit organization composed of volunteers to work closely with local and state governments as well as other preservation organizations throughout the country to preserve Civil War resources in Williamson County. Multiple other non-profit organizations and citizens groups also formed during this period to promote causes ranging from natural resource conservation to the protection of non-Civil War historic and cultural resources.

## **1990 to 2010**

Franklin's population doubled during the 1990s and reached nearly 42,000 in 2000. It is expected to double again over the next 20 years. Once considered a bedroom community to Nashville, the area has established an economic presence of its own by attracting a number of commercial and industrial employers, including the headquarters or regional offices of several national and international corporations.

Based on the success of the Franklin Main Street Program and a notable increase in tourists visiting Carnton and Carter House, local government leaders were quick to embrace the benefits of marketing local historic resources as tourist destinations. Spurred on by the input of local citizens and advocacy groups, former Mayors Jerry Sharber and Tom Miller and former County Mayor Robert Ring became strong supporters of incorporating heritage tourism as a fundamental component of the area's economic development strategy.

The evolution of grass-roots community development planning in Franklin was elevated to a higher level in 2000 when a small group of community leaders created Franklin Tomorrow, an organization dedicated not to the preservation or care of a specific resource, but rather to the goal of leading a community wide visioning process. Using its community resources, Franklin Tomorrow created and executed a complex public planning project that culminated with a series of preservation recommendations and implementation strategies. The recommendations carried strong public support and were well received by the City and County governments. One of the most beneficial results was the implementation of a program to identify and map historic resources and a community wide recognition of the need for the proactive protection of them.

Battlefield preservation efforts in Franklin received a boost in 2005 when local preservationists approached the owner of the 110 acre golf course and related facilities on which the Country Club of Franklin was located. The lease of the club facilities was expiring and the owner was considering whether to extend the lease or sell the property to a developer. The property was offered for sale to the preservationists for \$5 million. At the urging of the preservationists, a benefactor stepped forward to purchase the site on the condition that he would maintain ownership for up to 12 months, a period in which it was thought the local battlefield preservation group would raise an equal amount of money to repurchase the property for use as a battlefield park. Additionally, the Franklin city government offered \$2.5 million in matching funds thus reducing by 50 percent the amount needed to be raised by preservation groups.

To the advocates of a battlefield park in Franklin, the acquisition of the country club was the key component to Franklin's Civil War heritage and led to the creation of Franklin's Charge. Franklin's Charge is composed of representatives of over a dozen local, state, and national organizations as well as local government leaders. It is a unique organization that does not aspire to be a separate preservation organization, or to replace current preservation groups. Members organized and executed a fund raising campaign which, within a year, had secured the necessary resources to

purchase the property. Upon acquisition, Franklin's Charge donated the site to the city for use as a battlefield park.

Renamed the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park, the city hired the cultural resource management firm John Milner and Associates to create a park master plan and phased implementation strategy for the site. The park's master plan was completed in 2008 and the city, in consultation with local and regional partners, is planning for the first phase of implementation.

During the initial efforts by Franklin's Charge to acquire the golf course property, citizen driven activism for battlefield preservation in Williamson County grabbed national attention when a Franklin Pizza Hut Restaurant was prominently featured in a 2005 National Geographic article about the loss of the nation's historic battlefields. Included in the pictorial was a shot of the restaurant building side-by-side with photos of the six Confederate generals who were killed during the Battle of Franklin.

Believed to be the precise location where Confederate General Patrick Cleburne was killed, local historians had been pressing the city to purchase the restaurant site for several years (Bibb, J. 2008). Perhaps understandably, the restaurant's owners were not immediately receptive to the idea of moving their very profitable business. None the less, the Franklin portion of the National Geographic article received such national attention that the negative publicity associated with the controversial site proved, in the end, to be incentive enough for the Pizza Hut corporation to relocate the operation. The city purchased the one-half acre site for \$300,000 and began demolition of the structure and parking lot on November 30, 2005, the 141st anniversary of the battle. Once cleared, period fencing, benches, and a memorial monument were added and the site incorporated into the city park system.

Franklin's Charge continues to play an active advocacy and fund raising role in preserving historic open space in Williamson County. The organization's membership has reached beyond the original coalition members who banded together to purchase the country club property. Representatives from The African-American Heritage Society, The Carter House, The Harpeth River Watershed Association, The Heritage Foundation, Historic Carnton Plantation, The Land Trust For Tennessee, Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, Civil War Preservation Trust, Tennessee Preservation Trust, TCWNHA, Save The Franklin Battlefield, Williamson County Historical Society and interested city and county leaders are included among its most active members.

In September, 2008, Franklin's Charge acquired a one acre property on Columbia Avenue directly across from the Carter House for \$950,000. The site is thought to be where Opdycke's troops engaged the confederates in furious hand to hand combat, driving them back outside the Federal works. Franklin's Charge is seeking to raise \$850,000 in grants and donations to cover the cost of the purchase.

### **Summary of Federal and State Participation in Battle of Franklin Preservation Efforts**

The successful partnerships forged between local community groups in Williamson County and Federal and State government agencies demonstrates not only an exemplary dedication to the cause of battlefield preservation but also the attainment of a high level of skill and professionalism as managers of non-profit enterprises. Several examples of these successful partnerships are described in the following section.

#### NPS and American Battlefield Protection Program

In 1985, as part of the NPS's NHL assistance initiative the Southeast Region's National Register Program worked on a boundary expansion and provided comments on threats to the integrity of the remaining battlefield parts.

From 1985 to 2000, a variety of NPS staff from the Southeast Region and the ABPP in Washington D.C. provided technical support to city, county, and state officials as well as representatives of Carnton Plantation about a number of issues including:

- State acquisition of Ropers Knob
- Preservation of Fort Granger
- View shed analysis of development between Winstead Hill and the Carter House
- Numerous consultations with preservation and government leaders to develop preservation strategies and options for a variety of Civil War related resources in Williamson County.

The ABPP Battlefield Project Grant Program awarded six grants to Williamson County and Franklin preservation organizations between 1992 and 1999 for a total of \$131,040. These grants were used for projects involving the identification, preservation and interpretation of battlefield land and/or historic sites associated with battlefields. The ABPP also provided one Land & Water Conservation Fund/Land Acquisition Grant in 2005 for \$500,000 for purchase of Eastern Flank property.

#### The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

The TCWNHA has partnered with heritage organizations, property owners, and government agencies across the state to tell and preserve the events of the Civil War and its aftermath. In Franklin and throughout the surrounding Middle Tennessee region, the organization provides extensive and on-going support through programs that offer both free technical assistance and matching collaborative partnership funds.

In the last five years, TCWNHA staff have worked closely with Franklin's Charge, Inc., the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, the Carnton Plantation Association, the Williamson County CVB, Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc., and the City of Franklin in developing a strategy to encourage public and private sector support for the acquisition of battlefield property, present more comprehensive interpretation of the battle's historic resources, and advance the county's Civil War heritage tourism initiatives.

With Franklin's Charge, the TCWNHA provides consultation expertise, as well as funding and supporting key interpretive projects. Quarterly educational newsletters, with contributions written by TCWNHA staff, have focused on battlefield preservation, history, and fundraising opportunities. The newsletter is a wide-reaching tool for community education and organizational financial support. Additionally, the TCWNHA has partnered with Franklin's Charge to present two annual symposiums on the significance of the new land acquisitions and of the battle itself; staff helped develop programs, invite speakers, create teacher educational materials and workshops, host tours, and conduct scholarly presentations. In addition, the TCWNHA funded several nationally recognized Civil War scholars for both symposiums.

The TCWNHA also maintains a long-standing relationship with the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, and recently partnered with them and other organizations to create the popular Battle of Franklin driving tour. The TCWNHA wrote the text provided matching funds for its design and publication. Approximately 200,000 copies have been distributed in Franklin as well as numerous visitor centers and has become a key interpretive component of the city's heritage tourism initiative. In addition, the TCWNHA frequently assists the Heritage Foundation with National Register assessments, specific survey issues, and research questions that directly affect the county's Civil War resources.

