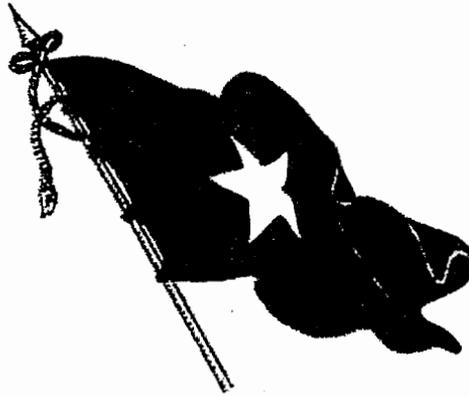


*F.M. Prouty*



**Detailed Interpretation Plan  
for the  
Spring Hill, Tennessee Battlefield**

**prepared for  
Maury County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
and  
Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites**

**by  
White Star Consulting  
Madison, Alabama**

**FINAL**

**February 14, 1997**

*(THIS COPY NOT IN COLOR)*

## Executive Summary

White Star Consulting, of Madison, Alabama, has been commissioned by the Maury County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites to prepare a Detailed Interpretation Plan for the Spring Hill, Tennessee battlefield. Funding for this project has been provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

This plan provides for the permanent interpretation of the Spring Hill battlefield. A driving tour route marker has been created, and placement of these signs along country roads and town streets to assist visitors as they drive the battlefield. The ten tour stops on the Spring Hill battlefield driving tour have had plans prepared for their short and long term development. Twenty-three interpretive markers for the battlefield have been positioned, text and graphics have been chosen, and layouts for their designs have been completed.

Associated issues such as interpretation partners, land management issues, battlefield management requirements, greenways, land acquisition priorities, coordination requirements, and interpretation recommendations for Rippavilla have all been incorporated into this plan. Maury County has made a proposal to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites to establish a community recreational park at the northwestern periphery of the Weaver Farm property. White Star Consulting has carefully reviewed the viability of this proposal, and have determined a number of mitigations which should permit this park to be established without adversely impacting the historic integrity of the core battlefield.

Where any recommendations have been made, White Star Consulting has provided a recommended sequence for the activity, an estimated budget, a scaled drawing or map of the activity, and the responsible party have been identified.

As the last surviving battlefield of Hood's Middle Tennessee Campaign, establishing a detailed, comprehensive interpretation at Spring Hill will result in a historically significant battlefield park which will preserve valuable cultural and natural resources for the Spring Hill and Maury County communities, while providing a valuable economic incentive through heritage tourism. This plan endeavors to provide the blueprint for such interpretation.

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## 1.0 Introduction

In the Fall of 1864, Confederate General John Bell Hood launched a desperate bid to regain the initiative in the west, and to reverse the results of the surrender of Atlanta, Georgia in September, 1864. The ensuing campaign is known as Hood's Middle Tennessee Campaign. Over one hundred thirty years later, the battlefields of Columbia, Franklin, and Nashville have all been absorbed by municipal growth. Prior to 1989, however, Spring Hill remained a small, rural village with primarily an agrarian based economy. All of this changed when the Saturn Corporation opened a new factory for the production of General Motor's Saturn line of automobiles. The impact on Spring Hill has been immense.

Prior to the construction of the Saturn Plant, all land use was agricultural or residential, with only a limited number of small local businesses. Spring Hill land use patterns in 1980 could be considered to be generally identical to its antebellum land use. However, the arrival of Saturn has resulted in rapid development for nearly the entire Spring Hill battlefield. Yet, although the construction of the Saturn Automobile Plant and Saturn Parkway have adversely impacted the battlefield, the battlefield maintains considerable historic context and integrity. The movements and activities of Federal and Confederate soldiers still can be visualized, and the historic topography studied. Much of the countryside where Hood's and Schofield's soldiers marched is nearly pristine.

