

A Compendium of Civil War Sites
In Williamson County
for
Possible Battlefield Parks

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to the Battlefield Subcommittee
of the Central Franklin Planning Committee

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Introduction

This document identifies important Civil War sites in Williamson County, Tennessee that have the potential to be saved, or in rare cases reclaimed, as Civil War Battlefield Parks.

The idea is to establish a series of parks, some large, some small, at our important Civil War sites that, together with sites currently maintained by other historical groups, can collectively tell the Civil War history of Williamson County, and Middle Tennessee. The emphasis is to identify those sites that would most likely qualify for federal grant funds.

To accomplish these goals, there are historical support programs available to assist local governments:

- to file grant requests to help fund purchase of these sites
- to include Williamson County Civil War sites as part of a state-wide interpretative program

As base planning input, this document describes candidate Civil War sites in:

Brentwood
Franklin
Triune
Thompsons Station

This list is not intended as a complete list of all Civil War sites in Williamson County. Rather, the sites identified are mostly near federal highways that qualify them for some type of government funding for a portion of their purchase price. Also, many of these sites are for sale, and are still open ground - and many lie in flood plains.

We still have many open parcels of Civil War Battlefields here in Williamson County, as you will learn from this document. These could be kept as a series of interpretive parks throughout the county to attract and educate today's visitors, and to educate the children of coming generations. It's our American history – we are responsible for making sure it is kept.

What we lack to-date, is the political will to demand that our local governments use available public funds to keep these historic treasures for posterity – rather than using public funds to turn them into additional neighborhoods and strip malls. **You** need to be certain that your views are clearly and repeatedly made known to our state, county, and city administrators.

Civil War Military Activity In Williamson County, Tennessee

After the fall of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers at the Kentucky border in February, 1862, the way was open for a Federal army to occupy Nashville where they began the build-up needed to mount a major offensive toward Chattanooga and Atlanta. During this time, Confederate forces operated east and north of Nashville to interfere as much as possible with this Federal preparation. At the end of 1862, the Federal army moved southeast and encountered Bragg's Confederates at Murfreesboro in the three day Battle of Stones River. Staggered, both armies went into winter quarters to rebuild their strength.

From March to June, 1863 Federal forces then occupied and built installations at Franklin, Triune, and Murfreesboro - the Confederates at Spring Hill, Eagleville, and Tullahoma. Fort Granger and the beginnings of the trench line on the Carter Farm were constructed during this period. Both sides continually scouted the other to learn its strength and location.

On March 4-5, a mixed force of cavalry, infantry, and artillery from Brentwood marched through Franklin and on toward Spring Hill to engage the Confederate army there. They were surprised and defeated at the Battle of Thompsons Station with most of the Federal force captured.

On March 25, a large Confederate cavalry force moved in two columns around Franklin and attacked the Federal force garrisoned in Brentwood to protect the railroad cut, and the railroad bridge over the Little Harpeth River south of town. They captured both Federal forces and, as they retreated west along the Little Harpeth, were attacked by a Federal relief force coming up from Franklin.

On April 10, and again on June 4, strong Confederate cavalry forces from Spring Hill, with field artillery, invaded Franklin along the Lewisburg and Columbia Pikes. Both attacks resulted in battle casualties on both sides, and the former resulted in house to house fighting as the Federals fell back through town to the protection of Fort Granger. A Federal cavalry counter-attack saw fighting along Lewisburg pike near Henpeck Lane before both sides broke off contact.

Then in late June, the Federals began the long-anticipated troop movements to consolidate their forces for the summer campaign toward Chattanooga. Only token forces were left in Franklin and Triune. A larger Federal force was left in Murfreesboro, by then a large US supply depot, to protect the railroad to Chattanooga. For the next 18 months military activity in Williamson County was at a low ebb.

In November 1864, Federal troop re-enforcement and supply trains moved south through Franklin as Schofield consolidated his forces farther south to slow Hood's invasion of Tennessee. After fierce blocking engagements at Columbia and Spring Hill, and after exhausting forced marches by both armies, the Federal army began arriving in Franklin early on November 30.

The advance Confederate columns arrived at about noon and engaged the Federal division, re-enforced with artillery, that was blocking Columbia Pike at Winstead Hill. After confused fighting atop the ridge, running combat continued as the Federals retreated to the main trench line at Carter Farm and as the Confederates closely pursued. At about 4 PM, the Confederates began their fateful assault into the Federal trenches on today's BGA Campus and Carter Farmstead that ended about 9 PM. The battle that afternoon resulted in 10,000 Americans being killed, captured, or wounded - most of them in the first hour or so.