The City of Franklin is another long-term partner of the Heritage Area, which first got involved in the issue of battlefield preservation at the city's request. Heritage Area staff researched and wrote the 2007 draft amendment to the original 1960 Battle of Franklin NHL designation. Working with Franklin's Middle College High School, the TCWNHA created A Time of Transformation:

Franklin's Reconstruction Era teacher's guide, which contained hands-on educational activities, field trips, and research for use with high school students studying the Civil War and Reconstruction. It works closely with the city preservation planner on a range of cultural resource issues, especially National Register assessments, and carried a historic resource survey of the eastern flank battlefield.

Historic Carnton Plantation remains one of the city's vital Civil War resources, and the TCWNHA, since its inception, has consulted with the association on institutional and interpretive needs. TCWNHA staff has facilitated a day-long event that generated the organization's new mission statement. Staff also has worked with the association on the design, contents, and location of the site's new visitor center. The TCWNHA is currently partnering with Carnton, the Williamson County CVB, and the African American Heritage Society to develop and distribute a Civil War and Reconstruction-era African American Heritage Tour brochure. In addition, the TCWNHA supported the CVB's preparation of 14 markers for the Tennessee Civil War Trails interpreting the Battle of Franklin and addressed the dedication of those markers in September 2008.

The TCWNHA also worked with the Save the Franklin Battlefield and the City of Franklin on the "Collins Farm" property, carrying out a physical assessment of the remaining buildings in 2003 and completing a National Register assessment in 2004. This work occurred concurrently as the Heritage Area nominated the Natchez Street Historic District, a historic Reconstruction-era African American neighborhood that developed on the historic battlefield after the war. Upon request, staff members also have conducted historic property assessments of Civil War-era resources, which provide architectural review and restoration recommendations, at no cost to property owners.

#### Tennessee Department of Transportation and Department of Tourist Development

In 2007, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development was awarded a Federal Enhancement Grant, an 80/20 match through the Tennessee Department of Transportation to create a Tennessee Civil War Trails program. Similar to programs that exist in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina, the program is expected to provide a substantial boost to local Civil War and heritage tourism enterprises. The State of Tennessee launched the Civil War Trails program in Franklin in September, 2008 to recognize the dramatic battlefield preservation efforts that have taken place in the city.

#### Tennessee Historical Commission

The staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) has provided technical and financial support to Civil War preservation in Franklin and surrounding areas for many years. Examples include:

- The Carter House is a state owned historic property, and part of the NHL listed Franklin Battlefield, administered by the THC. There was the purchase and "land swap" that resulted in saving an old gym for a (future) battlefield museum and interpretive center. In cooperation with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology (DOA), archaeological investigations have been completed at the Carter House.
- As the designated SHPO, the THC has supported or funded National Register nominations for many properties. Roper's Knob and the Triune Fortifications are two recent examples.
- The THC supported federally funded archaeological investigations at Fort Granger in the 1970s.
- Also as the SHPO, various staff members have worked with individuals, the city, and nonprofit groups to encourage preservation of Civil War sites and buildings. Since Franklin is rich in historic resources, these efforts are not always specific to Civil War related resources. The Certified Local Government program encourages local preservation of all resources. A current project is a preservation CAMP (Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program)

funded through this office. Preservation tax incentive projects and Section 106 reviews conducted through the THC often involve Civil War resources.

- Staff members have made formal and informal presentations to local government and private groups in Franklin regarding historic preservation, including issues specific to Civil War preservation
- Much of the direct technical assistance for Civil War preservation from the THC comes through the Tennessee Wars Commission, part of the THC. The commission is the pass through agency for federal funds for many Franklin projects. The commission is also responsible for state funded grants which have been used in Franklin. Recent examples:
- Working with the DOA, to complete a report “Test Excavations on Roper’s Knob: A Fortified Union Signal Station in Franklin, Tennessee.”
- Funds were given to Franklin’s Charge for a survey and preservation plan for the Triune Fortifications.
- Funds were given to the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County for a Civil War brochure. The commission also publishes a statewide Civil War brochure that includes Franklin.

## APPENDIX 3

### Expanded Historical Narrative of the Battle of Franklin

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While an in-depth knowledge of Civil War history is not required to understand this study, readers unfamiliar with the economic, political, and military environment in Tennessee leading up to and during the Civil War may find this narrative helpful. Please note that the intent of the narrative is to help readers place the Battle of Franklin within the larger historical context of the Civil War in Middle Tennessee and is not comprehensive. The expanded narrative also provides a deeper understanding of the resources associated with the comparison parks used in Chapter 3.

In many ways, the Civil War story of Middle Tennessee serves as a microcosm of the Civil War experience throughout the South. From the early days of secession to post-war reconstruction, the Civil War had a dramatic and lasting impact on the region's landscape and culture. The Union and Confederacy fought fiercely over Tennessee because it strategically linked the Eastern Theater of the war with the Mississippi River. The state's numerous rail and river connections facilitated the rapid movement of troops and supplies and control of them was given high priority by both northern and southern armies. Indeed, Tennessee's position in the Upper South led President Lincoln to characterize the state as "the keystone of the Southern Arch" (Smith and Nance 2003:11).

Fighting raged back and forth across Middle Tennessee from 1862 to 1864. During that period, many citizens saw their backyards, courthouse squares, and churchyards repeatedly turned into battlefields (West, C.V. 2005:4). As battle lines shifted, so shifted the boundaries of political authority and many Middle Tennesseans lived under an ever changing *mélange* of military and civilian control. Regardless of political allegiance, the circumstances of war and military occupation imposed a crushing burden on the civilian population of Middle Tennessee.

#### Regional Influences and Differences

Mid-nineteenth-century Tennessee was an overwhelmingly rural and agricultural state. Cities like Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville showed signs of industrial growth and commercial prosperity, but the state's population remained closely tied to the land. The state's rural economy was far from homogeneous. While farmers in mountainous East Tennessee practiced subsistence agriculture, Middle and West Tennesseans relied on cash crops like tobacco and cotton and increasingly turned to slaves to cultivate their fields. These regional economic divisions were reflected in the state's political divisions, particularly over the growing debate about secession (West, C.V. 2005:4).

#### Secession

In the mountains of East Tennessee, where the economy was not reliant on slave labor, Tennesseans held a strong opposition to secession. Conversely, in West Tennessee with its numerous large plantations, strong pro-slavery and pro-Confederate sympathy existed. In Middle Tennessee feelings were mixed, but support for Confederacy was dominant (West, C.V. 2005:4).

Most Tennesseans initially showed little enthusiasm for breaking away from a nation whose struggles it had shared for so long. In the presidential election of 1860, they had voted by a slim margin for the Constitutional Unionist John Bell. A moderate Tennessean, Bell initially opposed succession and continued to search for a way out of the succession crisis despite losing the 1860 election to Abraham Lincoln.

In February of 1861, 54 percent of the state's voters did not support sending delegates to a secession convention. However, the firing on Fort Sumter by Federal troops in April and Lincoln's call for



75,000 new volunteers to coerce the seceded states back into line turned public sentiment in Tennessee dramatically against the Union. In a June 1861 state wide referendum, East Tennessee held firm against separation while West Tennessee returned a heavy majority in favor. The big shift came in Middle Tennessee which went from 51 percent against secession to 88 percent in favor.

Having ratified by popular vote its connection with the fledgling Confederacy, Governor Harris began military mobilization, submitted an ordinance of secession to the General Assembly, and made direct overtures to the Confederate government (Moore, W.C. 2008).

## **Military Engagements**

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More Civil War battles occurred in Tennessee than any other state except Virginia (Figure 4). While it is beyond the scope of this document to mention them all, the following narrative briefly describes the engagements that set the stage for the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. A description of the Battle of Nashville is included to help illustrate how the devastating Confederate losses suffered at Franklin contributed to the military collapse of the Confederacy in the western theater.

### **Forts Henry and Donelson**

Just eight months after becoming the last state to leave the Union, Tennessee became the first to fall to Federal troops. The capture of Forts Henry and Donelson by Union forces in February 1862 firmly established a Federal military presence on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers.

The state capital of Nashville, located on the Cumberland River less than 100 miles from Fort Donelson, could not be defended by the Confederates and was reluctantly abandoned on February 17, 1862. Federal troops entered Nashville unopposed on February 25th and almost immediately set about improving the city's defenses. Wasting no time on the political front, President Lincoln selected Andrew Johnson, the only southerner to choose to remain in the U.S. Senate after secession, as military governor of Tennessee. The dream of recapturing Nashville was one that would hang continually and illusively in the minds of Confederate commanders for the remainder of the war (West, C.V. 2005:16).

