

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Johnsonville Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Old Johnsonville Road N/A not for publication
city or town Denver vicinity
stat Tennessee code TN county Humphreys code 085 zip code 37054

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
|              | -1-             | buildings  |
| -1-          | -2-             | sites      |
| -3-          | -1-             | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| -4-          | -4-             | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the American Civil War in Tennessee MPS

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE: Military Facility/Fort

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum  
State Park- in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Dirt; Stone  
walls Dirt; Stone, Wood  
roof Rubber  
other Glass, Metal

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY  
ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

**Period of Significance**

1863-1865

**Significant Dates**

1863-64

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown/ U. S. Army

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency: TN State Parks
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Johnsonville Historic District  
Name of Property

Humphreys County, Tennessee  
County and State

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property** \_\_\_\_\_

Johnsonville, TN, 30 SW

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Shayla Allison, Traci Nichols, Chris Armstrong, Sean Reines, Carroll Van West  
organization Center for Historic Preservation date November 17, 2000  
street & number Middle Tennessee State University—Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

---

### Additional Documentation

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

### Property Owner

---

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Tennessee State Parks, c/o Milton Hamilton, Jr., Commissioner, Dept. of Environment & Conservation  
street & number L & C Tower 21<sup>st</sup> floor telephone 532-0001  
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

## DESCRIPTION

In 1969, the State of Tennessee acquired approximately 300 acres from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and created the Johnsonville State Historic Area, which opened in 1971. The historic area is on a tract of land lying in the Second Civil District of Humphreys County, State of Tennessee, on the southeast side of Kentucky Lake (the dammed Tennessee River), approximately one-half mile southwest of the mouth of the Trace Creek embayment. The park is located in a rural area, and large timber tracts predominate over the landscape preserving the integrity of the significant cultural resources. The park's land is concentrated along a narrow ridgeline with steep descending slopes. Kentucky Lake, created by TVA in the early 1940s, defines the western boundary of the park; Trace Creek, whose waters rose with the creation of the TVA reservoir, defines the northern boundary of the park. Unfortunately, waters from the TVA project covered the original townsite of Johnsonville, and led to the relocation of two white cemeteries to higher ground within the current park boundaries. The reservoir waters, however, did not impact the Civil War-era fortifications associated with Fort Johnson, since these were located on higher ground so to give the troops a better visual overview and defensive setting to protect the Federal base at Johnsonville. The nominated property, therefore, consists of the Upper Redoubt, the Lower Redoubt, the Upper rifle pits, and the Upper horse corral of Fort Johnson, associated sites that are connected by a historic foot trail which was initially developed during the Civil War, then cleared in circa 1960, and then improved by state park personnel in 1971. This roughly rectangular-shaped district ascends up the eastern ridge, from its lowest point of the Lower Redoubt, at the park's visitor's center, to the park's highest point at the Upper Redoubt.

### 1. Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson (1863-1864)

Fort Johnson, a military occupation site and fortification constructed between 1863 and 1864, contained two redoubts overlooking the tracks of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad and the Tennessee River. The Lower Redoubt (built between 1863-1864 by troops of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops and contraband labor) is oval in shape and measures approximately 210 feet by 100 feet. The redoubt conforms to the contour or topography of its hillside location. As pointed out by the Tennessee Historical Commission in its Multiple Property Submission for Historic and Archaeological Civil War Resources, "soldiers used picks and spades to build high earthen walls to provide protection from the enemy. These earthworks often were built five to six feet in height and reinforced with stones or logs. Interior ditches allowed soldiers to stand and be protected by the earthen walls while outer ditches made scaling the earthwork more difficult. Due to their exposure to the elements, all earthworks are likely to have eroded to some degree." This general description holds true for the Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson. The redoubt retains much of its original form and plan, with its sally port being well defined. Its earthen walls are now approximately six feet in height and have not suffered significantly from erosion. The Lower Redoubt is a contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District (C).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

## 2. Winfrey Cemetery (1942)

Located inside the Lower Redoubt, however, is the Winfrey Cemetery. It originally was located on a hill overlooking the old town of Johnsonville, the site of which was inundated by the waters of Kentucky Lake when the Tennessee Valley Authority closed Kentucky Dam in 1942. Prior to closing the dam, in 1941-42, TVA reinterred the graves from the Winfrey Cemetery to a new site within the Lower Redoubt. The agency marked the cemetery by placing four metal markers, in a rectangular shape, in the walls of the redoubt; these markers remain extant. The boundary markers designated "US-TVA Monument" are concrete monuments capped by bronze tablets imprinted with given coordinate numbers. TVA Land Map number 143-4, after the removal, lists 28 graves in the cemetery of which eleven contained markers. The cemetery has two fenced-in areas containing an unknown number of graves, but there are only three grave markers in the cemetery and two of the three are broken. There is an obelisk headstone monument for John T. Green, (Born Dec. 3, 1868, Died July 3, 1912), in the cemetery. Another monument is broken into three pieces and leaning against a tree for Ida and Jim Winfrey containing only one set of dates (Born 1851, Died 1888). The third monument is for Albert Alonso Winfrey (Born January 24 1871?, Died September 21, 1874), and it is positioned against a stump. An area confined by a wrought iron spike fence contains no headstones, but believed to hold three graves. There is also an area confined by a chain link fence believed to have graves but no headstones.

Since TVA reinterred the graves of the Winfrey Cemetery in 1941-1942, a time period outside of the period of significance of this nomination, Winfrey Cemetery is a non-contributing site. However, due to its small size and few intact headstones, the cemetery does not impact the overall integrity of the Lower Redoubt. (NC, outside of the period of significance)

## 3. Museum and Visitor Center (1987)

Adjacent to the north end of the Lower Redoubt, the museum is a semi-circular, contemporary structure built in 1987. The building has single light glass windows and wood panel walls that rest of a poured concrete foundation, which has been covered in part by hand-laid limestone rocks set in concrete. It has a flat rubber roof that is level with the top of the lower redoubt wall so to not distract from the resources. The cantilever roof projects horizontally beyond the wall supports where the roof is then supported by wood or metal beams. The Museum/Visitor Center is a non-contributing building in the Johnsonville Historic District. (NC, due to date of construction)