By the start of the battle, the Federals had repaired the Harpeth River bridges and, by midnight, had quietly withdrawn toward Nashville. For the next two weeks, Franklin was overwhelmed with the wounded of both sides.

After the December 15-16 Battle of Nashville, the flow of moving armies again returned to Williamson County as Hood's army retreated along Franklin Pike and the railroad leading south.

December 17 - From before dawn to after dusk this day, Confederate blocking forces were heavily and repeatedly attacked by the pursuing Federals. The fighting began in Brentwood near the Davidson County line and ended near Thompsons Station just north of the Maury County line.

Some of these fights during Hood's retreat were not minor events. The Confederates had 3 infantry brigades, two cavalry, plus artillery - totaling 3-4,000 men. The Federals also had a mixed infantry, cavalry, artillery force of roughly 5-6000 men - mostly cavalry. Not all troops were engaged in each blocking action - one line would hold the pursuers at bay as other defenders would leapfrog to the rear to set up another defensive line.

Wilson's Federal cavalry aggressively tried many times to rout the retreating Confederate blocking forces by encirclement and cutting the road behind them. All day long, many sharp skirmishes resulted in casualties and captures on both sides. Pitched battles raged at Holly Tree (Hollow Tree) Gap, from Spencer Creek to the Little Harpeth river crossings in Franklin, at Winstead Hill, and at the Battle of the West Harpeth River - this last action is listed as an official battle in the Civil War Atlas. This was a vicious, confused fight starting about one-half mile south of Coleman Road, and ending in darkness at the West Harpeth bridge, two & one-half miles farther south.

December 17 was the end of heavy fighting in Williamson County, but the treatment and removal of the wounded, and the recovery and burial of the dead went on for weeks. The repair of Franklin's buildings, fences, and farm fields would take years. The war went on for another 4 months before Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia.

Prior Studies of Civil War Sites In Williamson County

Franklin Battlefield Conferences - 1992, 1993, 1994 - These three conferences were sponsored by the City of Franklin, Williamson County, the Heritage Foundation and other local groups to bring together business and historical groups to discuss methods of preserving local historical resources, and of establishing heritage tourism in Williamson County. Speakers came from national preservation groups, Tennessee Historical Commission, and other groups. The conferences generated much interest in the general public for preserving some of our local Civil War sites. Original research produced battlefield maps and a Battle of Franklin Driving Tour Map.

Profiles of America's Most Threatened Civil War Battlefields - 1993 (revised 1998) - National Parks Service - American Battlefield Protection Program - a survey of the Nov 30, 1864 and April 10, 1863 battlefields in Williamson County. The maps define the area that was studied, and the boundaries of the 'core battlefield' areas. This study encompassed dozens of Civil War Battlefields in several states, and is planned to be updated.

Winstead Hill Park and Fort Granger Study - 1995 - A City of Franklin sponsored study that resulted in land being purchased on the north face of Winstead Hill. Fort Granger had been purchased by the city in the mid 1970's, and the Winstead Hill acreage was purchased by the city just for the park. Interpretative signs were placed at both of these passive parks which are now open to the public.

US Highway 31 Battlefield Corridor Protection Plan - 1996 - Sponsored by the Heritage Foundation with a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to identify all historic sites, including battlefield parcels, along US Highway 31 from Mack Hatcher Parkway north of Franklin to Saturn Parkway near Spring Hill. The study addressed preservation priorities for the identified resources, land use and zoning, highway frontage, set-back requirements, and other characteristics. For whatever reasons, the plan was not adopted as a guideline for development planning by the city or the county.

Preservation and Interpretation Plan Summary for Civil War Resources in Tennessee - 2000 - Sponsored by the Tennessee Wars Commission, this summary is a "how-to" preservation guide for local governments and organizations that can produce a statewide Interpretation Plan for Civil War sites. These plans define five regional themes, and six statewide themes. The regional theme for Williamson County is "Hood's Tennessee Campaign". The second revision of companion booklet **A Path Divided** is a statewide driving tour guide that was developed in cooperation with the Tennessee Wars Commission.

