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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2007



Nashville Pike Unit  
Stones River National Battlefield

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

###### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

*National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)).* Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

*Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003.* Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998.* Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

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*Management Policies 2006*. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...  
*ural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28*. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

**Connect People to Parks.** Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

**Advance the Education Mission.** Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

**Preserve America’s Special Places.** Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

Nashville Pike Unit  
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- 3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

#### Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

#### **Inventory Unit Description:**

Located three miles north of Murfreesboro, the Nashville Pike Unit represents a portion of the field of battle where General Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland and General Bragg's Confederate Army of Tennessee clashed on December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863. The 480-acre Nashville Pike Unit is the largest of the six discontinuous tracts within the current park boundaries. The Nashville Pike Unit includes the locations of significant actions of the battle and today functions as the focal point of park interpretation.

The battlefield was, and continues to be defined by karst topography with shallow soils, limestone outcroppings, and sinkholes. A distinctive characteristic of the 1862-1863 battlefield that influenced the course of the battle was the cedar glades and thickets endemic to the region. Cedar glades are openings in thick stands of red cedar where the shallow soils prohibit permanent invasion by trees. However, the shallow soils support a diverse plant community dominated by herbaceous annuals and mosses. Today, cedar thickets and glades survive in the central portion of the Nashville Pike Unit and serve as tangible links to the setting and its effect on the events of the battle. Limestone beds also remain in the southeast portion of the battlefield, which once afforded advancing soldiers cover from enemy fire.

The natural and cultural features of the 1862-1863 agricultural landscape had an effect on the strategies and conduct of the battle. Today, the cultivated fields and woodlands of the historic landscape survive. Three roads that were present at the time of the battle, (Old) Nashville Pike, Van Cleve (McFadden) Lane, and Wilkinson Pike border the Nashville Pike Unit. Both armies used these routes during the fighting at Stones River. None of the domestic and agricultural buildings or structures that were present at the time of the battle survives. Several snake and picket fences have been reconstructed by the NPS along park boundaries. A 1976 archeological investigation confirmed the location of one of the structures present at the time of the battle and in 1999; the tollhouse site was excavated along Nashville Pike. Earthworks built by the Pioneer Brigade are located northwest of the visitor center.

## Nashville Pike Unit

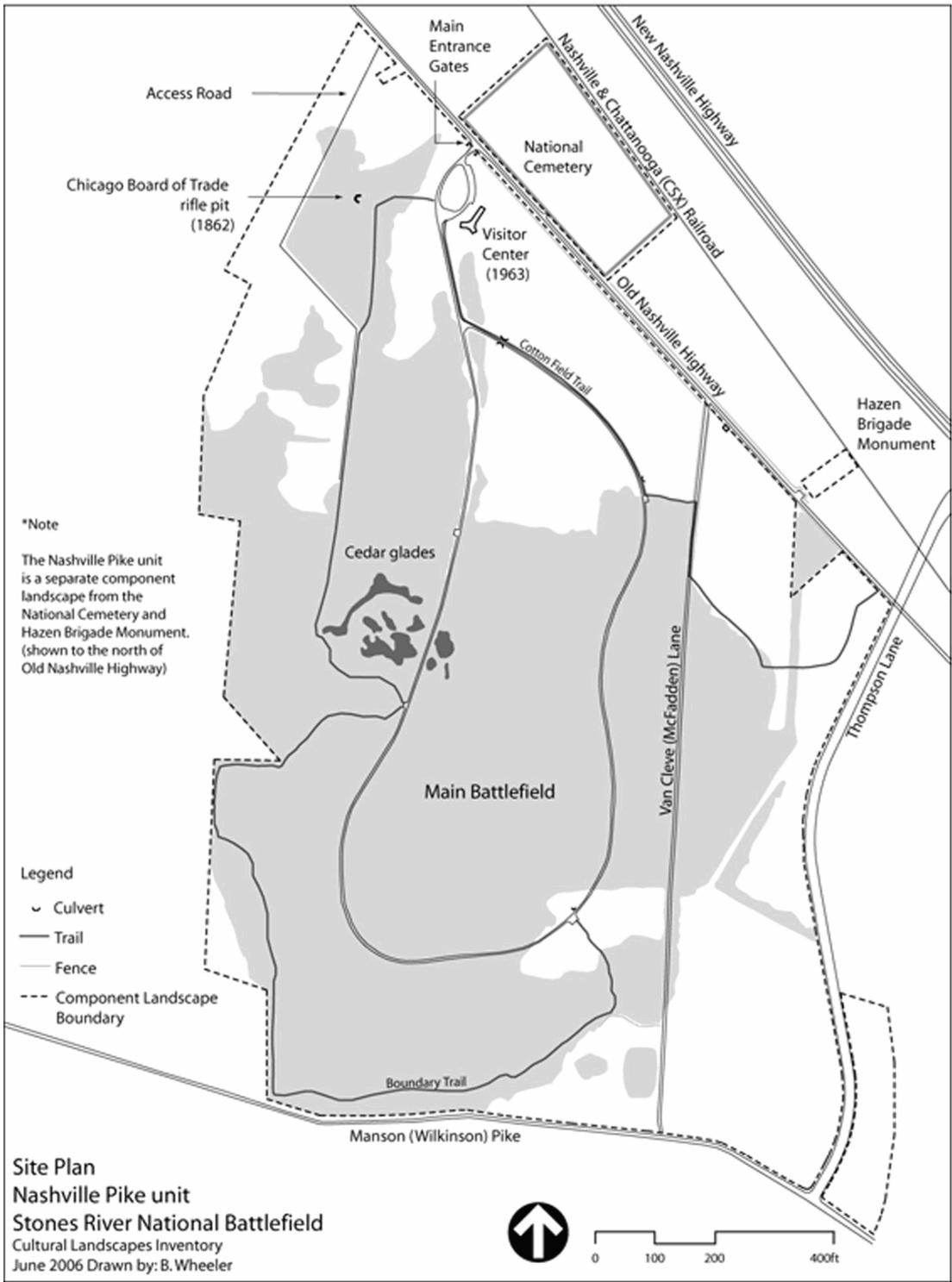
### Stones River National Battlefield

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Currently the vegetation of the Nashville Pike Unit is managed to resemble the general appearance of the vegetation patterns of the battlefield. Discrepancies between the composition, structure, and boundaries of the historic and current vegetation patterns exist, though a fire management plan was recently approved and prescribed burns promote native grasses to grow. At present, Middle Tennessee State University cultivates acreage under an agricultural special use permit in an attempt to replicate the historic land use on a portion of the battlefield. The remainders of the open fields are maintained through regular mowing.