Confederate troops retreated southward from Nashville and western Kentucky into West Tennessee, North Mississippi, and Alabama to reorganize. Soldiers commanded by Generals Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard established a strong defensive line near Corinth, Mississippi to hold the Mississippi Valley. Corinth was deemed the most logical point because of its strategic location near the Mississippi River and the junctions of the Memphis and Charleston (M&C) and the Mobile and Ohio Railroads. The M&C was particularly important as it provided a critical rail connection between the eastern and western parts of the South.

### **Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing)**

General Ulysses S. Grant and his Army of West Tennessee pursued the retreating Confederates down the Tennessee River, laying-up near Pittsburg Landing to await the arrival of General Don Carlos Buell and the Army of the Ohio. Upon Buell's arrival, their combined forces planned to attack and take control of the rail junction at Corinth. Desiring to prevent the consolidation of Union forces, Johnston's newly organized Army of Mississippi launched an offensive against Grant before Buell's arrival. Intending to surprise Grant, Johnston advanced upon Pittsburg Landing with 43,938 men.

Intending to cut Grant's army off from the Tennessee River Johnston's troops attacked in the early morning of April 6, 1862. Despite fierce fighting and early Confederate gains, Grant's defenses stiffened and then held firm until Buell's reinforcements arrived towards the end of the first day's fighting. The next morning, fresh Union troops swept forward in a counter offensive that pushed

the exhausted Confederates back to Shiloh Church. The Confederate army, now under the command of Beauregard (Johnston had been killed on the first day of battle), withdrew to their fortified stronghold at Corinth.

The two-day battle of Shiloh was the costliest in U.S. history up to that time causing 13,047 Union and 10,699 Confederate casualties (Eicher 2001:230; Cunningham 2007:421–24).

### **Siege of Corinth**

Federal forces continued to press the Confederates hard at Corinth. By May 25, a long Union line was entrenched on the high ground within a few thousand yards of the Confederate fortifications. From that range, Union guns continuously shelled the Confederate fieldworks with great accuracy. After several days of intense bombardment, Beauregard's defensive positions became untenable. Acknowledging that his men were outnumbered two to one, water inside the works was bad, and typhoid and dysentery had incapacitated thousands of his men, Beauregard abandoned the city. The last Confederate forces left the trenches north and east of the town on the night of May 29. Federal forces entered Corinth on the morning of May 30.

The fall of Corinth secured West and Middle Tennessee for the Federals, forced the evacuation of Fort Pillow, the loss of Memphis, and opened the Mississippi River to Union vessels southward to within steaming range of the Vicksburg guns. Two weeks after Beauregard's withdrawal from Corinth, he was replaced by General Braxton Bragg.

With Northern Mississippi generally under Federal control, Grant was ordered to hold his position along the Mississippi River, forming a rear guard for Buell and the Army of the Ohio as they advanced eastward toward Chattanooga. Grant would remain in place until October when he was ordered southwards towards Vicksburg.

In order to maintain a supply line, Buell's men slowly made repairs to the M&C Railroad as they advanced east toward Chattanooga. This proved to be very difficult work, but despite the constant harassment of Confederate cavalry, Federal troops reached Stevenson, Alabama by early July, 1862.

### **Battle of Perryville**

After the Confederate retreat from Corinth, Bragg spent the summer of 1862 reorganizing and refitting his troops near Tupelo, Mississippi. Ready to reengage Federal forces, he transported his army to Chattanooga with the intent of advancing into Middle Tennessee. Bypassing Buell in Alabama, this highly successful operation was completely unanticipated by the Federals and left Bragg with the option of attacking Nashville or advancing into Kentucky in hope of bringing that state into the Confederacy. Forced to counter Bragg's advance into Middle Tennessee, Buell canceled his offensive on Chattanooga. After first ordering all his forces to concentrate at Murfreesboro, he reconsidered the threat to Nashville and fell back to defend the capital.

With a clear path to Kentucky, Confederate General Kirby Smith and his 12,000 man Army of Kentucky advanced into the Bluegrass state from Knoxville with Bragg and his troops following two weeks later. By mid-September, Smith's soldiers had whipped a Federal force at Richmond, Kentucky and Bragg's troops had captured the Union garrison at Munfordville. The two Confederate armies then captured Lexington and Frankfort and threatened Louisville and Cincinnati. With Kentucky reeling, Buell left Nashville on September 7 to catch Bragg's army before it could reach Louisville. Bragg initially had the lead in the race to Louisville but inexplicably veered off toward the east, allowing Buell to enter the city first (Foote. 1986:661).

Even with half of the state under Confederate control, few Kentuckians showed much enthusiasm for the southern cause. Acknowledging the lack of new recruits and the growing number of well

entrenched Union troops in Louisville, Bragg was already contemplating a strategic withdrawal when Buell's force converged on his army near the small crossroads town of Perryville.

Union troops first skirmished with Confederate cavalry on October 7, 1862 at the Springfield Pike. When more Confederate infantry engaged in the battle, fighting spread to Peters Hill and lasted until dark. The battle resumed in earnest the next morning and Confederate troops made strategic gains throughout the day but fresh Union reinforcements helped stiffen the Federal defensive lines thus preventing a breakthrough. As more Union reinforcements arrived and took their place on the line, Bragg's left flank became dangerously exposed. With nothing left to gain, he disengaged from the battle under cover of darkness and withdrew Confederate forces into East Tennessee. Much to the consternation of Lincoln and the Union senior military command, Buell was content to have contained the immediate threat and did not hinder Bragg's evacuation of Kentucky. The Battle of Perryville cost 7,407 combined casualties (4,211 U.S. and 3,196 C.S.).

Bragg's invasion of Kentucky was a tactical victory of sorts for the Confederates as the action drew Federal troops out of northern Alabama and most of Middle Tennessee, a loss of territory that would take the Union a year to regain. However, in the end, the effort is considered by most historians to be a strategic defeat because it removed Confederate troops, and more importantly, Southern political influence from Kentucky for the remainder of the war.

### **Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro)**

Towards the end of October, 1862, The Army of the Ohio was renamed the Army of the Cumberland and Buell was replaced as Federal commander by General William Rosecrans. In December 1862, approximately 45,000 Federal troops under Rosecrans advanced towards Murfreesboro to engage General Bragg and his 38,000 man Army of Tennessee encamped near the city.

As Federal and Confederate forces faced off, both Generals devised similar strategies for attack. At dawn on December 31st, Bragg struck first by attacking the Union right flank. Caught unawares, the Union line was driven back to the Nashville Pike by 10:00 am, but held there. Reinforcements arrived from Rosecrans' left in the late afternoon to bolster the stand, and before fighting stopped, the Federals had established a new, strong line.

Both armies marked time on New Years Day but on January 2, Bragg took to the offense again hurling a division of his soldiers at Federal troops occupying a high bluff on the eastern bank of the Stones River. Against all expectations, the Confederates' first charge drove most of the Union soldiers off the bluff and into a full and disorganized retreat towards McFadden Ford. Advancing menacingly towards the main Union defensive works, the surging Confederates were stopped cold by a massed Federal artillery barrage. Their confidence bolstered by the decimation brought upon the enemy, Union troops reformed and launched a spontaneous counterattack that drove the reeling southerners back over the bluff to their original starting position.

With considerably fewer troops and his flank dangerously exposed, Bragg left the field on January 4 and 5, choosing to redeploy near Shelbyville and Tullahoma, Tennessee. Having lost a significant number of men himself, Rosecrans claimed victory but did not pursue. Instead, he consolidated his hard won gains in Murfreesboro spending the next five and a half months fortifying the town and erecting the massive earthworks and supply depot that would come to bear his name.

### **Tullahoma Campaign**

Bragg established a fortified defensive line along the Duck River from Shelbyville to Wartrace, Tennessee. On the Confederate right, infantry and artillery detachments guarded the Liberty, Hoover's, and Bell buckle gaps through the mountains. Rosecrans' superiors, fearing that taking the

pressure off Bragg might allow him to detach large numbers of men to help break the Siege of Vicksburg, urged Rosecrans to attack the Confederates at once.