Tennessee Historical Quarterly - A Master Plan for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area - 2002 - Prepared by the Center for Historic Preservation, MTSU for the Board of Advisors of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. In 1995 Congress established National Heritage Areas program as part of its National Parks Service. Forty-one states submitted proposals, and Tennessee, with the assistance of Congressman Bart Gordon, was one of the eight states chosen.

In 1996 Congress funded Tennessee Civil War National Heritage program at MTSU with the goal to establish a strategy, coordinated with local governments and preservation groups, for interpreting Tennessee's Civil War era for the years 1850-1870 including the Reconstruction years. After public meetings and fact-finding across the state, this resultant Master Plan helps local governments and groups become part of the statewide preservation effort to protect and interpret our local historical resources.

A copy of this Master plan is distributed to Subcommittee members as a separate document. Participation in this program is an important way to preserve and interpret Williamson County's Civil War historical sites.

Sources of Funding for Purchase of Battlefield Parcels

These funding programs are **available to state & local governments** to buy and protect open space, including battlefields, near federal highways. The purchased lands can become passive parks or open greenspace parks. There are restrictions on the use and improvements that can be made on lands purchased through these funding programs.

In general, these funds are NOT available to private non-profits groups for land purchase except when those groups join with local governments for a specific project.

Federal Grant programs:

Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds - T-21 transportation funds 4 for 1 match -- gateway, greenspace, etc near federal highways

HB 8125 --- \$10 million/year for 5 years just for battlefield purchase provided on a 1 for 1 match

American Battlefield Protection Program - 1 for 1 match for land purchase

Sources of 'seed' money to apply for Grants:

- Tennessee land purchase program funded from real estate transfer taxes. This program has provided approximately \$17 million per year for purchase of wetlands, open greenspace, and battlefields. These funds are especially important for land preservation since they can be used to apply for 4 to 1 funding from T-21 funds, or for 1 for 1 matching through the new HB 8125 battlefield purchase program. Due to state budget shortfalls this year, this fund has been frozen and may not become available for some time. This needs to be changed.
- Tennessee Wars Commission
- Public funds provided by Cities
- Public funds provided by the county
- Funds raised by non-profit groups
- Funds provided by national historical organizations

Organizations That Can Assist
Acquisition & Interpretation
of Local Civil War Sites

Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
Center for Historic Preservation
PO Box 80
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2947
www.mtsu.edu/tncivwar

American Battlefield Protection Program
National Parks Service
1849 C Street NW NC 330
Washington, DC 20240
(202)-343-1210
www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp

Civil War Preservation Trust
13 H Street NW (1001)
Washington, DC 20005
(202)-367-1861
www.civilwar.org

Tennessee Department of Transportation
Transportation Enhancement Program
James K Polk Bldg
7th Floor, Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37243
Marilyn Holland, Enhancement Coordinator
(615) 532-3184
www.tdot.state.tn.us/enhancementApp.pdf

Tennessee Historical Commission
Tennessee Wars Commission
Clover Bottom Mansion
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 532-1550
Contact: Fred Prouty
www.state.tn.us/environment/hist/

The Land Trust for Tennessee
PO Box 23473
Nashville, TN 37202
(615) 244-5263
www.landtrusttn.com

Tennessee Preservation Trust
PO Box 24373
Nashville, TN 37202
(615) 259-2289
www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org

Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association
PO Box 138545
Nashville, TN 37214
Mary Ann Peckham - Exec Dir (MAPeckham@aol.com)
www.tcwpa.org

Tennessee Dept of Tourist Development
320 6th Ave North - 5th Floor
Rachel Jackson Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-8299 or 741-2159
www.stste.tn.us/tourdev

Parcels for Possible Civil War Parks

Brentwood

Downtown Overlook - The downtown area of Brentwood from Old Hickory Blvd to the Koger Center was a fortified outpost to guard the railroad pass during most of the war years. The area included troop encampments, feeding corrals, and railroad sidings. During periods of troop build-up, the troop encampments extended westward and south almost to the Little Harpeth River. This area is all built up now with redevelopment being considered.

However, the key sites of the March 25, 1863 Battle of Brentwood (Forrest's raid) and Hood's Retreat of December 17, 1864 can be seen from the hills east of downtown Brentwood. An overlook on the water tank hill north-east of downtown would be a very good place for Civil War tourists to begin their visit after studying a relief map of Brentwood. Forrest's attack actually advanced over the Summit Overlook Hill, south of Church Street, into Brentwood, but today's view is impaired by office buildings and trees.

