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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK

TUPELO NBS  
MISSISSIPPI

FILE NO.

DIGS TUBE

Region One

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE

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MAY 15 1941



Subject

Page

Date

DEVELOPMENT SECTIONS

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ( \_\_\_ pages)

List of Developed Areas  
Distribution of Development  
Circulation System  
Primitive and Research Areas

DEVELOPED AREAS ( \_\_\_ pages)

Name and Location  
Principal Features of Interest  
Principal Facilities

ROADS AND TRAILS ( \_\_\_ pages)

Tables 1 and 2  
Road and Trail Chart

BUILDINGS ( \_\_\_ pages)

General  
Building Chart

UTILITIES ( \_\_\_ pages)

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LAND STATUS ( \_\_\_ pages)

Acreage  
Boundaries  
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SURVEYS ( \_\_\_ pages)

Source  
Proposed Work

MASTER PLAN, Tupelo National Battlefield Site  
Development Outline

Operation

(b) Interpretation

(1) Principal Characteristics. -- Tupelo National Battlefield Site is a one acre tract located near the western limits of the city of Tupelo, Mississippi to the south of and adjoining State Highway 6. It lies on gently rolling land and is surrounded on three sides by residential properties. The site is about two hundred yards west, and near the center of the line occupied by the Union army of Andrew J. Smith on the morning of July 14, 1864. The main Confederate attacking column moved eastward along the south side of the highway, then known as the Pontotoc Road, and was stopped in the immediate vicinity where the heaviest fighting of the engagement occurred.

At the time of the battle a church stood on the ground which in 1929 became a national battlefield site. Adjacent to the church on the east was a cemetery. Time has erased all evidence of the battle. The old church is gone as are all other buildings of the village of Harrisburg. The nearby Pontotoc Road, now a city street, has been so changed as to bear no resemblance to the dusty thoroughfare it was in 1864. Even the view, in three directions is cut off by the houses of peaceful citizens who, probably remember that they live on a battlefield only when they see the flag, or the granite cannon-flanked eagle-topped memorial which is the most conspicuous feature of the area.

The area commemorates a battle fought there on July 14-15, 1864 which had some bearing on the outcome of the Western Campaign of 1864. While General Sherman was engaged in the great campaign which resulted in the capture of Atlanta in September, 1864, his line of communication, extending from Chattanooga to Nashville, was threatened by Confederate forces whose principal mission was to defend Mississippi and Alabama. To guard against such danger, Sherman sent a number of expeditions into Mississippi and Alabama. Among them were: one led by S. D. Sturgis which was defeated at Brices Cross Roads on June 10, and another led by A. J. Smith which on July 14 and 15, fought the Battle of Tupelo. Whatever the immediate outcome of these expeditions, they kept the Confederates busy, and forestalled any serious threat to the Union supply lines.

- (2) Status of Research. -- No detailed study of the Battle of Tupelo, with an attempt to identify on the ground positions occupied by the opposing forces has been made. On October 21, 1933, Historian Charles S. Marshall, then stationed at Shiloh, presented a short narrative of the Battle. In 1942 barely enough research was done to prepare the base historical map which shows the relationship of the one acre area to the battle positions at the time of the main Confederate attack at about 7:30 A. M., July 14, 1864. Later, brief studies of the campaign and battle were made to provide the information necessary for the 2-fold leaflet, published in 1946, and for the interpretive exhibit erected in 1951.

Documentation of the base historical map appears on the map itself. No additional research is contemplated.

- (3) Patterns of Public Use -- The inclusion of a description of the Site in the AAA travel guide, in highway maps, in Service publications, and in other media induces an unknown number of tourists to visit the area. Estimated annual visitation, based on limited observation, 6000. There are no data on seasonal or weekly distribution, or on place of origin. Practically all visitors come by auto. Visitors read the inscription on the memorial and the interpretive exhibit, inspect the two cannon, and observe the small part of the battlefield which remains unobstructed by buildings. Not more than 10 or 15 minutes are needed for these activities.
- (4) Interpretive Program: --

(a) Since the only employee is a part-time laborer who raises and lowers the flag, no personal interpretive service is provided. A field desk from which interpretive literature could be dispensed is not practicable because children who live in the neighborhood use the site for a playground.

