



# Bailey Farm News

## Natchez Trace Parkway Acquires 470-Acre Bailey Farm

Friends:

On Thursday, January 9, 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency transferred ownership of the 470-acre Bailey farm in Hinds County, Mississippi, to the National Park Service. The property includes the site of the former Dillon plantation which served as temporary headquarters of Union Generals Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and John A. McClernand during the Civil War. The entire Bailey farm is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with the Civil War's Battle of Raymond, Battle of Jackson, and Siege of Vicksburg.



Bailey farm primary residence located in Hinds County, Mississippi

The site will be managed by the National Park Service's Natchez Trace Parkway (Parkway), in part, because approximately 8,000 feet of the Historic Old Natchez Trace/Port Gibson-Raymond Road is surrounded by the Bailey farm. This portion of the Old Natchez Trace was used as a military corridor for transportation of troops and supplies during the Civil War and is an integral link to interpreting General Grant's 1863 campaign for Vicksburg. The Parkway interprets the Battle of Raymond via wayside exhibits just north of the Bailey farm, as well as the 1864 Civil War engagements at Tupelo National Battlefield and Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield near Tupelo, Mississippi.

The 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway was conceived and established in the 1930s as a designed landscape that integrates natural and cultural resources into a traditional southern landscape experience for Parkway visitors traveling along the roadway. It commemorates the Old Natchez Trace, a series of American Indian trails between Natchez, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee, that were later used by "Kaintucks" as they walked or rode home after

delivering goods down the Mississippi River to Natchez and New Orleans. Settlers of America's Old Southwest and post riders also traveled along the Old Trace.

In addition to the national significance of the site's cultural resources, the Bailey farm's natural resources will become a significant element in maintaining the agrarian viewshed of this section of the Parkway for future generations. Parkway vistas are dominated by agricultural row and forage croplands both inside and outside its boundaries. The quality and integrity of these landscape resources are essential to the aesthetic and recreational experience of the Parkway's 14 million annual visitors.

Parkway staff will work diligently with staff from Vicksburg National Military Park as well as with other partners to learn about the site and its resources so that we can develop management strategies to best protect and present these resources and the stories they tell to the Parkway's visitors.

This is the first in a series of newsletters to

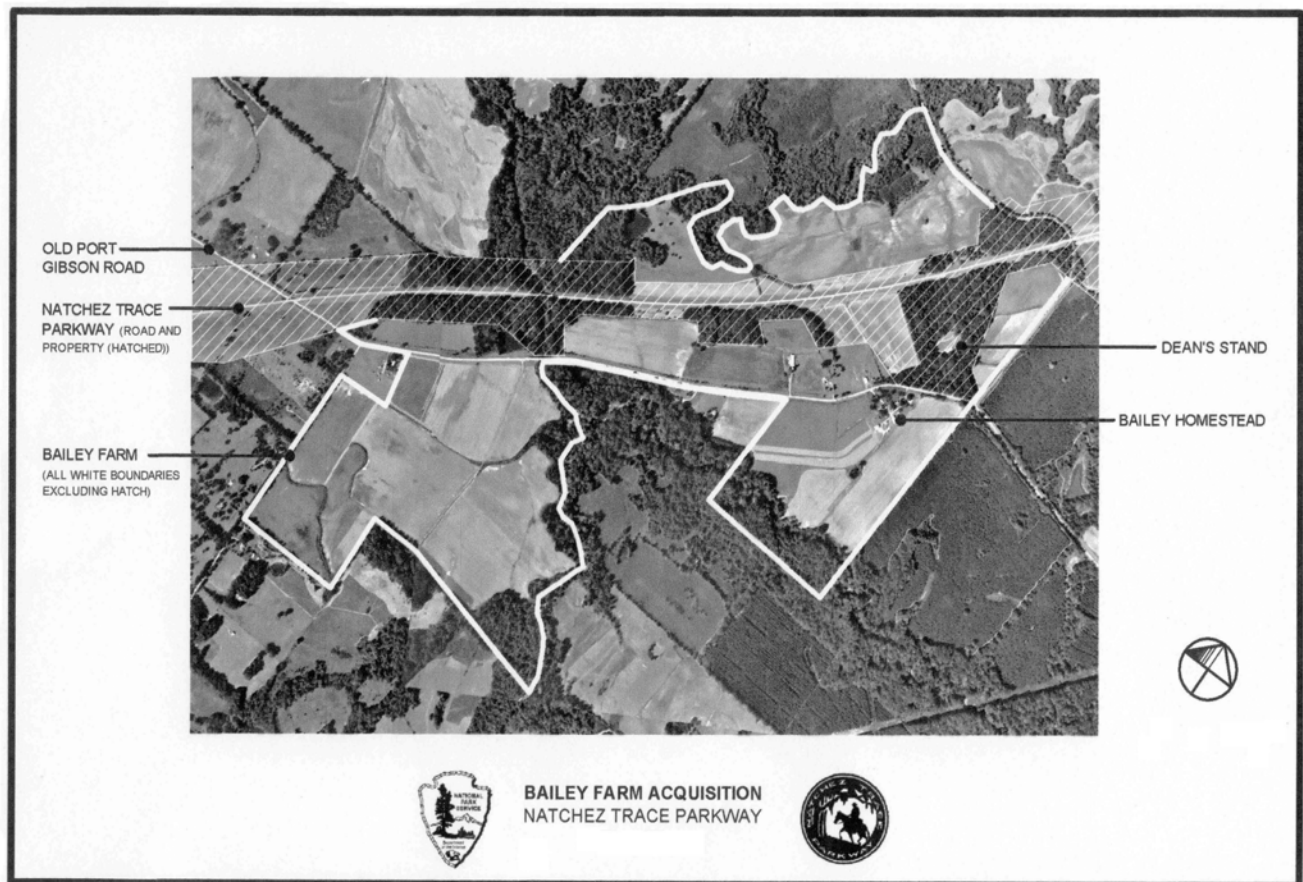
inform you about what we have learned, what the next steps in the planning process will be, and how and when you can participate in the planning process.