## 4. Foot Trail (circa 1864, 1960, 1971)

According to contemporary Civil War maps of Fort Johnson, soldiers constructed a trail (circa 1864) between the Lower and Upper Redoubts. A Boy Scout troop cleared the trail circa 1960 as part of a larger effort to build a six-mile hiking trail throughout the area, a project that Tennessee State Parks completed as part of its recreational development of the park in 1971. The trail is narrow, composed of dirt and rock, and does not intrude into the historic setting of the connected historic resources. However, due to its date of the park's improvements in 1971, the trail is a non-contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District. (NC, due to the date of construction)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

## 5. Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson (1864)

On a hilltop overlooking the river and railroad tracks was the Upper Redoubt, which conforms to the contour of the summit and takes on an enclosed shape or form. The Upper Redoubt was built following the Battle of Johnsonville by the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops and contraband labor to strengthen further the defenses of Fort Johnson. It is circular in shape and measures approximately 255 feet by 120 feet, and it is approximately 12 to 15 feet in height. This redoubt retains much of its form and plan and its walls are well defined and have not suffered significantly from erosion. The Upper Redoubt is a contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District. (C)

## 6. Horse Corral (1864)

As the Upper Redoubt was constructed, soldiers cleared an adjacent area for use as a horse corral. It is a flattened area that measures approximately 150 feet by 150 feet. It is a contributing site in the Johnsonville Historic District. (C)

## 7. Rifle Pits (1864)

To the immediate south of the Upper Redoubt, and extending in a winding line on the west side of Redoubt Ridge Road for approximately 400 yards are rifle pits, dug out of the ground to a depth, at some areas today, of two feet. To the south of the redoubt and Crockett Cemetery are the best-preserved pits. Natural erosion has lessened slightly the original height, but no man-made development has disturbed them. The rifle pits are a contributing structure to the Johnsonville Historic District. (C)

Additional historic rifle pits are located in the middle of a recreational area to the east of Redoubt Ridge Road, across from Crockett Cemetery, but these are not included within the nominated boundaries. The setting of rifle pits on the east side of the road has been severely compromised by recreational development, i.e. picnic tables, restrooms, and playground equipment.

## 8. Crockett Cemetery (1880-1949)

High on a ridge overlooking the Tennessee River, Crockett Cemetery is located adjacent to the Upper Redoubt and is immediately east of the upper rifle pits. The rifle pits, in fact, define the west, north, and south boundaries of the cemetery while the Redoubt Ridge Road defines the east boundary. Outside of the cemetery and rifle pits are a concrete picnic table (circa 1971) and a monument in honor of families buried in the cemetery, erected by the city of New Johnsonville in 1987. There are no modern intrusions inside the cemetery boundaries. A 1963 survey of the cemetery and its records by Mildred S. Gambill and Jill K. Garrett concluded that the cemetery then contained 100 unmarked graves. On March 20, 2000, there were 37 grave markers in the Crockett Cemetery. The oldest dated monument is for an "infant son" Lee dated 1880. The second oldest dated monument is for

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

Martha Crockett, born 1824, died 1884. There are two stones which are illegible, (see figure), and they are believed by Head Ranger/ Interpreter Pete Rogers to be the oldest monuments. There is a large plot for the Elvington family with an unknown number of graves. There are 12 monuments with names and dates and two unmarked stones in an area designated for the Lee family.

While most of the markers are unadorned, six contain significant examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century decorative carving:

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| G. M. Lee:                 | Born 1890- Died 1895 (Stone embossed with a finger pointing toward Heaven) |
| Fred Odell Lee:            | Born 1891- Died 1892 (Stone embossed with a lamb)                          |
| Elizabeth Lee:             | Born 1885- Died 1885 (Stone embossed with a dove)                          |
| Charles Lee:               | Born 1883- Died 1884 (Stone embossed with a dove)                          |
| Mary Jane and G.W. Russell | Born 1836-Died 1911 and Born 1838-Died unlisted                            |
| Andrew Jackson Parker      | Born 1889-Died 1920  |

All stones in the cemetery, with the exception of Warner E. Sharpe, Sr., Born 1885, Died 1974, are dated prior to 1950. However, since the dates for the cemetery are outside of the period of significance, the Crockett Cemetery is a non-contributing site in the Johnsonville Historic District. (NC, outside of period of significance)

According to the MPS registration requirements for Civil War era resources in Tennessee, earthworks—which is the best way to categorize the remaining resources of the rifle pits and upper and lower redoubts of Fort Johnson—meet registration requirements “if they possess sufficient character and integrity to retain their sense of time and place from their period of significance.”

In the Johnsonville Historic District, the earthwork retains integrity of location since they are located in the place where they were originally built and utilized during the Civil War. They retain integrity of setting because the physical environment is largely intact. There are minimal intrusions into the earthworks, except for the historic late nineteenth and early twentieth century cemeteries. These cemeteries do not impact the overall integrity of the site. The Johnsonville Historic District retains integrity of feeling through its ability to convey a sense of time and place from its period of significance in the Civil War. Moreover, the redoubts and rifle pits retain integrity of design since the essential outline and design of the earthwork is present. Despite natural erosion, the redoubts are well defined. Finally the resources retain integrity of materials and workmanship because they display their original construction materials of earth and display their overall form and plan.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnsonville Historic District near the village of Denver in Humphreys County, Tennessee, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in American Civil War military history and its association with African-American ethnic heritage during the Civil War. Johnsonville was a strategically important Union river-rail supply depot and distribution center located on the east bank of the Tennessee River at the western terminus of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. The town and its defensive fortifications were the site of a Civil War battle on November 4-5, 1864. On November 4, about three thousand Confederate dismounted cavalry and artillery under General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked and laid siege to a Union Army of the Cumberland garrison consisting of combined land and naval forces numbering about two thousand. The land forces under Colonel Charles R. Thompson included several hundred black troops from various United States Colored Troop (USCT) units.<sup>1</sup> Union manpower losses totaled a mere eight casualties while Confederate casualties numbered eleven. However, Forrest's raid on Johnsonville caused the destruction of four United States Navy "tinclad" gunboats, numerous transports and barges, supplies and war materiel, and many of the depot buildings. Although Forrest's tactical victory at Johnsonville disrupted Union operations and communications in Tennessee for several weeks, it ultimately had no effect on the outcome of the war.<sup>2</sup> Despite the Union setback here, the USCT soldiers stationed in and around an earthen redoubt known as Fort Johnson could take pride in their efforts to defend the depot. Union Colonel Reuben D. Mussey, commander of the 100<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops (USCT) attested to the fine performance and conduct of the black troops during the battle, and reported that the affair at Johnsonville "has gained credit for the colored troops."<sup>3</sup>

