



*Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission
Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*

State of Mississippi

Washington, DC
October 2010



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U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
American Battlefield Protection Program

Washington, DC
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Authority

The American Battlefield Protection Program Act of 1996, as amended by the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016, 17 December 2002), directs the Secretary of the Interior to update the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*.

Acknowledgments

NPS Project Team Paul Hawke, Project Leader; Kathleen Madigan, Survey Coordinator; Tanya Gossett and January Ruck, Reporting; Matthew Borders, Historian; Kristie Kendall, Program Assistant

Battlefield Surveyor(s) Matthew Borders and Kathleen Madigan, American Battlefield Protection Program

Respondents Rebecca Blackwell Drake, The Sid J. Champion Heritage Foundation; Patsy Gregory, Friends of the Battle of Okolona; Haywood Harrell, Shiloh National Military Park; Ray Herndon, The Conservation Fund; Parker Hills, Friends of Raymond; Michael Madell and Terrence Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park; Harry McMillin, Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park; Kathy Robertson, Civil War Preservation Trust; Thomas Ross, Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission; Cameron Sholly, Natchez Trace Parkway

Cover: With the exception of resources protected within the boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park, most of the Vicksburg battlefield landscape has been destroyed by modern development. The Confederate and Federal trench networks around Vicksburg, along with the vast majority of earthworks in Vicksburg National Military Park (pictured), are reconstructions built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. Photograph by Kathleen Madigan, 2009.

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Introduction

The information in this report fulfills, in part, the purposes of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016). Those purposes are:

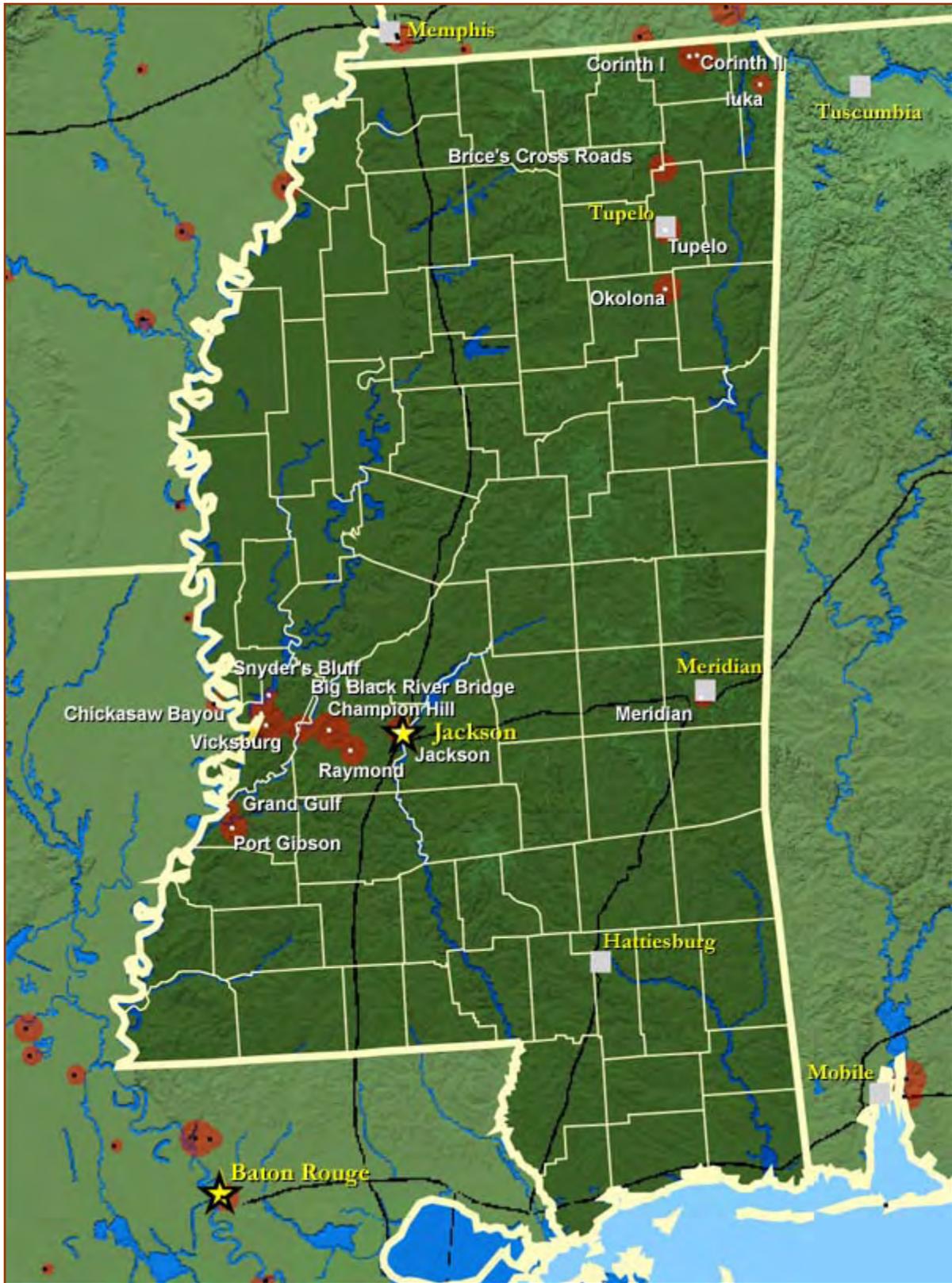
- 1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and
- 2) to create partnerships among state and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service, to update the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*. The CWSAC was established by Congress in 1991 and published its report in 1993. Congress provided funding for this update in FY2005 and FY2007. Congress asked that the updated report reflect the following:

- Preservation activities carried out at the 384 battlefields identified by the CWSAC during the period between 1993 and the update;
- Changes in the condition of the battlefields during that period; and
- Any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.

In accordance with the legislation, this report presents information about Civil War battlefields in Mississippi for use by Congress, federal, state, and local government agencies, landowners, and other interest groups. Other state reports will be issued as surveys and analyses are completed.

Figure 1. CWSAC Battlefields in Mississippi



Synopsis

There are 16 CWSAC battlefields in the State of Mississippi – **Big Black River Bridge, Brice’s Cross Roads, Champion Hill, Chickasaw Bayou, Corinth, Siege of Corinth, Grand Gulf, Iuka, Jackson, Meridian, Okolona, Port Gibson, Raymond, Snyder’s Bluff, Tupelo, and Vicksburg**. Historically, these battlefields encompassed more than 194,000 acres.¹ Today, 57 percent of this land remains intact, retaining sufficient significance and integrity to make the battlefields worthy of preservation.²

At present, only about 7,940 acres (nearly four percent) of these historic landscapes are permanently protected. Federal, state, and local governments, along with nonprofit organizations, serve as the stewards of Mississippi’s Civil War battlefields. The National Park Service manages more than 3,000 acres of battlefield land in Mississippi. These holdings include land at **Brice’s Cross Roads** (Brice’s Cross Roads National Battlefield Site,) **Champion Hill** (part of the Natchez Trace Parkway), **Chickasaw Bayou** (within the boundaries of the Vicksburg National Military Park), **Corinth** and the **Siege of Corinth** (Shiloh National Military Park’s Corinth Unit), **Okolona** (part of the Natchez Trace Parkway), **Port Gibson** (part of the Natchez Trace Parkway), **Tupelo** (Tupelo National Battlefield and part of the Natchez Trace Parkway), and **Vicksburg** (Vicksburg National Military Park and Vicksburg National Cemetery). The USDA Forest Service manages more than 600 acres at **Okolona**. Although the landscape is not preserved specifically for its association with events of the Civil War, this portion of the **Okolona** battlefield is protected from development within the boundaries of Tombigbee National Forest, Chickasaw Wildlife Management Area. Similarly, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks protects more than 83 acres of **Iuka** battlefield within the boundaries of the Divide Section Wildlife Management Area. The State’s Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission manages more than 450 acres at Grand Gulf Military Park, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) owns more than 870 acres of battlefield land across the state, including land at **Big Black River Bridge, Champion Hill, and Port Gibson**. The City of Jackson protects one acre of the **Jackson** battlefield within the boundaries of Battlefield Park and manages the preservation of an additional one acre on the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus. Non-profit organizations such as Brice’s Cross Roads National Battlefield Commission, Civil War Preservation Trust, Friends of Raymond, and Sid J. Champion Heritage Foundation own additional battlefield land in Mississippi.

As easement holder for the State, the MDAH has worked with a variety of nonprofit organizations and private landowners to preserve more than 2,700 acres of land in Mississippi. Private partners including the Brice’s Cross Roads National Battlefield Commission, Civil War Preservation Trust, Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth, Friends of Raymond, Iuka Battlefield Commission, Okolona Development Foundation Charities, Inc., and The Conservation Fund have preserved battlefield land through participation in the MDAH easement program. Despite these efforts, most of the historic battlefield terrain that retains integrity in Mississippi is still held in private, unprotected ownership.

Ten of Mississippi’s battlefields benefit from the efforts of a nonprofit group dedicated solely to the preservation of Civil War landscapes. Throughout the country, such organizations provide consistent, long-term support in the absence of, or in support of,

¹Using GIS software, and accounting for overlapping areas, ABPP calculated that the Study Areas for the 16 battlefields in Mississippi represent 194,294.42 acres.