Finally, after his meticulous preparations had severely tried the patience of both President Lincoln and the Federal military hierarchy, Rosecrans set out from Murfreesboro on June 24 with 65,000 men to face Bragg's 46,000. Knowing it was futile to attack the Confederate defensive line head on, Rosecrans devised a plan to move through the gaps on Bragg's flanks thus forcing him to abandon his works and fight in the open.

On June 23, 1863, feints were made on several Confederate positions while Union soldiers hurried to seize important gaps through which the army would pass. As more troops moved through the gaps, they repeatedly threatened to encircle Bragg's flanks forcing him to retreat ever further south. (Smith and Nance, 2003:54). Outmaneuvered by Rosecrans, Bragg fell back to what he felt were more defensible positions in Chattanooga.

### **Abandonment of Chattanooga**

On August 16, 1863, Rosecrans launched a campaign to take the city of Chattanooga. Col. John T. Wilder's brigade of the Union 4th Division, XIV Army Corps marched to a location northeast of Chattanooga where the Confederates could see them, reinforcing Bragg's expectations of a Union attack on the town from that direction. On August 21, Wilder began shelling the town from across the Tennessee River. The bombardment sank two steamers docked at the landing and created a great deal of consternation amongst the Confederates. The shelling was continued periodically over the next two weeks to keep Bragg's attention fixed to the northeast while the bulk of Rosecrans' army crossed the Tennessee River well west and south of Chattanooga. When Bragg learned on September 8 that an army much larger than his was in force southwest of the city, his outnumbered troops were forced to retreat from Chattanooga.

### **Battle of Chickamauga**

Union forces pursued the retreating Confederates southward from Chattanooga. Despite having lost Chattanooga without a fight, Bragg was determined to reoccupy the city. On September 17, his troops circled back north intending to meet and beat the Union XXI Army Corps near Chickamauga.

Bragg's cavalry and infantry made contact with Union cavalry and mounted infantry on the 18th and fighting began in earnest on the morning of the 19th. All through the day, Confederate troops hammered but could not break the Federal line. The Confederate assault resumed early on September 20 and towards late morning Rosecrans was informed by his officers that a dangerous gap had formed in his line. Moving troops to shore up the supposed gap, Rosecrans unintentionally created another and Confederate General Longstreet's men promptly charged into the void driving one-third of the Union army, including Rosecrans himself, from the field. General George H. Thomas took command of the battlefield from Rosecrans and began consolidating Federal forces on Horseshoe Ridge and Snodgrass Hill. Although the Confederates launched determined assaults on Thomas' defensive works, his men held the position long enough for the remaining Federal troops to withdraw back to the city of Chattanooga.

Forcing the Federals back into Chattanooga allowed the Confederates to reoccupy and strengthen their hold on the high ground surrounding the city. Considered a Confederate victory, the Battle of Chickamauga was a costly one claiming an estimated 34,624 casualties (16,170 U.S., 18,454 C.S.).

### **Battle of Chattanooga**

Beginning in the last days of September through October 1863, Bragg's army laid siege to the Union army from the high ground surrounding the city. Cut off from his supplies and unable to break the

siege, Rosecrans was relieved of his command of the Army of the Cumberland. On October 17, Grant, having received command of the Western armies after his victory at Vicksburg, moved to reinforce Chattanooga. He replaced Rosecrans with General Thomas and a new supply line was soon established. General Sherman, now in command of the Army of the Tennessee, arrived in Chattanooga with his four divisions in mid-November, and the Federals began offensive operations.

On November 23-24, Union forces struck out and captured Orchard Knob and Lookout Mountain. On November 25, they assaulted and carried the seemingly impregnable Confederate position on Missionary Ridge, badly routing the Confederates. The victory at Chattanooga cost Grant 753 killed, 4,722 wounded, and 349 missing. Bragg's casualties were listed as 361 killed, 2,160 wounded, and 4,146 captured and missing.

The Battle of Chattanooga opened the door for the invasion of the Deep South and the capture of Atlanta in 1864. In addition, the battle decimated the Army of Tennessee and forced Confederate President Jefferson Davis to relieve Bragg and replace him with General Joseph E. Johnston. Following the battle, the Confederates retreated south to Dalton, Georgia. Union General Joseph Hooker was dispatched to pursue the broken army, but was soundly beaten by Confederate General Patrick Cleburne at the Battle of Ringgold Gap on November 27, 1863.

The Battle of Chattanooga was the last time Grant fought in the West. Leaving Sherman in charge of the Western theater, he moved East to deal with Confederate General Robert E. Lee the following spring.

### **Siege of Atlanta**

Throughout the first half of 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee had been pushed progressively southward from Chattanooga, eventually finding itself in Atlanta under siege.

On July 17, 1864, approximately mid-way through the siege, the overly cautious Confederate General Johnston was replaced as commander of the Army of Tennessee by General John Bell Hood. Though more aggressive than his predecessor, Hood was ultimately unable to hold Atlanta and abandoned the city on September 3. The siege of Atlanta caused approximately 12,140 casualties (3,641 U.S.; 8,499 C.S.).

### **Hood's Tennessee Campaign**

Though beaten at Atlanta, the Confederate Army of Tennessee remained a potent fighting force with 38,000 soldiers supported by 108 pieces of artillery. Acknowledging his inability to fight a large scale engagement immediately after Atlanta, Hood was initially content to harass Sherman's lines of supply and communication which stretched back through Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky to the Ohio River.

Always one to take the fight to the enemy, Hood believed that if his troops could retake Nashville, he would be in position to cut major Union supply and communication lines, recruit new troops, and perhaps draw Sherman out of Georgia. Revitalizing his army in Nashville, Hood further believed he could then take them east through Appalachia to join Robert E. Lee in Virginia. To that end, the Army of Tennessee marched out of Florence, Alabama on November 20, 1864 heading north toward Nashville.

Sherman initially pursued Hood, but turned back towards Atlanta upon receiving permission to begin his "March to the Sea" offensive. Acknowledging the potential danger of leaving Hood's army unchecked in his rear, Sherman positioned a Union force composed of about 30,000 men under General Thomas at Nashville, a 22,000 man contingent commanded by General John Schofield at Pulaski (TN), and large garrisons in Florence (AL), Athens (AL), Chattanooga, and Murfreesboro.

Hood quickly realized that his best chance for victory was to get between Thomas' and Schofield's forces and destroy them individually (Groom 1995:111-135). Hood's army headed toward Columbia, Tennessee, hoping to get behind Schofield there. Schofield, having been informed of Hood's plans, stayed ahead of them and was entrenched at Columbia when the Army of Tennessee arrived.

### **Battle of Columbia**

The Federals built two lines of earthworks south of Columbia. After skirmishing with Union cavalry on November 24 and 25, Hood advanced his infantry toward the city on the following day but did not assault.

Learning that Hood was closing on the city, Schofield made the decision to leave two divisions to hold the town and evacuated the remainder of his forces to the north. His plan called for a complete evacuation on the evening of November 26. Unfortunately, heavy rains had swollen the Duck River stalling the strategic retreat until the river became passable.

Beaten to Columbia, Hood devised an alternative plan to cut the retreating Schofield off from Nashville by getting behind him at Spring Hill. Sending most of the army's artillery to demonstrate outside of Columbia, two corps of Bragg's army were sent to Davis Ford, some five miles eastward on the Duck River to cut off Schofield's retreat. Schofield correctly interpreted Hood's moves, but the foul weather continued to delay him until the early morning hours of November 28 where upon the remainder of his troops crossed over to the north bank and set out for Spring Hill forthwith.

### **Battle of Spring Hill**

The first Union troops arrived in Spring Hill just ahead of the Confederates. Darkness was falling as the two armies, gradually growing in number, struggled for control of the town's major roads and intersections.

Reports from the field led Hood to believe that Confederate troops held the Columbia Pike north of the city. With Schofield's only line of retreat blocked, Hood decided to rest his troops and prepare for a morning assault on the trapped Union force. However, a series of Confederate miscommunications about tactical objectives and troop locations left the Columbia Pike open and unsecured. Commanding from the saddle, Schofield adeptly guided his army quietly past the Confederate positions and up Columbia Pike during the night toward Franklin. While brief skirmishing did occur as each side probed the others defenses, there was surprisingly little confrontation at Spring Hill. Indeed, the Spring Hill "engagement" has been described by the ABPP as one of the most controversial non-fighting events of the entire war.