Contributing resources related to the military activity during the Civil War within the Johnsonville Historic District include the extant remains of Fort Johnson, consisting of two large earthen redoubts, a horse corral, and rifle pits. These sites and structures are also significant for their association with USCT soldiers who helped construct and garrison them before, during, and after the battle. The two redoubts are referred to today by Johnsonville State Historic Area as "Lower Redoubt" and "Upper Redoubt."<sup>4</sup> The Lower Redoubt is situated on a ridge directly behind and above where the supply depot warehouses were located. Portions of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT under Colonel John A. Hottenstein constructed the Lower Redoubt between May and the first week of November 1864 after completion of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad from Kingston Springs in Cheatham County to Johnsonville.<sup>5</sup> This redoubt and its system of rifle pit entrenchments was the one manned by both black and white infantry and artillery units and placed under siege during the Battle of Johnsonville.<sup>6</sup>

Immediately after the battle, Union General John M. Schofield assigned two brigades from his XXIII Corps, ordered to Johnsonville to reinforce Thompson, to construct a second and much larger earthen redoubt with a supporting system of rifle pits. Constructed from November 5 to November 24, 1864, the Upper Redoubt was placed on the heights south of and overlooking the supply depot to guard against future attacks on Johnsonville from the land side. As its contemporary name suggests, the Upper Redoubt is at a higher elevation than the Lower Redoubt.<sup>7</sup> By the end of November 1864, Thompson ordered all black regiments in Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee, including those stationed at Johnsonville, to Nashville to counter General John Bell Hood's invasion of Middle Tennessee.<sup>8</sup> After Hood's defeat, the Second Colored Brigade commanded by Colonel

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

Thompson and consisting of the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> USCT was ordered back to the fort. Portions of the 13<sup>th</sup> occupied Fort Johnson until the end of the war.<sup>9</sup>

Earthworks were constructed in association with offensive and defensive operations throughout Tennessee during the Civil War. Many of these were built and garrisoned by both armies to protect important supply, transportation, and communication lines from enemy attack. Often, they were situated adjacent to railroad lines for the defense of important towns, depots, and bridge crossings along them. Redoubts such as Fort Johnson were often relatively small, detached works used to fortify hilltops and strengthen main lines.<sup>10</sup> Fort Johnson's position atop a hill overlooking the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad and supply depot at Johnsonville provided an ideal location for Union troops to guard and defend this important point

During the first two years of the war, the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad line only ran from Nashville to Kingston Springs, a distance of about twenty-five miles. Because the line did not extend to the Tennessee River, it was considered to be of little military importance. The fall of Forts Henry (NR 10/10/1975) and Donelson (NR 10/15/1966), and subsequent capture of Nashville in late February 1862 brought Federal forces into Middle Tennessee. Nashville subsequently became the headquarters for Union armies in the Western Theatre and the main hub for troop and supply movements through Tennessee. In summer 1862, efforts to re-supply Nashville via the Cumberland River were hampered by low water. Union authorities determined that a rail link from the Tennessee River to Nashville would be necessary to alleviate this recurring problem. This line, they envisioned, would provide the army with a dependable port that could receive shipments of supplies by boat up Tennessee River from the Ohio River Valley year-round and distribute them by rail to Nashville. On January 27, 1863, in accordance with an order from General William S. Rosecrans, commander of the Nashville-based Department of the Cumberland, work began on extending the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad westward from Kingston Springs to Lucas Landing. The project was completed by May 10, 1864. On May 19, Tennessee Military Governor Andrew Johnson and other Union army dignitaries journeyed from Nashville to Lucas Landing in Humphreys County to dedicate the newly completed railroad line. During his dedication speech, Johnson allegedly renamed the town "Johnsonville."<sup>11</sup>

The Nashville and Northwestern Railroad extension project became the top Union priority in Middle Tennessee, and a ready source of labor was needed to complete it. In 1862 and early 1863, wartime military activity and Union occupation had hastened the demise of slavery in Tennessee. Thousands of slaves fled the countryside and sought safety within Union lines and occupied towns as contrabands. Free blacks, as well as former slaves who had fled their masters and sought freedom in Union-occupied Nashville, were forced into service by the Federal army as laborers. They were ordered to undertake the majority of the construction work necessary to complete the line to Johnsonville and were organized into a series of labor battalions for this and other projects in Middle Tennessee. The blacks quickly illustrated that they could function effectively in disciplined units. Against the protests of Governor Johnson, who preferred they be utilized mainly as laborers, the War Department authorized the large-scale recruitment of blacks into the Union army. By October 1863, the recruitment of ex-slaves in Tennessee was the primary responsibility of the Bureau of United States Colored Troops, which had

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

opened an office at 38 Cedar Street in Nashville on September 10 of that year. Many of these ex-slaves came from Nashville contraband camps and saw military service as a way to gain and ensure permanent freedom.<sup>12</sup>

Organization and enlistment of USCT regiments from labor battalions proceeded rapidly after October 1863 and several of these units continued to work on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. The task of completing the line went to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> USCT. The 12<sup>th</sup> was organized in Nashville in July and August 1863, and commanded by Colonel Charles R. Thompson. Formed at Nashville on November 19, 1863, the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT was commanded by Colonel John A. Hottenstein. On November 3, 1863, the 12<sup>th</sup> USCT reported to Union Army of the Cumberland Brigadier General Alvan C. Gillem for duty on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. From November 1863 until they were relieved on April 23, 1864, an average of two hundred men at a time from this regiment worked on the project. The 13<sup>th</sup> USCT labored on the line from November 19 to May 10, 1864, and furnished an average of five hundred men as construction workers during this period.<sup>13</sup> Both regiments raised the roadbed and laid the track through Humphreys County in the winter and spring of 1864. Despite continual harassment from Confederate guerrillas, they completed the rail extension to Johnsonville quickly. These black soldier-laborers had the additional task of building the warehouses, barracks, rail station, fortifications, and other facilities at Johnsonville.<sup>14</sup> Between 5,000 and 7,300 blacks were estimated to have worked on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad project.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to building the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad from Kingston Springs to Johnsonville, black troops were primarily used to guard it. After completion of the line, the 12<sup>th</sup> USCT guarded the trestles, bridges, and blockhouses along it. Consequently, the regiment's headquarters shifted up and down the line between Kingston Springs and Johnsonville. On August 1, 1864, Colonel Thompson assumed command of all troops assigned to duty along the rail line and made his headquarters at Johnsonville.<sup>16</sup> The 13<sup>th</sup> USCT under Colonel Hottenstein guarded Johnsonville, Waverly, and other key points along the line between May and December 1864, and again from mid-January 1865 to the end of the war.<sup>17</sup> Other USCT units that guarded the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad before and after the Battle of Johnsonville included portions of the 40<sup>th</sup> USCT (August-October 1864) and 100<sup>th</sup> USCT. White units such as the 8<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry and 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Battery also served with blacks in this capacity.<sup>18</sup>