²Using GIS software, and accounting for overlapping areas, ABPP calculated that the Potential National Register Boundaries for the battlefields of Mississippi represent 111,999.41 acres.

state action. The development of additional battlefield-specific preservation groups could help mitigate foreseen and unforeseen future threats at the Mississippi battlefields that are currently unrepresented by a non-profit group (especially **Big Black River Bridge**, **Grand Gulf**, **Port Gibson**, and **Snyder’s Bluff**).

In 1993, the CWSAC used a four-tiered system that combined historic significance, current condition, and level of threat to determine priorities for preservation among the battlefields. Table 1 indicates how the CWSAC prioritized Mississippi’s Civil War battlefields in their study.

Table 1: CWSAC Preservation Priorities from 1993		
CWSAC Priority	Battlefield	County/City
I Critical Need	Brice’s Cross Roads (MS014)	Lee, Tippah, Prentiss, and Union Counties
	Chickasaw Bayou (MS003)	Warren County
	Siege of Corinth (MS016)	Alcorn and Tishomingo Counties; Hardin and McNairy Counties, TN
	Port Gibson (MS006)	Claiborne County
	Raymond (MS007) Vicksburg (MS011)	Hinds County Warren County
II Comprehensive Preservation Possible	Grand Gulf (MS004) Okolona (MS013)	Claiborne County; Tensas Parish, LA Chickasaw, Pontotoc, and Monroe Counties
	Snyder’s Bluff (MS005)	Warren County
III Additional Protection Needed	Big Black River Ridge (MS010)	Hinds and Warren Counties
	Champion Hill (MS009)	Hinds County
IV Fragmented/Destroyed	Corinth (MS002)	Alcorn County; McNairy County, TN
	Iuka (MS001)	Tishomingo County
	Jackson (MS008)	Hinds County
	Meridian (MS012)	Lauderdale County
	Tupelo (MS015)	Lee County

Six of Mississippi’s battlefields ranked among the nation’s top priorities for preservation, three ranked as battlefields where comprehensive preservation could be achieved, and two ranked as battlefields needing additional protection. The CWSAC considered five battlefields – **Corinth**, **Iuka**, **Jackson**, **Meridian**, and **Tupelo** – to be fragmented and completely destroyed.

Today, most of the battlefields identified as Priority I landscapes in 1993 still retain more than 50 percent of their integrity (100 percent of the Study Area at **Brice’s Cross Roads**, 100 percent of the Study Area at **Port Gibson**, more than 79 percent of the Study Area at **Raymond**, nearly 66 percent of the Study Area at **Chickasaw Bayou**, and more than 65 percent of the Study Area at **Siege of Corinth**). Only **Vicksburg**, with approximately 18 percent of the landscape retaining integrity, has lost significant integrity since 1993.

Of the CWSAC’s Priority II battlefields, **Okolona** retains the most integrity (nearly 82 percent of the Study Area). The Study Areas of **Grand Gulf** and **Snyder’s Bluff** retain 50 percent and 45 percent of their integrity, respectively.

The two battlefields ranked as Priority III landscapes in 1993 are among the most intact battlefields in Mississippi. More than 90 percent of the **Big Black River Bridge** landscape retains integrity, and more than 86 percent of the **Champion Hill** battlefield retains integrity.

While the ABPP agrees with the CWSAC's determination that **Jackson** and **Meridian** no longer retain sufficient integrity to merit preservation, reevaluation of **Corinth**, **Tupelo**, and **Iuka** resulted in different conclusions. With reexamination of primary source documentation, the ABPP determined the 1993 study did not include the full extent of the historical boundaries for **Corinth** and **Tupelo** in the Study Areas evaluated for those battlefields. Field surveys of these additional areas by the ABPP revealed the existence of intact historic features (more than 45 percent of the battlefield at **Corinth** and nearly 7 percent of the battlefield at **Tupelo**). Because the CWSAC did not draw a Study Area for **Iuka** in 1993, the ABPP identified the battlefield's historical boundaries for this study and evaluated the integrity of the landscape. As with **Corinth** and **Tupelo**, the ABPP found integrity at **Iuka** (nearly 43 percent of the historic battlefield landscape).

Based on these findings, 14 of the state's battlefields are candidates for protection. The National Park Service will issue updated priority rankings after all of the CWSAC battlefields nationwide have been surveyed and all state reports have been completed.



Figure 2. Much of the landscape at **Champion Hill** retains its historic integrity, with more than 29 percent of the battlefield currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Photograph by Kathleen Madigan, 2009.

Method Statement

Congress instructed the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), to report on changes in the condition of the battlefields since 1993 and on “preservation activities” and “other relevant developments” carried out at each battlefield since 1993. To fulfill those assignments, the ABPP 1) conducted a site survey of each battlefield, and 2) prepared and sent out questionnaires to battlefield managers and advocacy organizations (see Appendix B).

The 1993 significance rankings for each battlefield stand. Significance was assigned by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and the ABPP sustains the CWSAC’s opinions as to the relevant importance of each battle within the larger context of the war.

Research and Field Surveys

The ABPP conducted the field assessments of Mississippi battlefields in September of 2009. The surveys entailed additional historical research, on-the-ground documentation and assessment of site conditions, identification of impending threats to each site, and site mapping. Surveyors used a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to map historic features of each battlefield and used a Geographic Information System (GIS) program to draw site boundaries. The ABPP retains all final survey materials. Each battlefield survey file includes a survey form (field notes, list of defining features, list of documentary sources, and a photo log), photographs, spatial coordinates of significant features, and boundaries described on USGS topographic maps. The surveys did not include archeological investigations for reasons of time and expense.

Study Areas and Core Areas

With the exception of **Iuka**, the CWSAC established a Study Area and a Core Area for each of Mississippi’s principal battlefields in 1993 (see Figure 3 for definitions). The CWSAC boundaries have proven invaluable as guides to local land and resource preservation efforts at Civil War battlefields. Since 1993 however, the National Park Service has refined its battlefield survey methodology, which include research, working with site stewards, identifying and documenting lines of approach and withdrawal used by opposing forces, and applying the concepts of military terrain analysis to all battlefield landscapes. The ABPP’s *Battlefield Survey Manual* explains the field methods employed during this study.³ The surveys also incorporate the concepts recommended in the National Register of Historic Places’ *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, which was published in 1992 after the CWSAC completed its original assessments of the battlefields.⁴

Using its refined methodology, the ABPP was able to validate or adjust the CWSAC’s Study Area and Core Area boundaries to reflect more accurately the full nature and original resources of these battlefields (see Table 2). For **Iuka**, the ABPP researched and delineated new boundaries. At many of Mississippi’s surveyed battlefields, the refined methodology resulted in significant increases to the sizes of the Study Area and Core Area. It is important to note however, that the Study Area and Core Area boundaries are simply historical boundaries that describe where the battle took place; neither indicates the current integrity of the battlefield landscape, so neither can be used on its own to identify surviving portions of battlefield land that may merit protection and preservation.

³ American Battlefield Protection Program, “Battlefield Survey Manual,” (Washington, DC: National Park Service, revised 2007).

⁴ National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, 1992, Revised 1999 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division).

Potential National Register Boundaries

To address the question of what part of the battlefield remains reasonably intact and warrants preservation, this study introduced a third boundary line that was not attempted by the CWSAC: the Potential National Register boundary (see Figure 3).

Looking at each Study Area, the surveyors assigned PotNR boundaries where they judged that the landscape retained enough integrity to convey the significance of the historic battle. In a few cases, the PotNR boundary encompasses the entire Study Area. In most cases, however, the PotNR boundary includes less land than identified in the full Study Area.

In assigning PotNR boundaries, the ABPP followed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) guidelines when identifying and mapping areas that retain integrity and cohesion within the Study Areas.⁵ Because the ABPP focuses only on areas of battle however, the Program did not evaluate lands adjacent to the Study Area that may contribute to a broader historical and chronological definition of “cultural landscape.” Lands outside of the Study Area associated with other historic events and cultural practices may need to be evaluated in preparation for a formal nomination of the cultural landscape.

Most importantly, the PotNR boundary **does not constitute a formal determination of eligibility by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.**⁶ The PotNR boundary is designed to be used as a planning tool for government agencies and the public. Like the Study and Core Area boundaries, the PotNR boundary places no restriction on private property use.

Figure 3: Boundary Definitions

The **Study Area** represents the historic extent of the battle as it unfolded across the landscape. The Study Area contains resources known to relate to or contribute to the battle event: where troops maneuvered and deployed, immediately before, during, and after combat, and where they fought during combat. Historic accounts, terrain analysis, and feature identification inform the delineation of the Study Area boundary. The Study Area indicates the extent to which historic and archeological resources associated with the battle (areas of combat, command, communications, logistics, medical services, etc.) may be found. Surveyors delineated Study Area boundaries for every battle site that was positively identified through research and field survey, regardless of its present integrity.

The **Core Area** represents the areas of fighting on the battlefield. Positions that delivered or received fire, and the intervening space and terrain between them, fall within the Core Area. Frequently described as “hallowed ground,” land within the Core Area is often the first to be targeted for protection. There may be more than one Core Area on a battlefield, but all lie within the Study Area.