Railroad Bridge at Little Harpeth - A garrisoned stockade fort protected this important railroad bridge (Turner property) from Confederate raiders for most of the war. On March 25, 1863, Forrest captured the main Federal garrison at Brentwood Station. As his troops moved the prisoners and captured supply wagons west to cross the Little Harpeth, he led a second column south to capture the Federal garrison and the RR bridge just north of today's Concord Road. After a brief firefight, the garrison surrendered. The Federal army later replaced the stockade with a strong earthen fort at the bridge. Any river-walk park in the future should include a Civil War site at the fort's location and approaches.

Little Harpeth Bridge - During Hood's retreat from Nashville the night of Dec 16, Confederates were camped all along Franklin Pike from Brentwood to Franklin, and beyond. There is reason to believe that General Hood and his staff were camped on the high ground near today's Franklin Pike and Murray Lane. The flood plain (Turner property) around the bridge is battlefield and could be a wonderful open space Civil War park.

The retreat resumed before dawn on the 17th. Part of the Confederate blocking force was positioned on this high ground to prevent the Federal forces from using the turnpike bridge over the Little Harpeth. As the fighting flared at the bridge, the Federal calvary, vastly outnumbering the defenders, easily swept to the east and west to find other crossings. Confederate Infantry officers bitterly complained later that their cavalry "stampeded" to the rear and disrupted their own defensive lines as the Federal cavalry moved down Franklin Pike. The defenders were thus forced to fall back to...

Children's Home Area - ...where the road curves to the right around a hill. Again, the US Cavalry moved south along the railroad and were advancing out Douglas Church Road without significant resistance. After a brief fight, the Confederates fell back to a strong defensive line along the ridge of Holly Tree (Hollow Tree) Gap.

Holly Tree Gap - After positioning additional troops on the ridge line, the Confederates also placed regiments south of the ridge in the gap approaches from the east (from the railroad) and west (Holly Tree Gap Road). This made the ridge positions much more difficult to outflank. The turnpike approach to the ridge from the north passes through a narrow defile which gave the Confederate defenders deadly fields of fire from the ridge. The Federal infantry made several attacks on both sides of the turnpike. Heavy fighting echoed in these hills until about 10 AM, when the defenders again fell back to avoid being cut off by Federal cavalry near Mallory Station Road. The ridges and roadsides at Holly Tree Gap are Civil War battlefields and should be kept as a scenic overlook onto the battle areas to the north and south. This would also be a scenic gateway into Brentwood from the south.

Franklin
(Central Franklin Area ***)

*** Ropers Knob - This hill was fortified as the northeast corner of the Fort Granger fortifications built in early 1863. A large bombproof blockhouse was constructed atop the hill and surrounded by rifle pits. It was used as a signaling station for communication with Nashville, Triune, and Murfreesboro.

The 22 acre summit is owned by the State of Tennessee and 36 acres of the south face is owned by the Heritage Foundation. An archaeological survey has been done by the state. No interpretive plan has been done. The property is not open to the public although STFB has gained permission to lead tours to the summit on several occasions.

*** Cedar Hill - This 1 acre parcel is owned by Save The Franklin Battlefield and lies atop a hill just southwest of Liberty Pike and Mack Hatcher Parkway. The adjoining 1 acre to the east is owned by a neighborhood association. The parcels are landlocked by subdivisions and are not accessible from the street. The property is not open to the public.

Both parcels are wooded and together contain a Civil War lunette earthwork and was the southeast strong point of the Fort Granger complex. There are several older homes on the north face of Cedar Hill that cover about 5 acres.

If that property were ever to become available, an open greenspace park of about 7 acres could be assembled with a north front on Liberty Pike.

*** Hill 732 - Turnpike Fort - This 16 acre hill (elevation 732 ft) is located between the Hwy 31 and the CSX railroad north of Morning Side Drive. It was the northwest strong point of the Fort Granger complex. Built in the spring of 1863, this un-named fort had heavy artillery installed in earthworks. The guns commanded the railroad and turnpike to the north. It now has a home atop the hill and the property recently sold. A portion of the earthworks may still exist. This property would provide an excellent open greenspace and gateway from the north into the Franklin as well as a Civil War battlefield park.

During Hood's retreat on Dec 17, Confederate field artillery was emplaced here to fire into the pursuing Federal cavalry and infantry as they crossed the Spencer Creek area on both sides of the Turnpike. Men were killed and wounded in this area. Fighting then moved south across present-day Harlinsdale Farm, The Factory, the Truett property, Harpeth Academy and the river crossings.