Hood learned of the Union Army's night time escape the next morning. Furious about having lost a prime opportunity to defeat them, he openly blamed his officers for the mistake. Filled with an uncontrollable determination to make Schofield fight before his troops could reach the safety of Nashville, Hood quickly ordered his army towards Franklin in hot pursuit of the escaping Federals (Groom 1995:136-155; Sword 1992:110-155).

### **Battle of Franklin**

The lead elements of the Union Army entered Franklin at dawn on November 30 at about the same time that its rear guard was leaving Spring Hill. General George Wagner's Division made up the rear guard with Colonel Emerson Opdycke's Brigade fighting a delaying action against pursuing Confederate troops.

Schofield had not intended to fight at Franklin, but upon his arrival found that the railroad bridges over the Harpeth River were damaged thus preventing immediate evacuation of his supply wagons.

Having arrived more than 8 hours before the Confederates, the Federals spent the day repairing the bridges and entrenching around the city to discourage an attack.

Hood's army arrived at Winstead Hill on the south of Franklin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Determined to make an attack, Hood deployed them for a frontal assault despite some strong reservations expressed by his commanding officers. Hood received word from General Benjamin F. Cheatham and General A.P. Stewart that the troops were formed for the assault shortly before 4:00 p.m. Upon his order, 20,000 Confederate soldiers marched forward toward the Union works (See Figure 3 in Chapter 2).

Soon after their arrival from Spring Hill, Wagner's brigade occupied a skirmishing position about one-half mile in front of the main Federal line. The Confederate troops advanced in waves. Due to confused orders, the men in Wagner's brigade stayed in their forward position until the Confederates were upon them. Quickly outflanked and overrun, Wagner's men turned and ran toward the main defensive line. A race ensued as both blue and gray clad soldiers ran headlong toward the main Union entrenchments. There was very little firing as the crowd of retreating Federal and advancing Confederate troops neared the main works because Union defenders were afraid of harming their own men. Both armies swarmed into the works, with Confederate divisions under Cleburne and Brown hitting first. It looked as if the Union line would break from the force of the initial attack as many Federal defenders turned and bolted for the rear.

Just when the tide of battle seemed like it was turning in favor of the Confederates, Colonel Emerson Opdycke's troops charged forward from their position behind the Carter House. (Sword 1992:186-202; McDonough and Connelly 1983:104-118). Earlier in the day, Opdycke's brigade was among the last organized units of Union soldiers to come down from the Winstead Hills into the valley of Franklin. Opdycke, a capable and experienced military leader, knew that Wagner's exposed position was a suicidal one that could not be defended. Disobeying Wagner's orders to man the forward position, he instead marched his men behind the main Union line and rested them some 200 yards behind the Carter House. When the time came, his men saved the Union army by charging into the melee and driving the Confederates outside the defensive works in furious hand-to-hand combat.

With the defensive works again between them, the opposing forces fired at each other point blank in a savage duel. The Confederates reformed for more than a dozen charges, adding to the already terrible carnage in front of the Carter House. The fighting went on even as darkness engulfed the battlefield (Sword 1992:202-231; McDonough and Connelly 1983:118-151).

The moon rose over the battlefield as the fighting faded away, illuminating thousands of dead and dying strewn about the field. Meeting with his officers at midnight, Hood announced that the attack would be renewed in the morning, but it was soon discovered that the Federals had already abandoned the works and were quickly moving toward Nashville (Groom 1995:205; Sword 1992:245-248).

Hood's army sustained nearly 7,000 casualties during the five-hour assault on Schofield's position. Included in the casualty list were five Confederate generals killed, seven wounded, one mortally, and one captured. About half of the regimental commanders engaged on the Confederate side were killed.

When the Federals reoccupied Franklin after the Battle of Nashville, they reported 1,750 graves and 3,800 wounded men in the many hospitals in town. Added to the 702 prisoners taken during the battle, their estimate of casualties equaled 6,252. This estimate does not include the slightly wounded or the dead or seriously wounded that were taken elsewhere. The Federal casualties during the Battle of Franklin totaled 2,326 killed, wounded and captured.

## Battle of Nashville

Having been soundly defeated at Franklin, Hood considered his options: risk another frontal assault on the Union fortifications at Nashville, retreat southward to take up a defensive position somewhere else, or try to cross the Cumberland and move into Kentucky. He chose to attack Nashville and marched his battered army northward. Upon reaching the outskirts of the city, the Confederates took up position on a line of hills parallel to those of the Union defensive line and began erecting fieldworks. Before Hood had finished digging in, an ice storm struck on December 8, 1864 freezing the ground and delaying work on the front line defenses until warmer temperatures thawed the ground.

Union General Thomas had been making preparations to attack and destroy Hood's army since their arrival outside the city on December 1st. Including his reserves at Nashville and the units on outpost duty at Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Johnsonville, and other areas, Thomas commanded over 71,000 men. For all this strength, and despite pleas and threats from Henry W. Halleck, chief of staff of the Union Army and General Grant, then general-in-chief of the Union Army to attack at once, Thomas delayed until all the elements of his battle plan were in order.

On December 15, 1864 Thomas moved out from behind the Nashville defenses to strike at both of Hood's flanks. Ordered to attack the Confederate right flank before daylight, General James B. Steedman's mission was to draw strength away from the left where Thomas had massed the bulk of his force for a large-scale assault. Delayed by fog in the early morning, Steedman eventually moved out, but was repulsed by Cheatham's Corps.

Though behind schedule, the grand assault on the Confederate left went on as planned. Thomas wheeled his army around to slam into Hood's left flank along the Hillsboro Pike. This side of the line was partially protected by five artillery positions called Redoubts 1 through 5. Redoubt 5 was the first to fall, attacked by Wilson's dismounted cavalry, armed with repeating rifles. The others fell one by one, though they held out longer than anyone had expected. With thousands of Union soldiers swarming the left, Hood sought to shore that line up by drawing Cheatham's Corps back from the right. Darkness fell as the Confederates retreated from their original lines.

Left with a much smaller battle line, Hood was confident that his battered troops could still snatch victory from defeat. He established a main line of resistance along the base of a ridge about two miles south of his former defensive works and by throwing up new works and fortifying Shy's and Overton's hills he was able to cover two of the major roadways leading from Nashville – Franklin Pike and Granny White Pike (Middle Franklin Turnpike) on their flanks. As dawn approached, Hood sent his wagons southward as far as Franklin, and informed his corps commanders of the routes they should take in case of disaster. Then he waited for the Union army to move.

Thomas assumed that Hood would retreat, but when warned by Schofield of his tendency to fight and possibly counterattack, Thomas reinforced his flanks and ordered a renewal of the attack in the morning (Groom 1995:239-252; Sword 1992:331-344; Horn 1978:71-107). Still in some disarray from the previous day of fighting, it took Federal troops until noon to set up for the assault. Lee's position on the right was attacked furiously for three hours, with each attack being bloodily repulsed. Meanwhile, the left was pressed hard as on the previous day and Wilson's cavalry cut the Granny White Pike to the south, removing Cheatham's designated line of retreat.

As a cold rain fell on the troops, three Union divisions simultaneously converged on the Confederate left flank. When Union soldiers poured over the works on Shy's Hill, the Confederate defense folded sending troops fleeing in disorder and panic. The collapse spread down the line as Stewart's men saw the right give way and began to retreat also. Lee saw the situation and began to rally troops as they fled. He formed two divisions along the Franklin Pike, keeping the road open to



allow what remained of Hood's army to withdraw into the darkness and rain. The poor weather conditions slowed the Federal pursuit thus granting the remnants of Hood's army time to escape. As Confederate cavalry fended off their Union counterparts, Lee withdrew the rear guard to Brentwood (Horn 1978:108-153; Sword 1992:347-380; Groom 1995:253-265).

### **Confederate Retreat from Nashville**

In two days of fighting at Nashville, Hood's army suffered another 6,000 casualties, most of these captured, and lost 53 pieces of artillery. Unable to rally his troops, Hood's ragged army was demoralized and routed. The survivors hurried southward in the cold December rain and mud. Chalmers reorganized enough of his cavalry to help defend the rear, slowing the Federal pursuit by destroying every bridge or other means of conveyance over rain swollen creeks and rivers behind them.