Unlike the Study and Core Areas, which are based only upon the interpretation of historic events, the **Potential National Register (PotNR) boundary** represents ABPP’s assessment of a Study Area’s current integrity (the surviving landscape and features that convey the site’s historic sense of place). The PotNR boundary may include all or some of the Study Area, and all or some of the Core Area. Lands within PotNR boundaries should be considered worthy of further attention, although future evaluations may reveal more or less integrity than indicated by the ABPP surveys.

⁵ For general guidance about integrity issues and National Register of Historic Places properties, see National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, revised 1997). The survey evaluations described above do not meet the more stringent integrity standards for National Historic Landmark designation. See National Park Service, *How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1999), 36-37.

⁶ See 36 CFR 60.1-14 for regulations about nominating a property to the National Register of Historic Places and 36 CFR 63 for regulations concerning Determinations of Eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The term integrity, as defined by the NRHP, is “the ability of a property to convey its significance.”⁷ While assessments of integrity are traditionally based on seven specific attributes – location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association – battlefields are unique cultural resources and require special evaluation.” Generally, the most important aspects of integrity for battlefields are location, setting, feeling and association,” and the most basic test for determining the integrity of any battlefield is to assess “whether a participant in the battle would recognize the property as it exists today.”⁸

Other conditions contribute to the *degree* of integrity a battlefield retains:

- the quantity and quality of surviving battle-period resources (e.g., buildings, roads, fence lines, military structures, and archeological features);
- the quantity and quality of the spatial relationships between and among those historic resources and the landscape that connects them;
- the extent to which current battlefield land use is similar to battle-period land use; and
- the extent to which a battlefield’s physical features and overall character visually communicate an authentic sense of the sweep and setting of the battle.

The degree to which post-war development has altered and fragmented the historic landscape or destroyed historic features and viewsheds is critical when assessing integrity.

Changes in traditional land use over time do not generally diminish a battlefield’s integrity. For example, landscapes that were farmland during the Civil War do not need to be in agricultural use today to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP so long as the land retains its historic rural character. Similarly, natural changes in vegetation – woods growing out of historic farm fields, for example – do not necessarily lessen the landscape’s integrity.

Some post-battle development is expected; slight or moderate change within the battlefield may not substantially diminish a battlefield’s integrity. A limited degree of residential, commercial, or industrial development is acceptable. These post-battle “non-contributing” elements are often included in the PotNR boundary in accordance with NRHP guidelines.⁹

Significant changes in land use since the Civil War do diminish the integrity of the battlefield landscape. Heavy residential, commercial, and industrial development; cellular tower and wind turbine installation; and large highway construction are common

⁷ National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, 1992, Revised 1999 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division), <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/NRB40.pdf>. Archeological integrity was not examined during this study, but should be considered in future battlefield studies and formal nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

⁸ National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, 1992, Revised 1999 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division).

⁹ The ABPP looks only at the battle-related elements of a cultural landscape. Post-battle elements, while not contributing to the significance of the battlefield, may be eligible for separate listing in the National Register of Historic Places on their own merits.

examples of such changes. Battlefield landscapes with these types of changes are generally considered as having little or no integrity.

The PotNR boundaries therefore indicate which battlefields are *likely* eligible for future listing in the NRHP and *likely* deserving of future preservation efforts. If a surveyor determined that a battlefield was entirely compromised by land use incompatible with the preservation of historic features (i.e., it has little or no integrity), the ABPP did not assign a PotNR boundary.¹⁰

In cases where a battlefield is already listed in the NRHP, surveyors reassessed the existing documentation based on current scholarship and resource integrity, and, when appropriate, provided new information and proposed new boundaries as part of the surveys. As a result, some PotNR boundaries will contain or share a boundary with lands already listed in the NRHP. In other cases, PotNR boundaries will exclude listed lands that have lost integrity (see Table 4.)¹¹

The data from which all three boundaries are drawn do not necessarily reflect the full research needed for a formal NRHP nomination. PotNR boundaries are based on an assessment of aboveground historic features associated with the cultural and natural landscape. The surveys did not include a professional archeological inventory or assessment of subsurface features or indications. In some cases, future archeological testing will help determine whether subsurface features remain, whether subsurface battle features convey important information about a battle or historic property, and whether that information may help to confirm, refine, or refute the boundaries previously determined by historic studies and terrain analysis.

The ABPP survey information should be reassessed during future compliance processes such as the Section 106 process required by the National Historic Preservation Act¹² and Environmental Impact Statements/Environmental Assessments required by the National Environmental Policy Act.¹³ Likewise, more detailed research and assessments should take place when any battlefield is formally nominated to the NRHP or proposed for designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). New research and intensive-level surveys of these sites will enlighten future preservation and compliance work. Agencies should continue to consult local and state experts for up-to-date information about these battlefields.

Mississippi sets an excellent example for other states, as 13 of its 16 battlefields have already been formally recognized as historically significant landscapes. Four of Mississippi's battlefields have been designated as National Historic Landmarks (**Champion Hill, Corinth, Siege of Corinth, and Port Gibson**), and 9 others are listed in the National

¹⁰ National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields*, 1992, Revised 1999 (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/NRB40.pdf>), offers recommendations regarding "Selecting Defensible Boundaries." While this document indicates that "generally, boundaries should not be drawn to include the portion of the route taken to the battlefield where there were no encounters," the *Guidelines* also state that "a basic principle is to include within the boundary all of the locations where opposing forces, either before, during or after the battle, took actions based on their assumption of being in the presence of the enemy." The ABPP interprets this latter guidance to mean all military activities that influenced the battle. See the individual battlefield profiles for information about military actions taken along the routes included. In accordance with the methodology of this study, if routes included in the Study Area retain integrity, they are included within the Potential National Register boundary for the battlefield landscape.

¹¹ The ABPP's surveys and PotNR assessments do not constitute formal action on behalf of the office of the National Register of Historic Places. PotNR assessments are intended for planning purposes only; they do not carry the authority to add, change, or remove an official listing.

¹² 16 USC 470f.

¹³ 42 USC 4331-4332.

Register of Historic Places (**Big Black River Bridge, Brice's Cross Roads, Chickasaw Bayou, Grand Gulf, Iuka, Raymond, Snyder's Bluff, Tupelo, and Vicksburg**).¹⁴

The ABPP has identified more than 110,000 acres at these battlefields however, that could be added to existing listings. The Study Areas of **Jackson** and **Meridian** are completely destroyed and offer no potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The ABPP estimates nearly 82 percent of the **Okolona** Study Area has enough integrity to merit future nomination.

Questionnaires

While the ABPP maintains data about its own program activities at Civil War battlefields, most preservation work occurs at the local level. Therefore, to answer Congress's directive for information about battlefield preservation activities, the ABPP sought input from local battlefield managers and advocacy organizations. The ABPP distributed questionnaires designed to gather information about the types of preservation activities that have taken place at the battlefields since 1993. The Questionnaire is reproduced in Appendix B.

In Mississippi, representatives from eight organizations responded to ABPP's inquiries. Their responses, combined with the survey findings, allowed the ABPP to create a profile of conditions and activities at Mississippi's Civil War battlefields.

¹⁴ The National Historic Landmark designation "Siege and Battle of Corinth Sites" (#91001050) includes resources from both the Corinth (October 3-4, 1862) and Siege of Corinth (April 28-May 30, 1862) battlefields. The battle of Corinth also has a separate, individual National Register listing, "Battle of Corinth, Confederate Assault Position" (#76001088).

Summary of Conditions of Mississippi’s Civil War Battlefields

Quantified Land Areas

Using Geographic Information Systems, the ABPP calculated the amount of land historically associated with the battle (Study Area), the amount of land where forces were engaged (Core Area), and the amount of land that may retain enough integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that remains to be protected (Potential National Register boundary).

As noted above and as Table 2 illustrates, the Study Areas and Core Areas of Mississippi’s Civil War battlefields have been established in accordance with ABPP research and field survey methodology. Particular attention was paid to identifying the routes of approach and withdrawal associated with each battle, and to identifying areas of secondary action that influenced the course or outcome of the battles.¹⁵ The Study Area and Core Area boundaries established for each battlefield take these movements and actions into account, recognizing the extent to which these ancillary areas serve as battlefield features.