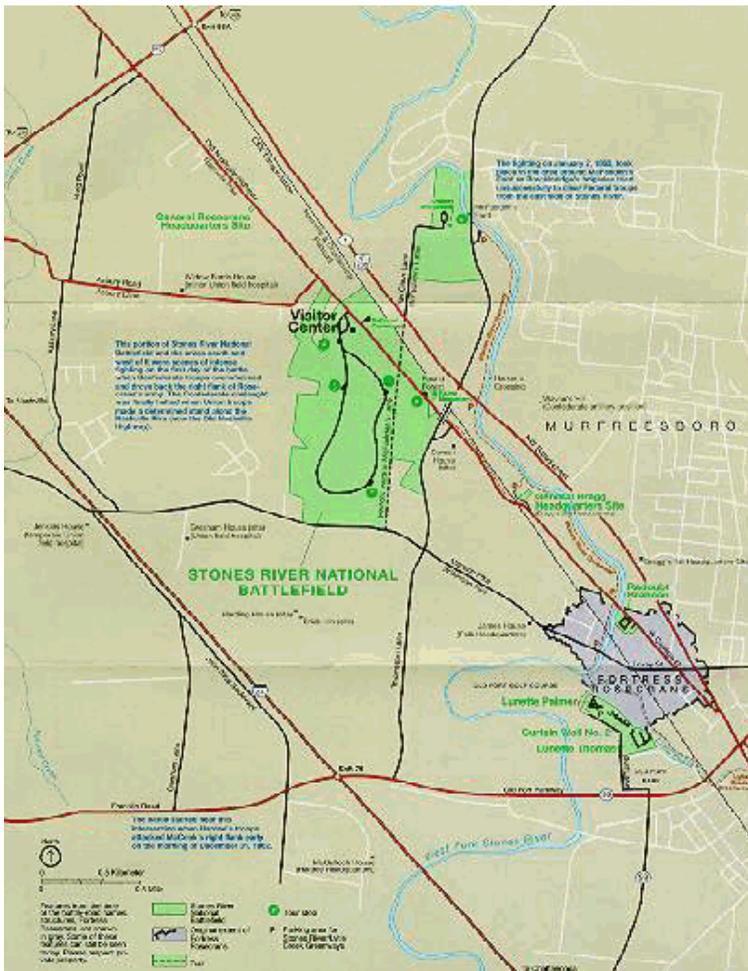
Today, visitors enter the Nashville Pike Unit from Old Nashville Pike. The modern visitor center, the only standing structure within the main battlefield landscape, provides orientation and context to events of the battle. A closed, circular tour road with parking pull-offs and wayside exhibits interpret specific locations and events of the battle. The tour stops along the route provide access to trails and Van Cleve Lane. There is a picnic area at tour stop 4, which is located near the visitor center and the Pioneer Brigade earthworks. The battery is the only of battle-era earthwork extant on the Nashville Pike Unit. Several stone culverts also exist along the tour route; though most are modern NPS features.

### Site Plan



CLI site plan for the Nashville Pike Unit

Nashville Pike Unit  
 Stones River National Battlefield



*The Nashville Pike Unit is the largest component landscape within the Stones River National Battlefield.*

**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Nashville Pike Unit
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	550099
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	550109

**Park Information**

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Stones River National Battlefield -STRI
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	5590
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Stones River National Battlefield

### CLI Hierarchy Description

The Nashville Pike Unit is a component landscape within the Stones River National Battlefield Landscape. The park boundaries include three landscapes; the STRI National Cemetery Landscape, the Fortress Rosecrans Landscape, and the Stones River Battlefield Landscape. The STRI National Cemetery is a single landscape enclosing approximately 20 acres and Fortress Rosecrans includes 2 component landscapes, Redoubt Brannan and Lunettes Palmer and Thomas and Curtain Wall No. 2. There are 5 component landscapes associated with the Battlefield Landscape. The Nashville Pike Unit covers 480 acres of the core section in which the battle took place and portrays the 1862-1863 setting of the Battle of Stones River. Other component landscapes of the Battlefield Landscape include the Hazen Brigade Monument, General Rosecrans's Headquarters Site, General Bragg's Headquarters Site, and the McFadden Farm Unit.



*CLI Hierarchy, Stones River National Battlefield, 2006.*

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The CLI was updated from CLAIMS data with additional information provided by a draft Cultural Landscape Report (75%) and a draft National Register nomination. A site visit by Beth Wheeler and David Hasty was conducted in May 2006. The park contact is Gib Backlund.

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	08/03/2007
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	08/30/2007

**Concurrence Graphic Information:**



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St., S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



H22(SERO-CRD)

1 August 2007

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Stones River National Battlefield  
From: Chief, Cultural Resource Division, Southeast Region  
Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory

We are pleased to transmit the nine Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLI) of Stones River National Battlefield: Stones River National Battlefield Landscape, General Bragg's Headquarters Site, General Rosecrans's Headquarters Site, Hazen Brigade Monument, McFadden Farm Unit, Nashville Pike Unit, Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes, Redoubt Brannan, and the Stones River National Cemetery. The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to an existing historic property.

In order for the CLI to be certified and counted in PMDS under STRI's goal 1a7 and the systemwide goal 1b2B, the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) needs to concur on the eligibility of the identified cultural landscape features to the existing nomination. Stones River National Battlefield is listed on the National Register, but the cultural landscape features are inadequately documented in the existing nomination. David Hasty, Southeast Region CLI Coordinator, will send a request to TN-SHPO for concurrence on the CLI findings.

The park superintendent also needs to concur on the condition assessment and management category provided within the inventory. A signature page is enclosed and needs to be signed and returned to the Regional Office for final certification and listing in PMDS goals 1a7 and 1b2B. If the condition assessment and management category are agreed upon, please sign the attached approval form and return to our office to the attention of David Hasty.

