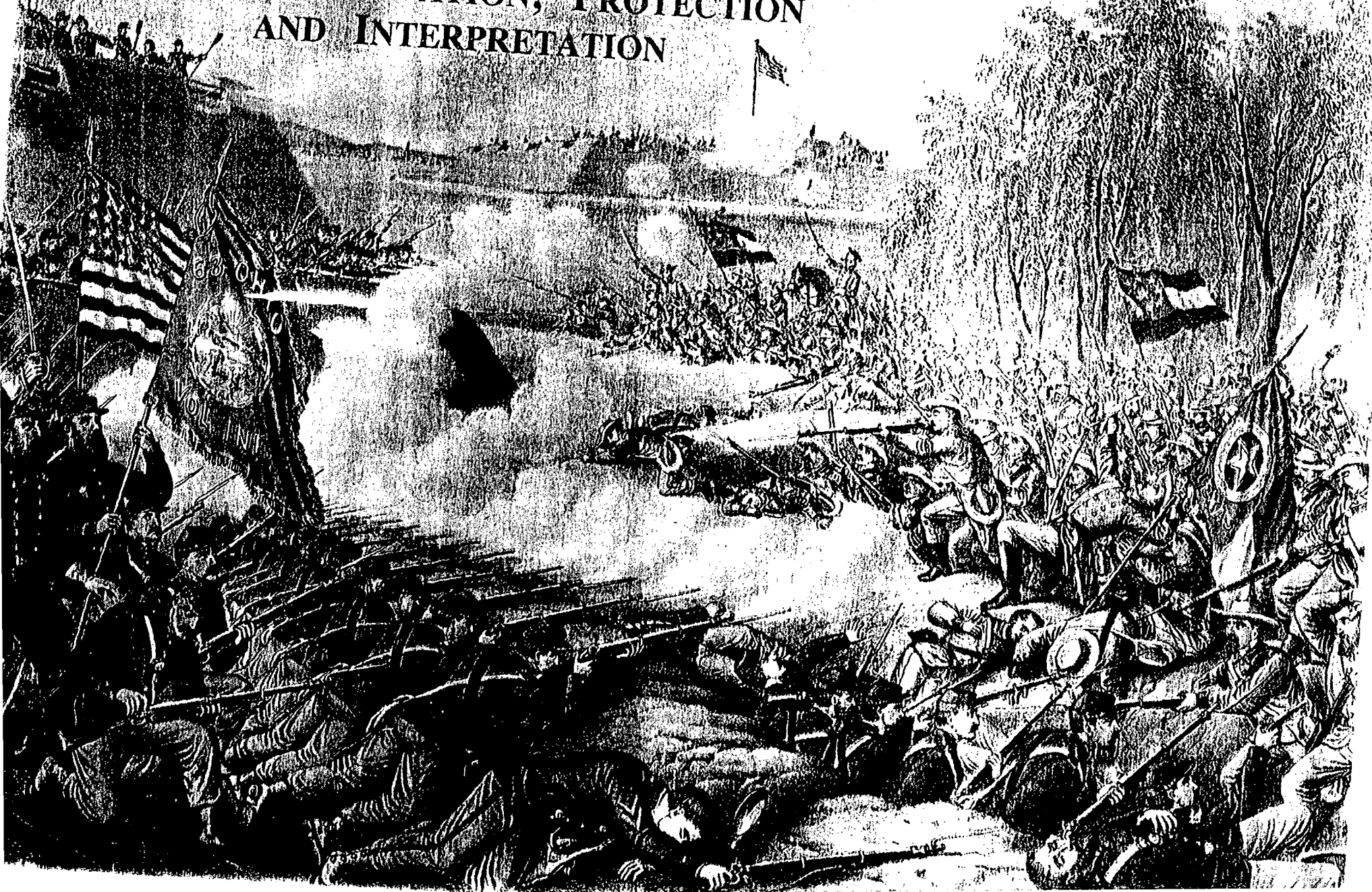


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F. JESS HILLOH

THE SIEGE AND BATTLE OF CORINTH

A Strategy for
**PRESERVATION, PROTECTION
AND INTERPRETATION**



THE SIEGE AND BATTLE OF CORINTH

A STRATEGY FOR PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND INTERPRETATION

Prepared for

The Citizens of Corinth, Mississippi

as a Technical Assistance Product of

**Southeast Region
National Park Service**

and the

American Battlefield Protection Program

September 1991

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



This document is a National Park Service technical assistance effort provided to the citizens of Corinth as part of the American Battlefield Protection Program. It is intended to present the community of Corinth, Mississippi, with ideas about the alternatives available to them for preserving the resources associated with the Siege and Battle of Corinth.

The report does not address the feasibility and suitability of these sites as parks on a federal, state, or local level. The local community, particularly the Corinth Task Force, provided significant input in the generation of this report.

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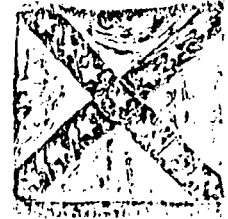
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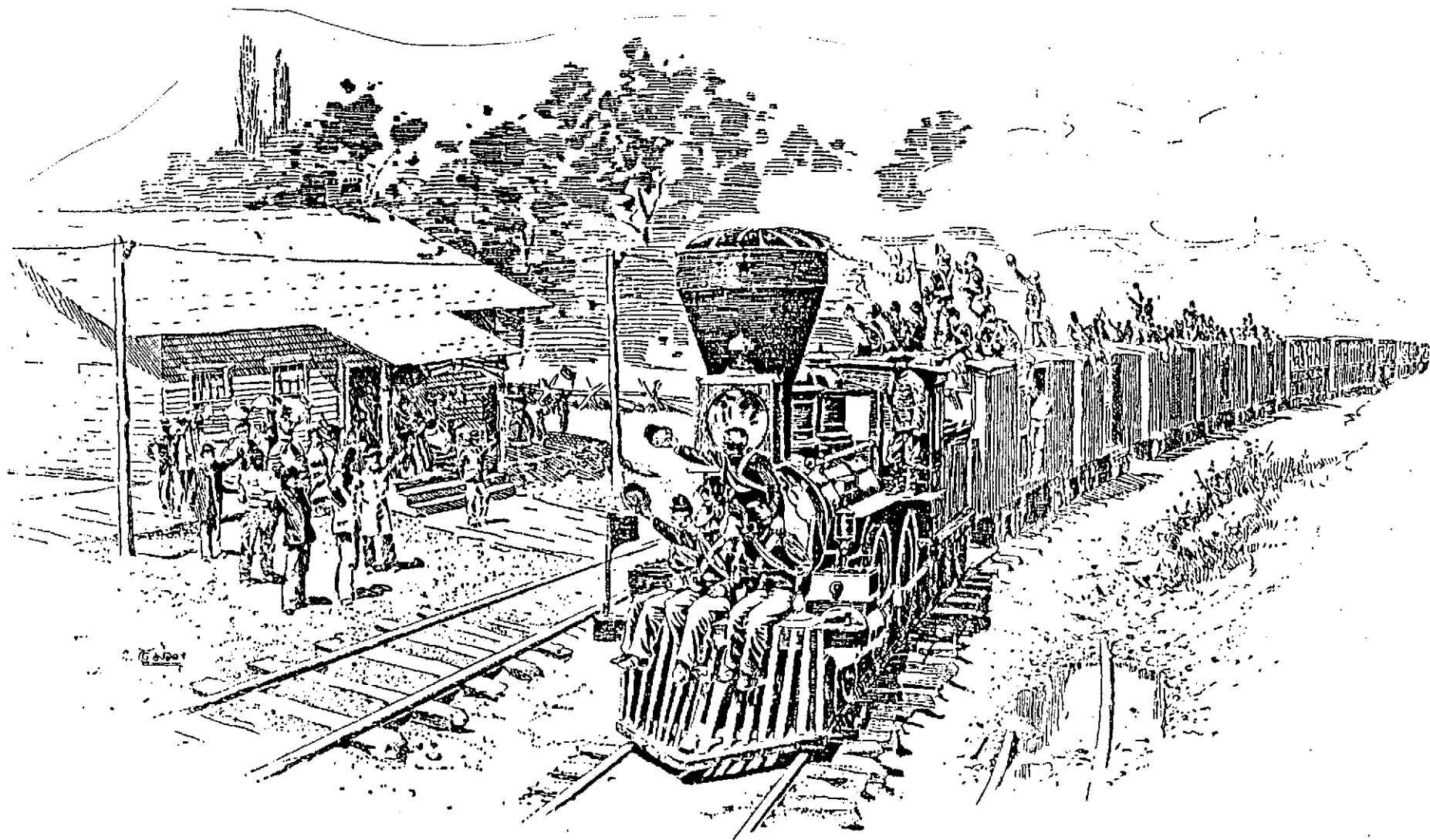
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INTRODUCTION

The citizens of Corinth, Mississippi have long shown interest in the historic resources in and around their community. In response to their urging, the Secretary of the Interior designated several sites associated with the Siege and Battle of Corinth as a National Historic Landmark. Thus, Corinth received the distinction of joining some 2,000 National Landmark properties across America. With this new status comes a serious responsibility to preserve, protect, and interpret these resources for future generations.

To ensure the survival of Corinth's historic resources, a comprehensive program with a strong foundation is essential. Just as a building requires basic components—mortar, bricks and craftsmanship—such a program must incorporate some basic elements. Preservation, protection and interpretation, with consideration to ownership, are the key ingredients which, when skillfully combined, will form the foundation of an enduring project. This document, in the context of Corinth's history and current circumstances, provides some basic components for building a successful program to share the history and manage the rich resources of Corinth.

Preservation is best achieved when the people closest to the place in question are closely involved — when preservation is happening not for them or to them, but with them.

*Manual Lujan, Jr.
U.S. Secretary of
the Interior*

*Opposite page: "Off to
the War" by Walton
Taber*

SIGNIFICANCE

Corinth, Mississippi, originally known as Cross City, was founded in the 1850s. This small town numbering less than 400 residents in 1860, was soon to play an important role in the struggle between the North and the South. Located in the northeast corner of Mississippi near the Tennessee border, Corinth grew up around the crossover of two important railroad lines. The first, the Memphis & Charleston, was the only through railroad in the South. This east-west line provided service from the Mississippi River at Memphis, by way of Chattanooga, branching off to Richmond, Atlanta and beyond. The second railroad, the north-south Mobile & Ohio, connected Mobile, Alabama, with Columbus, Kentucky. Since the only other railroads of similar size and importance were in the North, the young Confederacy depended on these two railways. During the first two years of the Civil War, the crossroads enjoyed a great level of significance as Union forces planned their strategy to invade the South. In the campaign (April-May 1862) leading to the Siege of Corinth, Corinth was considered one of the most strategic locations in the Confederacy.

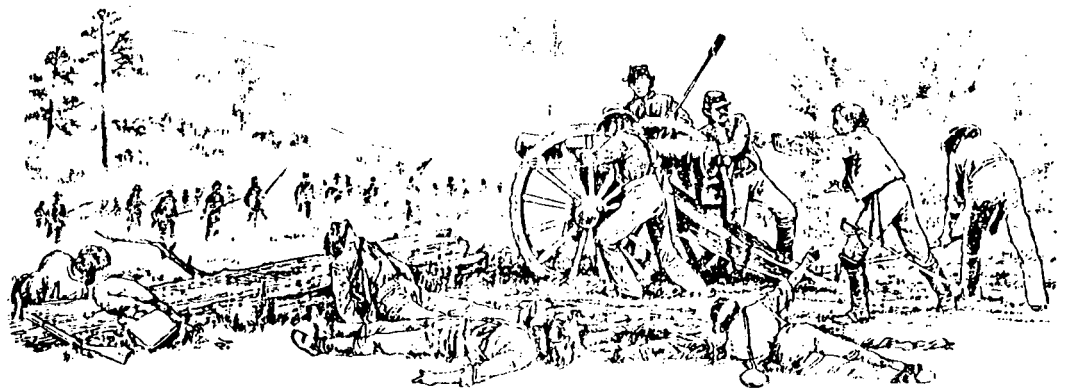
The Union victory at Forts Henry and Donelson and the subsequent loss of Nashville, Tennessee, and Columbus, Kentucky, opened west-central

Tennessee to Union invasion. Two Union armies under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell advanced on Corinth planning to unite at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River, 22 miles northeast of the town. Grant, the first to arrive, bivouacked his army to wait for Buell. Grant did not expect any major Confederate activity, but before Buell could join him, Confederate Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston led his army out of Corinth for a surprise attack on Grant. Thus began the Battle of Shiloh, the first great bloody battle of the Civil War (April 6-7, 1862). The timely arrival of Buell's army and Grant's ability to rally his army, forced the Confederates to withdraw to Corinth and saved the Union forces from defeat.