Building and garrisoning fortifications were two other tasks commonly performed by black soldiers in Tennessee and elsewhere.<sup>19</sup> The trestles and bridges along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad were primary targets of Confederate cavalry and guerrilla raiders. A network of field fortifications was needed to defend the line. Blacks helped construct and occupy many of these, including the earthen redoubts and rifle pits at Johnsonville.<sup>20</sup>

On September 25, 1864, portions of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT stationed at Johnsonville repulsed a Confederate guerrilla attack on that place. According to Bobby L. Lovett, members of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT had been in the process of erecting fortifications around the [Johnsonville supply] depot since July 21, 1864.<sup>21</sup> The "Record of Events" for the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT specifically lists Company G as being assigned the duty of building fortifications at Johnsonville from July 10 to August 27, 1864.<sup>22</sup> The fortifications referred to by the Record of Events are those comprising the Lower Redoubt. The Record of Events also indicated that Companies A, D, F, H, and I were summoned to Johnsonville

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

in July 1864 from various points along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. They remained here through August, indicating that they likely aided Company G in constructing and garrisoning the Lower Redoubt. Companies B, C, E, and K of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT were stationed at Johnsonville from May to August 1864. In May, all four are listed as being at "Camp Hottenstein," so named for the regimental commander. Much of the 13<sup>th</sup> remained concentrated at Johnsonville until mid-October when they were directed by Special Orders No. 19 to guard a twenty-mile stretch of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad from Johnsonville eastward. This order referred to Johnsonville as the headquarters for troops along the railroad.<sup>23</sup> That same month, in accordance with Special Orders No. 14, Company I of the 12<sup>th</sup> USCT under Captain Ancil M. Bowdle was detached to Johnsonville for provost guard service and remained here through November.<sup>24</sup>

Black troops occupied the "Lower Redoubt" at Fort Johnson on the eve of and during the Battle of Johnsonville. On October 16, 1864, Forrest embarked on his last independent raid of the war from Corinth, Mississippi. His intentions were to sever Sherman's supply and communications line to Georgia and the Carolinas, delay the concentration of Union troops and supplies at Nashville, and support Hood's advance into Middle Tennessee. By late October, Union authorities realized that his primary target was Johnsonville. Union Captain and Assistant Quartermaster Henry Howland reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Battery, seven hundred men from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment (white), and one company of the 12<sup>th</sup> USCT occupied Fort Johnson as of October 31 under the overall command of Colonel Thompson. That same day, Colonel Thompson summoned all available reinforcements to Johnsonville from points along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad to counter Forrest's threat. About five hundred men from the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> USCT then proceeded to Johnsonville, and arrived there between November 1 and 3.<sup>25</sup> About the same time, Battery A of the Second United States Colored Light Artillery (USCLA) commanded by Captain Josiah V. Meigs accompanied forces of volunteer Quartermaster Corps under Colonel J.C. Peterson from Nashville to Johnsonville. In the days leading up to the battle, these forces, about five hundred citizens and quartermaster employees pressed into service by Howland and Peterson, and twenty members of the Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry, worked to strengthen the existing redoubt in preparation for battle. This collective mixture of white and black units constituted the entire Union garrison present during the Battle of Johnsonville.<sup>26</sup>

Prior to the battle, a portion of Forrest's command, under Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford, had already met with considerable success in a raid at Fort Heiman thirty miles north (downriver) from Johnsonville. Buford's command was able to capture three supply-laden Union steamers, the *Mazepa*, *Venus*, and the *J.W. Cheeseman* and a tinclad (lightly armored) gunboat, the *USS Undine*, on October 29-30. *The Undine* was a large boat armed with eight 24-pounder brass howitzers and Forrest planned to use the *Undine*'s firepower in his attack on Johnsonville. Forrest himself arrived on October 31 and pressed some of his cavalymen into service to operate the *Undine* and the captured transport *Venus* to create his own navy of "horse marines." The transport *Venus* was armed with the two 20-pounder Parrot guns and was to accompany the *Undine* down the river.

By the time Forrest's boats and ground forces started for Johnsonville on November 1, word of Forrest's presence had reached the Federal army and navy commanders at Paducah, Kentucky. Six gunboats started upstream for Johnsonville, but two gunboats that were already at Johnsonville (*Tawah*, *Key West*) intercepted Forrest's navy on

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

November 2. As the *Venus* rounded a bend, she found herself facing the Federal gunboats *Tawah* and *Key West*. The gunboats attacked at once, and quickly damaged the *Venus* and forced her to shore where the Confederates abandoned her. The Federals were able to board the *Venus* and recapture the ship. One of the prizes captured aboard the ship were the two 20-pound Parrot guns placed on board by Forrest. These cannons were taken to Johnsonville and added to the depot's defenses.

At noon on November 3, the *Undine*, supported by Forrest's land forces, made an appearance alongside Reynoldsburg Island, less than four miles north of Johnsonville. They attempted to lure the Federal gunboats into the range of land batteries several times that day, but the Federal commander refused to take the bait. When Forrest realized that his opponent would not be lured into trap, he moved his land forces to a point directly across from Johnsonville. Forrest and his chief artillery, Captain Morton, placed their artillery across from the depot. Their work was done so covertly during the evening that the Federals across the river had no idea that Confederate cannon were facing them.

Forrest's main concern was the placement of his artillery on the west bank of the Tennessee River, above and below Johnsonville. The town and depot, on the river's east bank, contained two wharves, rail sidings, warehouses, and Fort Johnson. Besides, the two gunboats engaged on November 3, a third was docked at Johnsonville along with 11 transport steamers and 18 barges. The 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Battery, the 443<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin, portions of three regiments of USCTs, and armed quartermaster employees and 20 troopers from the 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry made up the garrison.