Enclosures



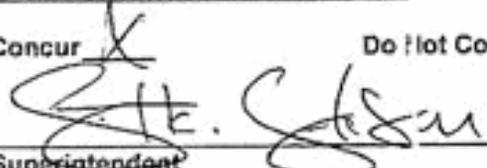
*Memo to Superintendent*

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 1 August 2007**

<b><u>Park Information</u></b>	
<b>Park:</b>	Stones River National Battlefield
<b>State:</b>	Tennessee
<b>Counties:</b>	Rutherford

<b><u>Cultural Landscape Condition</u></b>		
<b>Inventory Name</b>	<b>CLI Id #</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Stones River National Battlefield Landscape	550109	Good
General Bragg's Headquarters Site	550101	Good
General Rosecrans's Headquarters Site	550102	Fair
Hazen Brigade Monument	550098	Fair
McFadden Farm Unit	550100	Fair
Nashville Pike Unit	550099	Good
Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes	550114	Good
Redoubt Brannan	550112	Good
Stones River National Cemetery	550097	Fair

<b><u>Cultural Landscape Management Category</u></b>	
Should Be Preserved and Maintained	1 August 2007

<b><u>Park Superintendent Concurrence</u></b>	
Concur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Concur <input type="checkbox"/>
	8.3.2007
Superintendent	Date

*Signature from Superintendent*



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St., SW.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H22 (SERO-CRD)

13 August 2007

Claudette Stager  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

Dear Ms. Stager:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) for Stones River National Battlefield, located in Rutherford County, Tennessee.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of the Stones River National Battlefield CLIs and ask that you return the enclosed concurrence form.

Stones River Battlefield was first listed on the National Register in September 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Additional documentation was accepted in 1978, including the newly acquired portions of Fortress Rosecrans. This early documentation does not fully address cultural landscape features at the property. It also leaves out early commemorative, African-American ethnic heritage, or War Department historic contexts. We suggest that the existing nomination be amended to include these additional historic contexts and cultural landscape features such as vegetation, circulation, small scale features, and views. We believe that these features contribute to the significance of the property through all aspects of integrity, especially feeling, setting, location and association. The enclosed inventories include a statement of significance, written history, analysis and evaluation of cultural landscape features, and associated graphics for Stones River National Battlefield as a whole, and each of its component landscapes: General Bragg's Headquarters Site, General Rosecrans's Headquarters Site, Hazen Brigade Memorial, McFadden Farm unit, Nashville Pike Unit, Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes, Redoubt Brannan, and Stones River National Cemetery.



*Letter to SHPO*

With concurrence from your office, the findings become certified in the CLI database. Your concurrence also gives us justification to submit proper additional documentation to you at a future date.

If you have any questions about this document, please contact David Hasty, CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region (SER), at (404) 562-3117 extension 630 or by e-mail at [david\\_hasty@nps.gov](mailto:david_hasty@nps.gov). The concurrence form can be returned by fax at (404) 562-3202, or mailed to the address above.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,

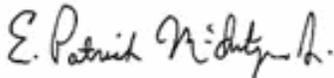


Dan Scheidt  
Chief, Cultural Resource Division  
Southeast Region

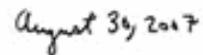
Enclosure

*Letter to SHPO page 2*

We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at Stones River National Battlefield, located in Rutherford County, Tennessee. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventories, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for the property.



Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer



Date

*Signature from SHPO*

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 5 September 2013**

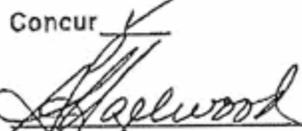
Park Information

Park: Stones River National Battlefield  
 State: Tennessee  
 Counties: Rutherford

Cultural Landscape Condition

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	2007 Condition	2013 Condition
Stones River National Battlefield Landscape	550109	Good	Good
General Bragg's Headquarters Site	550101	Good	Good
General Rosecrans's Headquarters Site	550102	Fair	Fair
Hazen Brigade Monument	550098	Fair	Fair
McFadden Farm Unit	550100	Fair	Fair
Nashville Pike Unit	550099	Good	Good
Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes	550114	Good	Good
Redoubt Brannan	550112	Good	Good
Stones River National Cemetery	550097	Fair	Fair

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur  Do Not Concur   
  
 Superintendent Date 9/10/13

*Recertification signature from Superintendent*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Nashville Pike Unit is the largest portion of original battlefield preserved. The boundaries are based on tracts acquired by the War Department and National Park Service. The Nashville Pike Unit is located within one of six discontinuous tracts (together forming the Stones River National Battlefield) where the Battle of Stones River took place.

### State and County:

**State:** TN

**County:** Rutherford County

**Size (Acres):** 480.00

### Boundary Coordinates:

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

**Type of Point:** Area

**Latitude:** -86.4389681517

**Longitude:** 35.8680804100

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

**Type of Point:** Area

**Latitude:** -86.4272634688

**Longitude:** 35.8660957030

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

**Type of Point:** Area

**Latitude:** -86.4264267249

**Longitude:** 35.8761538190

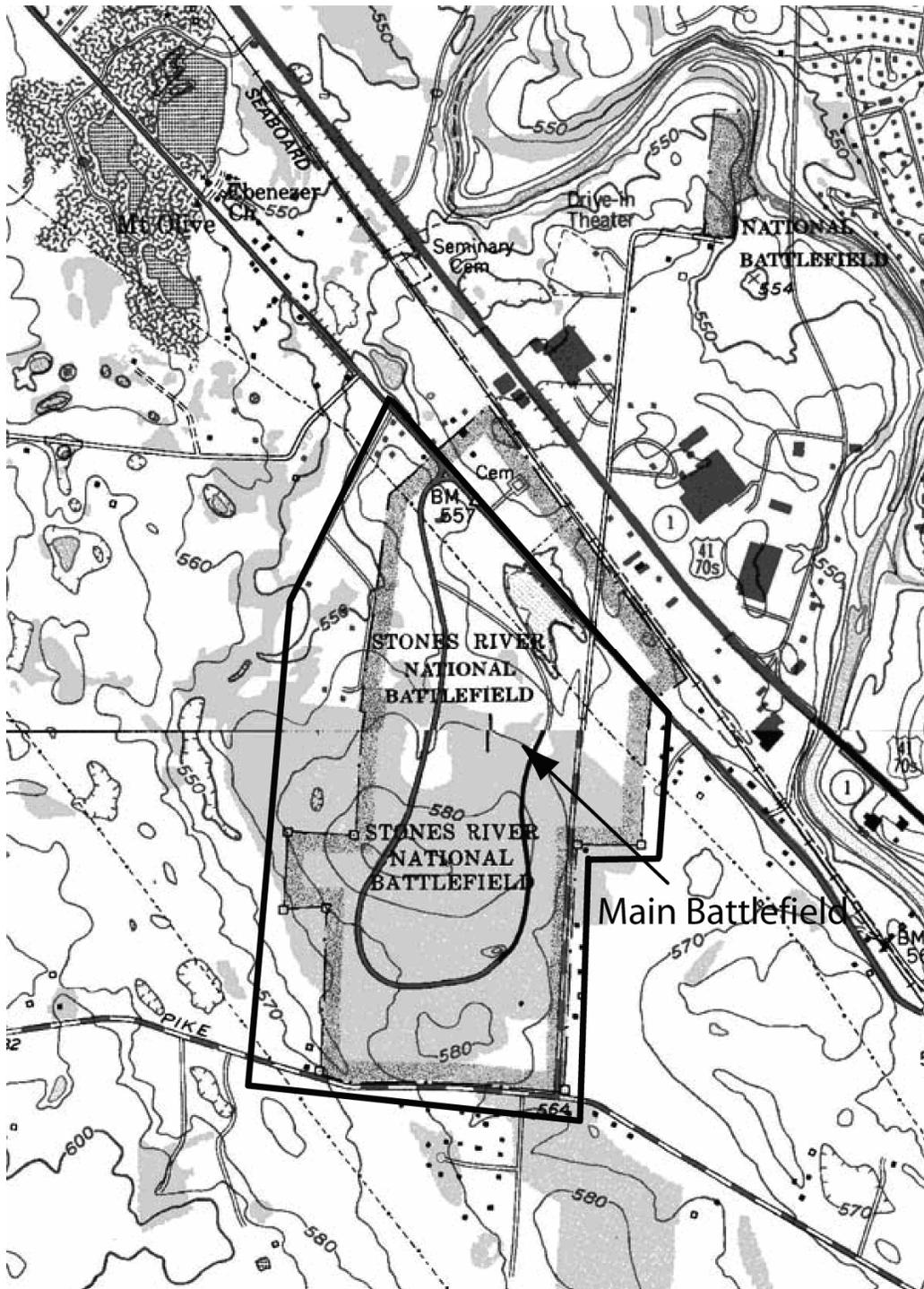
**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