In the Fall of 1994, White Star Consulting, a local cultural resource firm, was hired by the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) with funding provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service to prepare a *Preservation Action Plan for the Spring Hill Battlefield*. This *Preservation Action Plan* recommended a three phase program for the establishment of a Spring Hill Battlefield Park; proposed a framework for the interpretation of the battlefield, and established priorities for land acquisition. Acting upon the suggestions of the *Preservation Action Plan*, the APCWS purchased 110 acres of the core battlefield, land where two of the major engagements at Spring Hill occurred. The National Park Service selected Spring Hill and Maury County as a demonstration community for a new partnership program dedicated to community stewardship and community managed growth, and The Countryside Institute published its *Spring Hill Report* in the Fall of 1995. The recently established Tennessee Wars Commission has identified Spring Hill as a candidate for a Tennessee state battlefield park. A national re-enactment was held in the vicinity of Rippavilla and Oak Lawn in October, 1995. The Saturn Corporation has recently agreed to permit Maury County to use Rippavilla and surrounding land east of Highway 31 for interpretive purposes. The restoration and renovation of Rippavilla as an interpretive Visitors Center is expected to be completed by December, 1996. An increasing number of historic tours and individual tourists are beginning to visit the Spring Hill battlefield. Maury County has completed the preparation and printing of a driving tour brochure, "Twilight of an Army" Guide to the Spring Hill, Tennessee Battlefield" which constituted the first significant effort at permanent battlefield interpretation.

This *Detailed Interpretation Plan* would build upon this framework of accomplishments to provide for the active interpretation of the Spring Hill, Tennessee battlefield. Although the *Preservation Action Plan for Spring Hill* (White Star Consulting, January, 1995) proposed a framework for the interpretation of the Spring Hill battlefield, and although Maury County has initiated interpretive efforts, an integrated plan is necessary to provide for the permanent and continuing interpretation of the battlefield.

This plan would specifically include the following coordination efforts:

- Coordinate battlefield interpretive plan with tourism initiatives and economic development plans of the town of Spring Hill, hold discussions with officials of the town;
- Coordinate battlefield interpretive plan with tourism initiatives and economic development plans of Maury and Wouldiamson Counties, hold discussions with County officials;
- Coordinate battlefield interpretive plan with preservation and interpretive programs of the State of Tennessee, hold discussions with Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office;
- Coordinate battlefield interpretive plan with plans of the Tennessee Children's Home to eventually open the Martin Cheairs Home to the public;
- Coordinate battlefield interpretive plan with plan for the Spring Hill community prepared by The Countryside Institute in the Fall of 1995;
- Hold discussions and coordinate with local preservation groups such as the Spring Hill Battlefield Preservation Association, and with concerned citizens of the Spring Hill community.

This plan would specifically provide interpretive concepts, detailed specifications, and implementation financial estimates for:

- Integration of battlefield interpretation with community development initiatives as presented in the Local Development Plan for the Spring Hill community prepared by The Countryside Institute;
- Integration of permanent and continuing interpretation with interpretation efforts already underway in Maury County;
- Integration of battlefield interpretation with site interpretation of the "Weaver Farm" land parcel presently owned by the APCWS;
- Integration of Spring Hill battlefield interpretation with restoration of Rippavilla;
- Integration of Spring Hill Battlefield interpretation with Hood's Middle Tennessee Campaign Corridor interpretive efforts;
- Detailed plans for walking tour to begin at Rippavilla;
- Integration of future living histories and re-enactments;
- Integration, review, and recommendations for Spring Hill town antebellum walking tour (already developed).

This plan would be prepared to support interpretation in two phases, a short term plan and a long term plan. The short term plan would establish an interpretive concept for footpaths, and automobiles. The long term plan would enhance this interpretive concept to accommodate larger vehicles up to the size of commercial and tour buses. The short term plan is intended for immediate implementation upon completion of this plan. The long term plan can be implemented at some point in the future, when the visitation reaches a point where commercial and tour buses regularly visit the battlefield.