Following the Battle of Shiloh, the two Union armies were joined with a third and Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck assumed command of the "army group." Grant served as deputy commander with Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas in charge of The Army of the Tennessee; Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell commanding the Army of the Ohio; and Maj. Gen. John Pope leading the Army of the Mississippi. These combined forces numbered 120,000 men. The Confederate troops were facing an army more than twice its effective size.

On April 28, 1862, Halleck began an advance on Corinth that was to last until May 30, 1862. Known as the Siege of Corinth, the campaign of this powerful "army group" has been described as the "most extraordinary display of entrenchment under offensive conditions witnessed in the entire war." Beginning with a cautious march from Pittsburg Landing and Hamburg Landing in Tennessee, Halleck's army warily pushed forward. By May 2 the Northerners were within 12 miles of Corinth.

Meanwhile, the Confederates constructed defenses to guard the eastern and northern approaches to Corinth. Anchored on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad on the west side, these earthworks followed the commanding ground northwest and north of Corinth, crossed the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and Purdy Road, turned south to follow the high ground commanding Bridge Creek, traversed the Memphis and Charleston Railroad well east of the crossover, and finally hooked up to the Danville Road, one-half mile east of the Mobile and Ohio.

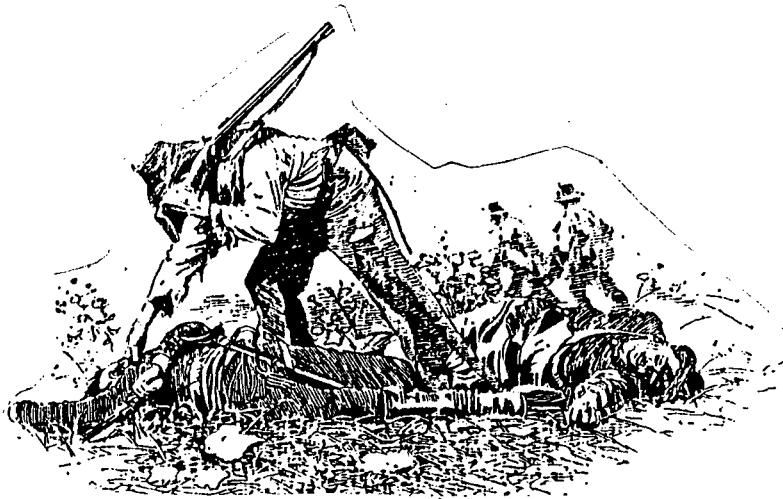


Despite these defenses, the Confederates were unable to hold their positions. On the night of May 29-30, 1862, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard (who took command after Albert Sidney Johnston was killed at Shiloh) withdrew his troops from Corinth. The loss of Corinth led to the evacuation of Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River and the fall of Memphis, Tennessee. The two vital Southern railroads that crossed at Corinth had been severed. Northern Alabama, Mississippi, and west Tennessee, as well as the Mississippi River route to Vicksburg, lay open to Union armies.

From "Battle in The Civil War" by Paddy Griffith. Illustration by Peter Dennis.

During the summer of 1862, Union forces occupied Corinth and hastily erected six batteries (A-F) west of town. Generals Halleck and Grant concurred that Corinth was still inadequately protected from the west and northwest. Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, now commanding the Union army at Corinth, complied with the wishes of his superior officers by constructing additional defenses to the west and north. They consisted of redoubts connected by rifle-pits. These positions were further strengthened by an abatis (felled timber with sharpened branches, arranged to face the expected direction of an enemy's attack) where the lines extended into forested areas.

"Looking for a Friend"
by Walton Taber



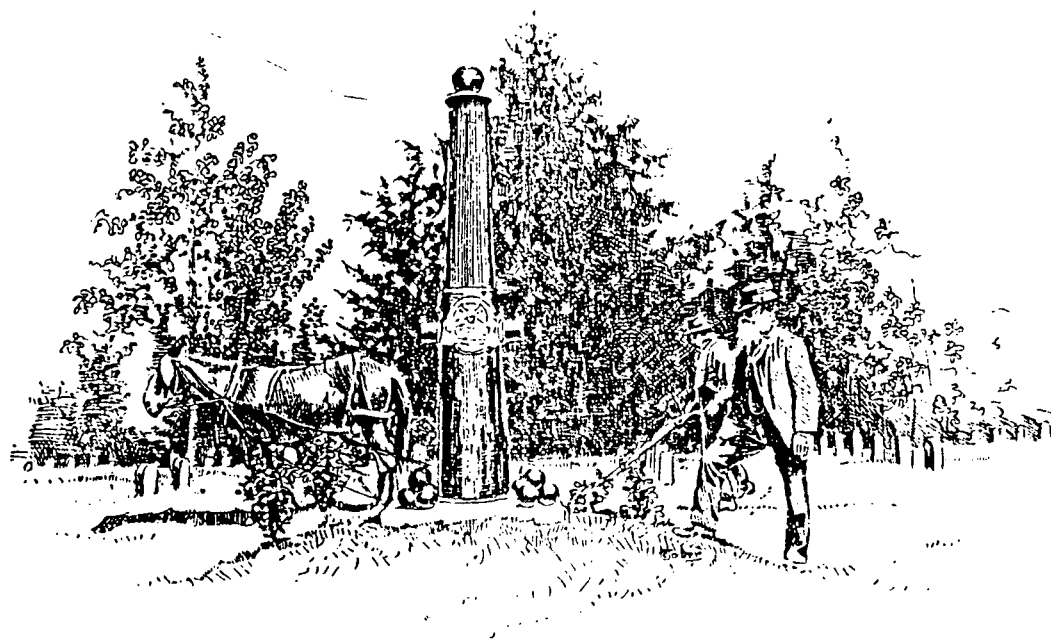
By the late summer and early autumn of 1862, Confederate armies were on the march along a thousand-mile front. Confederate Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn joined Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Army of the West after Price's retreat from Iuka, Mississippi. As senior officer, Van Dorn led the 22,000-man Confederate army north to Pocahontas, Tennessee on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad—a long day's march northwest of Corinth. It was from here on October 2, 1862, that the Confederate army began its advance on Corinth. By 10:00 AM on October 3, the Confederates initiated the Battle of Corinth when their forces crossed Cane Creek on the Chewalla Road. Meeting with heavy skirmishing, the Confederates continued southeast on either side of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad from the Cane Creek crossing area. Maj. Gen. Mansfield Lovell's division deployed south of the road, while Maj. Gen. Dabney Maury and Brig. Gen. Louis Hebert deployed to the north. Fighting continued all day along the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, the Chewalla Road leading into Corinth, and west of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Toward the end of the first day, heavy fighting concentrated along the ridge near the White House and Battery F. The Union soldiers, outflanked, were forced to withdraw into their redoubts nearest the town.

The morning of October 4 saw the Confederates delayed by organizational problems. Finally, the attack renewed, Confederate forces slammed into the Union defenses at Battery Robinett. The defenders of the battery contested every step of the oncoming advance, sustaining heavy casualties. Confederate Col. William P. Rogers leading the 2nd Texas Regiment had his horse shot from under him. Rogers grabbed the regiment's battle flag from a wounded color-bearer and continued to lead the assault on foot. Reaching the scarp of Battery Robinett, Rogers planted the colors only to be shot dead.

Fire from Battery Williams to the south, and a counterattack by Union reserves forced the Confederates to give way. Other Confederates who had fought their way into town near the railroad crossover, also were compelled to fall back. By noon, the Confederate army was in retreat. The next day, October 5, the Confederates found their way blocked at Davis Bridge over the Hatchie River. Van Dorn, after a sharp fight, was forced to retreat south to Crum's Mill where he crossed the Hatchie and continued on to Holly Springs.

Corinth and North Mississippi remained in Union hands until the winter of 1863-64, when the Federals abandoned their Corinth enclave. Corinth was never again to hold such strategic value.

*"National Cemetery,
Corinth, Mississippi"
by Walton Taber*



The Confederacy never fully recuperated from the defeats at Antietam, September 17; Corinth, October 3-4; and Perryville, October 8, 1862. These reversals were a factor in preventing British recognition of the Confederacy and in strengthening the force of the Emancipation Proclamation which President Abraham Lincoln issued four days after Antietam. The earthworks, rare surviving examples of early Civil War field fortifications, were part of a developing technology that was later applied extensively at Vicksburg (1863), northern Virginia and Petersburg (1864), and Atlanta (1864). This technology eventually evolved into the trench warfare system of World War I.

The Battle of Corinth took its toll. In killed, wounded, or missing, the Confederates lost 4,838 men, while the North lost 2,359. The percentage of losses (22% of the Confederate and 10.2% of the Union troops) rivals some of the bloodiest conflicts of the Civil War. Today the remaining earthworks and the battlefield at Corinth are silent witness to the carnage and destruction of so long ago; they stand in quiet tribute to those who sacrificed so much, sometimes their lives, for their beliefs.