On December 18, General Nathan Bedford Forrest rejoined the retreating army and assumed command of the rear guard after Lee was wounded defending Winstead Hill in Franklin. After crossing the Duck River near Columbia on the 21st, the Federals engaged the Confederate rear guard in a running battle to the Tennessee River. The main body of Confederate troops finished crossing on the 27th, and Forrest followed the next day. The Federal pursuit halted, much to the chagrin of Lincoln and Grant, but, in fact, there was little left of the Army of Tennessee to follow.

Thomas later reported that during the course of Hood's campaign, the Union army had captured 13,189 prisoners and 72 pieces of artillery. After Nashville, Hood had only about 15,000 men left, and only half of these were armed. Approximately 13,000 small arms were lost, and precious few wagons remained. Moreover, there was little food for the army and many of the soldiers had no winter clothing (Wills 1992:289-293; Groom 1995:266-275).

Hood continued the retreat to Tupelo, Mississippi and resigned his command in early January 1865. Placed under the command of General Richard Taylor, most of the remaining Confederate troops were sent east to reinforce the Carolinas. A few stayed on with Taylor and were parceled out among the last remaining Confederate controlled areas in Mississippi and Alabama. Federal troops that had been pursuing the remnants of Hood's army went into winter quarters in northern Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi or were sent eastward to North and South Carolina (Van Horne 1875:247, 337).

### **Collapse of the Confederacy**

On April 1, 1865, Union General Philip Sheridan's cavalry turned General Robert E. Lee's flank at the Battle of Five Forks. The next day Grant's army achieved a decisive breakthrough, effectively ending the Siege of Petersburg.

General Lee, abandoning Petersburg and Richmond, headed west to Appomattox Station where a supply train awaited him. From there he hoped to move south to join with General Joseph E. Johnston's army in North Carolina. On April 8, 1865, Union cavalry under General George Armstrong Custer captured and burned Lee's supply train at the Battle of Appomattox Station. With both the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James converging on Appomattox, General Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865.

As news spread of Lee's surrender, other Confederate commanders realized that the Confederacy was all but dead and laid down their own arms. Joseph E. Johnston's army in North Carolina, with which Lee had hoped to combine forces, surrendered to Sherman on April 26. General Kirby Smith surrendered the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department in May.

President Jefferson Davis met with his Confederate Cabinet for the last time on May 5, 1865 in Washington, Georgia, and the Confederate Government was officially dissolved. He was captured

by Federal troops at Irwinville, Georgia on May 10, 1865. General Stand Watie surrendered the last sizable organized Confederate force on June 23, 1865.



## APPENDIX 4

### Expanded Analysis of Interpretation and Education Potential

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Theme sub-topics link specific interpretation programs at individual parks to the broader categories and theme topics. Theme sub-topics are particularly useful in comparing the interpretive potential of specific NPS units with other cultural resource entities. Although no NPS presence is expected at Battle of Franklin sites, this information may be useful to current site managers in developing interpretation and education programs for the visiting public.

The CWSAC report recognized in 1993 that all Civil War battlefields possess important educational and interpretive dimensions. When determining significance, the Commission considered a battlefield's military, economic, and social significance and exceptional interpretive potential in addition to the relative influence each battle had on the outcome of its operation, campaign, or on the war.

Having preceded implementation of the new NPS thematic framework, the Commission's report did not identify thematic categories, topics or sub-topics per se. Rather, the analysis makes note of important "issues and topics" that the Commission believed enhanced the significance of particular battlefields. Among the most frequently identified "issues and topics" for principle battlefields were:

- Loss of a significant military figure
- Exceptional casualties
- Important lessons in strategy or tactics
- Unusual importance of the battle in the public mind
- Effect on national politics or strategy
- Significant involvement of minority troops
- High archeological potential.

### Potential Battle of Franklin Interpretation Sub-topics

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The importance of interpretation was acknowledged in the 2004 Franklin Battlefield Preservation Plan, a professionally prepared document that, among other accomplishments, outlines a strategy to preserve and enhance portions of the battlefield that can be salvaged or reclaimed. The preservation plan identified the following eight interpretive themes as central to achieving its educational goals. The themes recommended in the preservation plan for Franklin and the Commission's theme sub-topics fit within the NPS thematic framework as theme sub-topics. All of these themes are interpreted directly or similarly at units of NPS sites.

- Hood's Recklessness
- Effectiveness of the Union Army
- The Level of Carnage
- The Loss of Confederate Generals
- Western Theater: Beginning of the End
- Community as Hospital
- Occupied Franklin
- Reconstruction

## Comparison of Potential for Interpretation

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There are strong similarities between the Commission's most frequently identified "issues and topics" and the key interpretive themes identified in the 2004 Franklin Battlefield Preservation Plan. Likewise, the interpretive themes recommended in both studies seem to fit comfortably within the NPS thematic framework as theme sub-topics. Using these similarities as a spring board, the following discussion compares the eight themes identified in the Franklin Preservation Plan to interpretive theme sub-topics at selected NPS Civil War battlefield parks.

### Hood's Recklessness

Both Federal and Confederate commanders employed massed frontal assaults as a military tactic during the Civil War. In most instances, the objective of the assault was not achieved and the resulting casualty rates were abhorrent. The high casualty rates that accrued from the use of frontal assaults during the Civil War gave military strategists throughout the world much reason to question the strategy's effectiveness. It was not until World War I, however, when frontal assaults were made by thousands of men towards trenches defended by machine gun emplacements, artillery and barbed wire that the message was finally and brutally driven home.

By late-1864, it was becoming clear to military leaders that the accuracy of modern weapons made massed frontal assaults against entrenched defenders very dangerous. Hood's own command staff, seasoned by several years of war, knew the high risks associated with a frontal assault at Franklin and vociferously urged against such an undertaking. None the less, Hood pressed his men forward in apparent disregard of their counsel. While there are differing opinions among contemporary historians about why Hood felt compelled to attack at Franklin, there is little question that in doing so, he risked everything.

At least three other units of the NPS interpret the failure of the frontal assault as a military tactic during the Civil War:

- Gettysburg National Military Park- Confederate General Robert E. Lee ordered a frontal assault against Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's Union positions on Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. The order came after Confederate attacks on both Union flanks had failed the day before. The infantry assault was preceded by a massive, but largely ineffective, artillery bombardment. Like the Battle of Franklin, some Confederate soldiers were able to breach the outer defensive works but could not maintain their hold and were bloodily repulsed. The failed frontal assault, known as Pickett's Charge, ended the three-day battle.
- Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park- On December 13, 1862 the Union Army led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside assailed Prospect Hill and Marye's Heights during the first battle of Fredericksburg. Burnside launched a series of frontal assaults throwing a total of nine divisions (nearly 30,000 men) against a well entrenched Confederate force. Like Franklin, the main assault struck established defenses constructed on the south of the city. Misunderstandings and bungled leadership limited the attacking force to two small divisions led by Major General George G. Meade and Major General John Gibbon. Meade's troops broke through an unguarded gap in the Confederate lines, but General Stonewall Jackson's men expelled the unsupported Federals, inflicting heavy losses. Burnside launched a second attack against the Confederate left on Marye's Heights. Wave after wave of Federal attackers were mown down by Confederate troops firing from an unassailable position in a sunken road protected by a stone wall. Over the course of the afternoon, no fewer than fourteen successive Federal brigades charged the wall of Confederate fire. Not a single Federal soldier reached Longstreet's line. On December 15, Burnside ordered his beaten

army back across the Rappahannock. The Union had lost 13,000 soldiers in a battle in which the dreadful carnage was matched only by its futility. Federal morale plummeted, and Burnside was swiftly relieved of his command.

- Vicksburg - Despite being outnumbered two to one, Confederate General John Pemberton held an advantage of terrain and fortification that made his Vicksburg defenses nearly impregnable. The 6.5 mile defensive line around the city included gun pits, forts, trenches, redoubts, and lunettes built at varying elevations to force Federal attackers to ascend under fire. On May 19 and May 23, 1863 General Grant ordered repeated frontal assaults on the entrenched Confederate positions. These frontal assaults did little to weaken the Confederate defenses despite a sustained artillery assault from both land and naval guns. The casualties resulting from the frontal assaults forced Grant to begin a traditional siege of the city. The siege efforts lasted through the month of June, and Confederate forces did not surrender until July 4, 1863. The fall of Vicksburg gave the Union Army full control of the Mississippi River.