**Type of Point:** Area

**Latitude:** -86.4368393965

**Longitude:** 35.8855889700

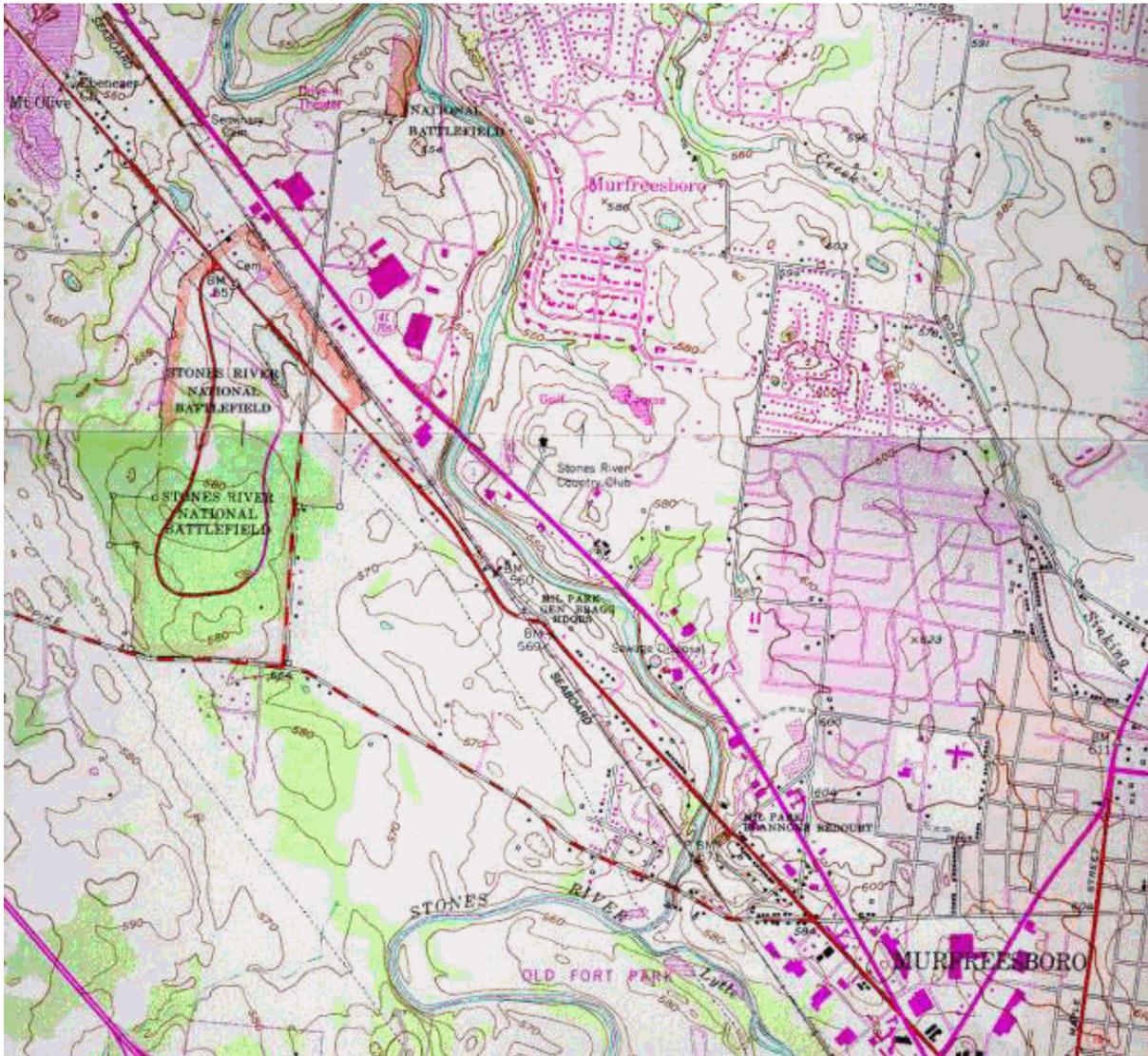
**Location Map:**



*Component landscape location*

Nashville Pike Unit  
Stones River National Battlefield

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*Regional location of Stones River National Battlefield. (Walterhill, Tenn and Murfreesboro, Tenn. USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. 1950, photorevised 1983/1984).*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Stones River National Battlefield is located in what was until recent times a rural area outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The city limits now surround the park on all sides. The area historically supported small farms, and while agriculturally diversified, produced mainly corn and livestock. As the area was settled, Murfreesboro prospered with the railroad and turnpike routes, eventually making the area a target for Union soldiers during the Civil War. The Stones River and Murfreesboro area is also known for raising exceptional horses.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

STRI is located in a karst region, noted for rolling hills, rocky outcrops, and sinkholes. This area of Middle Tennessee has thin limestone soils that support cedar and cedar glades.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

STRI lies partially within the current boundaries of the City of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and is in the 6th Congressional District of Tennessee.