TROOP MOVEMENTS

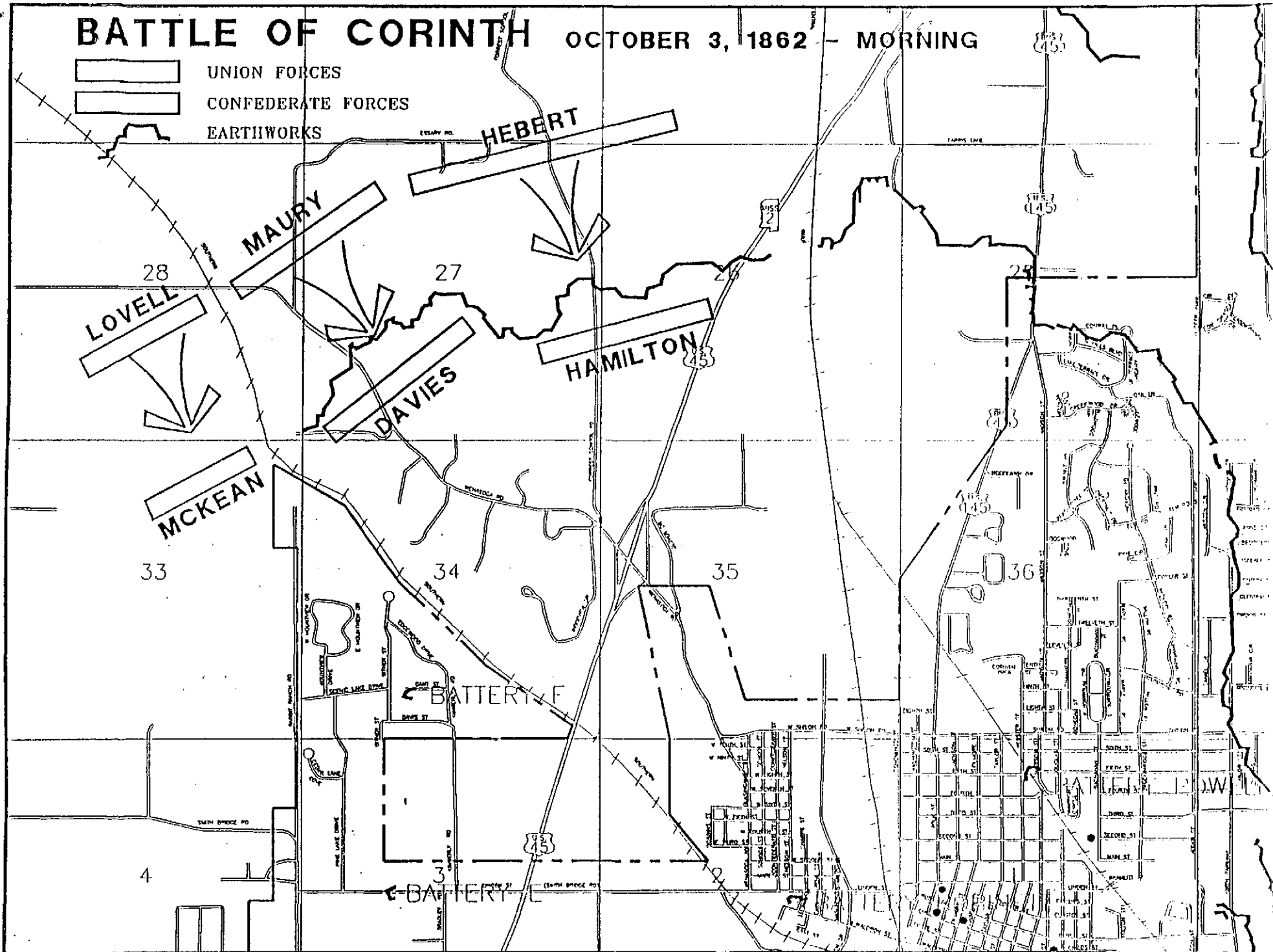
BATTLE OF CORINTH
OCTOBER 3-4, 1862



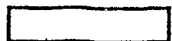


*"Halleck's Army on the
March to Corinth" by
Edwin J. Meeker*

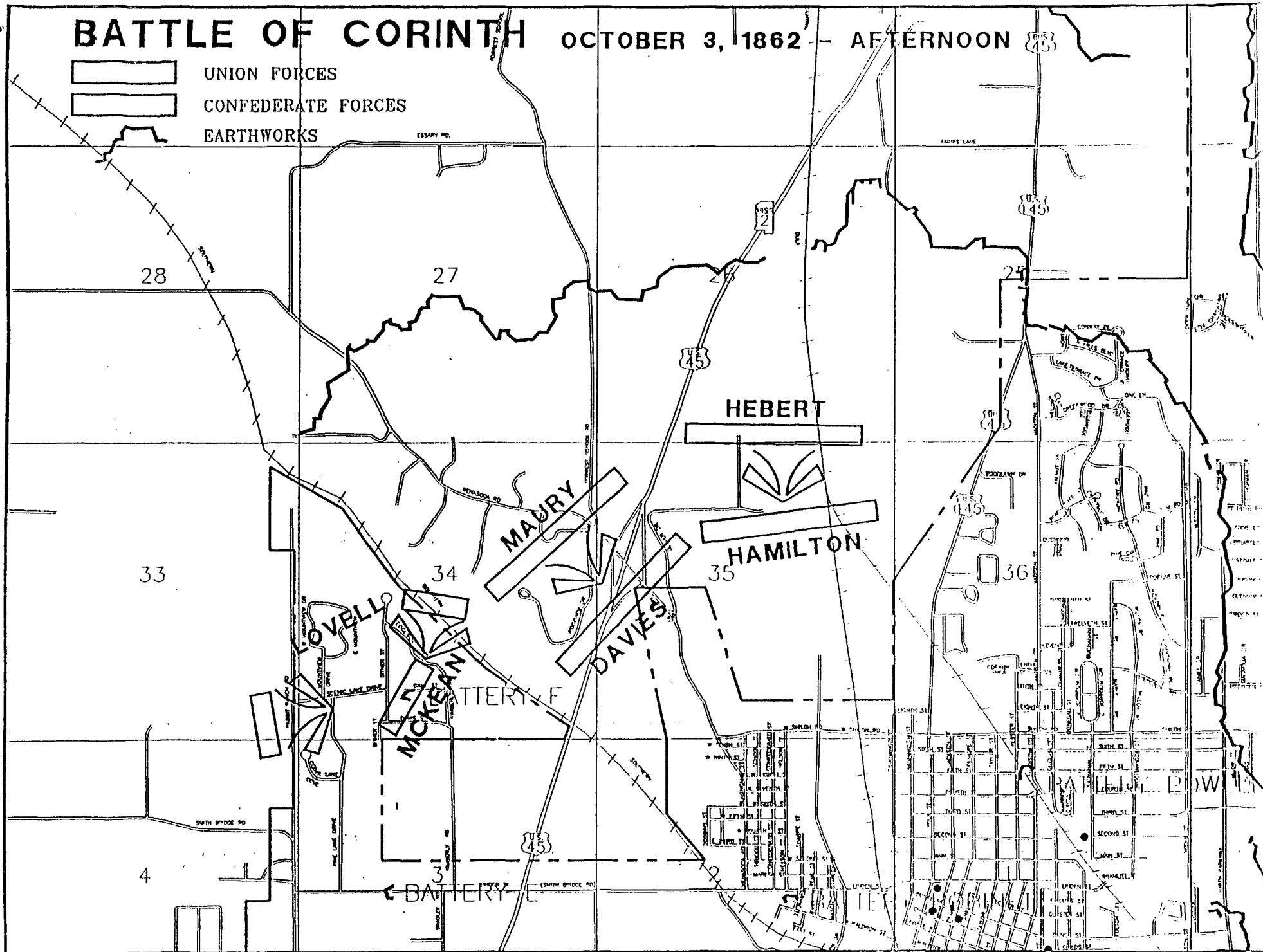
BATTLE OF CORINTH OCTOBER 3, 1862 - MORNING

-  UNION FORCES
-  CONFEDERATE FORCES
-  EARTHWORKS






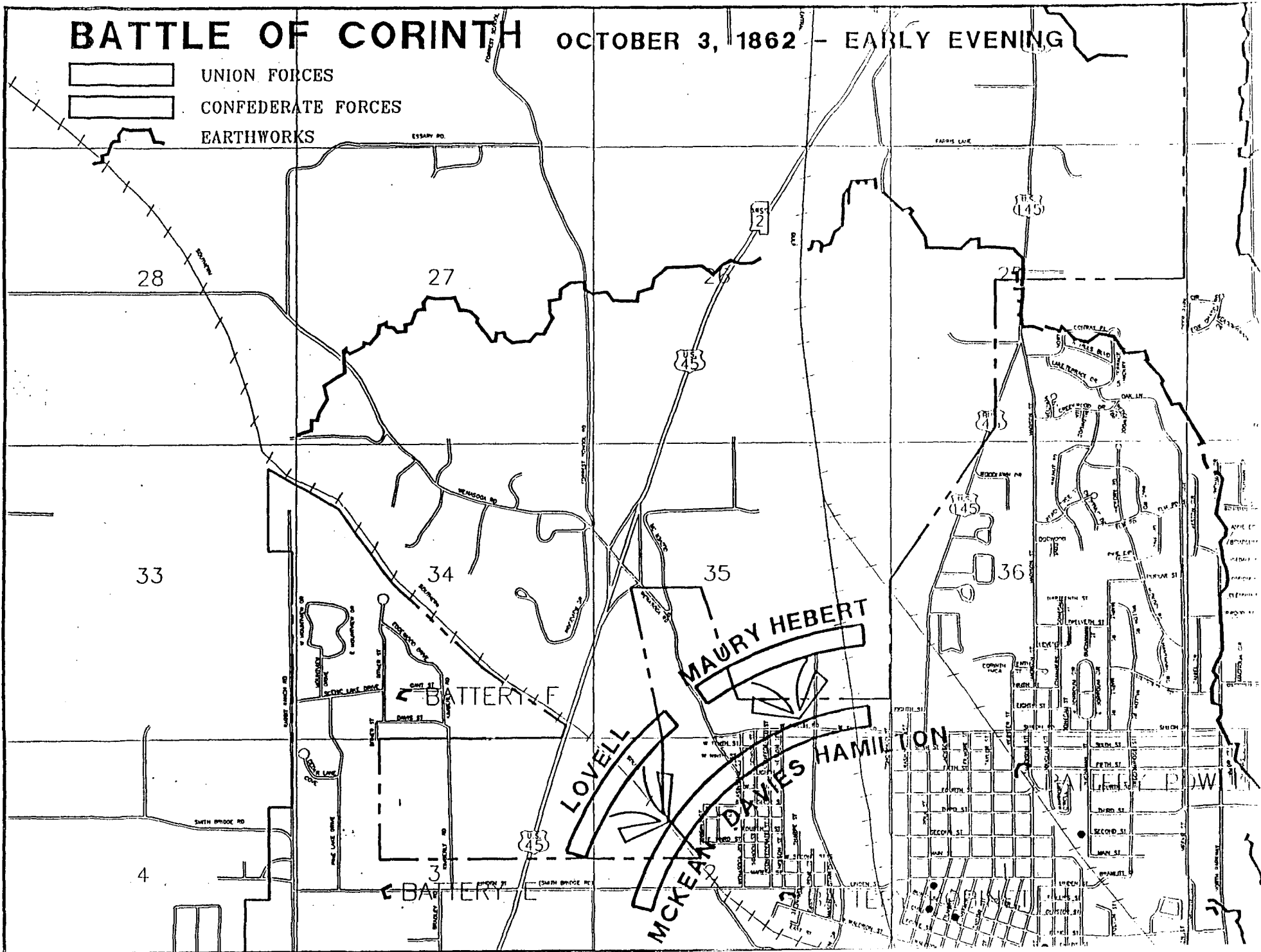
BATTLE OF CORINTH OCTOBER 3, 1862 - AFTERNOON

-  UNION FORCES
-  CONFEDERATE FORCES
-  EARTHWORKS



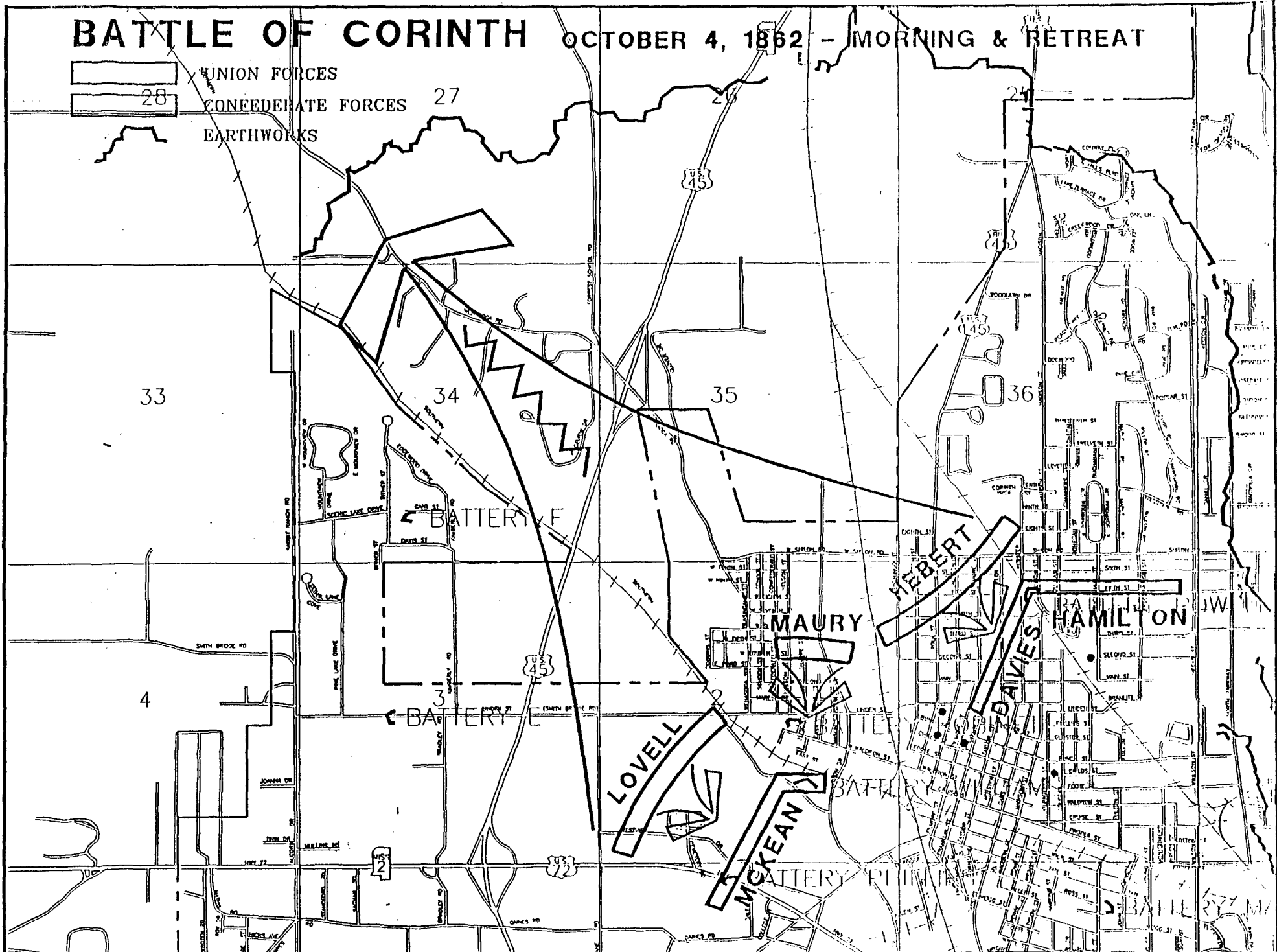
BATTLE OF CORINTH OCTOBER 3, 1862 - EARLY EVENING