### **Effectiveness of the Union Army**

The effectiveness of the Union Army was enhanced by several inherent advantages it held over the Confederates. The following discussion describes three of the most significant advantages and how they are interpreted at selected NPS Civil War parks:

- More soldiers
- Better logistics
- Sustainable military strategy and leadership

#### More soldiers

In 1861, the Union population was 22 million and the South 9 million. The Southern population included more than 3.5 million slaves and about 5.5 million whites, thus leaving the South's white population outnumbered by a ratio of more than four to one compared to the North. The disparity grew as more and more southern territory was captured and controlled by Union forces as the war progressed.

The Emancipation Proclamation enabled African-Americans, both free blacks and escaped slaves, to join the Union Army. About 190,000 volunteered, further enhancing the Union's numerical advantage over the Confederates, who did not dare recruit slaves for fear of fundamentally undermining the legitimacy of that institution. European immigrants joined the Union Army in large numbers, including 177,000 born in Germany and 144,000 born in Ireland.

The numeric advantage of Union forces influenced the outcome of many battles during the Civil War. A few of the NPS Units that interpret this sub-theme are:

- Vicksburg National Military Park - a vast superiority in the number of troops allowed the Federals to lay siege to the city and its defenses for a sustained period of time.
- Stones River National Battlefield - After two days of hard fighting both the Union and Confederate Armies were all but fought out. Union forces, having kept firm control of the rail link, were receiving fresh troops and supplies from Nashville. His position weakening by the hour, Confederate General Bragg had no choice but to retreat to a more defensible position.
- Shiloh National Military Park - the timely arrival of General Buell's army and the addition of one of Grant's reserve divisions fed 22,500 fresh Federal troops into the Union line at a critical time thus shifting the battle's momentum toward the Union forces.

#### Better logistics

The more industrialized economy of the North vastly out produced the Southern economy not only in quantity of arms, munitions and supplies, but also in finances and transportation. The excellent

railroad links already established between Union cities allowed for the quick and cheap movement of troops and supplies early in the war. Transportation was much slower and more difficult in the rural South which could not easily augment its much smaller rail system, repair damage, or even perform routine maintenance by war's end.

The Union controlled over 80% of the shipyards, steamships, and river boats of the country's pre-secession Navy and augmented these by a massive shipbuilding program. Water-borne trade was the life blood of the largest southern cities and the Union used its numerical superiority in vessels to tightly control the river systems and blockade the entire southern coastline.

Better access to supplies influenced the outcome of many battles during the Civil War and is a common interpretive sub-theme at Civil War National Park Units. Among those with close interpretive ties to the Battle of Franklin are:

- Gettysburg National Military Park- The Union victory at Gettysburg was aided by their timely use of rail transport to bring fresh troops and supplies to the battle site.
- Stones River National Battlefield - One of the most significant outcomes of the Battle of Stones River was the construction of Fortress Rosecrans, a critical forward supply base for the Federals during their campaigns to seize Chattanooga and Atlanta.
- Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Battlefield - After the battle of Chickamauga, the Confederates began a siege of Union occupied Chattanooga. Rosecrans wired Washington that without reinforcements he would be unable to hold it for very long. In a remarkable logistics movement, 20,000 fresh troops with all of their equipment were transferred by rail and river to Chattanooga in eleven days to bolster the defenses there. The logistical achievement is thought by some to represent the longest and fastest movement of troops during the war.

#### Military strategy and leadership

At the start of the Civil War, the military strategy and leadership of both the Union and Confederate Armies was, perhaps, most influenced by the professional military education that had been received by its officers at the United States Military Academy at West Point and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Although stumbling badly at the beginning of the war, Union military leaders learned from their poor performances on the battlefield and eventually took a more pragmatic tactical approach to battlefield conditions. Most senior Confederate commanders, however, remained stubbornly wedded to the linear tactics they had learned at West Point and which had bore some success in the early battles of the war.

There is little question that the orderly retreat of Union troops from Columbia, through Spring Hill and Franklin, to Nashville was a well executed maneuver requiring fast thinking and nimble troop coordination. While several original flanking movements were attempted by the Confederates in pursuit of Schofield, it was Hood's reluctance to adjust to the tactical circumstances at Franklin that finally doomed the Army of Tennessee to spectacular failure.

The effectiveness of Union military strategy and leadership and is a common interpretive sub-theme at several National Park Units. Among those with close interpretive ties to the Battle of Franklin are:

- Petersburg National Battlefield- Union control of Petersburg would make it impossible for the Confederates to defend Richmond. After a costly initial assault on the city's defenses, Union troops commanded by Grant began encircling the city with trenches. Over 30 miles of trenches were constructed and a sophisticated supply and communication network developed behind them. As the loop of trenches closed around Petersburg, Richmond

became less defensible and the Confederates were forced to abandon both cities. Many of the technological advancements developed by Union commanders during the siege of Petersburg foreshadowed trench warfare in World War I and earned it a prominent position in military history.

- Fort Henry, Fort Donelson National Battlefield and Vicksburg National Military Park- Combined naval and infantry operations played key roles in the important Union victories at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and Vicksburg and demonstrated the value of inland sea power during the Civil War. Combined naval and infantry assaults successfully opened the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Mississippi Rivers allowing Federal forces to range south across Tennessee, the edge of Mississippi and into northern Alabama. Most disastrously for the South, command of the major rivers in the western theater by Federal gunboats severely restricted mobility for military operations.

## The Level of Carnage

Nearly 7,000 Confederates were killed or wounded at the Battle of Franklin. By every measurement, Confederate casualties were substantial and had a direct causal relationship to the ultimate demise of the Army of Tennessee at the Battle of Nashville. More than 1,750 Confederate men were killed outright or died of mortal wounds, 3,800 seriously wounded and 702 captured (not including cavalry casualties) at the Battle of Franklin. Over 50% of all Confederate Generals at the battle became casualties. Over 60 Confederate field grade officers were lost. Some infantry regiments lost 64 % of their strength at Franklin. There were more Confederate men killed on the battlefield during the 5- hour battle than in the 2-day Battle of Shiloh or the 3-day Battle of Stones River.

While the number of men killed on the battlefield at Franklin is staggering, several Civil War battles caused more total casualties (the total men killed and mortally wounded, wounded, gone missing, or taken prisoner). The ten most costly Civil War Battles are shown in Figure 8. It is interesting to note that each of the top ten casualty causing Civil War battles is already represented by a unit of the national park system.

The human cost of war is a recurring interpretive theme at national park system units associated with the Civil War, including those shown in Figure 8.

Battle	U.S. Casualties	C.S. Casualties	Total	Length of Battle	NPS Unit
1. Gettysburg	23,049	28,063	51, 112	3 days	Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP)
2. Chickamauga	16,170	18,454	34,624	2 days	Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP
3. Spotsylvania	18,000	12,000	30,000	13 days	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP
4. The Wilderness	18,400	11,400	29,800	3 days	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP
5. Chancellorsville	14,000	10,000	24,000	7 days	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP
6. Shiloh	13,047	10,699	23,746	2 days	Shiloh NMP
7. Stone's River	13,249	10,266	23,515	3 days	Stones River National Battlefield
8. Antietam	12,410	13,724	23,100	3 days	Antietam National Battlefield
9. Second Manassas	13,830	8,350	22,180	3 days	Manassas National Battlefield Park
10. Fort Donelson	2,331	15,067	17,398	6 days	Fort Donelson National Battlefield
Battle of Franklin	2,500	7,000	9,500	1 day	

Figure 8. Comparison of Civil War Battle Casualties

## The Loss of Confederate Generals

The number of Confederate Generals killed in action at Franklin is quite remarkable considering the brief duration of fighting. Four of the killed generals are believed to have been laid out on the back porch of Carnton Plantation so that their men could pay final respects before moving on to fight at Nashville.



The five Confederate Generals killed at Franklin are:

- Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne
- Brig. Gen. John Adams
- Brig. Gen. States Rights Gist
- Brig. Gen. Hiram B. Granbury
- Brig. Gen. Otho Strahl

Battle	Generals Killed		
	U.S.	C.S.	Total
1. Gettysburg	7	5	12
2. Antietam	3	3	6
3. The Wilderness	2	3	5
4. Franklin	0	5	5
5. Chancellorsville	3	1	4
6. Chickamauga	1	3	4
7. Spotsylvania	2	2	4
8. Shiloh	1	2	3
9. Stones River	0	2	2
10. Fort Donelson	0	0	0
11. Second Manassas	0	0	0

Figure 9. Comparison of General Officers Killed at Civil War Battles

It is true that some Civil War historians correctly point to records such as William Fox, Lt. Col., U.S.V.'s 1898 Regimental Losses in The American Civil War: 1861-1865 to suggest that the loss of Confederate Generals at Gettysburg is equal to the number lost at Franklin. While technically accurate, some distinction is warranted as three of the five Confederate Generals who perished at Gettysburg were mortally wounded and died several weeks after the battle.