*Regional location map from Historic Resource Study.*

**Management Unit:** STRI  
**Tract Numbers:** 01-110 to 01-154, inclusive; 01-167, 01-168, 01-183 to 01-206 inclusive; 01-223.  
**GIS File Description:**

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained  
**Management Category Date:** 11/01/1999

#### Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The 1999 General Management Plan outlines the objectives of the park, including the cultural landscape, battlefield interpretation, and development on adjacent lands. The GMP states the cultural landscape should be preserved to represent the major battle action in a manner visitors can visualize. The battlefield should “allow visitors to imagine the influence of landscape features on the strategy and outcome of the battle.” The policy also states, “to the greatest extent possible, preserve and restore to a general 1860s appearance the land within the authorized boundary of the national battlefield.”

**Maintenance Location Code:** BFIELD

### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

#### Management Agreement:

**Type of Agreement:** Memorandum of Understanding  
**Other Agreement:** Emergency Services.  
**Expiration Date:** expired

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

MOU with local authorities for emergency services.

**Type of Agreement:** Special Use Permit  
**Other Agreement:** Middle Tennessee State University  
**Expiration Date:** renewed every 5 years

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Special Use Permit for agriculture.

#### NPS Legal Interest:

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** With Permission

**Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

The lands surrounding the Nashville Pike Unit contribute to the context of the Civil War battle that took place December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863. The battle raged over thousands of acres, only a small portion of which is preserved by the NPS today. Some of the key events during the Battle of Stones River are within the park boundaries, but all adjacent land contributes to the significance of the Battle of Stones River.

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The entire park was administratively listed on the National Register in 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. In 1974, a nomination was prepared to include the recently acquired portions of Fortress Rosecrans. The state office accepted documentation for the Stones River park historic district in 1978. The existing boundaries of the National Register district encompass the federally owned park property (as of the last documentation date). In 2003, a draft of additional documentation was submitted to the park for review based on research by Sean Styles (author of the HRS). The draft has additional historic contexts, including the early commemoration of the battlefield and the African-American ethnic heritage, but does not include the War Department era commemoration. SHPO concurrence for the documentation has not been filed.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Stones River National Battlefield
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000075
<b>Other Names:</b>	Stones River National Military Park
<b>Primary Certification:</b>	Listed In The National Register
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966
<b>Other Certifications and Date:</b>	Fortress Rosecrans nomination - 6/7/1974
<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Stones River National Battlefield
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000075
<b>Other Names:</b>	Stones River National Military Park
<b>Primary Certification:</b>	Listed In The National Register
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966 Additional Documentation - 1/26/1978

## National Register Eligibility

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination  
**Contributing/Individual:** Contributing  
**National Register Classification:** District  
**Significance Level:** National  
**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

### Period of Significance:

**Time Period:** CE 1862 - 1933  
**Historic Context Theme:** Expressing Cultural Values  
**Subtheme:** Landscape Architecture  
**Facet:** Protection Of Natural And Cultural Resources  
**Other Facet:** period of significance 1863-1933  
**Time Period:** CE 1862 - 1933  
**Historic Context Theme:** Shaping the Political Landscape  
**Subtheme:** The Civil War  
**Facet:** Battles In The North And South  
**Other Facet:** period of significance 1862-1863

### Area of Significance:

**Area of Significance Category:** Military  
**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

### Statement of Significance:

The Stones River Nashville Pike Unit is a significant component landscape preserving the location of some of the most important events of the Battle of Stones River (December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863). The component landscape retains integrity of location, setting and association to the battle, one of the major engagements of the Union's western campaign (Criteria A). The Battle of Stones River resulted in the Federal occupation of Murfreesboro, control of the supply network of middle Tennessee, and the advance toward Chattanooga initiating the army's "March to the Sea." Only a portion of the Stones River battlefield is preserved by the National Park Service, with the largest tract (the Nashville Pike Unit) conveying the contested terrain of the battle.

Nashville Pike Unit  
Stones River National Battlefield

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The Nashville Pike Unit preserves the pivotal site where the Confederate army enveloped the Union position on December 31, 1862. General Braxton Bragg launched an early morning attack on the right flank of General William Rosecrans' army near the intersection of Gresham Lane and Franklin Road (outside of NPS boundaries). Intense fighting continued across the open cotton and cornfields as the Confederate troops led by Maj. Gen. McCown pushed divisions of Federals back to defenses behind rock outcroppings and cedar brakes. Gen. Sheridan held the Union line and by mid-morning, a salient was formed here near the intersection of McFadden Lane and Wilkerson Pike. Brigadier General Joshua Sill launched a Union counterattack, but the Rebel soldiers continued gaining ground to the northwest. Gen. Horatio Van Cleve repositioned a front parallel to Nashville Pike to stop the advancing Rebels. Wither's division of Confederates attacked Brigadier General James Negley along McFadden's Lane and by noon, the Union army was situated at Round Forest, the area near today's Hazen Brigade Monument. The fighting continued along McFadden's Lane and Nashville Pike throughout the day. By 3 pm, the Rebel onslaught ended and withdrew to a line of cedar breaks. Neither army retreated from the battlefield on January 1, 1863 and the fighting resumed the following day.

The importance of the Battle of Stones River was well established after the war. Veteran groups and local organizations joined in 1896 to lobby to preserve the hallowed ground. The limited funds available in 1927 to establish a National Military Park restricted the size of the park to this parcel deemed the most important and accessible at the time. The Nashville Pike Unit was identified as the section of the battlefield most worthy of preservation. This component landscape is also significant for commemoration as part of the early movement of battlefield preservation in the United States. In addition, the importance of the Battle of Stones River was also recognized by the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad and portions of the battlefield were preserved as historical points of interest. The support of the railroad and other groups led to the establishment of the Stones River National Military Park by Congress in 1927, and administered by the War Department. Within these contexts, the Nashville Pike Unit component landscape contributes to the National Register historic district as a cultural resource under Criteria A (1862-1933).