-  UNION FORCES
-  CONFEDERATE FORCES
-  EARTHWORKS

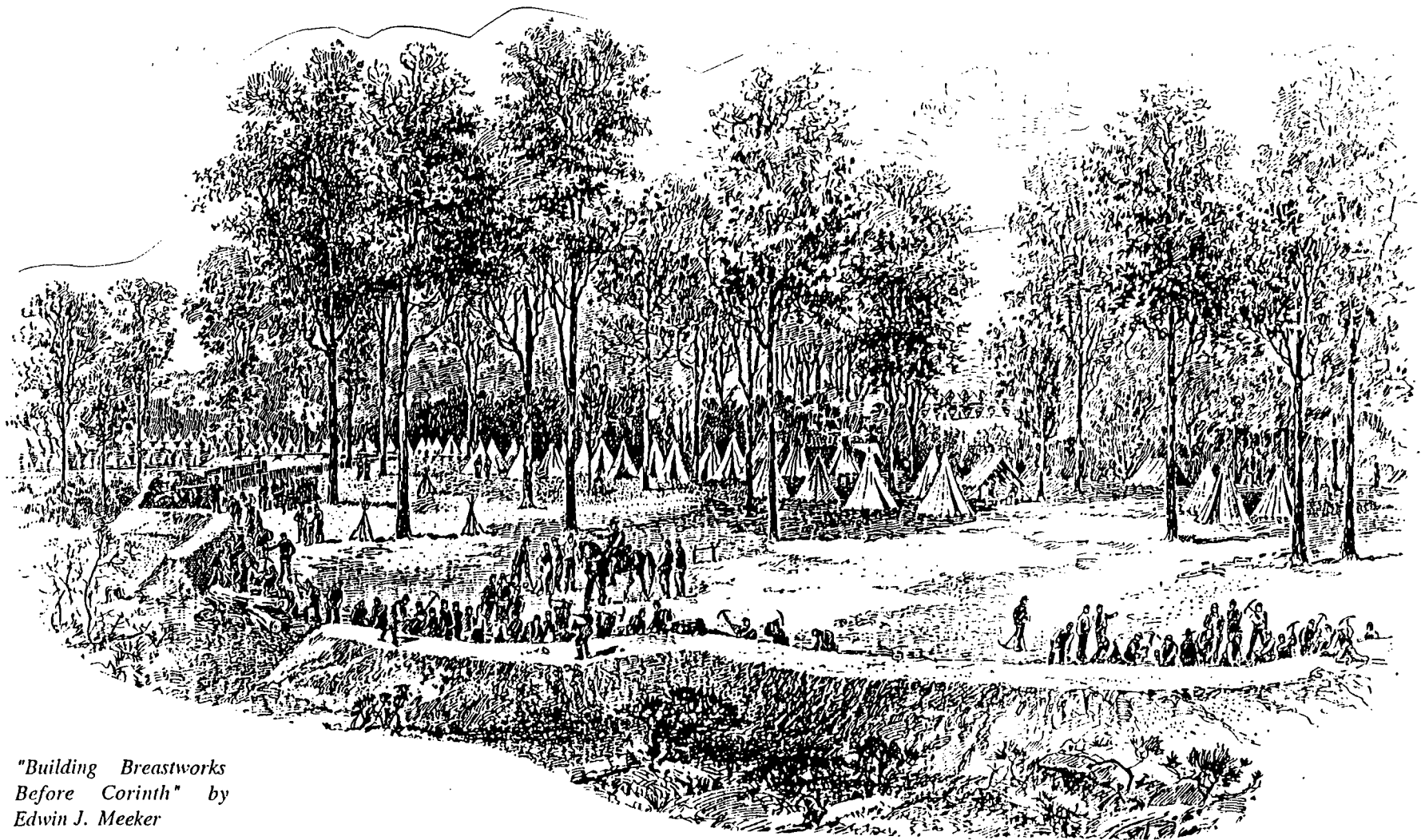


BATTLE OF CORINTH OCTOBER 4, 1862 - MORNING & RETREAT

UNION FORCES
CONFEDERATE FORCES
EARTHWORKS



RESOURCE ASSESSMENT



*"Building Breastworks
Before Corinth" by
Edwin J. Meeker*

FIRST PHASE, BATTLE OF CORINTH AREA

Significance: The site where the Battle of Corinth opened October 3, 1862, is dominated by a ridge, from which Brig. Gen. John McArthur's Union soldiers fired on Maj. Gen. Mansfield Lovell's Confederate division.

Description: The area retains much of its pastoral character; it is primarily farmland, mostly pasture, with some forested areas.

Integrity: A farmhouse, a barn, and three sheds—all built after the Civil War—are located on the property.

Threats: A corridor of residential development along the Wenasoga Road has been expanding yearly. Large tracts of vacant or agricultural land are found immediately behind most of the development.



View looking northwest over the site of the first phase of the Battle of Corinth. Confederate forces advanced across these fields attacking Union forces positioned on the hill and in the woods to the right of and behind the photographer.



Evidence of encroaching development around Battery F. One of the Union army's six outer batteries, it was captured the evening of October 3, 1862.

BATTERY F

Significance: Heavy fighting occurred here at the end of the first day; Lovell's Confederates captured Battery F forcing Union soldiers into the inner defensive works.

Description: The parapet is between three and six feet high, with a ditch in front. There is evidence of the glacis, which can be seen in front of the ditch. The battery curves slightly in the shape of a crescent.

Integrity: Some deterioration. The viewshed (an area that can be viewed from a given point) has been impacted by residential development.

Threats: The residential area around the battery is under development. Many of the adjacent lots are being subdivided, and new construction is in progress. The battery will soon be surrounded by new houses.

BATTERY ROBINETT

Significance: Battery Robinett is one of the six major batteries erected and armed by Union soldiers during the summer of 1862. These Union batteries enabled the Federals to guard against Confederate forces approaching from the west and south.

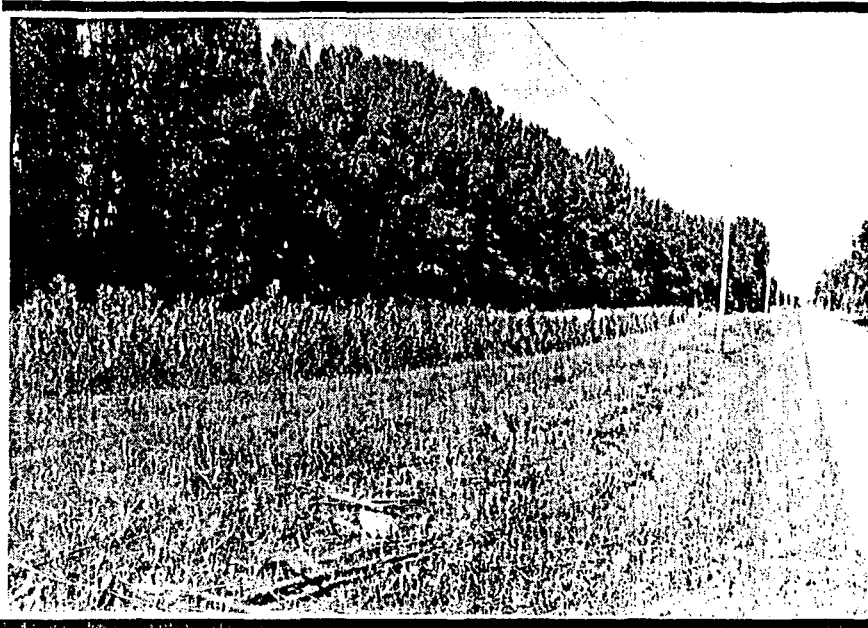
Description: This city-owned site includes a reconstructed battery and an obelisk. Battery Robinett is surrounded by a residential neighborhood on three sides and a light industrial complex to the west. The view from the site toward the city is currently being restored by removing public housing units adjacent to the park.

Integrity: For an unspecified period, the site was used for residential purposes. The current battery, located several yards from the original, is a reconstruction based on archeological and documentary investigations. The reconstructed battery dominates the city park.

Threats: Visitor impact on the site is the greatest threat to any remaining integrity. Historical research and a thorough archeological survey should be completed before any further reconstruction of the battery is considered.



The Battery Robinett, constructed by Union forces, was the scene of the pivotal Confederate attack and repulse on October 4, 1862



A view of the tree line marking the location of the Union earthworks in relation to Harper Road.

UNION EARTHWORKS: HARPER ROAD

Significance: Approximately 1,000 feet south of the intersection of Harper Road and Mississippi State Highway 2, are the remains of the Union rifle-pits constructed by Brig. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbutt's and Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Davies' divisions (Army of the Tennessee).

Description: Running in a north-to-south line parallel to Harper Road on their east, they measure 1,164 feet long, three to four feet high, and about ten to twelve feet wide. These earthworks are covered with underbrush, pines, and hardwood trees. Between Harper Road and the earthworks, grass and brush grow; a plowed field lies to the west.

Integrity: Weathering and gradual deterioration over the years resulted in a filling of the ditch, a loss of detail, and erosion of approximately one half the original height of the earthworks.

Threats: The area around Harper Road is a growing residential neighborhood with no land use protection. There is potential for the land encompassing the earthworks to be subdivided; this could lead to the destruction of the earthworks.

**CONFEDERATE EARTHWORKS:
BETWEEN THE MOBILE & OHIO RAILROAD
AND PURDY ROAD**

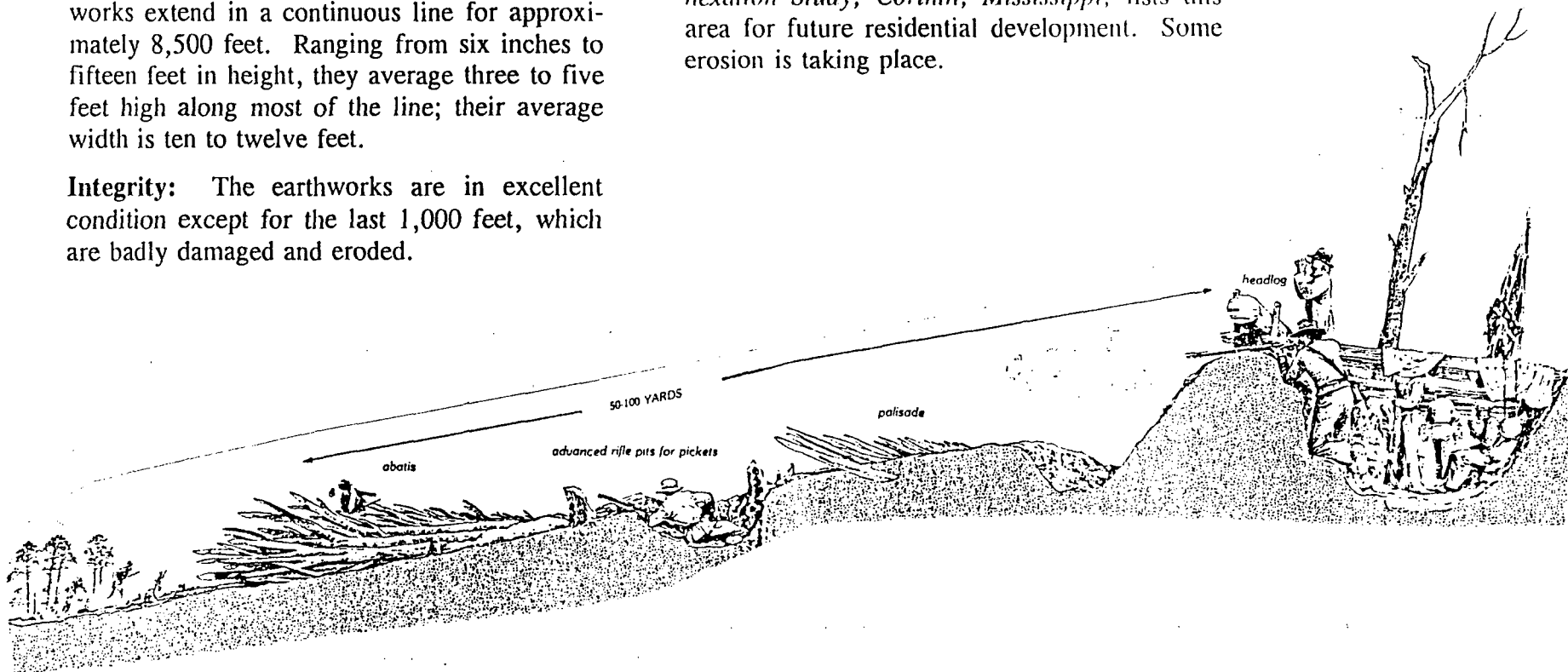
Significance: These earthworks represent the northern section of the Confederate fortifications built around Corinth from mid-March to May 29, 1862.