Table 2. Battlefield Area Statistics

Battlefield	Study Area	Core Area	PotNR Boundary
Big Black River Bridge (MS010)	2,931.47	679.83	2,649.76
Brice’s Cross Roads (MS014)	3,237.80	1,070.36	3,237.78
Champion Hill (MS009)	13,696.80	5,981.16	11,862.77
Chickasaw Bayou (MS003)	22,949.49	5,521.98	15,109.02
Corinth (MS002)	15,987.39	8,039.95	7,275.38
Grand Gulf (MS004)	9,349.60	1,759.20	4,698.79
Iuka (MS001)	3,261.17	705.16	1,328.40
Jackson (MS008)	11,170.71	2,703.28	0.00
Meridian (MS012)	3,087.57	0.00	0.00
Okolona (MS013)	38,415.04	2,325.29	31,451.19
Port Gibson (MS006)	7,959.41	3,223.64	7,959.41
Raymond (MS007)	5,643.83	1,381.16	4,467.02
Siege of Corinth (MS016)	29,463.63	3,756.32	20,385.48
Snyder’s Bluff (MS005)	6,917.92	1,788.19	3,121.39
Tupelo (MS015)	13,053.94	2,009.45	895.73
Vicksburg (MS011)	27,611.64	12,591.96	5,123.09

¹⁵ National Register Bulletin 40, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields* (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/NRB40.pdf>), offers recommendations regarding "Selecting Defensible Boundaries." While this document indicates that "generally, boundaries should not be drawn to include the portion of the route taken to the battlefield where there were no encounters," the *Guidelines* also state that "a basic principle is to include within the boundary all of the locations where opposing forces, either before, during or after the battle, took actions based on their assumption of being in the presence of the enemy." The ABPP interprets this latter guidance to mean all military activities that influenced the battle. See the individual battlefield profiles for information about military actions taken along the routes included. In accordance with the methodology of this study, if routes included in the Study Area retain integrity, they are included within the Potential National Register boundary for the battlefield landscape.

In Mississippi, Civil War armies waged numerous battles over the same ground. Thus, the total number of battlefield acres in the state is lower than a straight tally of the figures in Table 2 would indicate. Calculating for the overlapping areas in the battlefields, there are nearly 194,300 total Study Area acres, more than 52,300 total Core Area acres, and almost 112,000 total acres likely eligible for listing in the National Register in Mississippi.¹⁶ Please see the individual battlefield profiles for more information about the extent of and reasons for the established boundaries.

Condition Assessments

Using field survey data, the ABPP assessed the overall condition of each battlefield's *Study Area*. While no battlefield remains completely unaltered since the Civil War, many of Mississippi's battlefields have retained significant character defining features over the past 150 years.¹⁷

Table 3: Battlefield Condition Summary	
Condition	Battlefield
Land use is little changed (2)	Brice's Cross Roads (MS014), Champion Hill (MS009)
Portions of landscape have been altered, but most essential features remain (7)	Big Black River Bridge (MS010), Chickasaw Bayou (MS003), Grand Gulf (MS004), Okolona (MS013), Port Gibson (MS006), Raymond (MS007), Siege of Corinth (MS016)
Much of the landscape has been altered and fragmented, leaving some essential features (4)	Corinth (MS002), Iuka (MS001), Snyder's Bluff (MS005), Vicksburg (MS011)
Landscape and terrain have been altered beyond recognition (3)	Jackson (MS008), Meridian (MS012), Tupelo (MS015)

Portions of the **Big Black River Bridge** landscape have been altered, but most essential features remain. Several swamps along the approach route have been drained for use as farmland. Light residential development on the approach and withdrawal routes could increase over time, but the current condition offers good opportunity for preservation. The course of the Big Black River has shifted only slightly since 1863, and the swampland, along with a number of the creeks and bayous that flow into the Big Black River, remain intact.

Land use is little changed at **Brice's Cross Roads**. Most of the historic road network, including the crossroads itself, retains integrity. In addition to the Brice's Cross Roads National Battlefield Site, a state monument marking the location of the Brice House (no longer extant) commemorates the battle. The rolling terrain, which characterized the landscape in 1864, retains integrity, though farmland has replaced tree cover in large portions of the battlefield. Only light residential and commercial development intrudes

¹⁶ Using GIS, and accounting for overlapping areas, the ABPP calculated, for the 16 battlefields in Mississippi, that the Study Areas represent 194,294.42 acres, the Core Areas represent 52,363.06 acres, and the PotNR boundaries represent 111,999.41 acres.

¹⁷ The condition of archeological resources within the battlefields was not assessed. Future studies are needed to determine the degree of archeological integrity associated with subsurface battle deposits.

upon the landscape, making **Brice's Cross Roads** Mississippi's greatest opportunity for comprehensive battlefield preservation.



Figure 4. **Brice's Cross Roads**, with 17 percent of its landscape protected, retains the highest degree of integrity of all Civil War battlefields in Mississippi. Photograph by Matthew Borders, 2009.

At **Champion Hill**, the westernmost portion of the Study Area surrounding the town of Edwards no longer retains integrity as a battlefield landscape. In addition, a large food production and distribution center located on the southern edge of the Confederate battle line and a gravel pit on the eastern edge of the Core Area have damaged some of the landscape. Most of the historic roads that crossed the battlefield in 1863 are intact, and the modern railroad route follows that of the historic Southern Railroad of Mississippi line. Baker's and Jackson creeks are unchanged since the time of battle. The ridge upon which Confederate forces deployed, including Champion Hill, remains rural. Residential development on the southern and northern edges of the Study Area threatens to expand onto the battlefield. Prompt action should be taken to protect **Champion Hill**, considered to be among the most significant Civil War battles fought in Mississippi.

North of the city of Vicksburg, the Walnut Hills remain as a defining feature of the **Chickasaw Bayou** battlefield. The Yazoo River, its tributaries, and surrounding bayous also retain integrity. Modern transportation routes – US Highway 61 and the Illinois Central Railroad – pass through the battlefield's Core Area, bringing development north from Vicksburg. Housing, light commercial development, and large-scale industry from the Port of Vicksburg have damaged the battlefield terrain and viewshed around the Walnut Hills. As the city of Vicksburg continues to grow, the Confederate battery locations on the hills will face increasing threat. The heights, which are privately owned, unprotected, and vulnerable, should be the focus of preservation efforts at **Chickasaw Bayou**.

Much of the October 1862 battle of **Corinth** landscape has been altered, but some essential features remain. U.S. Highways 45 and 72 cut through the southern and western portions of the battlefield, while a new rail line, the Illinois Central Gulf Rail Road (ICG), also passes through the city. Residential and commercial development has destroyed the southern and eastern portions of the Study Area, but portions of the historic road network remain, particularly in the northwest portion of the battlefield where many of the historic creeks still crisscross the landscape. Batteries manned by US forces during the battle retain

integrity (Battery F is in particularly excellent condition), but the sprawl of development from the city threatens to destroy any unprotected intact battlefield land.

Large portions of the April-June 1862 **Siege of Corinth** landscape have also been altered, but many essential features remain. U.S. Highways 45 and 72 cut through the southern and western portions of the battlefield, while a new rail line, the ICG, also passes through the city. Industrial complexes east of the city (below the heights used by US forces to bombard Corinth and within the Farmington Core Area) have destroyed significant portions of the battlefield. Rapid residential development, especially along Bridge Creek and eastward toward Farmington, has destroyed large sections of earthworks, but a significant number of earthworks to the north and east of the city survive. The creeks that slowed the pace of US forces advancing from the east are unchanged since the battle, and much of Corinth's historic downtown is intact. Portions of the historic road network remain, particularly along the US approach routes in the northeast. Fragments of the battlefield are protected throughout the Study Area as components of the National Park Service's Corinth Unit. Additional residential and commercial development sprawling from the city however, threatens unprotected battlefield land. If left unchecked, further fragmentation will destroy the integrity of the siege landscape.

At **Grand Gulf**, portions of the landscape have been altered, but most essential features remain. During the 1863 battle, the town of Grand Gulf was positioned beside the Mississippi River at the point of a sharp westward turn in the waterway's course. Today, the riverbank has shifted west, away from Grand Gulf. This shift, along with construction of a modern levee, makes understanding and interpreting the battlefield problematic. Residential development along the approach route undermines the battlefield's integrity. In the town of Grand Gulf, few historic features remain intact, but much of the battlefield landscape has been protected within the boundaries of the Grand Gulf Military Park. The heights on which the Confederacy built fortifications still exist, dominating the landscape as they did during the time of the battle. Both Fort Wade and Fort Cobun are intact, including most of their supporting earthworks. Protection of intact battlefield land surrounding the existing park offers the greatest opportunity for preservation.



Figure 5. Within the boundaries of the Grand Gulf Military Park, the Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission protects and interprets earthworks used during the 1863 battle of **Grand Gulf**. Photograph by Matthew Borders, 2009.

Portions of the **Iuka** battlefield have been altered, but most essential features remain intact. US Highway 72 and State Route 25 have divided the battlefield's largest Core Area into four segments. These highways have destroyed much of the historic road network, including the crossroad epicenter where the battle's most intense fighting took place. Portions of the US advance along the Jacinto Road still retain integrity, but modern commercial development on the route poses the greatest threat to the battlefield. The ridgeline upon which US forces organized their battle line remains intact and several creek beds in the Study Area are unchanged. Preservation efforts must be swift to prevent further development from fragmenting **Iuka** so severely that it is no longer identifiable as a battlefield landscape.

The landscape of **Jackson** has been altered beyond recognition. The system of earthworks that once surrounded the city has been destroyed, except for remnants protected within the boundaries of a small park in the battlefield's southern Core Area and on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. With most of the **Jackson** battlefield lost, stewards are challenged to protect what remains of intact approach routes, and give attentive care to the battlefield's surviving earthworks.

At **Meridian**, the city's unchecked growth has obliterated its historic road networks and landscape. Given the dearth of intact historic features dating to the time of the battle, there can be neither threat of future destruction nor opportunity for resource protection.