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Battle Site

**Primary Current Use:** Education-Other

**Other Use/Function**

Agricultural Field

**Other Type of Use or Function**

Both Current And Historic

**Current and Historic Names:**

Name	Type of Name
Nashville Pike Unit	Current
Stones River Battlefield	Both Current And Historic
Main Battlefield, part of Stones River National Battlefield	Current
Stones River National Military Park	Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:**

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1862 - 1863	Military Operation	A major battle of the Civil War occurred here from December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863.
CE 1897 - 1927	Memorialized	In 1896, the Stones River Battlefield and Park Association was formed by both Union and Confederate veterans to encourage the establishment of a National Military Park at Stones River.
CE 1927 - 1933	Established	Stones River National Military Park was established and administered by the War Department.
CE 1932	Built	A tour road from Nashville Pike through the battlefield to Wilkerson Lane was constructed for visitors to the newly-established National Military Park. Stone entrance columns were constructed at the intersection of Van Cleve Lane and Nashville Pike. The columns included a bronze tablet on each side and a pyramid of 55 ten-inch shells placed on top.
	Rehabilitated	Nashville Pike Unit landscape cleared of all post-Civil War structures and a wire fence constructed to keep out free-range cattle. Almost all the fields were harrowed, plowed, seeded. Park roads were "boulevarded" and 2,500 trees and shrubs planted.
	Moved	Three Napoleon cannon were moved from Redoubt Brannon and placed in an arc in front of the flagstaff erected in front of the park (flagstaff later removed)

Nashville Pike Unit  
Stones River National Battlefield

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CE 1933 - 2006	Conserved	Stones River National Battlefield, after transfer from the War Department, is administered by the National Park Service.
CE 1962 - 1965	Built	Mission 66 Visitor Center and parking lot. Tour road rerouted to a loop.
CE 1990	Excavated	Tollhouse site excavated on Old Nashville Pike

### **Physical History:**

(1862-1863) The Battle of Stones River

In the winter of 1862, Gen. Braxton Bragg's 38,000 man Confederate Army and Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans's 45,000 man Union Army were vying for control of Middle Tennessee's rich farmland and transportation routes. In October 1862, Bragg retreated from Perryville, Kentucky and moved south to concentrate his troops in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the remainder of the winter. Rosecrans countered by ordering his troops from Kentucky to Nashville. On December 26, 1862, Rosecrans marched his troops further south, intending to engage Bragg's army before advancing on Chattanooga to gain control of its important rail center.

The two met at Murfreesboro at the end of the day on December 30th. At dawn on December 31, 1862, the Confederates opened the battle with a charge on the Union right flank. It was not until mid-afternoon that the Union army was able to establish a new line of battle along the Nashville Pike following a concentrated exchange of fire and the arrival of Federal reinforcements. Once the new line was established the days fighting ceased. On the next day of the battle, New Years Day, the armies remained in position and there was no exchange of fire.

On the morning of January 2, 1863, Bragg was surprised to find that the Union Army remained on the battlefield and had not retreated. Late in the day, Bragg ordered Gen. Breckenridge's brigade to launch an attack that eventually drove the Federal's first line back to a shallow crossing on Stones River known as McFadden's Ford. The battle came to a close as massive Union artillery fire stopped the Confederate advance.

Losses were heavy on both sides yet they each claimed victory. An estimated 13,000 Union and 10,000 Confederate soldiers were killed and wounded. On January 3, 1863, Bragg's Army retreated to Tullahoma, Tennessee, and Rosecrans' Army remained to occupy the City of Murfreesboro, and construct Fortress Rosecrans, the largest earthen fortification built during the Civil War. From Fortress Rosecrans the Union Army was able to launch an attack on the Confederate rail center in Chattanooga, successfully dividing the Confederacy along the transportation routes running southeast through Tennessee.

(1896-1927) Early Commemoration and Attempts to Establish Stones River National Military Park

In 1896, the Stones River Battlefield and Park Association was formed by both Union and Confederate veterans to encourage the establishment of a National Military Park at Stones River. The Association did not own property at the battlefield though they were responsible for erecting a number of wooden monuments to mark and interpret specific locations of the battlefield.

In 1897, a local Congressman introduced legislation to establish Stones River National Military Park. The bill was approved by Congress with the backing and support of the Stones River Battlefield and Park Association, the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Confederate Veterans, and the U.S. War Department. This first bill, more ambitious than the one eventually passed, called for the acquisition of 3,100 acres of the battlefield. Final approval of the bill was opposed by the Director of the Budget due to lack of funding. Establishment of a National Military Park at Stones River was not referred to Congress again until 1926.

(1927-1933) Stones River National Military Park, War Department Administration

In 1927, Congress authorized the establishment of Stones River National Military Park. A three-member Commission was appointed to research the troop movements and to inspect the battlefield. The majority of the research was conducted by Lt. Col. H.L. Landers of the Army War College. His study resulted in the production of ten maps including seven troop movement maps. In 1928, the Commission submitted its written report (supported by the troop movement maps prepared by Landis) describing its findings and recommendations for land acquisition and park development. The Acting Secretary of War approved the plan and directed the Commission to oversee its implementation. The State of Tennessee ceded jurisdiction over all lands that would be included in the park (Willett, 1958, pp 62, 95).

The War Department's acquisition of lands closely adhered to the Commission's recommendations. No portion of the battlefield north of Stones River was recommended for acquisition, in part, because it was inaccessible--no roads crossed the river in the vicinity of the battlefield. Central to the Commission's plan was the recognition that available funding was not sufficient to allow for the acquisition of the entire field of battle. Previous research has underscored that the Commission's final report recognized that only a portion of the approximately 3,100 acre battlefield could be acquired. The land that was recommended for acquisition was described by the Commission as a nucleus for future acquisition should funding be made available (Willett, 1958, pp 65-73).

The War Department's land acquisition at Stones River spanned the period 1928-1934. It included the acceptance of four existing commemorative monuments or reservations that were present at the battlefield before the 1927 Establishment Act was authorized. This included the Stones River National Cemetery and the Hazen Brigade Monument which were already in Federal ownership and under the administration of the War Department. The Artillery Monument reservation (Monument Lot) and Redoubt Brannan (Old Fort Lot) were donated to the War Department by the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad in 1928. These two features had been owned and maintained by the railroad company as historical points of interest visible to rail passengers.

The Commission report directed the acquisition of additional lands that were privately owned. A 324 acre tract was selected to compose the Nashville Pike Unit. The northern boundary of this tract was along the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. The southern boundary was located just south of the pivot point of the battle maneuver that significantly effected the course of the battle on December 31, 1862. This core area of the battlefield was selected because it was believed to have encompassed most, but not all of the area of the heaviest fighting or most significant actions of the battle. Two discontinuous tracts of private land were also acquired. These two quarter acre sites were selected to preserve and interpret the location of the headquarter sites of the battle's two opposing Generals, Bragg and Rosecrans.