Description: With a few exceptions, the earthworks extend in a continuous line for approximately 8,500 feet. Ranging from six inches to fifteen feet in height, they average three to five feet high along most of the line; their average width is ten to twelve feet.

Integrity: The earthworks are in excellent condition except for the last 1,000 feet, which are badly damaged and eroded.

Threats: The earthworks are located in an inaccessible area with no land use protection; the owner, however, shows interest in seeing the earthworks preserved. An October 15, 1990 report by Barta and Associates, Inc. entitled *Annexation Study, Corinth, Mississippi*, lists this area for future residential development. Some erosion is taking place.

A typical example of an earthwork construction from "Battle in the Civil War" by Paddy Griffith. Illustration by Peter Dennis.





Earthwork remains from the May 1862 Union advance are typically two to four feet high; however, some batteries still stand ten to fifteen feet high.

UNION SIEGE LINES: SHERMAN'S AND DAVIES' DIVISIONS

Significance: The earthworks were built in May 1862 as part of the Union advance during the Siege of Corinth.

Description: The largest of the two sections of these earthworks is situated in a stand of trees surrounded by cultivated fields. Located about 2,000 feet north of Mississippi State Highway 2, they measure 1,322 feet long in a west to east line, range two to four feet high, and average 10 feet wide. The other section is covered with mowed grass and shaded by a canopy of trees. Ranging one to two feet high and two to three feet wide, they extend 475 feet beginning at a gravel drive, proceed east, and end at Mississippi State Highway 2, interrupted only by a 25-foot wide dirt road.

Integrity: The northwestern section is in good condition. The southeastern part, near Mississippi State Highway 2, has deteriorated badly; less than 20 percent of the original height and width remain.

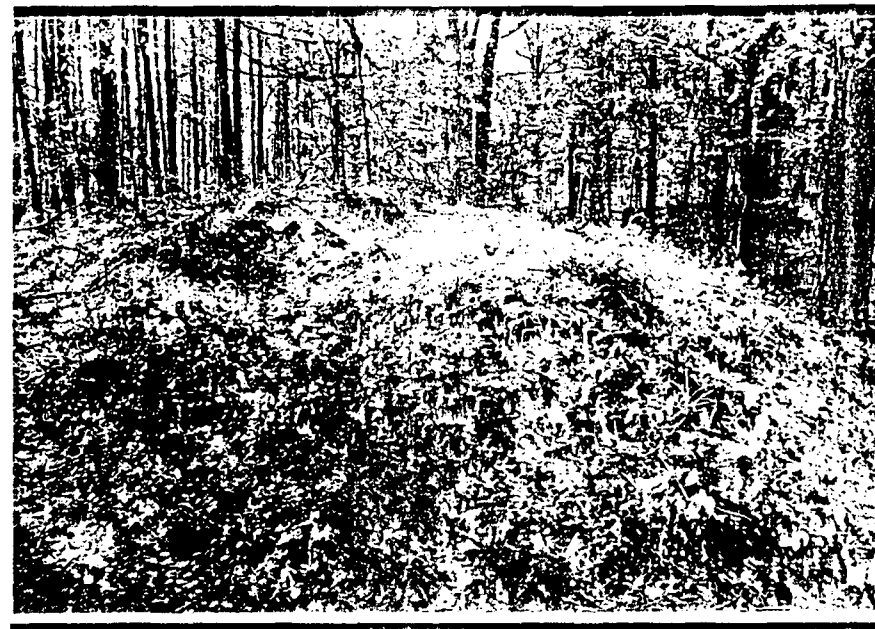
Threats: The needs of the agricultural areas surrounding this site could adversely affect the earthworks. While there are currently no land use restrictions, the 1990 *Annexation Study* lists this area for potential residential zoning.

**UNION SIEGE LINES:
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE AND ARMY OF THE
OHIO**

Significance: The earthworks were built in May 1862 as part of the Union advance during the Siege of Corinth.

Description: Extending south from Henderson Road and running parallel to the unimproved field road for approximately 2500 feet, these rifle-pits rise one to two feet high and span two to three feet in width. In two places they are traversed by unimproved field roads and portions have been leveled during cultivation. Most of the line is covered by undergrowth and trees. At the southern end stand two battery positions approximately 250 long and two to four feet high. Bombproofs, approximately 25 feet long by 25 feet wide and 4 feet high, stand one at the foot of each of the two battery positions.

Integrity: Weathering and gradual deterioration has occurred. Approximately one half the height of the earthworks has been lost, more in certain areas. The bombproofs have suffered some erosion. Otherwise, these earthworks maintain a very good state of integrity.



One of the remaining bombproofs near the batteries at the Union siege lines constructed by the Armies of the Tennessee and the Ohio.

Threats: Agricultural use has affected, and will continue to have an impact on the earthworks. Currently there is no land use protection but future zoning plans, as indicated in Corinth's 1990 *Annexation Study*, slate the area for heavy and light industry.



The junction where the Mobile & Ohio and the Memphis & Charleston Railroads cross.

RAILROAD CROSSOVER

Significance: The crossover of the Memphis and Charleston and the Mobile and Ohio Railroads was the catalyst for Corinth's existence and military significance. Today, the Illinois Central Gulf and the Southern Railroads cross at this same point. In some respects, this single location is more important than any other in understanding Corinth's critical role in the Civil War.

Description: The crossing of two railroad lines is located near the 1917 railroad depot.

Integrity: The railroad lines are modern, however, the tracks and crossover remain in the same location as the original lines.

Threats: This active railroad crossing is located in present-day downtown Corinth. While the historical integrity of the site has been adversely impacted, the location and configuration of the crossroads remain the same.

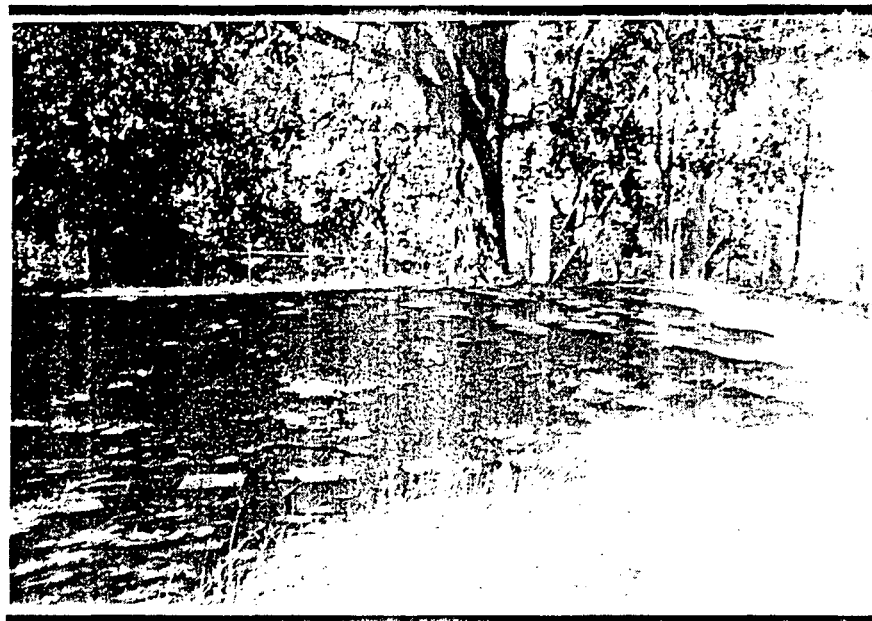
CONFEDERATE RIFLE-PIT

Significance: The earthworks were constructed by Confederate forces in April and May 1862, during the Siege of Corinth.

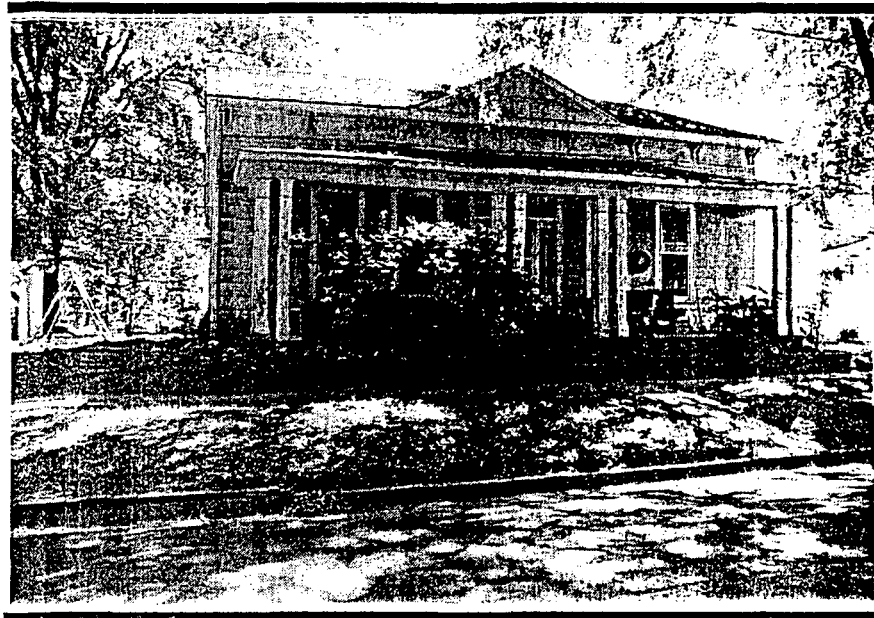
Description: The crescent-shaped rifle-pit is oriented to face northeast. Approximately three feet high, ten to twelve feet wide and fifty feet long, this low earthwork, devoid of sod, is subject to erosion. The trench has been infilled by slope wash from the embankment.

Integrity: The earthwork has experienced severe weathering and deterioration. Very little of the above ground resource exists.

Threats: Very deteriorated. Surrounded by residential area.



Remains of the Confederate rifle-pit.



The Duncan House once served as headquarters for Confederate Major General Breckenridge.

DUNCAN HOUSE

Significance: The Duncan House, on the east side of Polk Street between Bunch and Linden Streets, was the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gen. John C. Breckenridge in April and May 1862.

Description: This one-story, wood frame house has a central gabled roof and a full length front porch.

Integrity: Built in 1857, the house has undergone several changes and has been moved from its original location, however, much of the original historic fabric remains.

Threats: The building is deteriorating and needs maintenance.

FISHPOND HOUSE

Significance: Fishpond House, situated at the northeast corner of the intersection of Kilpatrick and Childs Streets, served as the headquarters of Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard from late March to May 29, 1862.

Description: Built in 1857, this one-story, wood frame house stands on brick piers and is surrounded on three sides by a veranda. It was rehabilitated circa 1930.

Integrity: The structure has lost some of its historic fabric. The most prominent change was the removal of the projecting cupola housing the cistern on the roof which purportedly gave Fishpond House its name.

Threats: Minor deterioration.

OAK HOME

Significance: Oak Home, on Fillmore Street between Bunch and Gloster Streets, was the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk from late March to May 29, 1862.

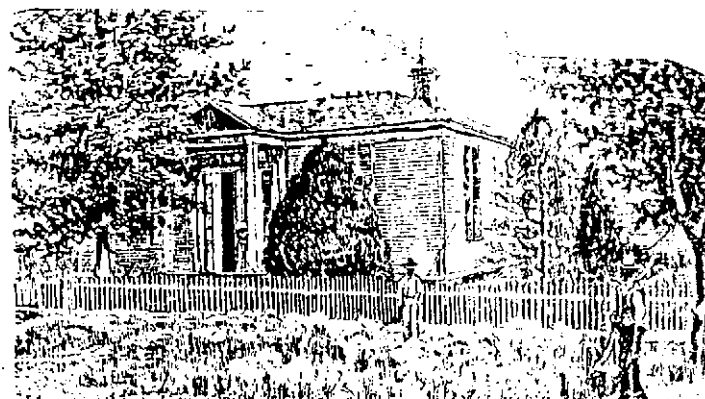
Description: The original wood frame, four-room block house was enlarged and rehabilitated circa 1930 in the then popular "Williamsburg" interpretation of the Colonial style.