Figure 9 compares the number of Union and Confederate generals killed or mortally wounded during the ten costliest Civil War battles. It is interesting to note that in addition to the 5 Confederate Generals killed or mortally wounded at Gettysburg, 7 Union Generals were also killed or mortally wounded at the battle. No Union Generals were killed at the Battle of Franklin.

### Western Theater: Beginning of the End

Identifying specific events that mark a unique or important historical change of course during the Civil War is often a matter of subjective judgment. Of the events leading to the end of Southern armed resistance in the Western Theater, few historians would disagree that the blow dealt to Hood's army at Franklin was a primary catalyst.

Turning points are a popular interpretive sub-theme at National Park Units associated with the Civil War. Among those with close interpretive ties to the Battle of Franklin are:

- Stones River National Battlefield - The Confederate Army had been making significant military and political gains in the eastern theater. Having lost at Fredericksburg, Abraham Lincoln and the Union Army were in sore need of a victory to bolster troop morale and rally popular support of the newly signed Emancipation Proclamation. The slim margin of victory at Stones River was just enough to renew public confidence in both the president and the military. The increased logistical capabilities garnered from the victory helped shift the military momentum towards the Union in Middle Tennessee and set the stage for victories in Chattanooga and Atlanta.
- Gettysburg National Battlefield - The Union victory at Gettysburg in July, 1863 defended the home territory against Lee's second attempt to invade and essentially dashed the Confederate Army's hopes for independence. After failing to break through the Union lines Lee's advance into Pennsylvania is seen by many historians as the "high water mark" of the Confederacy. Lee's defeat at Gettysburg, is often reasoned to be the most significant military turning point in the Civil War.
- Vicksburg National Military Park - The Confederate surrender at Vicksburg is considered another major turning point of the Civil War, especially when interpreted in the context of Lee's defeat at Gettysburg the previous day. The loss of Vicksburg effectively gave control of the Mississippi River to the Union and severed communication between Richmond and Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi Department for the remainder of the war.

## **Community as Hospital**

The interpretation of battlefield medical care during the Civil War typically focuses on two main categories:

- the poor state of medical technology at the time
- the locations of local field hospitals.

### State of Medical Technology

During the period just before the Civil War, a physician received minimal training. Nearly all doctors served as apprentices in lieu of formal education. Even those who had attended one of the few medical schools were poorly trained. In Europe, four-year medical schools were common, laboratory training was widespread, and a greater understanding of disease and infection existed. The average medical student in the United States, on the other hand, trained for two years or less, received practically no clinical experience, and was given virtually no laboratory instruction. Harvard University, for instance, did not own a single stethoscope or microscope until after the war.

Little was known about what caused disease, how to stop it from spreading, or how to cure it. Surgical techniques ranged from the barbaric to the barely competent. A Civil War soldier's chances of not surviving the war was about one in four. Men injured in battle were cared for by a woefully under qualified, understaffed, and under supplied medical corps.

When the war began, the Federal army had a total of about 98 medical officers, the Confederacy just 24. By 1865, some 13,000 Union doctors had served in the field and in the hospitals; in the Confederacy, about 4,000 medical officers and an unknown number of volunteers treated war casualties. In both the North and South, these men were assisted by thousands of women who donated their time and energy to help the wounded. It is estimated that more than 4,000 women served as nurses in Union hospitals; Confederate women contributed similar effort as well.

Throughout the war, Confederate and Union doctors struggled to improve the level of medical care given to their men. In many ways, their efforts assisted in the birth of modern medicine in the United States. More complete records on medical and surgical activities were kept during the war than ever before, doctors became more adept at surgery and at the use of anesthesia, and perhaps most importantly, a greater understanding of the relationship between cleanliness, diet, and disease was gained not only by the medical establishment but by the public at large. Another important advance took place in the field of nursing, where respect for the role of women in medicine rose considerably among both doctors and patients.

In Franklin, the Carnton Plantation and the Carter House staffs provide very good interpretive programs describing the primitive state of medical technology during the Civil War. Similarly, several National Park Units associated with the Civil War also interpret this important and interesting topic:

- Fort Donelson National Battlefield
- Stones River National Battlefield
- Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

#### Locations of Field Hospitals

Private residences and other buildings were pressed into service as field hospitals in almost every community near a Civil War battlefield. After the battle, hundreds of wounded soldiers were left behind in Franklin's field hospitals. Some of the Confederate wounded were picked up as the Army of Tennessee retreated south after their rout at the Battle of Nashville. Those too badly injured were left to be cared for by Union forces. After re-occupation of the city by Federal forces, injured soldiers healthy enough to travel were sent by rail to Union hospitals in Nashville. Those too injured to move remained to recuperate in Franklin.

There is great potential in Franklin to further interpret the large number of structures that were pressed into service as field hospitals. Many of the so used structures are still extant, privately owned, and listed on the national register of historic places for their state or local significance.

NPS Units associated with Civil War battles often work with local landowners to protect, recognize, and interpret former battlefield hospitals. Gettysburg, Murfreesboro, and Richmond are a few locations where the Service enjoys successful partnerships with private landowners to enhance visitor understanding of the care injured soldiers received during the Civil War.

#### **Occupied Franklin**

Control of Franklin changed hands multiple times throughout the war. With most of the local community firmly supporting Southern independence, Federal occupation could be harsh. Programs with interpretive themes about military occupation are often well received by heritage tourists or local residents.

Successful partnerships between NPS Civil War battlefield parks and landowners of historic properties in neighboring communities are relatively common. Good examples of such partnerships exist at:

- Fort Donelson National Battlefield - The town of Dover was occupied by a Federal garrison for the duration of the Civil War. In 1862 and again in 1863, Confederate cavalry made unsuccessful attempts to drive Federal troops from the area. The second attempt destroyed all but four of Dover's buildings.
- Stones River National Battlefield - Murfreesboro became a hub of Union activity after the battle. Construction of Fortress Rosecrans left a considerable Union presence after the battle. This was particularly galling to some of the wealthiest local land owners whom were among

the most outspoken supporters of Secession. A substantial number of property owners fled the area after the battle to avoid certain persecution by their new Union minders. Federal occupation of the city continued well after the war ended. The last federal troops left Murfreesboro in 1866.

- Vicksburg National Battlefield - The citizens of Vicksburg suffered living in an occupied city from July 1863 through Reconstruction. Civil liberties were suspended, loyalty oaths required, and a force of 5,000 U.S. Colored Troops patrolled the streets. Area plantations were confiscated from “enemies of the government” and leased to carpet baggers and scalawags who sought fortune in cotton speculation. Federal forces occupied Vicksburg until 1877.

## **Reconstruction**

Almost all towns across the former Confederacy were affected by the Reconstruction era that followed the Civil War. Post-war Franklin went through many of the same political, economic and cultural experiences as other communities. One very tangible legacy of Reconstruction in Franklin is the historic Natchez Street Neighborhood.

The story of Reconstruction is interpreted at several national park system Units:

- TCWNHA - One of the TCWNHA’s primary interpretive themes is the story of how the Civil War and Reconstruction transformed the nation’s economic, social, and political structures. The heritage area works closely with communities throughout the state to preserve and interpret state and locally significant resources that illustrate the changes brought about by the end of slavery, urbanization, industrialization, the rise to power of the Republican party, and the temporary extension of the franchise to African-American males.
- Andrew Johnson National Historic Site - Andrew Johnson was president of the United States immediately following the Civil War and was charged by the U.S. Government with implementing the early phases of Reconstruction.
- Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site -The founding of the Institute for African-American teachers in 1880 and its effect on the future of African-American educational opportunities is interpreted.
- Natchez Historical Park - in Natchez Historical Park interprets the life of slaves before the Civil War and the effect of emancipation on slaves, slave-owners, and on the social structure in the town of Natchez, Mississippi