In the morning of November 4, the *Undine* inadvertently created a diversion for the repositioning of some of the Confederate guns by again challenging the *Key West* and the *Tawah*, reinforced by a third tinclad, the *USS Elfin*. The gunboats from Johnsonville were joined at this time by a group of six gunboats from Paducah. The Confederates "horse marines" put up a determined fight but were overwhelmed by the firepower of the nine Union tinclads. Captain Gracy, the commander of the *Undine* ran the ship aground and instructed his men to abandon ship after they had set her afire. At 2 p.m. on November 4, Forrest's well-placed artillery commenced firing on the Federal vessels, Fort Johnson, and the dock facilities. The Federal garrison was not aware that Forrest was in the area and was going about their normal routine.

On the morning of November 4, the artillery and part of the infantry were posted in and around the Lower Redoubt fortifications. The remaining infantry occupied the supporting rifle pits "that had been thrown up on the flat north of the railroad" in anticipation of Confederate cavalry charges.<sup>27</sup> Thompson also armed the five hundred quartermaster employees and placed them in the entrenchments. Except for the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Battery, none of these troops had ever been under fire. The black troops here "were the only ones that were drilled."<sup>28</sup> Despite their lack of combat experience, the black troops manning Fort Johnson performed well. According to Colonel Reuben D. Mussey of the 100<sup>th</sup> USCT several eyewitnesses to the affair commented on their excellent showing. Meigs' Battery forced a Confederate battery placed across the river to change its location several times, and dismantled one of its guns. Under heavy shelling, the men of Meigs' Battery "stood their ground well." Armed with the Enfield rifle, portions of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT positioned on the riverbank as sharpshooters "did good execution."<sup>29</sup> The three

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

tinclads received damaging hits and the Federal navy commander scuttled his boats, for which he was later criticized. The six gunboats that had steamed upriver from Paducah could not help because the Confederate guns that had been positioned to the north of Johnsonville held them to long-distance firing. By nightfall, with Fort Johnson silenced, the docks, boats, and barges were ablaze. Under the cover of darkness, Forrest began moving the bulk of his command six miles south leaving a rearguard detachment to deter any Federal pursuit. As the Confederates prepared to leave the next morning, some black troops emerged from the earthen fort to shout oaths across the river at them. The Confederates, in response, fired a parting volley.<sup>30</sup>

At a cost of two killed and nine wounded, Forrest's attack had destroyed 33 vessels including barges and more than \$6 million of Federal property according to Forrest's estimates, and taken 150 prisoners. Federal figures for all the destroyed equipment were just over \$2 million. As successful as the raid was, it had few lasting long-range effects on General Sherman's march to the sea. Sherman had stockpiled a large reserve of supplies before cutting his supply lines, and his men were ordered to live off the land taking what they needed from the countryside. Even so, Forrest's campaign ensured that Federal communication lines in the West would never again be whole. The raid was important in that it displayed Forrest's tactical genius, particularly his aptitude for improvising an attacking force to meet unforeseen circumstances.

Black troops remained at Johnsonville until late November 1864 when all available white and black units stationed along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad were ordered to Nashville in anticipation of an attack on the city by Hood's advancing army. Battery A of the 2<sup>nd</sup> USCLA left Johnsonville on November 25. By November 30, the 12<sup>th</sup> USCT, 13<sup>th</sup> USCT, and other black units present during the battle had followed suit. Before leaving, the USCT units obeyed orders to destroy surplus gun carriages and dispose of excess cannon in the river. They accompanied train loads of supplies, materials, and contraband camp dwellers to Nashville, where they arrived by December 7.<sup>31</sup>

In response to Thompson's repeated pleas for reinforcements in the days before the battle, Union General George Thomas, commander of all Federal forces in the Department of the Cumberland, directed Schofield's entire XXIII Corps to Johnsonville instead of its original destination of Pulaski. They began to arrive on November 5 after the battle had ended. Schofield soon left for Pulaski with the bulk of his forces. However, Union authorities feared the possibility of future attacks on Johnsonville by Forrest and other Confederate cavalry reported to be in the vicinity. For this reason, Schofield directed Colonel G.W. Gallup's and Colonel Moore's Brigades of Brigadier General Joseph Alexander Cooper's Second Division to remain at Johnsonville "to fortify the place as rapidly as possible" and make it "strong enough to be held by a brigade or less force." Colonel Gallup assumed command of all forces at Johnsonville upon his arrival on 5 November and began construction of the Upper Redoubt that same day.<sup>32</sup> The two brigades worked on the fortifications and performed picket and other duty until November 24 when they were sent to Waverly.<sup>33</sup> Colonel Thompson then reassumed command of all forces at Johnsonville.<sup>34</sup>

Most of the black troops that had manned the Lower Redoubt during the battle were still present and fell under Gallup's jurisdiction when he assumed command of the Johnsonville post. Many of these troops were well

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

equipped to build fortifications as evidenced by their previous experience in constructing the Lower Redoubt at Fort Johnson.<sup>35</sup>

Furthermore, some of the black troops present at Johnsonville during construction of the Upper Redoubt were apparently mounted. On 27 November, Colonel Thompson reported “the mounted men of the Twelfth and Thirteenth U.S. Colored Infantry” to be scouting the area above the Duck River around Johnsonville, while the white Second Tennessee Cavalry picketed the lower fords. Although the 100<sup>th</sup> USCT had “no effective mounted men” at this time due to a shortage of saddles, Thompson had “directed them to get some without delay.”<sup>36</sup> The proximity of the Horse Corral to the Upper Redoubt strongly suggests that these black troops would have worked on and occupied these fortifications.