We appreciate your interest in the Natchez Trace Parkway's Bailey farm site and look forward to working with you throughout our planning efforts. At any time during the planning process, please feel free to write us at the Natchez Trace Parkway, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, Mississippi 38804, or call the Bailey Farm Public Involvement Coordinator, Ms. Jerry Pendleton, at 662-680-4025.

Sincerely,

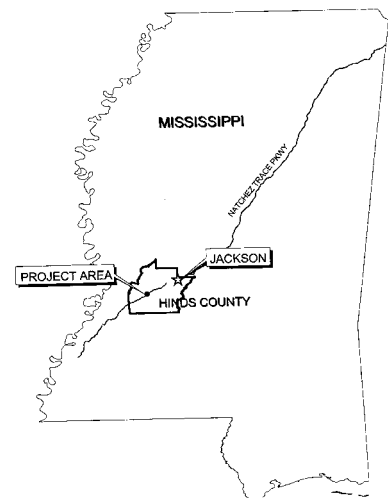
Wendell A. Simpson  
Superintendent

# Bailey Farm Facts



## Where is the Bailey farm property located?

- The 470-acre Bailey farm is located approximately 12 miles southwest of Jackson, Mississippi, in east central Hinds County. The closest communities are Raymond (pop. 2,275) and Edwards (pop. 1,279).
- It surrounds the Natchez Trace Parkway from milepost (MP) 72 to 73.6, or roughly the area between the Old Port Gibson (Raymond) Road underpass and the Mount Moriah (Edwards) Road underpass when traveling on the Parkway.
- The historic Dillon family cemetery is located within the boundaries of the Natchez Trace Parkway in association with Dean's stand at MP 72.5. (Note: Dean's stand was initially established as William Hay's stand, then ownership changed and it became Dean's stand, and finally Dillon's stand. It no longer exists.)



### What significant natural resources exist on the Bailey farm site?

- The entire property is a significant element in the agrarian viewshed of the Parkway.
- The great majority of the soils within the Bailey farm are Loring-Memphis. They have fair potential for row crops, good potential for grasses and legumes, fair potential for urban uses and recreation, and good potential for the development of habitat for openland and woodland wildlife.
- Approximately 352 acres (75%) of the Bailey farmland base has been under cultivation or used for other agricultural purposes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) classifies virtually all of this acreage as Prime Farmland of statewide importance.
- Natural vegetation on the Bailey farm totals approximately 115 acres (23% of the total) and is largely restricted to the few riparian and non-cultivated sites. This includes approximately 110 acres of wetlands.
- There are also six farm ponds on the property.
- No federally listed species, proposed, or candidate species or their habitats occur on the Bailey farm. Additionally, there are no current records of any state listed endangered, threatened, rare, or otherwise species of concern on the Bailey farm.
- Of the seventy-seven Neotropical Migrant bird species known to live in or near the property, twelve are further identified as species in need of immediate management attention at the regional level. All twelve of these species are year-round residents of the Bailey farm.
- A total of twenty-six fish species, including a good variety of sport and non-sport fish, were recorded in two of the three Bailey farm creeks, Fourteenmile and Turkey.