Portions of the **Okolona** battlefield have been altered, but most essential features remain. Much of the historic road network in the City of Okolona has been destroyed. The same is true for the town of West Point at the southern end of the **Okolona** Study Area. While residential and commercial development has damaged the battlefield landscape in these more urban areas, land protected within the boundaries of the Tombigbee National Forest and the Natchez Trace Parkway retains integrity. In addition, the heights near Prairie Mount and the Little Owl Creek, along with Ivey's Hill, are still identifiable as historic landscape features. Development along State Highway 41 and US Alternate 45 is still limited, but the potential for sprawling growth between the cities of Okolona and West Point represents the greatest threat to this battlefield.

The historic road network west of **Port Gibson** and within the town retains integrity. James and Widows creeks, as well as Bayou Pierre, are unchanged since the time of battle, and the surrounding landscape with thick undergrowth and deep crevasses is little changed. The Mississippi River, however, has shifted significantly since 1863. The riverbank's westward movement has since led to the desertion of the town of Bruinsburg, the landing point on the Mississippi river used by the Federal army before the battle. Interpreting the final phase of battle at Centers Creek is difficult now – much of the ridgeline along the creek has been altered. A proposal by the Mississippi Department of Transportation to widen US Highway 61, which runs through the middle of the Port Gibson community, could threaten what land remains intact within the eastern half of the battlefield Study Area. Rapid response to this threat is necessary if **Port Gibson**, a nationally significant landscape, is to retain its cohesion and remain a well-preserved, interpretable battlefield.

At **Raymond**, the Federal position along Artillery Ridge is intact, and Fourteenmile Creek is still recognizable as the ground used by counter-attacking Confederates during the battle. Portions of the historic Utica Road retain integrity, as does some of the historic road network within the city of Raymond. Commercial development expanding from Raymond along State Route 18 threatens the northern portion of the Study Area. This road, which follows a portion of the old Utica Road trace, bisects the battlefield. Within

the next five years, land within the Core Area, which retains integrity, should be the focus of preservation efforts at **Raymond**.



Figure 6. Fourteenmile Creek proved to be a significant obstacle during the battle of **Raymond** in 1863. Today, the creek remains as one of the battlefield's identifiable features. Photograph by Kathleen Madigan, 2009.

Much of the landscape at **Snyder's Bluff** has been altered and fragmented. The site of the Walnut Hills batteries, which is privately owned, has been destroyed, but the hills and bluff themselves remain dominant topographical features. US Route 61, a modern highway, runs through the Study Area at the base of the Walnut Hills, connecting Vicksburg with the community of Redwood. Just beyond Redwood, a new bridge over the Yazoo River significantly alters the historic viewshed. Although construction of this bridge has caused extensive erosion along the riverbank, much of the Yazoo River, tributaries, and surrounding swamp between the Walnut Hills and Yazoo River, retain integrity. The opportunity for preservation is good here, but must be performed with haste. Development pressures from Vicksburg threaten to advance north via US Route 61 towards what remains of the intact landscape at **Snyder's Bluff** battlefield.

Little land retains integrity at **Tupelo**. Extensive development around the city has flattened or covered many of the battlefield's defining features, particularly those associated with the main battle line. Aside from the one-acre battlefield fragment protected by the National Park Service and land protected by the Brice's Cross Roads National Battlefield Commission, only the railroad and Kings Creek remain intact in the primary Core Area. North of the city at the battlefield's secondary Core Area, Town Creek and the surrounding heights also retain some integrity. The growth of residential subdivisions near Town Creek foreshadows future threat, which could lead to complete destruction of the battlefield. Preservation efforts should focus on immediate protection for what remains of the secondary Core Area, its associated viewsheds, and setting.

The City of Vicksburg has grown well beyond its Civil War footprint, but its hilltop position still gives visitors a good impression of the massive undertaking that was required to lay siege to **Vicksburg** in 1863. Aside from resources protected within the boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park and Vicksburg National Cemetery, the only battlefield features that retain integrity are the Walnut Hills (northeast of the city) and a portion of the Yazoo River (north of the city). The Confederate and Federal trench networks around Vicksburg, along with the vast majority of earthworks in Vicksburg National Military Park,

are reconstructions built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. Residential and commercial development threatens trenches south of the city where most of the historic battlefield has already been lost.

Shifting riverbanks and heavy industrial development along the Mississippi River (south of the city) and the Yazoo River Diversion Canal (west of the city) have destroyed most of the historic waterfront. Given the limited potential for preservation and the intense threat to what remains, efforts to protect battlefield land outside National Park Service boundaries must be swift.



Figure 7. Development along the Mississippi river has destroyed most of the **Vicksburg** battlefield not protected within Vicksburg National Military Park. Photograph by Kathleen Madigan, 2009.

Registration

The nation's official method for recognizing historic properties worthy of preservation is listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Registered battlefields meet national standards for documentation, physical integrity, and demonstrable significance to the history of our nation. Federal, state, and local agencies use information from the NRHP as a planning tool to identify and make decisions about cultural resources. Federal and state laws, most notably Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, require agencies to account for the effects their projects (roads, wetland permits, quarrying, cell towers, etc.) may have on listed and eligible historic properties, such as battlefields. Listing allows project designers to quickly identify the battlefield and avoid or minimize impacts to the landscape.

Properties listed in the NRHP may also be eligible for federal and state historic preservation grant programs. Recognition as a registered battlefield can advance public understanding of and appreciation for the battlefield, and may encourage advocacy for its preservation.¹⁸

As Table 4 indicates, three of Mississippi's Civil War battlefields have been designated as National Historic Landmarks, while 10 others are listed in the NRHP. In addition to these registered lands, the ABPP has found more than 110,900 acres eligible for listing based on association with the Civil War battles of Mississippi.

¹⁸ There are three levels of federal recognition for historic properties: Congressional designations such as national park units, National Historic Landmarks, and listings in the National Register of Historic Places. Congress creates national park units. The Secretary of the Interior designates National Historic Landmarks (NHL) – nationally significant historic sites – for their exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's official list of cultural sites significant at the national, state, or local level and worthy of preservation. Historic units of the National Park System and NHLs are also listed in the National Register.

Table 4: Acres Registered Compared with Acres Potentially Eligible to be Registered

Battlefield	Designation	ABPP PotNR Acres	* Existing Registered Acres	Acres Potentially Eligible to be Registered
Big Black River Bridge (MS010)	NRHP	2,649.76	977.49	1,652.27
Brice's Cross Roads (MS014)	NPS, NRHP	3,237.80	1.00	3,236.80
Champion Hill (MS009)	NHL	11,862.77	6,963.04	4,899.73
Chickasaw Bayou (MS003)	NRHP	15,109.02	1,067.00	14,042.02
Corinth (MS002)	NPS, NRHP	7,275.38	198.88	7,076.50
Grand Gulf (MS004)	NRHP	4,698.79	505.00	4,193.76
Iuka (MS001)	NRHP	1,328.40	70.00	1,330.18
Jackson (MS008)		0.00	0.00	0.00
Meridian (MS012)		0.00	0.00	0.00
Okolona (MS013)		31,451.19	0.00	31,451.19
Port Gibson (MS006)	NHL	7,959.41	3,404.17	4,648.24
Raymond (MS007)	NRHP	4,467.02	936.42	3,530.60
Siege of Corinth (MS016)**	NHL	20,385.48	383.58	20,001.90
Snyder's Bluff (MS005)	NRHP	3,121.39	514.01	2,607.38
Tupelo (MS015)	NPS, NRHP	895.73	1.00	894.73
Vicksburg (MS011)	NPS, NRHP	5,123.09	1,750.24	3,372.85

* Note that some National Register lands may have lost integrity since they were listed.

**NHL boundaries for the Siege and Battle of Corinth include land associated with fighting at Hatchie's Bridge, Tennessee, which occurred the day after the Battle of Corinth in October 1862.

Stewardship

For the purposes of this update, public lands managed as historic sites in order to preserve battlefield resources are protected. Other public land, not managed for the preservation of the battlefield landscape, still has potential for damaging threats. The land is subject to state and federal preservation law, preventing private development, but its primary use may not be compatible with preservation of the battlefield landscape. It may also be threatened by natural processes.

Through fee simple ownership and purchase of development rights, federal, state, and local government stewards, along with nonprofit organizations, have permanently preserved more than 7,650 acres of battlefield land in Mississippi. With 17 percent of its landscape protected, **Brice's Cross Roads** is the most completely protected battlefield in the state. At the majority of Mississippi's battlefields, less than ten percent of the landscape is protected. This includes **Champion Hill, Corinth, Grand Gulf, Iuka, Okolona, Port Gibson, Raymond, Siege of Corinth, Tupelo,** and **Vicksburg**. Less than one percent of the battlefield landscapes of **Big Black River Bridge, Chickasaw Bayou,** and **Jackson** are preserved. The ABPP has identified early 106,000 acres of historic battlefield terrain that retain integrity, but remain in private, unprotected ownership.