*** Truett House - Located at 228 Franklin Pike, this home was inside the Fort Granger boundaries. During the Nov 30 battle of Franklin, Schofield used this house as his headquarters. During Hood's Dec 17 retreat, fighting flared around this house and in the orchard across Franklin Pike. Men were killed and wounded in this area.

This roughly 5 acres is private property. There is an open area to the north between it and Liberty Pike. The property extends east to Daniels Drive.

*** Railroad Underpass - Dec 17 - During Hood's retreat, mounted and dismounted Federal cavalry attacked along the railroad to the Old Liberty Pike railroad underpass. The two parcels on either side of the tracks saw fighting with men killed and wounded. The west parcel is approximately 4 acres, the east about 3 acres. The west parcel borders Daniels Drive and the Truett property to the west. Men were killed and wounded here.

*** Fort Granger - This Federal Fort was built in early 1863 as the western end of the Federal advanced line in Middle Tennessee. Other fortifications were also built at Triune and Murfreesboro. The largest part of the Federal forces departed in June 1863 as part of Rosecrans' advance toward Chattanooga. We (locals) consider it the FINEST ORIGINAL Civil War earthen fort in the country. It has not been restored. During the Nov 30 battle, Schofield used the fort as an observation point, and several batteries of Federal artillery were deployed here to fire south along the railroad tracks. The fire carried over Pinkerton Park, Hwy 96, and the field south of it, and into Confederate forces attacking across the Franklin Country Club golf course and Collins Farm.

The City bought Fort Granger in the mid 1970's as part of Pinkerton Park. Undergrowth was cleared and signs added as part of the 1995 plan to interpret Fort Granger and Winstead Hill. The 1995 Plan envisioned public access and parking from Eddy Lane. This was not done and the current public access to the fort is by foot from Pinkerton Park, or from Granger Drive which is difficult to find and has no parking.

*** County 4-H Stock Pen - This 4 acre parcel fronts on Eddy Lane and adjoins Fort Granger. It is owned by Williamson County and was used for many years as the 4-H show pen for livestock.

It was battlefield and is part of the original Fort Granger fortifications. During the Nov 30 battle, additional Federal batteries were positioned here to fire into Confederate infantry advancing towards Collins Farm. If added to Pinkerton Park as originally envisioned in the 1995 Plan, this property would provide excellent auto access to, and parking for, Fort Granger.

*** Harpeth River Crossing - Heavy fighting occurred along the Hwy 31 river

crossing during Hood's Dec 17 retreat, as Confederates tried to cross their wagons and guns under Federal attacks. The fighting stretched from the railroad bridge to about 200 yards below today's highway bridge. The fighting was frantic and desperate as soldiers and horses struggled to pull their loads up the muddy banks, and to safety further south.

Two weeks earlier at about midnight of the Nov 30 battle, Hood ordered the shelling of this bridge area not knowing the Federals had already departed.

*** The Harpeth River Banks - The river banks and flood plains from the old water works down to Old City Cemetery would make a wonderful river walkway park. Most of it is Civil War battlefield.

In the April 10 raid, Confederate cavalry stormed through town fully expecting that the Federal troops at Fort Granger had gone to Triune. As they broke out of the warehouse area onto the flat south of Harpeth Academy, Federal infantry on the north bank opened fire. Horses and riders went down in a cloud of dust.

In Hood's December 17 retreat, Confederate troops in this area fired into Federal Cavalry north of the river to protect the retreating Confederates trying to get their equipment and guns over the bridges and up the muddy banks.

As a suggested possibility, a pedestrian walkway starting in the Collins Farm area could bridge to the left bank, follow along the 40 acre open space south of Hwy 96, under Hwy 96 to Pinkerton Park, cross to the right bank at the Sue Berry pedestrian bridge, follow the river to Hwy 31, under 31, and cross to the north side open area.

*** Carter House - This state-owned Historic Site is the main heritage tourism attraction in Franklin. There are extensive interpretative signs and a well established visitor tour. The site now includes the old county High School property to the north and totals about 10 acres. The main trench line crossed Columbia Pike just south of the Carter farm buildings during the Nov 30 battle.

*** Carter Gin House - The existing house located at 109 Cleburne Street is owned by the Heritage Foundation and is roughly the site of the Carter cotton gin house that was the epicenter of the Nov 30 Battle of Franklin.