(b) Interpretive Center. -- A 2-panel exhibit was erected in 1951. It contains: 1, a map with text showing the strategy of the Union Army of the West during the year 1864, and of the smaller army which fought the Battle of Tupelo, and 2, an action map, oriented with the ground, which in a simplified fashion shows the battle tactics of the two opposing armies.

(f) A 2-fold leaflet, published in 1946, is available at the office of the Natchez Trace Parkway. They are distributed in response to mailed and personal requests. There are approximately 50 of the first mentioned each year. Copies of the folder are kept on file at the Tupelo Chamber of Commerce, and at hotels and tourist courts.

Interpretation

MASTER PLANS

Development Outlines

Prepared by Dawson A. Phelps, Historian  
Name and Title

Date Dec 1951

REVISED

Regional Office

Washington Office

Architect A. J. Higgins 12/18/51

Landscape

Architect Arthur H. Hays 12/26/51

Engineer W. J. ... 12/17/51

Forestry Walter L. Savage 12/29/51

History James W. Holland 12/26/51

Natural

History

Reg. Chief of Concession Management

E. P. Buschman

Lands W. P. ... 12/28/51

Safety

Recreational

RECOMMENDED

Malcolm Gardner  
Superintendent

Date Dec. 12, 1951

V. R. Ledge

Date Jan. 3, 1952

Ad. Asst. Regional Director (Planning and Construction)

Clare Cox  
Regional Director

Date Jan. 4, 1952

Thos C. Vint

Date 3/17/52

Chief of Planning and Construction

APPROVED

Ronald F. Lee

Date 6/26/52

Ady. Director

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE

Tupelo National Battlefield Site

Land Status

1. Acreage

The Tupelo National Battlefield Site is a one acre tract owned by the Federal Government, containing the monument commemorating the Battle of Tupelo, Mississippi.

2. Boundaries

The current boundary status report was approved July 29, 1946. The present area is adequate for its purpose, and there are no critical boundary problems, although there is some likelihood that the tract is segregated from the two adjoining public roads by a narrow strip of land which may be owned by the U.D.C. or U.C.V.

3. Inholdings

There are no inholdings or private developments which adversely affect the operation and/or development of the area.



MASTER PLAN  
Development Outline  
Signature Sheet

Land Station  
Page 2 of 2  
May 8, 1952

Prepared by (Sgd) ARTHUR F. PERKINS Date MAY 8 1952  
Name and Title

REVIEWED

Regional Office

Washington Office

Architect	<u>E. W. Aschmann</u>	<u>6-10-52</u>	_____
Landscape			_____
Architect	<u>Scudder Griffing</u>	<u>6-11-52</u>	_____
Engineer	<u>W. E. O'Neil, Jr.</u>	<u>6-10-52</u>	_____
Forestry	<u>Fred H. Arnold</u>		_____
History	<u>James W. Holland</u>	<u>6-10-52</u>	_____
Natural			_____
History			_____
Public			_____
Services	<u>E. V. Buschman</u>	<u>6-9-52</u>	_____
Lands	<u>Arthur F. Perkins</u>	<u>6-5-52</u>	_____
Safety			_____
Recreational	<u>Arthur F. Perkins</u>		_____

RECOMMENDED

(Sgd.) Malcolm Gardner Date MAY 28 1952  
Superintendent

W. E. O'Neil, Jr. Date JUN 12 1952  
Acting Assistant Regional Director (Planning and Construction)

Elbert Cox Date JUN 13 1952  
Regional Director

Thos. C. Vint Date 3/11/52  
Chief of Design and Construction

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Director