After arriving in Nashville, the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> USCT were consolidated by Army of the Cumberland General George Thomas into the Second Colored Brigade and placed under the command of Colonel Thompson. At the Battle of Nashville, the Brigade participated in the decisive Union assault on Overton Hill on December 16 that precipitated Hood's retreat into Northern Alabama. The Brigade participated in the pursuit until January 15, 1865 when it returned to Nashville. The Brigade was then ordered to reoccupy its former stations along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad.<sup>37</sup>

A week earlier, Thompson's Second Colored Brigade had received orders to return to Johnsonville and reestablish the supply depot there. Through Department of the Cumberland Captain and Adjutant-General Henry M. Cist, Colonel Thompson was directed to return with his command to Johnsonville and “occupy the [Nashville and] Northwestern Railroad as before the recent demonstrations of the rebel army in front of Nashville.”<sup>38</sup> A white regiment that had occupied Fort Johnson while these black troops were engaged against Hood was present when Thompson's brigade returned. Other white units were slated to be posted here with the black soldiers. Thompson was also ordered to mount between two hundred and five hundred of his men to clear the region of guerrillas.<sup>39</sup> Portions of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT remained at Johnsonville to guard the railroad line and bridges until the end of the war.<sup>40</sup> On July 7, 1865, the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT was transferred to St. Louis, Missouri. The 12<sup>th</sup> USCT continued to guard points along the Nashville and Northwestern line until it was mustered out of service on December 11, 1865.<sup>41</sup>

By July 1865, the Union army had ceased operations at Johnsonville. After the war, the railroad line, port, and supply depot facilities continued to be a major river-rail transfer and distribution point. New manufacturing establishments sprang up around the town and waterfront, and Johnsonville became the site of a Freedmen's Bureau agency. Many black Union veterans settled here to work and raise their families. The 1890 Civil War Veterans Census for Tennessee lists thirty veterans of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> USCT as residing in Johnsonville and at least a dozen of these veterans were stationed here during the Civil War. Examples are Private Dempsey Green, Company A, 13<sup>th</sup> USCI, and Private Jacob Anderson, Company E, 13<sup>th</sup> USCT.<sup>42</sup>

The local military importance of Fort Johnson is clearly evident through its association with the Civil War Battle of Johnsonville and role as a defensive post along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. From spring 1864 on, the Union war effort in Tennessee depended upon the vital Johnsonville supply depot complex at the western

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

terminus of this rail line. The Nashville and Northwestern served as a primary supply, transportation, and communication lifeline for Union armies based in Nashville and throughout the Western Theater. Fort Johnson, consisting of two earthen redoubts, known today as the Lower Redoubt and Upper Redoubt, with corresponding sets of rifle pits is perhaps most significant for its association with various USCT regiments that helped construct and garrison it before, during, and after the battle. After extending the Nashville and Northwestern line to Johnsonville, the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> USCT spent much of their wartime service here. This included building and occupying Fort Johnson. Thus, Fort Johnson is militarily significant for its local role as the protector of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad line and supply depot at Johnsonville, and its construction and occupation by African-American troops during the Civil War.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>See Edward F. Williams, III, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 28, no. 3 (Fall 1969): 226, 238, and 241-243; and Colonel Donald H. Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville: Rebel Cavalry and Yankee Gunboats* (Rogersville, Alabama: Elk River Press, 1994), 10-14; and Wayne C. Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley: Humphreys County, Tennessee, 1785-1980," Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Rochester, 1980, 150-152.

<sup>2</sup>See Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 83-84 and 103; "Johnsonville State Historic Area: Tennessee State Parks Trails Map," brochure (Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee State Parks), January 1997; and Paul Ashdown, "Johnsonville, Battle of," entry in *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture*, ed. Carroll Van West (Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Historical Society, Rutledge Hill Press, 1998), 490.

<sup>3</sup>Report of Col. Reuben D. Mussey, One hundredth U.S. Colored Infantry, Hdqrs. Commissioner Organization U.S. Cold. Troops, Nashville, Tennessee 14 November 1864, in Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Scott, comp., *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865*, Series I, Volume 39, Part I, Serial no. 77 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office), 868. Hereafter cited as O.R. All 128 volumes reprinted and republished, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: The National Historical Society, 1971. All O.R. citations are to reprint editions.

<sup>4</sup>For the reference to the name "Fort Johnson," see O.R., Colonel J.C. Peterson to Col. Charles H. Irvin, Nashville, 11 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 52, Part I, Serial no. 109, 656; and for the contemporary names of the two redoubts comprising Fort Johnson, see "Johnsonville State Historic Area" brochure.

<sup>5</sup>For the construction date of the Lower Redoubt at Fort Johnson, see Janet B. Hewett, ed., *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Vol. 77, Part II—Record of Events, Serial no. 89 (Wilmington, North Carolina: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1998), "Record of Events for Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, November 1863-June 1865," 486-497; and Bobby L. Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866: A Socio-Military History of the Civil War," Ph.D. Dissertation, The University of Arkansas, 1978, 93-94



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

and 290. See also Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 150-151; and for the positioning of the Lower Redoubt and its associated system of rifle pits above the supply depot warehouses, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 13.

<sup>6</sup>See Williams, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," 242; and Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 86.

<sup>7</sup>For Schofield's order to construct a second set of fortifications at Johnsonville, see O.R., Major-General J.M. Schofield to Brig. Gen. J.A. Cooper, Johnsonville, Tenn., 7 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 39, Part III, Serial no. 79, 692. For secondary references to this second redoubt and associated set of rifle pits, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 85-86; and Williams, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," 245. For the date of construction for the second redoubt, see O.R., "Itineraries of the U.S. Forces under the command of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U.S. Army, Fourth Army Corps" [November-December 1864 and January 1865], Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 72.

<sup>8</sup>See Bobby L. Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville, Tennessee, 1780-1930, Elites and Dilemmas* (Fayetteville, Arkansas: The University of Arkansas Press, 1999), 64.

<sup>9</sup>See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 98; for the order sending Thompson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Colored Brigade to Johnsonville, see O.R., Brigadier-General W.M. D. Whipple to Brig. Gen. R.S. Granger, Nashville, Tennessee, 8 January 1865, Series I, Vol. 45, Part II, Serial no. 94, 551; and for portions of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCI remaining at Johnsonville until the end of the war, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 102-103.

<sup>10</sup>See Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Archaeology, *A Survey of Civil War Period Military Sites in Middle Tennessee*, 1990, 26; and Mark Grindstaff, Shayla Allison, Sean Reines, and Carroll Van West, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, "Fort Hill Historic District," Humphreys County, Tennessee, 20 January 1999, Section No. 8, p. 7.

<sup>11</sup>See Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 148-151; and Jill Knight Garrett, *A History of Humphreys County, Tennessee* (n.p., by the author, 1963), 36.