### Why is the Bailey farm site of national cultural significance?

- The entire Bailey farm is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with the Battle of Raymond, Battle of Jackson, and Siege of Vicksburg. These important battles had a significant impact on the outcome of the Civil War.
- The Dillon plantation, located on the property, served as headquarters for General U.S. Grant and General W.T. Sherman on the night of May 12, 1863, and Union General John McClernand on May 13, 1863.
- The property is nationally significant in the thematic areas of exploration and settlement, transportation, Southern agriculture, and military history. Slavery, tenant farming, plantation life, and a myriad of other subjects can also be interpreted at this site. Its historical and archeological resources have the potential to yield information that will contribute not only to state history but to that of the region and the nation.



## What chain of events occurred at the farm, making its existence significant in the Civil War?

- During the winter of 1862-63, Union General Grant repeatedly failed to gain a landing for his troops for a drive against Vicksburg. Finally, on April 30-May 1, he managed to land his army south of the city. Grant could now move his army north to Vicksburg; however, he knew that the railroad connecting Vicksburg with Jackson was the lifeline of the Vicksburg garrison. Grant decided to sever the railroad then turn his attention back to Vicksburg. In order to strike at the railroad, Grant moved the Union army toward Fourteenmile Creek.
- Grant and Union General Sherman established their headquarters a short distance from the creek at the Dillon plantation.
- The Confederate army anticipated Grant's maneuvers and skirmishes broke out between the two armies along the creek's crossings. At 1 a.m. on May 12, Colonel Wirt Adams of the Confederate army reported that he had burned the bridges crossing Fourteenmile Creek. That same day, the Union and Confederate armies also clashed along Fourteenmile Creek at Montgomery's bridge and Whitaker's ford. General James M. McPherson's Union XVII Corps engaged Brigadier General John Gregg's Confederate Brigade southwest of the town of Raymond, six miles east of the Dillon plantation. By that afternoon, McPherson's men had secured the town and won the Battle of Raymond.
- The Confederates reported 400 losses, principally wounded, while McPherson reported a loss of 400 to 500 killed and wounded. In his report, McPherson overstated the number of enemy troops encountered at the Battle of Raymond. Based on this report, Grant, while headquartered at the Dillon plantation, decided to delay his drive against the railroad and "*determined... [to]...take the capital of the State, and work from there westward [toward Vicksburg].*"
- According to Terrence Winschel, Historian at Vicksburg National Military Park, "*...the events of May 12, 1863, had a dramatic effect on the Vicksburg campaign. Grant's decision that evening to alter the operational plan for his army resulted in the Battle of Jackson on May 14; and victory in the battle gave the Union army possession of Mississippi's capital.*"



## What out-buildings and historical structures can be seen today on the Bailey farm?



- There are no aboveground remains of the plantation house or associated outbuildings. There are also no visible signs of slave/tenant cabins that may have existed.
- Several modern structures occupy the property at present: three modern residential structures and numerous farm-related sheds, barns, pump houses, and grain silos.
- A fourth residential structure on the property appears to be historic due to its age and type of construction. Without a structural study, it is difficult to assign a construction date to the house.

## What policies have been adopted regarding the operation and management of the Bailey farm?

Listed below are the policies and/or actions that were adopted in the March 2002 *Environmental Assessment/ Proposed Bailey Farm Acquisition*.

- The historic and current agricultural use of the property should be continued under the Parkway's agricultural leasing program. In this program, the leasees agree to maintain the land for livestock grazing, hay production, or for various row crops.
- Thirteen of the nineteen agricultural parcels, containing 301 acres or 88% of the total cultivated land, are classified by the NRCS as Highly Erodible Land. This classification indicates the need for additional erosion control efforts and requires a farmer/producer to develop an NRCS-approved conservation plan in order to be eligible to participate in federal farm programs.
- Some Prime Farmland loss is expected in order to enlarge portions of the Streamside Management Zones. Farmland loss should not exceed 14 acres.
- Pesticide use is expected to be minimal and should be allowed only after permission is granted from the NPS.
- Those areas not under cultivation and supporting natural plant communities should remain as such and be classified and managed by the NPS as a Natural Zone. In general, Natural Zones are managed with a primary objective of protecting natural resources and their values in as natural a condition as possible while providing opportunities for visitor enjoyment.
- Conservation measures to enhance wildlife habitat and minimize soil loss and non-point source pollution have been proposed. These measures include increasing the width of vegetative buffer strips for the three creeks to a uniform 100-120 feet, a net increase in natural vegetation by as much as 14 acres.
- Wooded areas will be allowed to develop into late successional stages, providing habitat for wildlife species requiring mature timber.
- No significant earth moving or construction activities have been proposed.
- Some or all of the residences and other farm structures should be removed due to their degraded condition and to reduce the safety risk to Parkway visitors and staff. These structures include silos, a livestock barn, storage sheds, equipment sheds, pump houses, and several residences. This would involve building demolition, debris removal, and removal of concrete foundations.
- The ground under any removed structures should be cleaned of any debris, fill added to replace soil loss, contoured to minimize erosion, and then seeded to grass and/or other vegetation.
- Any structure removal and disposal should be initiated after cultural resource compliance is completed and in accordance with federal and state regulations and policies.
- The recognized environmental conditions identified in the hazardous materials survey have been corrected to conform to NPS policy and federal/state laws, resulting in minor to moderate positive impacts to the Bailey farm.
- Proposed actions not identified in the March 2002 *Proposed Bailey Farm Acquisition Environmental Assessment* are subject to National Environmental Policy Act requirements.