Federal, state, and local governments protect much of the preserved battlefield land in Mississippi. The National Park Service manages more than 2,700 acres of protected battlefield land in Mississippi. These holdings include: one acre at **Brice's Cross Roads** (Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site); more than 102 acres at **Corinth** (within the

boundaries of the Shiloh National Military Park's Corinth Unit); more than 238 acres at **Siege of Corinth** (within the boundaries of the Shiloh National Military Park's Corinth Unit)¹⁹; more than 45 acres at Port Gibson (part of the Natchez Trace Parkway); more than 67 acres at Champion Hill (part of the Natchez Trace Parkway); more than 107 acres at **Chickasaw Bayou** (within the boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park); nearly 108 acres at Okolona (part of the Natchez Trace Parkway); nearly 607 acres at **Tupelo** (one acre at the Tupelo National Battlefield and nearly 606 acres of the Natchez Trace Parkway); and nearly 1,740 acres at **Vicksburg** (Vicksburg National Military Park and Vicksburg National Cemetery).

The USDA Forest Service protects more than 601 acres of the **Okolona** battlefield within the boundaries of the Tombigbee National Forest Chickasaw Wildlife Management Area and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks protects more than 83 acres of the **Iuka** battlefield within the boundaries of its Divide Section Wildlife Management Area. Although land owned by the USDA Forest Service and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is not preserved for its association with historical events, these lands are considered by the ABPP to be protected. The wildlife habitat conservation missions of these sites are compatible with the interests of battlefield landscape preservation.

The State's Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission owns more than 450 acres of the **Grand Gulf** battlefield and manages the Grand Gulf Military Park, while the Mississippi Department of Archives and History owns more than 28 acres at **Big Black River Bridge**, more than 830 acres at **Champion Hill**, and nearly 15 acres at **Port Gibson**. The City of Jackson protects one acre of the **Jackson** battlefield at Battlefield Park, and manages another one acre segment of the battlefield located on the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus.

In addition to public land, portions of many Mississippi battlefields are owned and protected by nonprofit organizations. The Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission owns more than 583 acres of land at **Brice's Cross Roads** battlefield and more than 13 acres at **Tupelo**. The Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth owns more than 490 acres of land associated with **Corinth** and more than 354 acres associated with the **Siege of Corinth**. At **Okolona**, the Okolona Development Foundation Charities, Inc. owns nearly 270 acres. The Sid J. Champion Heritage Foundation protects more than 144 acres of the **Champion Hill** battlefield, while, also at **Champion Hill**, the Civil War Preservation Trust owns an additional 58 acres. At **Iuka**, the Iuka Battlefield Commission owns nearly 56 acres. The Friends of Raymond owns approximately 132 acres at **Raymond** and, in addition to this land, holds an easement on more than three acres belonging to a private property owner on the battlefield.

As a preservation tool, easements provide protection without burdening the holder with obligations associated with fee simple ownership while compensating owners who relinquish the development rights of their property with tax incentives. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) has protected more than 2,700 acres of battlefield land by purchasing or holding donated easements. As holder of preservation easements for the state, MDAH holds easements on the property of private landowners

¹⁹ As authorized by P.L. 106-271, the *Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act of 2000*, and based on findings published in the 2003 *Special Resources Study for the Corinth Unit of the Shiloh National Military Park, Mississippi-Tennessee*. (http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/shil/corinth_unit_srs.pdf), land purchased by the Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth can be donated to the National Park Service. Concurrent with the drafting of this document, FSBC lands were pending transfer to NPS ownership. Upon the completion of that transaction, this additional land within the boundaries of the **Corinth** and **Siege of Corinth** Study Areas will be managed as part of the Shiloh National Military Park's Corinth Unit.

including 622 acres at **Port Gibson** and 200 acres at **Champion Hill**. The MDAH also holds easements on battlefield land owned by nonprofit groups including Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Friends of Raymond, Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth, Iuka Battlefield Commission, and Okolona Development Foundation Charities, Inc.

There are no protected lands at **Meridian** or **Snyder's Bluff**. While **Meridian** is entirely destroyed and offers no opportunity for preservation, there are more than 3,000 unprotected acres at **Snyder's Bluff** that could benefit from stewardship efforts.

Table 5. : Protective Stewardship of Intact Battlefield Land			
Battlefield	Permanently Protected Acres	ABPP PotNR Acres	Unprotected, Intact Acres Remaining
Big Black River Bridge (MS010)	28.07	2,649.76	2,621.69
Brice's Cross Roads (MS014)	572.02	3,237.80	2,665.78
Champion Hill (MS009)	1,300.17	11,862.77	10,562.60
Chickasaw Bayou (MS003)	107.28	15,109.02	15,001.74
Corinth (MS002)	593.02	7,275.38	6,682.36
Grand Gulf (MS004)	450.00	4,698.79	4,248.79
Iuka (MS001)	139.19	1,328.40	1,261.02
Jackson (MS008)	2.00	0.00	0.00
Meridian (MS012)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Okolona (MS013)	978.81	31,451.19	30,472.38
Port Gibson (MS006)	682.45	7,959.41	7,276.96
Raymond (MS007)	135.60	4,467.02	4,331.42
Siege of Corinth (MS016)	592.99	20,385.48	19,792.49
Snyder's Bluff (MS005)	0.00	3,121.39	3,121.39
Tupelo (MS015)	619.34	895.73	895.73
Vicksburg (MS011)	1,739.56	5,123.09	3,634.09
Totals	7,940.50	119,565.21	112,568.44

Public Access and Interpretation

In its questionnaire, the ABPP asked battlefield stewards about the types of public access and interpretation available at the battlefield. The ABPP did not collect information about the purpose or intent of the interpretation and access, such as whether a wayside exhibit was developed for purely educational reasons, to promote heritage tourism, or to boost local economic development.

The ABPP asked respondents to indicate the type of interpretation available at or about the battlefield. The categories included brochures, driving tours, living history demonstrations, maintained historic features or areas, walking tours and trails, wayside exhibits, websites, and other specialized programs. The results indicate that 12 of Mississippi's 16 Civil War battlefields offer some degree of public interpretation, with

Brice’s Cross Roads, Corinth, Grand Gulf, Siege of Corinth, and Vicksburg also including visitor center facilities.²⁰ Unfortunately, the battlefields of **Big Black River Bridge, Chickasaw Bayou, and Meridian** provide no battle interpretation.

Table 6: Interpretation Summary

On-site Interpretation	Battlefield
Battlefields with public interpretation, including visitors center (5)	Brice’s Cross Roads (MS014), Corinth (MS002), Grand Gulf (MS004), Siege of Corinth (MS016), Vicksburg (MS015)
Battlefields with public interpretation, but no visitors center (8)	Champion Hill (MS009), Iuka (MS001), Jackson (MS008), Okolona (MS013), Port Gibson (MS006), Raymond (MS007), Snyder’s Bluff (MS005), Tupelo (MS015)
Battlefields with no public interpretation (3)	Big Black River Bridge (MS010), Chickasaw Bayou (MS003), Meridian (MS012)

The National Park Service provides public access to eight Mississippi battlefields. Less than one percent of the total battlefield Study Area of **Brice’s Cross Roads** is accessible at Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site. More than four percent of the total Study Area of **Tupelo** is accessible, including one acre at Tupelo National Battlefield and more than 605 acres of the Natchez Trace Parkway. The Natchez Trace Parkway also provides public access to lands associated with three additional Civil War battlefields: **Champion Hill** (less than one percent of the total Study Area), **Okolona** (nearly two percent of the total Study Area), and **Port Gibson** (less than one percent of the total Study Area). Less than one percent of the total battlefield Study Area of **Corinth** and less than one percent of the total battlefield Study Area of **Siege of Corinth** are publicly accessible at the Shiloh National Military Park’s Corinth Unit. More than six percent of the total Study Area of **Vicksburg** is publicly accessible at the Vicksburg National Military Park and Vicksburg National Cemetery, while less than one percent of the total Study Area of the **Chickasaw Bayou** battlefield is also accessible within the northwestern boundaries of the park.

At the USDA Forest Service’s Tombigbee National Forest Chickasaw Wildlife Management Area, more than 601 acres (about one percent) of the **Okolona** battlefield are accessible to the public. The Grand Gulf Military Park, managed by the State’s Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission, also provides access to approximately 450 acres (nearly three percent of the battlefield Study Area) of **Grand Gulf**. The Friends of Raymond manages the Raymond Military Park, which provides public access to approximately 135 acres, more than two percent of the **Raymond** battlefield. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks provides access to more than 83 acres (more than two percent of the battlefield Study Area) of **Iuka** for public visitation within the boundaries of the Divide Section Wildlife Management Area. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History provides access to 5 acres (less than one percent of the battlefield Study Area) of **Champion Hill** at its Coker House site. The MDAH also provides access to nearly 15 acres

²⁰ Concurrent with the drafting of this report, construction of a new interpretation gallery for the Battle of Tupelo at the Brice’s Crossroads Visitor’s and Interpretive Center was underway. The project – a 1,200-square foot addition to the existing facility – has been funded by money from the U.S. Department of Transportation Act through a \$1.5 million grant from the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

(less than one percent of the battlefield Study Area) of **Port Gibson** at the Shaifer House and Magnolia Church (more than 3 acres) sites.