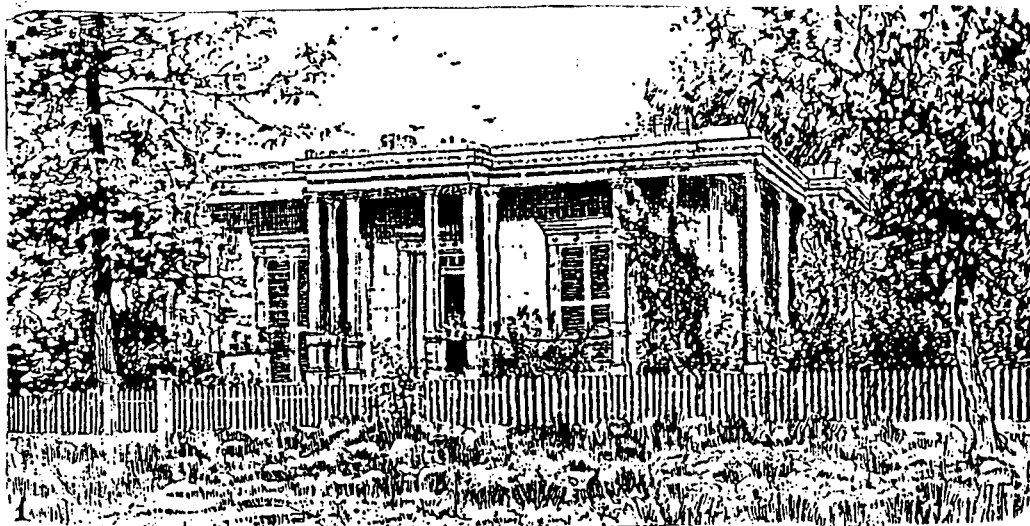
Integrity: The building retains very little of the historic fabric.

Threats: Minor deterioration.



From Walter Fenn's sketches of Corinth dwellings.





Walter Fenn's historic sketch of the Curlee House.

Opposite page: The Curlee House today.

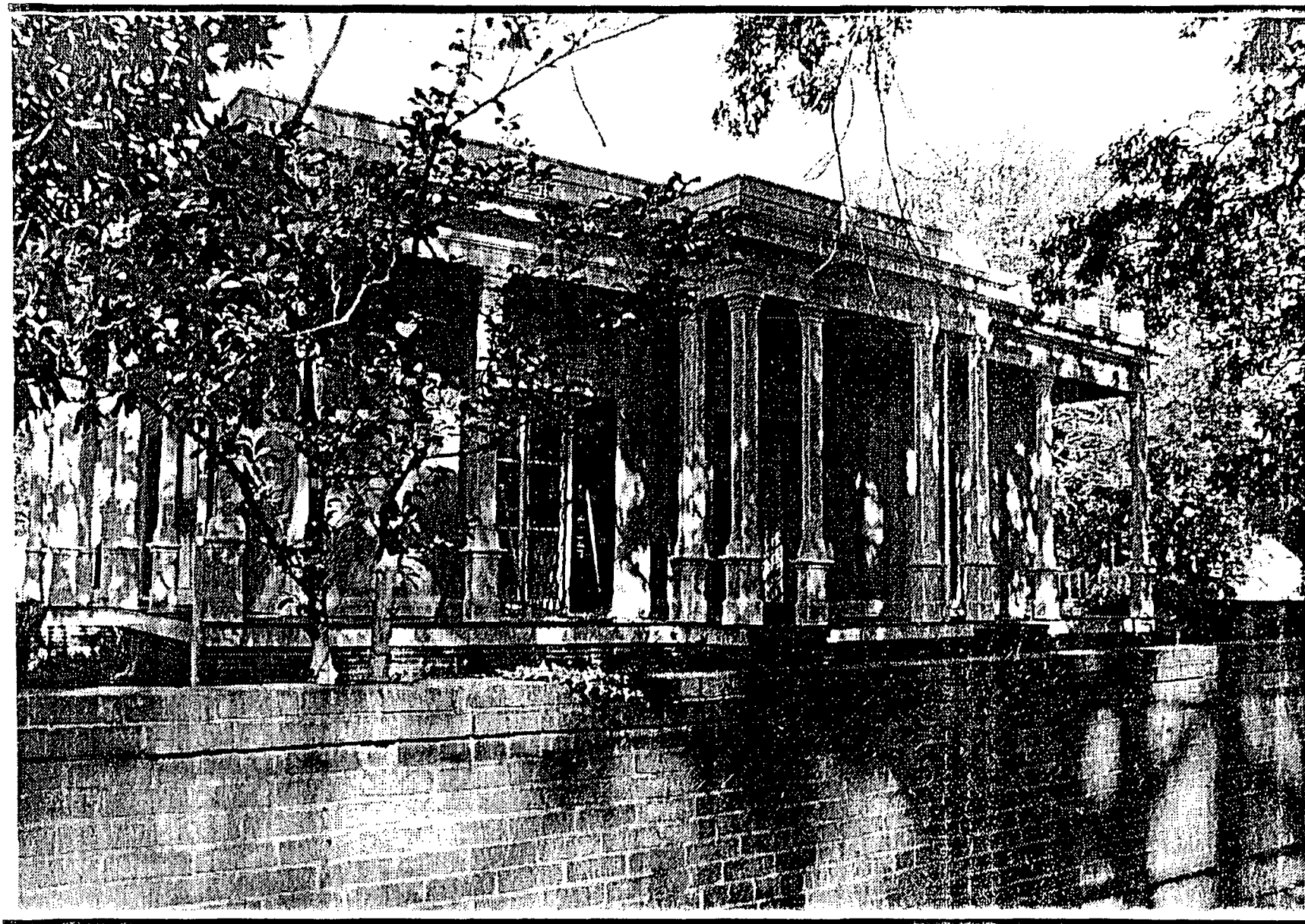
CURLEE HOUSE

Significance: Located on Jackson Street between Childs and Bunch Streets in Corinth, the Curlee House, originally called the Veranda House, served as the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gens. Braxton Bragg and Earl Van Dorn in April and May 1862, and of Union Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck from May 30, to mid-July 1862.

Description: The Curlee House is a one-story, wood frame house, three bays wide, resting on brick piers. Originally built in the Greek Revival style, it was remodeled in the 1930s to reflect a then popular trend in architecture toward the Colonial Revival styles.

Integrity: Alterations have been made including the frame addition built in the early 1930s.

Threats: Minor deterioration.



PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Several factors must be considered when discussing preservation, protection and interpretation strategies. Population, transportation, land use and zoning are just a few of the most important considerations that will set the climate for and have an important impact on the preservation efforts in Corinth.

POPULATION

Over the past fifty years, Corinth's population has grown at a rate of approximately twenty percent per decade. By 1990, 17,118 people resided here, with the annexation of areas from Alcorn County contributing to the rise in numbers in more recent years. Development of the nearby NASA facility will no doubt draw more people to the area, at least several hundred per year over the next four years. Based on this and normal growth trends, a twenty-one percent population increase is projected for the last decade of the 20th Century. According to the *Annexation Study* of 1990, by the year 2010, the population of Corinth's urban area is expected to reach 35,974. This potential growth will affect development as more and more families settle here and residential areas expand. Land use in and around Corinth will be affected as various interests vie for space.

TRANSPORTATION

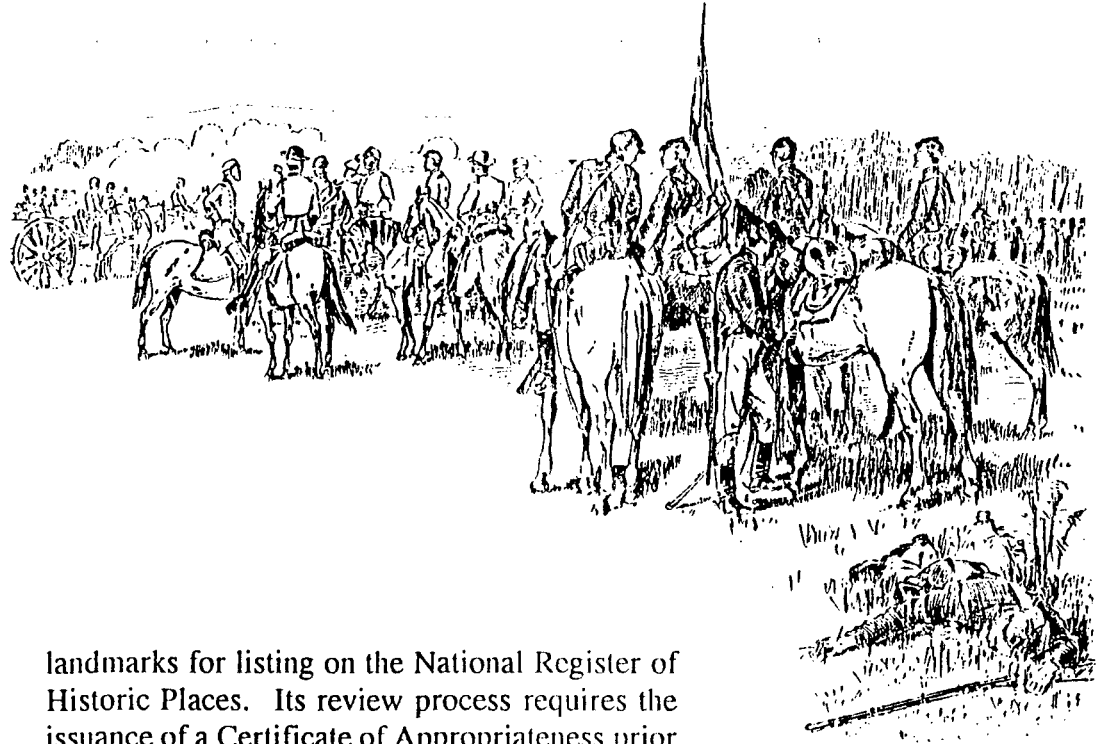
Three railroads intersect in Corinth—the Corinth and Counce, the Illinois Central, and the Southern. The Illinois Central follows the historic Mobile and Ohio route, while the Southern traces the old Memphis and Charleston line.

Two major U.S. Highways intersect in Corinth. U.S. 45 runs north and south through town, serving as the primary business route. The U.S. 45 Bypass diverts "through" traffic to the west of Corinth and is a limited access highway. It extends through a portion of the October 3-4 Battle area, and cuts through where some of the original Confederate works of the Beauregard line were located. U.S. 72 provides access from the east and west, widening into four lanes at Corinth, and is fully accessible with numerous cross roads, traffic lights, and turn-offs. Mississippi State Highway 2 intersects U.S. 45 and the U.S. 45 Bypass north of the city and provides Corinth with access to Shiloh National Military Park and Pickwick Lake.

LAND USE AND ZONING

The zoning of land and its subsequent use provides a setting for Corinth's historic resources. Local government makes the decisions regarding zoning and, in this sense, controls the future of landmark sites. While the city owns some of the sites, for which visitation is permitted and limited interpretation is provided, other sites are interspersed in areas zoned for residential, light industry or agricultural use. These locations may potentially be threatened or destroyed depending on how surrounding land is developed in the future. Zoning proposed in the 1990 *Annexation Study, Corinth, Mississippi* will affect some of the sites currently located in unzoned areas of Alcorn County.

The Corinth Preservation Commission will also be instrumental in protecting sites by providing standards that will impact future preservation efforts. Working within the city government, the Commission inventories and designates local



landmarks for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Its review process requires the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to any exterior alterations, demolition, or new construction affecting local landmarks. A conscientious local government, sensitive to preservation needs, will play a key role in the survival of historic resources.

"Headquarters in the Field" by Rufus F. Zogbaum

PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

The historic resources associated with the Siege and Battle of Corinth retain a relatively high level of integrity. They exist in a slowly changing environment and have moderate needs for preservation and protection. It is important to keep these significant resources either by assuring that the conditions are maintained that allow their current preservation, or by placing controls on activities that might have an adverse impact on the resources.

For Corinth to provide the necessary protective measures, the significance of the resources must be understood by its people. Their support is critical for permanent preservation of the historic sites. The two following overviews will help explore ways in which the significant resources associated with the Siege and Battle of Corinth can be protected, preserved, and interpreted, while providing economic stimulus for the community.

The first overview, *Strategies*, lists appropriate actions for achieving the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the individual sites. These actions, based only on a preliminary evaluation of possibilities, should be viewed as potential treatments that can be changed as circumstances warrant.

The second overview, *Effects of Ownership on Resources*, addresses the subject of public versus private ownership. The type of ownership may alter the threats to a site, its accessibility, and the quality and type of interpretation. Here we compare some effects that a change from private ownership (status quo) to private ownership with preservation controls or public ownership might have.

The overviews should serve as a foundation for the comprehensive planning that needs to take place at the local level, perhaps with assistance from the state or federal government through the American Battlefield Protection Program. A "Friends Group" could spearhead this effort (Appendix B).