*** Parkview Dead-end - The south end of Parkview dead-ends at a deep swale of about 1 acre. Federal reserve troops massed here during the battle, and Confederate prisoners were held here as well. The southwest corner of this property adjoins the cotton gin site to the south.

*** Cleburne Street - The strip mall and Pizza Hut on both sides of Cleburne Street at Columbia Pike have long been viewed as perfect additions to the cotton gin property along the main Nov 30 trench line. Cost and availability have not been studied. Other deteriorated homes along Cleburne may at some future time become available. Any battlefield park in this area would have to be designed in a way to not impose on the neighborhood.

*** BGA Campus - Williamson County recently bought the Battleground Academy campus on Columbia and some of the residential properties, also owned by BGA, that surround the main campus. The County is building a new county library on the north end of this property.

This campus was part of the main killing fields during the Nov 30 Battle of Franklin. We have implored the county to keep what remains of the open spaces as open greenspace and a battlefield park. This would involve removing the football stadium, and other structures that become unusable over time. We asked that no additional buildings be added.

We also suggest that one of the existing buildings be used as a county history museum that includes an extensive Civil War section. Such a facility could be the starting point for a self-guided tour of the Civil War interpretative sites throughout the county.

With federal grants, the remaining BGA open space could be purchased for a battlefield park. The open space on this campus is of the most historic category.

*** Loring's Advance - This 5 acre open space is just west of the railroad and is behind (south) the homes on Cleburne Street. It is privately owned by several families in the neighborhood who joined forces to keep it as open space. Not for sale now but might be in the future if kept as open space.

*** Collins Farm - This 3.22 acre of battlefield is owned by Save The Franklin Battlefield Inc. It is the southeast corner of Lewisburg Pike and the CSX railroad. The flood plain across (north) Lewisburg Pike is also battlefield. Loring's division swept across this land on Nov 30 to the northwest as it attacked the Federal trenches. Loring's division has more dead buried at the Confederate Cemetery than any other Confederate division in Hood's army.

*** Willow Plunge - This 15 acre property adjoins Collins Farm on the east and was part of the Nov 30 battlefield. Willow Plunge was once owned by

the City as a public swimming pool and amusement area. Much of this property lies in the flood plain.

As Loring's division advanced over this ground, his men suffered casualties from Federal artillery fire from Fort Granger less than a mile to the north. As a battlefield park, this property would provide open greenspace along Lewisburg Pike. It adjoins Collins Farm and the battlefield areas in the flood plain between Lewisburg Pike and the river.

*** Carnton Plantation - This restored plantation house is owned by a private non-profit association. An additional 50 adjoining acres was recently leased from the State of Tennessee. The 2 acre Confederate Cemetery, owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, adjoins the north boundary. The plantation house was used as a Confederate hospital.

*** Franklin Country Club - This 110 acre property lies between Carnton Plantation and Lewisburg Pike to the north - 2.5 acres lie between the Pike and the Harpeth River. Much of the north end lies in the flood plain. This is where Loring's three brigades formed for the attack and first came under artillery fire from Fort Granger on Nov 30. In November 2003, a benefactor purchased the 110 acres, will lease it back to the club, and will hold it for purchase and preservation by local governments and groups. This open green space ties together Carnton Plantation and the river walkway area. In the November 30 battle, the north end of this property was under heavy Federal artillery fire from Fort Granger. Many men were killed and wounded in this area.

Henpeck Lane & Lewisburg Pike - Lewisburg Pike was battlefield at various times from the railroad crossing and on south to beyond Henpeck Lane. On April 10, Forrest's cavalry advanced into town by this route. A US Cavalry column, returning to Franklin on Hwy 96 from Triune, heard the battle roar and crossed the Little Harpeth at McGavock's ford (#11 green at Forrest Crossing) and cut the Confederate column near Henpeck Lane. A mixed and confused fight ensued as Forrest now attacked south along Lewisburg Pike. The flood plain between Lewisburg Pike and the River in the Henpeck Lane area could make a good battlefield park.

Merrill Hill (Worthern Property) - This 72 acre property south of Downs Blvd and across from Plus Mark Corporation was the scene of the early fighting of the Nov 30 battle. Today's clump of trees on the low hill was the location of the Merrill farmstead and was used as a field headquarters for Cheatham's Corps. It currently is a large agricultural open space that could be an important addition to the southern approach view-shed to Franklin as well as a battlefield park.