<sup>12</sup>See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 34-37; Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville, Tennessee*, 56-61; and for a discussion of the evolution of Union policy toward the utilization and recruitment of blacks in Tennessee during the Civil War, see Ira Berlin, Joseph P. Reidy, and Leslie S. Rowland, eds., *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867*, Series II, *The Black Military Experience*, 3d ed. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Cambridge University Press, 1988), 122-126.

<sup>13</sup>Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 288-291; Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 61; and Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War: A Military History of Confederate and Union Units With Available Rosters of Personnel*, Part I of II (Nashville: Civil War Centennial

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

Commission; reprint, Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1984), 397-399 (page citations are to reprint edition).

<sup>14</sup>Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 150-151.

<sup>15</sup>See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 34; and Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 56.

<sup>16</sup>See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 289; Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 93 for the reference to Colonel Thompson's headquarters being at Johnsonville; and Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, 397.

<sup>17</sup>See *Ibid.*, 399; and Hewett, ed., *Supplement to the Official Records*, Vol. 77, Part II—Record of Events, Serial no. 89, "Record of Events for Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, November 1863-June 1865," 486-497; and Grindstaff, Allison, Reines, and West, National Register Nomination, "Fort Hill Historic District," Section No. 8, p. 10.

<sup>18</sup>See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 311-312; and for the reference to these white units guarding the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad, see Garrett, *A History of Humphreys County, Tennessee*, 36.

<sup>19</sup>See Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 61-62; and Berlin, Reidy, and Rowland, eds., *Freedom*, Series II, *The Black Military Experience*, 483-485 and 519-520.

<sup>20</sup>Tennessee Historical Commission, "Tennessee Civil War Railroad: In Service to a Cause, Experience the Conflict," driving tour brochure for Civil War sites along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad line, n.p., 1998.

<sup>21</sup>For this reference, see Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 94.

<sup>22</sup>Hewett, ed., *Supplement to the Official Records*, Vol. 77, Part II—Record of Events, Serial No. 89, "Record of Events for Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, November 1863-June 1865," 495.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, 486-487 and 489-497.

<sup>24</sup>*Ibid.*, "Record of Events for Twelfth United States Colored Infantry, July 1863-June 1865," 473.

<sup>25</sup>See Williams, "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park," 228 and 240; Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 18; and O.R., Captain and Assistant Quartermaster Henry Howland to Brig Gen. J.L. Donaldson, Johnsonville, Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_, 1864, Series I, Vol. 48, Part I, Serial no. 109, 122.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

<sup>26</sup>For the reference to Meigs' Battery going to Johnsonville with the Quartermaster Corps and Peterson's use of citizens, see O.R., Peterson to Irvin, Series I, Vol. 48, Part I, Serial no. 109, 656; and O.R., Howland to Donaldson, Series I, Vol. 48, Part I, Serial no. 109, 122; and for a complete listing of all Union forces present at the Battle of Johnsonville, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 13.

<sup>27</sup>O.R., Report of Lieut. Col. William Sinclair, Assistant Inspector-General, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., 7 January 1865, Series I, Vol. 39, Part I, Serial no. 77, 861.

<sup>28</sup>For this quote, see O.R., Report of Capt. Samuel J. McConnell, Seventy-first Ohio Infantry, Acting Assistant Inspector-General, District of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, 14 November 1864, Series I, Vol., 39, Part I, Serial no. 77, 865; and for the reference to the arming of quartermaster employees, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 73.

<sup>29</sup>O.R., Report of Col. Reuben D. Mussey, Series I, Vol. 39, Part I, Serial no. 77, 868.

<sup>30</sup>Both primary and secondary sources mention this parting volley on black troops. See J.P. Young, *The Seventh Tennessee Cavalry. (Confederate), A History* (Nashville: M.E. Church, South, Barber & Smith Agents, 1890), 115; Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 81-82; and Williams, *The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park*, 244.

<sup>31</sup>See Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 95-96; and Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 64.

<sup>32</sup>For the summoning of Schofield's forces to Johnsonville, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 85-86; for Schofield's order to construct additional fortifications, see O.R., Schofield to Cooper, Series I, Vol. 39, Part III, Serial no. 79, 692; for Gallup assuming command of all Johnsonville forces upon arrival and beginning the construction of the Upper Redoubt, see O.R., Colonel G.W. Gallup to General Schofield, Johnsonville, Tennessee, 5 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 39, Part III, Serial no. 79, 655.

<sup>33</sup>O.R., "Itineraries of the U.S. Forces under the command of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, U.S Army," Fourth Army Corps, First Brigade, Second Division, Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 72.

<sup>34</sup>O.R., Major-General Geo. H. Thomas to Col. C.R. Thompson, Nashville, November 24 [23] 1864, Series I, Volume 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 1008.

<sup>35</sup>See Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 61-62; and Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1865," 288-289.

<sup>36</sup>O.R., Colonel C.R. Thompson to Major-General Thomas, Johnsonville, Tennessee, 27 November 1864, Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, Serial no. 93, 1100.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

<sup>37</sup>See Lovett, *The African-American History of Nashville*, 64-67; Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, 397-399; and Lovett, "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866," 98 and 311.

<sup>38</sup>For the return of Thompson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Colored Brigade to Johnsonville, see O.R., Whipple to Granger, Series I, Vol. 45, Part II, Serial no. 94, 551; for the reference to reestablishing the supply depot at Johnsonville, see O.R., Chief Quartermaster J.L. Donaldson to Maj. Gen. and Quartermaster-General M.C. Meigs, Nashville, Tennessee, 10 January 1865, Series I, Vol. 45, Part II, Serial no. 94, 561; and for the quote, see O.R., Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General Henry M. Cist to Col. C.R. Thompson, Eastport, Mississippi, 22 January 1865, 626.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, 626.

<sup>40</sup>For the reference to portions of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCI remaining at Johnsonville until the end of the war, see Steenburn, *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville*, 103.

<sup>41</sup>Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, 398 and 399.