## Parkway Partners



As mentioned earlier, Natchez Trace Parkway staff will be working with Vicksburg National Military Park personnel to plan, develop, and interpret the events that occurred on the Bailey farm site. Additionally, the Blue & Gray Educational Society, a national non-profit organization based in Danville, Virginia, has offered to provide interpretive signs for the site. The Friends of Raymond and the Friends of the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail, two local Civil War-based non-profit organizations, have also graciously offered their expertise to the Parkway staff and they will be consulted during the planning process for the Bailey farm site.

## Volunteer Efforts



Approximately twenty-five volunteers from the Friends of Raymond joined National Park Service staff on Saturday, March 29, 2003, to initiate a clean up of the Bailey farm property. Spearheaded by City of Raymond's Mayor Isla Tullos and Natchez Trace Parkway's Superintendent Wendell A. Simpson, the group filled numerous garbage bags with debris found along Old Port Gibson Road that bisects the Bailey farm property and from the Bailey homestead area. Prior to the cleanup, Warren Grabau, noted Civil War author, made a presentation to the volunteers on the site's significance in General Grant's efforts to seize Vicksburg.

## Public Participation



Your involvement throughout the planning process will be a key component in the successful management of the Bailey farm as an integral part of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Your thoughts and concerns will provide valuable information on the goals and issues to be addressed. For more information about the planning process or plans for the Bailey farm, you can contact the Natchez Trace Parkway at 662-680-4025.

The Parkway will distribute newsletters at each stage of the planning process explaining and highlighting what has occurred, describing the next steps in the process, and providing information on public meeting schedules. During each phase of the planning process you will have the opportunity to participate in public meetings where you can hear more about our progress and share your concerns and insights.

## Planning Process Schedule

The proposed planning schedule is provided below. Adherence to it will depend upon availability of funding and staff resources, among other factors. Future notices, newsletters, and/or press releases should keep you posted on any changes to this schedule and will provide finalized meeting dates, times, and locations. Another source for information is the Parkway's web site located at "<http://www.nps.gov/natr>". On the right side of the home page, click on "FACTS/DOCS" for this newsletter and posted updates.

Step and Timeframe	Planning Activity	Public Participation Opportunities
1 (Spring/Summer 2004)	Conduct Archeological Study.	
2 (Fall 2004-Spring 2005)	Develop Cultural Landscape Plan.	
3 (Summer 2004)	Initiate preparation of a Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Assessment.	Participate in public meetings. Read newsletters and send in your comments.
(Fall 2004)	Develop and Evaluate Alternatives.	Participate in public meetings.
(Fall 2004)	Prepare Draft Document.	Read the draft plan and send in your comments. Participate in public meetings.
(Spring 2005)	Publish Final Document.	Read the final plan and summary.
(Summer 2005)	Implement Approved Plan.	
4 (Fall 2004)	Develop an Interpretive Plan.	

## Other Activities

1 (Fall 2003)	Evaluate cultural resources according to National Register of Historic Places criteria.
2 (Fall 2003)	Prepare nomination of the Bailey farm for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
3 (Spring 2005)	Develop and install interpretive exhibits.
4 (Summer 2005)	Remove some or all of the existing structures on the property due to their degraded condition and reduce the safety risk to Parkway visitors and staff.



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Natchez Trace Parkway**  
2680 Natchez Trace Parkway  
Tupelo, MS 38804-9715

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

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**Comments? Write to:**

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Tupelo, MS 38804

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.