Ulman Property – (Parkway Commons Shopping center) This 48 acre open

space lies on the northwest corner Mack Hatcher Parkway and Columbia Pike. It is in the direct line-of-sight from the City's Winstead Hill Park toward the Carter Farm in Franklin.

The main Confederate assault on Nov 30, 1864 began in this area. Earlier that day, the van of the Confederate forces overtook the Federal blocking forces atop Winstead Hill ridge, and forced a fighting retreat over this property and on back to the main Federal trench line. Men were killed and wounded in this area.

Again on Dec 17 during Hood's retreat, the Confederate blocking force on Winstead Hill ridge poured fire into the attacking Federal Cavalry in this area to great effect. Men were killed and wounded in this area.

Adjacent to Winstead Hill Park which is a Registered Historic Site, this property was recently rezoned by Franklin's Aldermen for Parkway Commons Shopping Center featuring Kroger and Target stores.

Winstead Hill & Breezy Hill - The north face of Winstead Hill is now a 67 acre Franklin City park, with a 17 acre overlook owned by the SCV. The ridges of Winstead Hill and Breezy Hill were defended by the retreating Federal forces on Nov 30 shortly before Hood made his assault on the Federal trench lines. Again on Dec 17 during the Confederate retreat southward, Hood placed a sizeable blocking force here to deal with Wilson's pursuing US cavalry. Heavy fighting erupted on the ridge and along Columbia Pike to the north until the Federals made successful flanking movements out Carters Creek and Lewisburg Pikes.

Harrison House - This beautiful 67 acre farm is privately owned. The advancing Confederates were attacked here by US artillery on Nov 30 as the Federals blocked the advance route into Franklin.

Battle of West Harpeth - This fight is listed in the Civil War Atlas as the Dec 17 Battle of West Harpeth River. It was the strongest stand made by the Confederate blocking force during Hood's retreat as overtaking Federal columns were mistaken by Confederates as their own. The confused battle started just north of a tributary of the West Harpeth located about .7 miles south of Coleman Road near dusk in a cold, freezing rain. The Confederates were eventually deployed across the rise south of the tributary. The Federals deployed under fire and made an assault and cavalry charge. After a severe fight, the Confederates made several retrograde movements under Federal cavalry pressure for 2.5 miles south, and made another stand at the West Harpeth River bridge crossing.

After the fighting ended in darkness, the Confederates encamped at Thompsons Station. Both the tributary and the West Harpeth crossing are

open farm fields now, and mostly in the flood plain.

This area is now within the Franklin Urban Growth Boundry but only a few homes have been built to date. As a preserved Civil War Battlefield Park, this area would be a perfect gateway view-shed into Franklin for visitors arriving from the south.

Thompsons Station

Thompsons Station Battlefield - On March 4, 1863 a Federal force from Brentwood and Franklin moved toward the Confederate encampment at Spring Hill. As they approached Thompsons Station they were met by Van Dorn's Confederate force on a reconnaissance toward Franklin. After a brief engagement, Van Dorn withdrew for the night to a line on the east-west hills south of Thompsons Station - the Federals formed on the east-west hills north of the railroad station. On the 5th, the Federals attacked southward across the bottom ground. Confederate artillery and cavalry moved north and east of the Columbia pike to attack the Federal wagon train and the US troops guarding it. Much of the Federal force was eventually captured, sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, and exchanged.

Like the March 25 Battle of Brentwood, and the April 10 and June 4 raids into Franklin, this action was part of the constant losses that both sides incurred as the Federals prepared for the campaign toward Chattanooga in June 1863. The Federal losses at Thompsons Station were roughly 1,300 captured with another 500 killed and wounded. Confederate losses were about 500 killed, wounded, and captured.

The bottom ground around the railroad station and west of Columbia Pike is flood plain and still farmed. This heart of the Thompson Station battlefield could still be saved as a Civil War Park.

Triune

Triune Earthworks - Built by Federal forces in the spring of 1863, this sprawling hilltop Federal earthworks commanded the Nolensville and Murfreesboro-Franklin Roads, and served as a signal relay station and a safe US way-station between Franklin and Murfreesboro. There were no Confederate attacks on this unnamed fortification, although partisan raiders did put harassing fire into the installation occasionally.

This earthwork is on private land, covers several hundred acres, and is a perfect example of pristine, unrestored earthworks from the Civil War - particularly the western end of the fortifications. These earthworks are a national treasure and must be preserved.