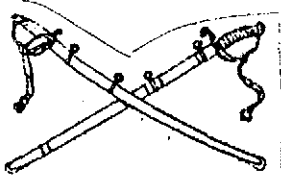
Immediate steps should be taken to:

- ▶ identify important historic viewsheds or vistas that define the character of the Siege and Battle sites;
- ▶ create protective easements on historic properties and historic vistas;
- ▶ establish appropriate protective zoning (city and county governments);
- ▶ develop potential state and federal sources of technical assistance for activities identified in the overview of strategies;
- ▶ conduct archival studies and field surveys of areas where additional, currently unknown Civil War era resources may be found; and
- ▶ in coordination with the Mississippi SHPO and the Corinth Preservation Commission, complete National Register of Historic Places nominations for newly discovered resources in the Corinth area.



*Top to bottom:
Pierre Gustave Toutant
Beauregard, Ulysses
Simpson Grant, and
Henry Wager Halleck.*

STRATEGIES GLOSSARY OF TERMS



Corinth Landmark Designation:
Provides city recognition and protection under applicable city laws.

Easements:
Transfer of certain property development or use rights, in perpetuity, without transfer of title.

Kiosk:
Small shelters with interpretive displays, usually located at a historic resource with a pull off and parking area.

National Historic Landmark Designation:
Provides national recognition and protection from federal undertakings or undertakings requiring federal funds or permits. Designated properties are eligible for National Park Service technical assistance.

State Antiquities Act, Mississippi State Landmark Designation:
Provides state recognition and potent review requirements to assist owners preserve their resources. Properties are eligible for technical assistance and financial grants from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Wayside Exhibits:
Signs placed at waysides on major roads with information about nearby historic resources. Travelers can pull into the wayside and view the signs from their automobiles.

Zoning:
City or county regulations determining land use within designated zones. Often determined by the consensus of the public.

STRATEGIES

PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

SITE	PROTECTION STRATEGIES	PRESERVATION NEEDS	INTERPRETATION POTENTIAL
CURLEE HOUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Remain in city ownership ▸ Obtain City Landmark status from Historic Preservation Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Cyclic maintenance ▸ Conduct historic research and prepare building assessment if restoration is a consideration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Personal services interpretation ▸ Wayside exhibit
PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ <i>Duncan</i> ▸ <i>Fishpond</i> ▸ <i>Oak Home</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Private ownership ▸ Consider government or non-profit ownership for the Duncan House ▸ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History ▸ Obtain City Landmark status from Historic Preservation Commission ▸ Obtain easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Obtain condition assessment reports from National Park Service ▸ Seek preservation grants from Historic Preservation Fund and American Battlefield Protection Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Interpretive signing
BATTERY F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Exercise Conservation Fund option ▸ Purchase additional acreage to fully protect site ▸ Obtain easements on viewshed ▸ Establish protective zoning ▸ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Stabilize and preserve earthworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Kiosk with three-panel interpretive signs
BATTERY ROBINETT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Remain in city ownership ▸ Obtain City Landmark status from Historic Preservation Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Repair monuments ▸ Maintain site ▸ Remove buildings ▸ Conduct archeological survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Kiosk with three-four interpretive panels ▸ Personal services interpretation ▸ Reconstruction is a consideration

STRATEGIES

PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

SITE	PROTECTION STRATEGIES	PRESERVATION NEEDS	INTERPRETATION POTENTIAL
RAILROAD CROSSOVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Obtain easement with railroad company and owners of adjacent lands ▸ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History ▸ Obtain City Landmark status from Historic Preservation Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ No preservation needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Wayside exhibit
FIRST PHASE: BATTLE OF CORINTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Obtain easements ▸ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Site maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Wayside exhibits ▸ Personal services tours ▸ Kiosk with exhibits
CONFEDERATE RIFLE PIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Site stabilization ▸ Restrict access to prevent further deterioration of the earthworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Wayside exhibit
CONFEDERATE EARTHWORKS ▸ <i>Between the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and the Purdy Road</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Site stabilization ▸ Archeological testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Wayside exhibit ▸ Personal services tours ▸ Kiosk with exhibits
UNION SIEGE LINES ▸ <i>Army of the Tennessee</i> ▸ <i>Army of the Ohio</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Site stabilization ▸ Archeological testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Wayside exhibit ▸ Personal services tours ▸ Kiosk with exhibits

STRATEGIES

PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

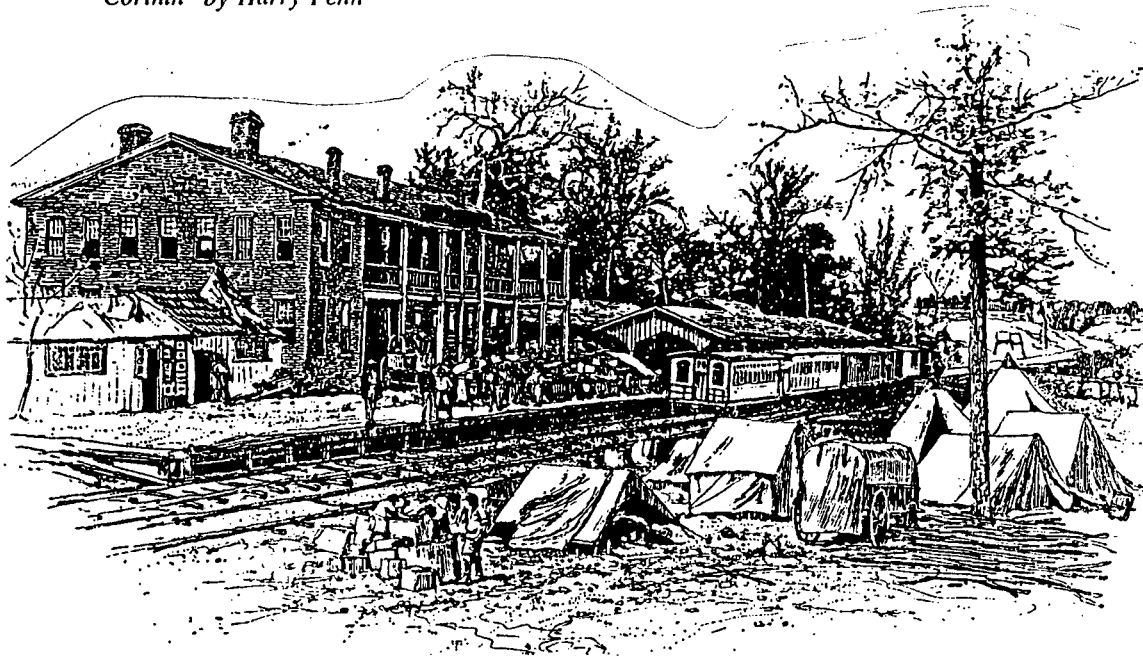
SITE	PROTECTION STRATEGIES	PRESERVATION NEEDS	INTERPRETATION POTENTIAL
UNION EARTHWORKS ▶ <i>Harper Road</i>	▶ Obtain easements ▶ Purchase turn-off area along Harper Road ▶ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History	▶ Site stabilization ▶ Obtain funding from Historic Preservation Fund or American Battlefield Protection Program	▶ Wayside exhibit
UNION SIEGE LINES ▶ <i>Sherman's & Davies' Divisions</i> ▶ <i>Paine's Division</i>	▶ Obtain easements ▶ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History	▶ Site stabilization	▶ Wayside exhibit
* BATTLE OF CORINTH	▶ Include in National Historic Landmark designation ▶ Obtain easements ▶ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History	▶ Archeological testing ▶ Site stabilization ▶ Site maintenance	▶ Wayside exhibit ▶ Personal services tours
* SIEGE OF CORINTH	▶ Include in National Historic Landmark designation ▶ Obtain easements ▶ Obtain Mississippi Landmark status from Mississippi Department of Archives and History	▶ Archeological testing ▶ Site stabilization ▶ Site maintenance	▶ Wayside exhibit ▶ Personal services tours

* Areas identified as potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Historic Landmark boundaries (Spring 1991).

EFFECTS OF OWNERSHIP ON RESOURCES

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

*"Depot and Hotel,
Corinth" by Harry Fenn*



Accessibility:

Degree to which a visitor can enter, view or experience a resource.

Enhanced Private Ownership:

A status of ownership whereby a property remains in private ownership with preservation controls in force to protect its historic integrity. Examples of such contracts are easements (transfer of development rights or use), zoning, and title covenants which result from receipt of Historic Preservation Fund grants.

Interpretation: Most appropriate method of presenting the story of the site to visitors.

Public Ownership:

A status of ownership whereby a property is purchased by a government agency and developed.

Threats:

Forces both natural and man-made that can endanger a resource. Details on types of threats are available in the Resource Assessment section of this study.

EFFECTS OF OWNERSHIP ON RESOURCES

RESOURCE	CURRENT (PRIVATE) OWNERSHIP			ENHANCED PRIVATE OWNERSHIP			PUBLIC OWNERSHIP		
	Threats	Accessibility	Existing Interpretation	Threats	Accessibility	Interpretation	Threats	Accessibility	Interpretation
Duncan House	Deteriorating rapidly	Viewed from street only	None	None (Preserved)	Viewed from street only	Wayside exhibit	None (Preserved)	Viewed from street only; lease out house	Wayside exhibit
Fishpond House	Minor deterioration	Viewed from street only	None	None (Preserved & rehabilitated)	Viewed from street only	Wayside exhibit	None (Preserved & rehabilitated)	Viewed from street only; lease out house	Wayside exhibit
Oak Home	None	Viewed from street only	None	None (Preserved & rehabilitated)	Viewed from street only	Wayside exhibit	None (Preserved & rehabilitated)	Viewed from street only; lease out house	Wayside exhibit
Battery F	Development	Viewed from road only	None	Potential adjacent development	Viewed from roadside exhibit	Wayside exhibit if access to earth-work restricted	Potential adjacent development	Walking trail to Battery after development	On-site exhibits
Railroad Crossover	None	Public access	None	None	Public access	Wayside exhibit	None	Public access	Wayside exhibit
First Phase: <i>Battle of Corinth</i>	Development	40% viewed from highway	No on-site visitation; limited to wayside	Potential adjacent development	40% viewed from highway	Wayside exhibit; possible limited on-site visitation	Potential adjacent development	100% after development	On-site exhibits
Confederate Earthworks	Potential future development	Inaccessible	None	Potential adjacent development	Inaccessible without developing road system	None without easement permitting visitation rights	Potential adjacent development	100% after development of trail and road system	On-site exhibits
Union Siege Lines: <i>Armies of the Tennessee and the Ohio</i>	Potential development	Inaccessible	None	Potential adjacent development	Inaccessible without developing road system	None without easement permitting visitation rights	Potential adjacent development	100% after development of trail and road system	On-site exhibits
Union Earthworks: <i>Harper Road</i>	Imminent development	Viewed from road only	None	Potential adjacent development	Viewed from road only	Wayside exhibit	Potential adjacent development	Best viewed from road only	Wayside exhibit
Union Earthworks: <i>Sherman's, Davies' & Paine's Divisions</i>	Potential development	Inaccessible	None	Potential adjacent development	Inaccessible without developing road system	None without easement permitting visitation rights	Potential adjacent development	100% after development of road and trail system	On-site exhibits

FINDINGS

The overview on ownership clearly shows that public ownership of additional land will not significantly reduce the threats to Civil War resources in Corinth. Public ownership will make some of the sites more accessible and might improve the visitor experience, but probably not enough to justify the greater monetary and dislocation cost to the community. Mississippi State Landmark designation, easements, and zoning can provide adequate protection to the resources, while allowing the properties to remain in private hands and on the tax rolls. Without the costs of acquiring and developing additional public lands, the community can concentrate on the much needed interpretation of the Siege and Battle of Corinth. (For examples of interpretation see Appendix C.)