<sup>42</sup>See Moore, "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley," 156, 162-163, and 218-219. For a list of some of the black Union veterans from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> USCI listed as living in Johnsonville in 1890, see Byron and Barbara Sistler, trans. and comp., *1890 Civil War Veterans Census—Tennessee* (Evanston, Illinois: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1978), 4, 6, 89, 119, 122, 197, 215, 239, 306, 312, 335, 354. This list was derived from *1890 Special Census Schedules, Civil War Union Veterans & Their Widows: West Tennessee*, Microfilm Roll 98, "Benton Co. through Weakley Co.," Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. Reproduced from original microcopy of this census available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. entitled *Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890: Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Tennessee*, Bundles 168 and 169. The names of these veterans were confirmed by looking at the muster rolls of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> USCI, as accessed via a visit to the "Civil War Soldiers System" link of the National Park Service web site <http://www.crnps.gov/> on 13 April 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 17

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ashdown, Paul. "Johnsonville, Battle of." Entry in *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture*, ed. Carroll Van West, 489-490. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, Rutledge Hill Press, 1998.
- Berlin, Ira, Thavolia Glymph, Steven F. Miller, Joseph P. Reidy, Leslie S. Rowland, and Julie Saville, eds. *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867. Series I, Volume III. The Wartime Genesis of Free Labor: The Lower South*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Berlin, Ira, Joseph P. Reidy, and Leslie S. Rowland, eds. *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867. Series II, The Black Military Experience*, 3rd ed., Cambridge, Massachusetts: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Civil War Centennial Commission. *Tennesseans in the Civil War: A Military History of Confederate and Union Units With Available Rosters of Personnel*. Part I of II. Nashville: Civil War Centennial Commission, 1964. Reprint, Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1984.
- Garrett, Jill Knight. *A History of Humphreys County, Tennessee*. n.p., by the author, 1963.
- Hewett, Jane B., ed. *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Volume 77, Part II—Record of Events, Serial no. 89. Wilmington, North Carolina: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Volume 79, Part II—Record of Events, Serial no. 91. Wilmington, North Carolina: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1998.
- Higgs, David W. *Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Battle of Johnsonville*. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1976.
- "Johnsonville State Historic Area: Tennessee State Parks Trails Map." Brochure. Nashville: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee State Parks, January 1997.
- Lovett, Bobby L. "The Negro in Tennessee, 1861-1866: A Socio-Military History of the Civil War." Ph.D. Dissertation, The University of Arkansas, 1978.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The African-American History of Nashville, Tennessee, 1780-1930, Elites and Dilemmas*. Fayetteville, Arkansas: The University of Arkansas Press, 1999.
- Lowry, Audrey B. *A Study of the Battle of Johnsonville State Historic Area*. Nashville: Lose and Associates, 1990.
- Moore, Wayne C. "Farm Communities and Economic Growth in the Lower Tennessee Valley: Humphreys County, Tennessee, 1785-1980." Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Rochester, 1980.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 18

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

Rogers, Pete. Head Ranger/Interpreter. Interview at Johnsonville State Historic Area, March and April 2000.

Scott, Lieutenant Colonel Robert N., comp. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865*. Series I, Volumes 39, 45, 48, and 49. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1892-1898.

Sistler, Byron, and Barbara Sistler, trans. and comp. *1890 Civil War Veterans Census—Tennessee*. Evanston, Illinois: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1978.

Steenburn, Colonel Donald H. *Silent Echoes of Johnsonville: Rebel Cavalry and Yankee Gunboats*. Rogersville, Alabama: Elk River Press, 1994.

Tennessee Historical Commission. "Tennessee Civil War Railroad: In Service to a Cause, Experience the Conflict." Driving tour brochure for Civil War sites along the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad line. n.p., 1998.

Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Archaeology. *A Survey of Civil War Period Military Sites in Middle Tennessee*, 1990.

Tennessee Valley Authority Records: Johnsonville cemeteries. Copies at Museum, Johnsonville State Historic Area, Denver, TN.

Thomason, Philip, and Doug Cubbison. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission. "Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the American Civil War in Tennessee." 24 May 1997.

Young, J.P. *The Seventh Tennessee Cavalry. (Confederate), A History*. Nashville: M.E.Church, South, Barber & Smith Agents, 1890.

*1890 Special Census Schedules, Civil War Union Veterans & Their Widows: West Tennessee*. Microfilm Roll 98, "Benton Co. through Weakley Co." Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. Reproduced from original microcopy available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. entitled *Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890: Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Tennessee*, Bundles 168 and 169.

Williams, Edward F., III. "The Johnsonville Raid and Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park." *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 28(Fall 1969): 225-251.

Williams, Edward F., III and H. K. Humphreys, eds. *Gunboats and Cavalry, the Story of Forrest's 1864 Johnsonville Campaign*. Memphis: N. B. Forrest Trail Commission, 1965.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 19

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

Wills, Brian S. *The Confederate's Greatest Calvaryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1992.

Wright, David Russell. "Civil War Field Fortifications: An Analysis of Theory and Practical Application." M.A. Thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 1982.

Wyeth, John A. *That Devil Forrest*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1975 [1899].

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 20

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundaries of the Johnsonville Historic District consist of the Lower Redoubt, the Upper Redoubt, the Upper Rifle Pits, the Horse Corral and the foot trail that connect them. All of the nominated property is within the boundaries of the Johnsonville State Historic Area.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain the greatest concentration of extant significant Civil War-era cultural resources within the Johnsonville State Historic Area.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 21

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Johnsonville Historic District  
Humphreys County, TN

Photos by: Carroll Van West  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: January and April, 2000

East wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south  
1 of 26

East wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson and Visitor Center, facing north  
2 of 26

Visitor Center, facing southwest  
3 of 26

Interior, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing southeast  
4 of 26

Interior, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing southwest  
5 of 26

West wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south  
6 of 26

Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing north  
7 of 26

John Green marker, Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south  
8 of 26

"Angel" grave marker, Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south  
9 of 26

Winfrey Cemetery, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing north  
10 of 26

South wall, Lower Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing northeast

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 22

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

11 of 26

West wall, interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing west  
12 of 26

West wall and rifle pits, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south  
13 of 26

West and south walls, rifle pits, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south  
14 of 26

East wall, interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing east  
15 of 26

Interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing south  
16 of 26

Interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing southwest  
17 of 26

Interior, Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing north  
18 of 26

Crockett Cemetery, entrance, facing northwest  
19 of 26

Crockett Cemetery, facing northwest  
20 of 26

Lee family group, Crockett Cemetery, facing west  
21 of 26

Crockett Cemetery and Upper Redoubt, Fort Johnson, facing northeast  
22 of 26

Rifle pits, facing northeast  
23 of 26

Rifle pits, facing northwest  
24 of 26

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 23

Johnsonville Historic District, Humphreys County,  
Tennessee

---

Rifle pits, facing southwest  
25 of 26

Lee grave marker, Crockett Cemetery, facing east  
26 of 26