At **Jackson**, one acre (less than one percent of the total battlefield Study Area) is publically accessible via the City of Jackson's Battlefield Park, along with another small artillery earthwork site on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. There is no public access at **Big Black River Bridge, Meridian, or Snyder's Bluff** battlefields beyond public right-of-ways.

Local Advocacy

Nonprofit organizations play important roles in protecting historic battlefields. These organizations step in to preserve historic sites when public funding and management for historic preservation are absent. When public funding is available, nonprofits serve as vital partners in public-private preservation efforts, acting as conduits for public funds, raising critical private matching funds, keeping history and preservation in the public eye, and working with landowners to find ways to protect battlefield parcels.

More than half of Mississippi's battlefields – **Brice's Cross Roads, Champion Hill, Chickasaw Bayou, Corinth, Iuka, Okolona, Raymond, Siege of Corinth, Tupelo, and Vicksburg** – benefit from the efforts of a private nonprofit group. Since 1993, the Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission, Inc., has worked with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to preserve the battlefield landscapes of **Brice's Cross Roads** and **Tupelo**. Similarly, the Iuka Battlefield Commission, Inc., and Friends of the Battle of Okolona have also worked with the State to purchase land and development rights at the **Iuka** and **Okolona** battlefields, respectively.

The Sid J. Champion Heritage Foundation has worked with the Civil War Preservation Trust to preserve land at **Champion Hill** since 2005. The organization hosts a bi-annual event, which invites tourists to visit the battlefield, and raises funds to sponsor the placement of commemorative markers.

Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth was established in 1993 to promote and preserve Civil War sites in and around the city of Corinth. Since its inception, the group has worked diligently to purchase and protect battlefield land identified by the *Siege and Battle of Corinth National Historic Landmark Study*. Recent additions to National Park Service land holdings at Shiloh National Military Park's Corinth Unit have been donations made by the Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth.

The Friends of Raymond is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of **Raymond** battlefield. At the Raymond Military Park, the group maintains a 3/4-mile walking trail with an educational kiosk and interpretive signage, and offers battlefield tours regularly, among other efforts.

In 2008, the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign formed to raise funds that are still used to maintain monuments and support preservation efforts at Vicksburg National Military Park (including portions of **Chickasaw Bayou** that fall within the park's boundaries). Most recently, the group replaced 22 of the 150 cast iron interpretive tablets removed during a World War II scrap metal drive in 1942.

While other organizations with more general historical interests may also play important roles in preserving Mississippi's battlefields, these seven groups are the only known local organizations in Mississippi dedicated *solely* to the goals of battlefield preservation,

interpretation, and promotion.²¹ The battlefields of **Big Black River Bridge, Grand Gulf, Jackson, Meridian, Port Gibson,** and **Snyder’s Bluff** do not have nonprofit groups to advocate for preservation interests.

Table 7: Active Battlefield Friends Groups

Battlefield	Friends Group(s)	Year Founded
Big Black River Bridge (MS010)	None	
Brice’s Cross Roads (MS014)	Brice’s Crossroads National Battlefield Commission, Inc.	1993
Champion Hill (MS009)	Sid J. Champion Heritage Foundation	2005
Chickasaw Bayou (MS003)	Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign	2008
Corinth (MS002)	Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth	1993
Grand Gulf (MS004)	None	
Iuka (MS001)	Iuka Battlefield Commission, Inc.	2002
Jackson (MS008)	None	
Meridian (MS012)	None	
Okolona (MS013)	Friends of the Battle of Okolona	2001
Port Gibson (MS006)	None	
Raymond (MS007)	Friends of Raymond, Inc.	1998
Siege of Corinth (MS016)	Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth	1993
Snyder’s Bluff (MS005)	None	
Tupelo (MS015)	Brice’s Cross Roads National Battlefield Commission, Inc.	1993
Vicksburg (MS011)	Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign	2008

²¹ For example, the state’s historic preservation office, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, provides staff to the Mississippi Civil War Battlefield Commission, and administers the Civil War Site’s Program and the “Mississippi Civil War Trails” program.

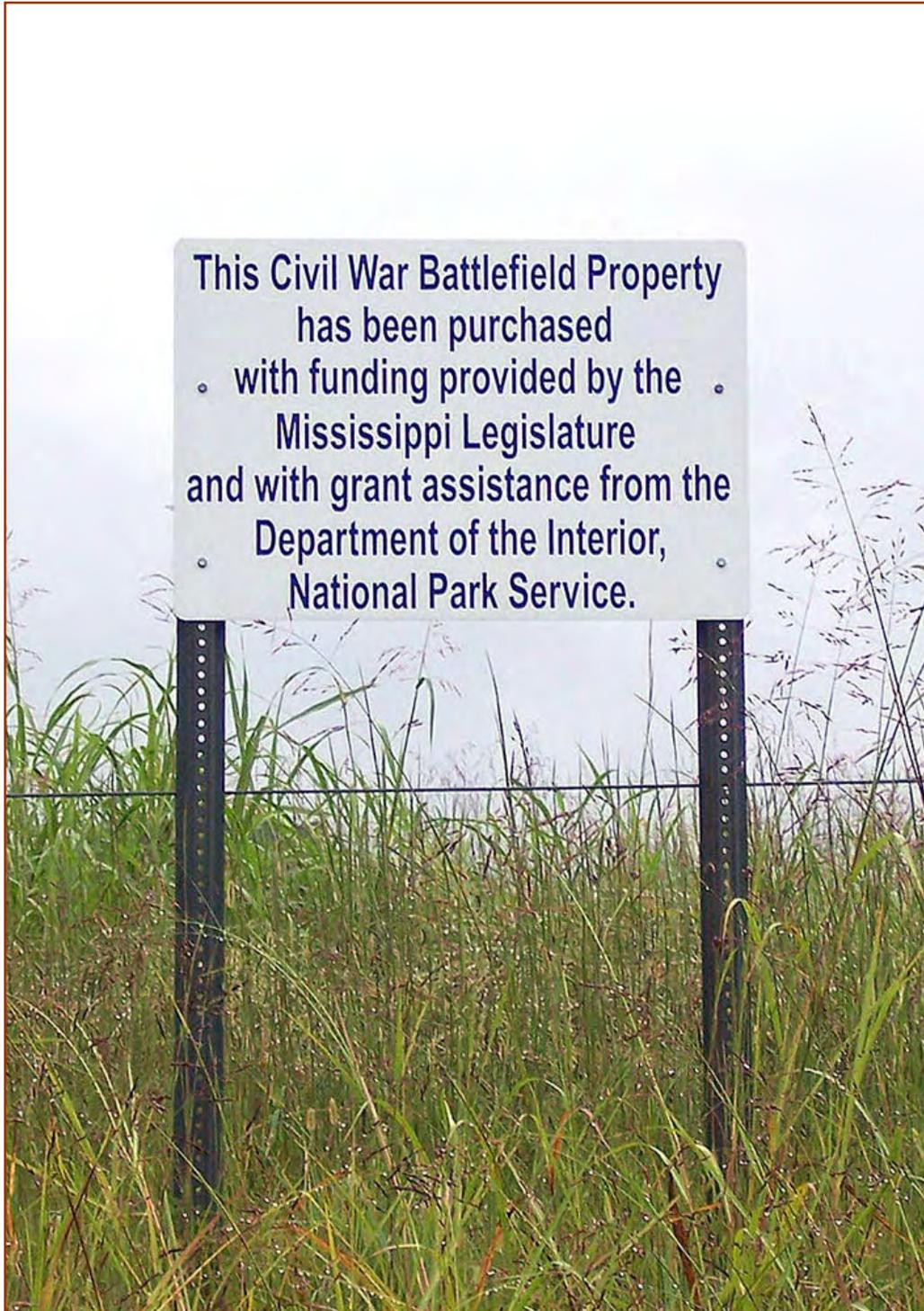


Figure 8. More than 2,600 acres of battlefield land in Mississippi have been protected through the ABPP's Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant Program (see Appendix C). Photograph by Kathleen Madigan, 2009

Appendices

Appendix A. Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002

Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016, 17 December 2002
Amends the American Battlefield Protection Program Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k)

An Act

To amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program.

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 "Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) Findings.--Congress finds the following

(1) Civil War battlefields provide a means for the people of the United States to understand a tragic period in the history of the United States.

(2) According to the Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993, of the 384 principal Civil War battlefields--

(A) almost 20 percent are lost or fragmented;

(B) 17 percent are in poor condition; and

(C) 60 percent have been lost or are in imminent danger of being fragmented by development and lost as coherent historic sites.

(b) Purposes.--The purposes of this Act are--

(1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and

(2) to create partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

SEC. 3. BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM.

The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended--

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as paragraph (3) of subsection (c), and indenting appropriately;

(2) in paragraph (3) of subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))--

(A) by striking "Appropriations" and inserting "appropriations"; and

(B) by striking "section" and inserting

``subsection";

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following

``(d) Battlefield Acquisition Grant Program.--

``(1) Definitions.--In this subsection

``(A) Battlefield report.--The term `Battlefield Report' means the document entitled `Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields', prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993.

``(B) Eligible entity.--The term `eligible entity' means a State or local government.

``(C) Eligible site.--The term `eligible site' means a site--

``(i) that is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

``(ii) that is identified in the Battlefield Report.