The two overviews demonstrate the discontinuous nature of the historic resources associated with the Siege and Battle. The small acreage, the distance between resources, and their inaccessibility make on-site visitation difficult, and in

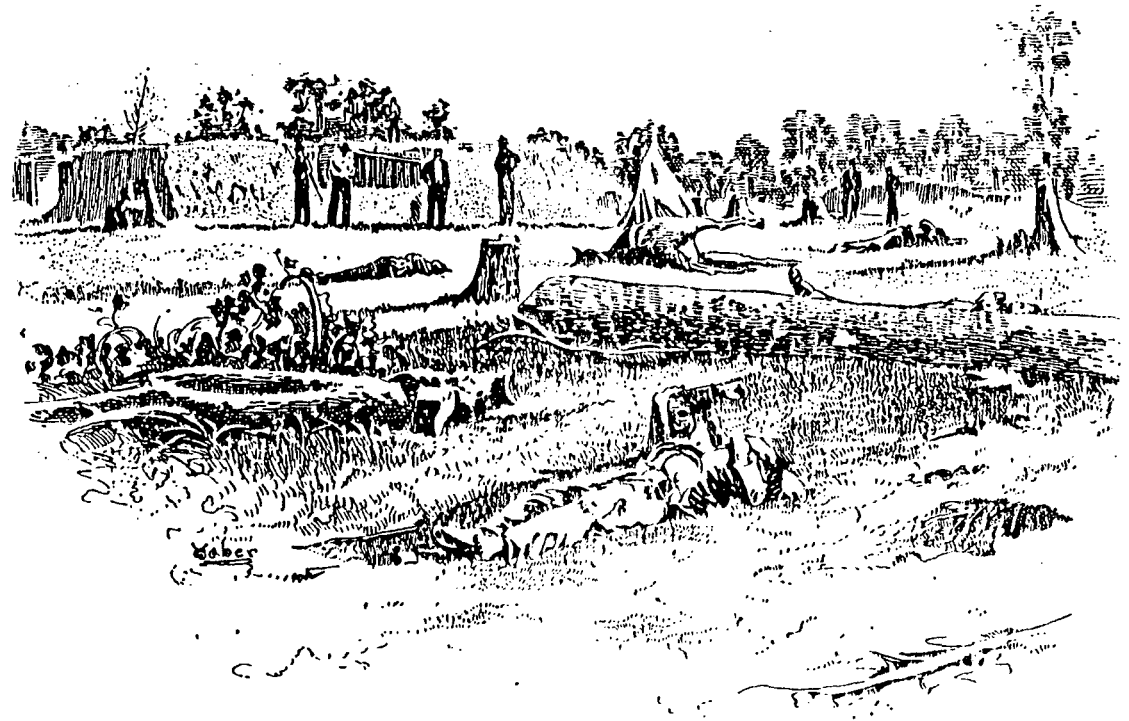
some cases impossible. The story of Corinth's Civil War events can best be told in a visitor center with limited wayside exhibits. Interpretive efforts at the center could place the significance of the events in and around Corinth in the broader context of the Civil War as a whole and could serve to direct the visitor to local sites and regional Civil War sites such as the nearby Shiloh National Military Park.

The size of the visitor center would depend upon the uses intended for the facility, the interpretive story line, and the financial resources available (Appendix D: Visitor Center Options). The interpretive center could also provide an opportunity to discuss other Civil War topics, such as the importance of railroads during the Civil War and of the contraband (freedman's) camp at Corinth. The location of Shiloh National Military Park twenty miles to the northeast, with its historical connection to Corinth, provides an excellent opportunity for a joint program to present Corinth's Civil War history.

To minimize costs and possibly better serve the public, the visitor center could combine with other operations, such as a proposed Mississippi state welcome center or the Corinth Museum. Location is equally important; the visitor center, to successfully draw people, must be both easily accessible and near the historic resources. (See Appendix D for some possible locations.) The role of the National Park Service in development and operation of the visitor center is undetermined at this time, but certainly a limited involvement in exhibit preparation and presentation of interpretive programs for the short term may be warranted.

Recently identified historic resources pertaining to the Siege and Battle of Corinth should be added to the existing National Historic Landmark nomination. Additional archival and survey work is needed to determine the significance and the integrity of the contraband (freedmen's) camp for consideration as a National Historic Landmark or for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

*"Battery Robinette,
Corinth" by Walton
Taber*



APPENDIXES



*"Provost-Marshall's
Office, Corinth Missis-
sippi" by Harry Fenn*

APPENDIX A: SIEGE AND BATTLE OF CORINTH TASK FORCE

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State Historic Preservation Officer
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Mississippi Department of Archives and History
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Mr. Haywood Harrell, Superintendent
and George Reaves
Shiloh National Military Park
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Honorable E.S. Bishop
Mayor of Corinth
Represented by Cliff Bolton, Alderman
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(601) 286-6644

Ms. Rosemary Williams
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(601) 287-1328

Ms. Margaret G. Rogers
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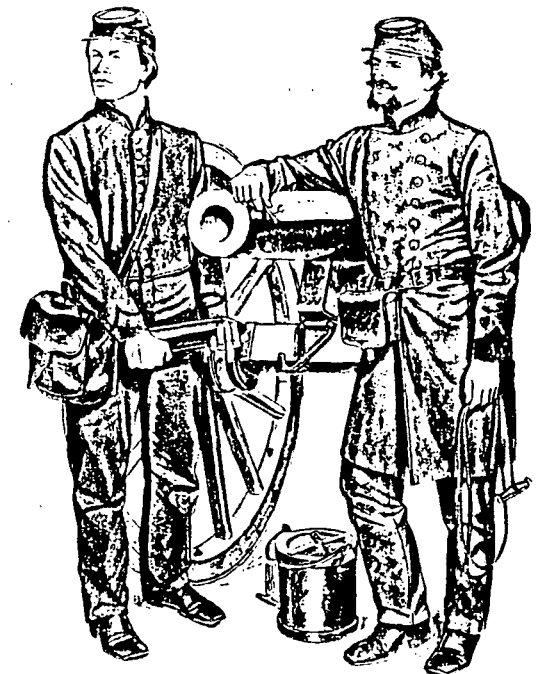
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Mrs. Stephanie Sandy
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(601) 287-2921



APPENDIX B: ESTABLISHING A FRIENDS GROUP

*"Camp Gossip" by
Walton Taber*



"Friends Groups" have in the past been extremely successful in helping safeguard historic landmarks. These local interest groups enable private citizens to join together to oversee the well-being of historic properties in their own community. The "Friends" can provide valuable advice and help create the partnerships necessary to establish and implement successful protection, preservation and interpretation programs. Opportunities exist for the Friend's Group to assume a leadership role and become involved in operational functions. Operating as a legal entity, this type of non-profit organization often has more flexibility than a governmental entity in the planning and actualization of all phases of their own projects.

Through the American Battlefield Protection Program, local groups can obtain a project manual that explains how to establish a Friends Group, become operational, and request on-site assistance.

APPENDIX C: INTERPRETIVE POTENTIAL

As the 21st century approaches, threats to the historic properties in and around Corinth are becoming more varied and numerous. Already the infrastructure for a subdivision has been installed adjacent to Battery F, and recently site preparation began for a new home next to the battery. Active interpretive programs will play a vital role in, and may well become the lifeline of the preservation and protection of Corinth's landmarks. These programs, in addition to sharing Corinth's story with visitors, can serve as reminders to citizens and visitors alike, of the importance of our cultural heritage.

The story of the Siege and Battle of Corinth is a complex one, further complicated by the discontinuous nature of events and physical features. Following are a few examples of interpretation approaches that can help unify preservation efforts.

- ▶ To help the average visitor better understand the sites in their original context, one approach would be to incorporate into Corinth's story an explanation of the attitudes and events that led to the outbreak of the Civil War, and the important role played by the railroads.
- ▶ Interpretive programs could be integrated into the state history curriculum offered in public schools. To generate more awareness among students, local civic groups might sponsor poster and essay contests, awarding modest prizes.
- ▶ Seminars could be organized. A noted Civil War historian or authority could serve as an honorary chair or be a name draw perhaps for a weekend or a week-long seminar on the Civil War. Memberships could be sold for lecture series. It might even be possible to arrange course credit through a university.





- ▶ Brochures, television series, and newspaper articles could be used to inform Corinth citizens of their heritage and promote protection efforts at the local, city, county and state level. Positive publicity could be an incentive, encouraging landowners to actively participate in preservation efforts, while strengthening community pride.
- ▶ A limited number of special events could be organized as annual events. If they occur at the same time every year, visitors could plan to attend in advance and look forward to specific activities taking place. Evacuation Day (May 30th) and the anniversary of the Battle (October 3-4) could be two special event dates; or, a Christmas Candlelight Week could highlight town activities and feature tours with guides dressed in historic clothing.
- ▶ To draw visitors to Corinth, an IMAX-type movie is possible. In fact, it is perhaps the best way to explain to large groups of people the compelling story of the Siege and Battle while spotlighting Corinth's marvelous historic setting and landscape. Revisions of the IMAX movies, when appropriate, would help keep Corinth "new" to repeat visitors.
- ▶ A Friends Group could operate bus or van tours to the historic sites, scheduling on a regular basis throughout the year special educational tours for students.
- ▶ The services of a traffic engineer may be needed to help map a tour route that would safely move people through the town. Excellent street signage is a necessity. Perhaps an appropriate logo could be designed and strategically located to guide visitors who are on their own through the town. Arrangements must be made with landowners and the question of liability answered if tours stop on private property.
- ▶ Certain sites lend themselves to interpretation through wayside exhibits, but there are limitations. A traveler does not always stop at a wayside to obtain information. Nor do visitors necessarily progress in an orderly fashion from a beginning to an ending exhibit; they might commence at any location along the way. Thus, each exhibit would need to include the same introductory information along with the site-specific story.

- ▶ Brochures are helpful in moving visitors about the battlefield and providing historical information. It is our understanding that in July 1991, the Corinth Preservation Commission began an inventory of historic buildings. This type of contribution would be particularly useful in developing publications. Books and guides, if of good quality, would make great sales items and serve to spread the story of Corinth beyond the city's boundaries. A friends group could operate its own bookstore and provide a catalog.
- ▶ High quality historical tape tours are convenient sources of information for visitors walking a battlefield or meandering around the sites on their own. These could be rented or sold.
- ▶ Personal services are the best way to interpret earthworks. One or two sites could be chosen as the focus of attention.

- ▶ The use of historical black and white photographs and art work to show the original "look" of a site has proven a very successful interpretation technique. "Before and after" exhibits can have a powerful impact on viewers, while providing a point of reference. Noted Civil War artists could be commissioned to do a limited series on the Corinth campaign to be used as fund raisers.

There is one more bonus to a strong interpretive program. Fees from seminars, special tours, and exhibits; revenue from the sales or rental of narrated tape tours; book sales—all these could help defray expenses while aiding the preservation effort. Creative marketing and sound organization will play an important role in the success of any program, but the potential for interpretation remains as vast and varied as the imagination.



APPENDIX D: VISITOR CENTER OPTIONS

A visitor center would provide a centralized location to orient, inform, and educate travellers about the various aspects of the May 1862 Siege, the October 1862 Battle, and Civil War Corinth. Careful consideration needs to be given to the location of the visitor center; it should be situated in an area easily accessible to the main transportation arteries and the major historic sites. Possible locations that might be further evaluated include:

- ▶ Near Curlee House
- ▶ In the commercial block (burned out building) near the Railroad Crossover
- ✓ ▶ At the Railroad Crossover
- ✓ ▶ At Battery Robinett
- ▶ At the Union or Confederate Earthworks
- ▶ At the intersection of Highways 45 and 72
- ✓ ▶ At the intersection of Highway 45 and Wenasoga Road
- ▶ At the intersection of Highway 45 and State Route 2



Initial construction costs would generally be in the range of \$750,000 for a small visitor center; \$1,500,000 for a construction of medium size; and \$2,500,000 for a large center. Additional consideration must be given to quality of design and function in order to create an attraction that justifies the initial construction and yearly operating costs.

SMALL (2,000 SQUARE FEET)

Interpret the Siege (April-May 1862) and Battle (October 1862) of Corinth and provide general information and brochures; present a short slide program in display area

- ▶ Small display area (1000 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Small sales area (100 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Two offices (150 sq. ft. each; 300 sq. ft. total)
- ▶ One workroom (150 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Curatorial storage (150 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Lobby (100 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Restrooms (100 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Mechanical/janitorial space (100 sq. ft.)

MEDIUM (4,300 SQUARE FEET)

Interpret the Siege and Battle of Corinth; provide limited on-site personal interpretation; and furnish general information and brochures

- ▶ Medium display area (2000 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Medium sales area including 25 sq. ft. storage (200 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Auditorium (60 seats) for audio-visual presentations (500 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Research library (150 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Three offices (150 sq. ft. each; 450 sq. ft. total)
- ▶ One work room (250 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Curatorial storage (250 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Lobby (200 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Restrooms (200 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Mechanical/janitorial space (100 sq. ft.)

LARGE (8,000 SQUARE FEET)

Interpret the Siege and Battle of Corinth and the Civil War within the region (northern Mississippi, northwest Alabama, southern Tennessee); provide for a full range of on-site personal interpretation; give guided driving or walking tours (possibly supply buses or vans); and provide general information and brochures

- ▶ Large display area (4000 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Auditorium (150 seats) for audio-visual presentations (1000 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Large sales center including 50 sq. ft. storage (300 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Research library (250 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Offices (2 each 150 sq. ft.; 2 each 225 sq. ft.; 750 sq. ft. total)
- ▶ Workroom (300 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Curatorial storage (400 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Lobby (400 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Restrooms (400 sq. ft.)
- ▶ Mechanical/janitorial space (100 Sq. Ft.)