## Nashville Pike Unit

### Stones River National Battlefield

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The Commission recommended that 35 interpretive markers be erected within the park proper, two at the Artillery reservation, and one at Redoubt Brannan. An additional seven tablets were proposed to be erected on seven parcels of land to interpret and mark specific events of the battle. These seven one-eighth acre parcels of land were the only tracts recommended by the Commission that were not eventually purchased for the park.

The War Department's alteration and rehabilitation of the 324 acre core area of the park began immediately following its acquisition and was completed for the dedication of the Stones River National Military Park in 1932. As part of the rehabilitation of the tract, all the existing domestic and agricultural structures and associated features were determined to post-date the battle and consequently were removed. A wire fence was erected around the perimeter of the tract to exclude free-range cattle. In 1927, the administrative functions of the Stones River Military Park and the National Cemetery were consolidated. No new structures were built in the Military Park because all administrative, visitor contact, and utility functions were operated out of the existing structures located in the National Cemetery. Two existing roads that dated to the time of the battle (Nashville Pike and Van Cleve lane) were improved (graded and graveled) and incorporated into the park circulation network. Visitor access and interpretation was accommodated by the construction of a new tour road leading from Nashville Pike, through the core area, to Van Cleve Lane. At both ends of the tour road, formal entrance features were constructed that included stone walls, columns, gates and entrance signs. Three cannon (relocated from Redoubt Brannan) and a flagstaff were erected adjacent to the northern entrance gate (Willett, 1958, pp 74-76).

The War Department's alteration and rehabilitation to the existing vegetation is poorly documented. The Commission's 1928 field inspection described the northern section of the 324 acre tract as open and under cultivation. The central and southern portions were reported as rocky and under the cover of cedar. Immediately following acquisition by the War Department the open areas of the tract were plowed and seeded with fall oats. More specific information is available on the Departments treatment of the park entrance and tour road. Willett states that the park roads were "boulevarded" and "landscape plans were prepared...and 2,500 trees, plants, and shrubs were planted" (Willett, 1958, pp 73-76). Two maps prepared by the NPS in 1934, document the continued survival of these formal landscape treatments into the early period of NPS administration of the battlefield. These two maps (NPS drawing numbers 327-1063, 327-1064) document the configuration and species composition of formal plantings of exotic flowering trees and shrubs that occurred in association with the main park entrance features, along Nashville Pike, and in periodic clusters along the tour road.

(1933-2006) Stones River National Military Park, National Park Service Administration

Less than one year after the War Department's official dedication of the Stones River National Military Park in 1932, the park was transferred by Executive Order to the administrative control of the NPS. The deeds to several tracts of land that had been authorized for acquisition by the War Department (65.6 acres) were not officially transferred to the government until after the park has been transferred to the NPS. The transfer of title to these lands brought the total park acreage to 344.69 acres. From 1933 until 1955 the park was administered from Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. Legislation enacted in 1960 changed the name of the park to Stones River National Battlefield. In 1987 and 1991, legislation expanded the authorized boundaries of the park by more than 350 additional acres.

NPS physical development and rehabilitation of the park can be divided into three phases: Park Development Era (1933-1934), 1940s-1950s, and the Mission 66 period. For the first two years after the park was transferred to the NPS, Public Works Administration workers made improvements. Between 1933-1934 the tour road and Nashville Pike were regraded, vegetative buffers were planted along portions of the park's perimeter, and the open fields were disced, fertilized, and graded.

From the late 1930s to the late 1950s, a number of Park Master Plans were drawn and approved should funding be made available. The common focus of the majority of these plans was the rehabilitation of the park through physical development (e.g., relocation of the tour road and entrance features, construction of a new visitor center, and the acquisition of more than 1,000 acres to increase the percentage of the battlefield under federal protection and to connect the discontinuous tracts within the park). Preparation of these Master Plans did not include the research or preparation of a historic base map, or reference the troop movement maps prepared earlier by the War Department. Funding was never made available to carry out the recommendations of these plans. During the 1940s-1950s, available funding only allowed for the resurfacing of the tour road and Van Cleve Lane.

The primary phase of physical development at STRI was associated with the Servicewide Mission 66 initiative. The 1963 Master Plan, which included a historic ground cover map prepared by NPS Historian Edwin Bearss, guided the physical development in the park. Work completed between 1962 and 1965 included construction of a new visitor center and parking lot, and the conversion of the tour road into a closed-loop road with a single entrance on the Nashville Pike.

The history of NPS vegetation management practices at STRI has not been the focus of previous research. This inventory effort has been informed only by the information that can be gleaned from the series of maps that have been drawn of the Nashville Pike Unit during its administration by the NPS. Two maps prepared in 1934, documented the continued survival of the War Department's planting of exotic flowering trees and shrubs at the park entrance and along section of the park tour road. These plantings do not survive today and previous research has not documented when or why they were removed. It is assumed however, that the exotic plantings were removed by the NPS in the 1930s-1940s as part of the Servicewide trend in historical parks to reintroduce native species in an attempt to create more historically accurate settings. The NPS's treatment of the broad vegetation patterns of the main park area also has not been documented in previous research. A comparison of the series of park maps prepared in 1936, 1962, and 1978 indicate that there has been no systematic and sustained effort by the NPS to restore or preserve the 1862-1863 configuration of woodland and open areas (see figure on next page). They also show that the configuration of the forested areas remained relatively constant from 1936 to 1962. The period of greatest change to the configuration of woodland appears to have occurred between 1962 to 1978. No maps have been produced since 1978 to allow a comparison with the existing configuration.

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Landscape features considered contributing to the significance of the component landscape are identified below.

<b>Aspects of Integrity:</b>	Location
	Setting
	Association

### Landscape Characteristic:

#### Natural Systems and Features

The natural features of the Nashville Pike Unit contribute to the historic landscape that the Federal and Confederate armies used in 1862-1863. Karst topography has characteristic limestone outcroppings, sinkholes, swales, and rolling hills, each of which played a role in the battle. The terrain provided defense behind rocky outcrops and the relatively level field provided open area for attack. The topography retains good integrity today with no major landscape alterations or leveling on the Nashville Pike Unit. The limestone beds near the “Slaughter Pen” are well-preserved and interpreted along the tour route.

### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Limestones beds along Slaughter Pen trail (tour stop 2, May 2006)*

### Land Use

Prior to the Battle of Stones River, the component landscape was farms and pastures. Today a majority of the Nashville Pike Unit is preserved as open space and many of the fields are maintained as agricultural land by Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) through a Special Use Permit. The land use of the Nashville Pike Unit has integrity of feeling, association, and setting. Presently the visitor center area is used for interpretation and recreation, which contributes to the commemoration of the site.

### Circulation

The road system and railway existing during the Battle of Stones River are still intact and used as transportation routes. The historic roads were used by each army to traverse the battlefield and move supplies. Today the Old Nashville Pike and Wilkinson Pike are used as roads, retaining integrity of location, design, association, workmanship, and materials. The paved roads were placed above the historic roadbeds, preserving their integrity. Van Cleve (McFadden) Lane was used during the War Department era and today is a walking trail. The historic road has integrity of location, design, association, workmanship, materials, and feeling.

The Nashville & Chattanooga railroad is still in use and retains integrity of location and association. The railway today runs on an elevated gravel bed and is used by CSX Transportation.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Old Nashville Highway

Feature Identification Number: 114924

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7037

LCS Structure Name: Old Nashville Highway

LCS Structure Number: HS-15

Feature: Van Cleve Lane

Feature Identification Number: 114926

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7036

LCS Structure Name: Van Cleve Lane

LCS Structure Number: HS-14

Feature: Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad

Feature Identification Number: 114928

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90232

LCS Structure Name: Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis RR Road Bed

LCS Structure Number: HS-30

Feature: Wilkinson Pike

Feature Identification Number: 114930

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Interchange of old McFadden Road and Wilkinson Pike (1862). Today McFadden Lane is Van Cleve Lane and closed to automobile traffic. Wilkinson Pike is now Manson Pike and borders the southern boundary of the Main Battlefield.*



*Van Cleve Lane (historic McFadden Lane) once bordered the Main Battlefield, but today is a walking trail within the park.*

### **Vegetation**

Cedar glades are openings in thick stands of red cedar where the shallow soils prohibit permanent invasion by trees. However, the shallow soils support a diverse plant community dominated by herbaceous annuals and mosses. The natural resource value of the existing cedar glades is heightened by the presence of two endangered species (Tennessee Coneflower, *Echinacea tennesseensis*), and Pyne's Ground-plum (*Astragalus bibullatus*). The cedar thickets and glades that once offered natural defense to the advancing soldiers at Stones River, today remain in the central portion of the Nashville Pike Unit. The “cedar brakes” serve as tangible links to the setting and its effect on the events of the battle. The vegetation retains good integrity. The Nashville Pike Unit is in fair condition because of invasive Chinese privet and Japanese honeysuckle. The pattern of fields/open space and forested area is similar to the historic period.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Cedar glades  
Feature Identification Number: 114932  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Cedar glade, May 2006.*

**Small Scale Features**

The Pioneer Brigade earthwork is located along the Boundary trail near present tour stop 4. It retains integrity of location, setting, materials, association, and workmanship. The earthwork is a key feature extant on the Nashville Pike Unit, but is not-interpreted. Some erosion and vegetation threaten the battery. There are three stone and concrete culverts along the tour road. The stone culverts may date to the War Department, but no information exists. The L-shaped culvert is a modern NPS feature and does not contribute to the Nashville Pike Unit landscape.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Pioneer Brigade earthworks, May 2006.*



*Stone culvert near tour stop 1, May 2006.*



*L-shaped culvert near tour stop 2, May 2006.*

### **Buildings and Structures**

No historic structures remain on the Nashville Pike Unit component landscape. A modern Visitor Center was constructed in 1962, and enlarged and renovated in 2004. It does not contribute to the historic Battle of Stones River.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Visitor Center
Feature Identification Number:	107883
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-contributing
Condition of Feature:	Good

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Visitor Center constructed in 1962, remodeled in 2005. Photo, May 2006.*

**Views and Vistas**

The views across the battlefield are open and retain good integrity. The mixed pattern of cedar glades, cultivated fields, and woodlands is similar to the 1860s battlefield. The Nashville Pike Unit views are open around the modern visitor center on the north end of the component landscape and near the Slaughter Pen (tour stop 2). The views have integrity of location, association, and setting.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Looking southwest from tour route, May 2006.*

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 08/01/2007  
**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 09/01/2013

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Impending Development  
**Other Impact:** Commercial and industrial development threaten the cultural landscape of STRI.  
**External or Internal:** External

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Chinese privet and Japanese honeysuckle are present on the Main Battlefield.

**Type of Impact:** Other  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** A sinkhole on Van Cleve Lane impacts the walking trail (future tour road, as proposed in the CLR).

**Type of Impact:** Erosion  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** The Pioneer Brigade earthworks, covered in leaf litter, shows signs of erosion and had deciduous trees growing in and around the feature. The battery is not interpreted.

**Treatment**

**Treatment**

**Approved Treatment:**                      Undetermined

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

**Citation Author:** Miranda L. Fraley  
**Citation Title:** The Politics of Memory: Remembering the Civil War in Rutherford County, Tennessee  
**Year of Publication:** 2004  
**Citation Publisher:** Indiana University  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Gilbert J. Backlund  
**Citation Title:** Patriotism on the Battlefield: The National Park Service and Mission 66 at Stones River  
**Year of Publication:** 2005  
**Citation Publisher:** Middle Tennessee State University  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** SERO

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Final General Management Plan  
**Year of Publication:** 1998  
**Citation Publisher:** NPS  
**Citation Type:** Both Graphic and Narrative  
**Citation Location:** SERO, STRI

**Citation Author:** Ann Willett  
**Citation Title:** A History of Stones River National Military Park  
**Year of Publication:** 1958  
**Source Name:** CRBIB  
**Citation Number:** 002857  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** On file in SERO library

- Citation Title:** Fence and Ground Cover Map, Part of the Master Plan, Stones River National Battlefield
- Source Name:** CRBIB
- Citation Number:** 011029
- Citation Type:** Graphic
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- Citation Title:** "Cedar Glades Report, Appendix B, General Management Plan, Development Concept Plan, Stones River National Battlefield Park."
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Location:** On file at STRI
- Citation Title:** "Archeological Investigations at Stones River National Battlefield."
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Location:** SERO Library
- Citation Title:** Memorandum dated June 10, 1994
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Narrative
- Citation Location:** On file in SERO library
- Citation Title:** "Global Positioning Systems Survey of Battlefield Defining Features, Stones River Battlefield, Murfreesboro, Tennessee."
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Location:** On file at STRI