``(D) Secretary.--The term `Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

``(2) Establishment.--The Secretary shall establish a battlefield acquisition grant program under which the Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the cost of acquiring interests in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those eligible sites.

``(3) Nonprofit partners.--An eligible entity may acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under this subsection in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

``(4) Non-federal share.--The non-Federal share of the total cost of acquiring an interest in an eligible site under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent.

``(5) Limitation on land use.--An interest in an eligible site acquired under this subsection shall be subject to section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-8(f)(3)).

``(6) Reports.--

``(A) In general.--Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection.

``(B) Update of battlefield report.--Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Report to reflect--

``(i) preservation activities carried out at the 384 battlefields during the period between publication of the Battlefield Report and the update;

``(ii) changes in the condition of the battlefields during that period; and

``(iii) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.

``(7) Authorization of appropriations.--

``(A) In general.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide grants under this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004

through 2008.

“(B) Update of battlefield report.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out paragraph (6)(B), \$500,000.”; and

(4) in subsection (e)--

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “as of” and all that follows through the period and inserting “on September 30, 2008.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and provide battlefield acquisition grants” after “studies”.

-end-

Appendix D. Battlefield Questionnaire

State
Battlefield

Person Completing Form
Date of completion

I. Protected Lands of the Battlefield (“Protected lands” are these “owned” for historic preservation or conservation purposes. Please provide information on land protected since 1993.)

1) Identify protected lands by parcel since 1993. Then answer these questions about each parcel, following example in the chart below. What is the acreage of each parcel? Is parcel owned fee simple, by whom? Is there is an easement, if so name easement holder? Was the land purchased or the easement conveyed after 1993? What was cost of purchase or easement? What was source of funding and the amount that source contributed? Choose from these possible sources: Coin money, LWCF, Farm Bill, State Government, Local Government, Private Owner, Private Non-Profit (provide name), or Other (describe).

Parcel	Acres	Owner	Easement	Year	Cost	Source
<i>Joe Smith Farm</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>SHPO</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>LWCF/\$250,000 Private/\$250,000</i>
<i>Sue Jones Tract</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Battlefield Friends, Inc.</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>\$41,000</i>	<i>State/\$20,000 BFI/\$21,000</i>

2) Other public or non-profit lands within the battlefield? (Y/N)

- If yes, describe
- Name of public or non-profit owner or easement holder
- Number of Acres owned/held

3) Is the information in a GIS? (Y/N)

If yes, may NPS obtain a copy of the data? (Y/N)

II. Preservation Groups

1) Is there a formal interested entity (friends group, etc) associated with the battlefield? (Y/N)

If yes

Name

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail

Web site? (Y/N)

If yes, what is the URL?

Does the web site have a preservation message? (Y/N)

What year did the group form?

III. Public Access and Interpretation

1) Does the site have designated Public Access? (Y/N) (Count public roads if there are designated interpretive signs or pull-offs)

If yes, what entity provides the public access (Access may occur on lands owned *in fee* or *under easement* to the above entities)

Federal government

State government

Local government

Private Nonprofit organization

Private owner

Other

Name of entity (if applicable)

Number of Acres Accessible to the Public (size of the area in which the public may physically visit without trespassing. Do not include viewsheds.)

2) Does the site have interpretation? (Y/N)

If yes, what type of interpretation is available?

Visitor Center

Brochure(s)

Wayside exhibits

Driving Tour

Walking Tour

Audio tour tapes

Maintained historic features/areas

Living History

Website

Other

IV. Registration

Applies only to the battlefield landscape, not to individual contributing features of a battlefield (i.e., the individually listed Dunker Church property of .2 acres does not represent the Antietam *battlefield* for the purposes of this exercise)

- 1) Is the site a designated National Historic Landmark? (Y/N)
If yes, NHL and ID Number
- 2) Is the site listed in the National Register? (Y/N)
If yes, NRHP Name and ID Number
- 3) Is the site listed in the State Register? (Y/N)
If yes, State Register Name and ID Number
- 4) Is the site in the State Inventory? (Y/N)
If yes, State Inventory Name and ID Number
- 5) Is the site designated as a local landmark or historic site? (Y/N)
Type of Designation/Listing

V. Program Activities

What types of preservation program activities have occurred at the battlefield? Provide final product name and date if applicable (e.g., *Phase I Archeological Survey Report on the Piper Farm, 1994* and *Antietam Preservation Plan, 2001*, etc.)

- 1) Research and Documentation
- 2) Cultural Resource surveys and inventories (building/structure and landscape inventories, archeological surveys, landscape surveys, etc.)
- 3) Planning Projects (preservation plans, site management plans, cultural landscape reports, etc.)
- 4) Interpretation Projects (also includes education)
- 5) Advocacy (any project meant to engage the public in a way that would benefit the preservation of the site, e.g. PR, lobbying, public outreach, petitioning for action, etc.)
- 6) Legislation (any local, state, or federal legislation designed to encourage preservation of the battlefield individually or together with other similar sites)
- 7) Fundraising
 - a. To support program activities?

b. To support land acquisition/easements?

8) Other

Appendix C. Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (PL 107-359) amended the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 USC 469k) to authorize a matching grant program to assist States and local communities in acquiring significant Civil War battlefield lands for permanent protection. Most recently, Congress showed its continued support for these grants through its reauthorization of this program within the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11).

Eligible battlefields are those listed in the 1993 Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields prepared by the Congressionally-chartered Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC). Eligible acquisition projects may be for fee interest in land or for a protective interest such as a perpetual easement.

Since 1998, Congress has appropriated a total of \$38.9 million for this Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (CWBLAG) Program. These grants have assisted in the permanent protection of more than 15,700 acres at 61 Civil War battlefields in 14 states. The program's funding has been used to protect 10 of Mississippi's battlefields - **Big Black River Bridge, Brice's Cross Roads, Champion Hill, Corinth, Siege of Corinth, Iuka, Okolona, Port Gibson, Raymond, and Tupelo**. Although all of the battlefields listed in this update are eligible to apply for CWBLAG funding, applications to protect land that retains integrity (within PotNR boundaries) will be the most competitive.

Battlefield	CWSAC Priority	Total Acres Acquired	Total CWBLAG	Total Non-Federal Leveraged Funds	Total Acquisition Costs
Big Black River	II	28.07	\$69,871.00	\$34,936.00	\$104,807.00
Brice's Cross Road:	I	566.92	\$772,541.50	\$446,253.00	\$1,213,611.00
Champion Hill	II	403.12	\$311,764.52	\$252,833.00	\$543,000.00
Corinth/Siege of Corinth	I/IV	524.91	\$2,301,946.00	\$1,144,353.00	\$3,446,299.00
Iuka	IV	55.98	\$153,943.00	\$76,971.00	\$230,914.00
Okolona	II	269.81	\$213,020.00	\$106,509.00	\$319,529.00
Port Gibson	I	622.00	\$85,333.00	\$42,667.00	\$128,000.00
Raymond	I	129.37	\$364,935.00	\$289,718.00	\$650,653.00
Tupelo	IV	12.00	\$29,773.75	\$29,500.00	\$59,273.75
Total		2,612.18	\$4,303,127.77	\$2,423,740.00	\$6,696,086.75

Appendix D. American Battlefield Protection Program Planning Grants

Since 1992, ABPP has offered annual planning grants to nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, and tribal governments to help protect battlefields located on American soil. Applicants are encouraged to work with partner organizations and federal, state, and local government agencies as early as possible to integrate their efforts into a larger battle site protection strategy. In Mississippi, the ABPP has awarded \$362,277.00.

Grantee	Year	Project Title	Award
<i>Alcorn County Board of Supervisors</i>	1995	Corinth Civil War Interpretation Program	\$100,000.00
	1995	Siege and Battle of Corinth Archaeological Survey	\$10,000.00
	1993	Staff person for Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission	\$15,000.00
<i>Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission, Inc.</i>	1996	Brice's Cross Roads Conceptual Interpretive Site Plan	\$20,000.00
<i>City of Corinth</i>	1996	Earthworks Stabilization Assessment at Corinth	\$16,000.00
	1993	Document Contraband Camp at Corinth	\$10,000.00
	1992	Develop Battlefield Protection Plan and Establish Battlefield Commission	\$19,977.00
<i>Civil War Preservation Trust</i>	1997	Strategic Planning for the Friends of Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail	\$15,000.00
<i>The Friends of Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail, Inc.</i>	1999	Vicksburg Campaign Corridor Study	\$24,000.00
	1998	Strategic Plan for the Friends of Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail, Inc.	\$25,000.00
<i>Mississippi Department of Archives and History</i>	2002	Okolona Battlefield Study	\$7,300.00
	1997	Champion Hill Battlefield Preservation Plan	\$15,000.00
	1997	Big Black River Bridge Battlefield Preservation Plan	\$15,000.00
	1996	Master Preservation Plan for Raymond Battlefield	\$15,000.00
	1995	Port Gibson Preservation Plan	\$15,000.00
	1994	Port Gibson Historic Road Erosion Control Project	\$15,000.00
<i>The Countryside Institute</i>	1995	Mississippi/Vicksburg Campaign Stewardship Exchange	\$25,000.00
Total ABPP Planning Grants to Mississippi Battlefields as of FY2009			\$362,277.00