This plan would first provide comprehensive planning for the implementation of the Driving Tour's interpretation. The plan would then discuss detailed interpretation and management initiatives.

## **2. 1 Driving Tour Concept**

The Driving Tour would commence at Rippavilla, where the museum to be opened by Maury County would provide interpretation and background for the events that happened across these streams and fields on November 29, 1864. From Rippavilla, the tour route would turn left and proceed south on U.S. Highway 31 a short distance, turn left (east) onto Denning Lane, proceed right (south) on Kedron Road, turn left (north) on Moore Lane. The first stop would be at the Bridge Crossing on the historic Rally Hill Pike across Rutherford Creek. This stop's interpretive themes would be the Confederate advance from Columbia towards Spring Hill, and the overall campaign strategy of John Bell Hood.

From Rutherford Creek Bridge, the tour route would return to Moore Lane, Kedron Road, and Denning Lane, proceeding to "Oaklawn", the Absalom Thompson House. At this antebellum mansion, John Bell Hood's headquarters during the Spring Hill operations, the second tour stop would be established. The interpretive themes of this tour stop would be Confederate activities directed at the occupation of Spring Hill and the Columbia-Franklin Pike, and the use of the house as Hood's Headquarters. Although "Oaklawn" would be passed by the tour route on the way to the first tour stop at Rutherford Creek, we believe that it is important for the tour route to follow a general chronological order. Accordingly, it is White Star's opinion that the first logical tour stop should be at the ford at Rutherford Creek, where the military engagements around Spring Hill really began.

From the Absalom Thompson House, the tour route would return to Denning Lane, and then turn left (north) onto Kedron Road. At Royal Park Boulevard, the tour route would turn right (east) to tour stop three. This tour stop would interpret the Caldwell Cemetery (still existing) and Caldwell House, which was used by Nathan Bedford Forrest as his headquarters, and discuss the morning and afternoon cavalry actions of Forrest's cavalry. Confederate post-dark movements and encampments would also be discussed here.

From stop three, the tour route would return to Kedron Road and proceed north to the present Weaver Farm, and the fourth tour stop. This tour stop would describe Forrest's morning and afternoon cavalry actions, the attack of Cleburne's Division, and the ensuing engagement with Bradley's Brigade. This tour stop would consist of a parking location and a walking trail up the hill, including five interpretive markers.

From the Weaver Farm, the tour route continues for a short distance north on Kedron Road, and then forks right onto Old Kedron Road. The next interpretive stop, actually located on property belonging to the Tennessee Childrens Home, would discuss the center of Wagner's Federal Division's position protecting the Town of Spring Hill on November 29, 1864.

From this stop, the route would retrace its steps on Old Kedron Road, eventually turning right (west) onto Kedron Road. The tour route could then proceed right (north) on U.S. Highway 31, and pass by the Tennessee Childrens Home, noting it as the home where Confederate General Van Dorn was murdered in 1863 by Dr. Peters. Anticipating that the Tennessee Childrens Home would open Ferguson Hall to the public at some point in the future, White Star would incorporate this as a tour stop with an interpretive marker, even though it is outside of the purview of the November, 1864 Spring Hill engagement.

The tour route would then turn left (west) on Depot Street to the sixth tour stop, located near the old depot site on the Nashville and Decatur Railroad. An interpretive "kiosk" or "gazebo" should be established at this site, and this wayside is an essential element of our initial interpretive concept. This tour location would have four interpretive themes:

- Post-war home of Confederate General Richard Ewell
- Importance of Nashville and Decatur Railroad and Railroad Depot
- Opdycke's Brigade Skirmish Line protecting the northern side of Spring Hill
- The Federal Wagon Park.

From the Depot, the tour route would return to Depot Street. At the intersection of Highway 31, White Star's initial Preservation Plan recommended that another tour stop be incorporated. Based at the Spring Hill Town Library, this stop would provide visitors with the opportunity to tour the antebellum homes of Spring Hill. Walking Tour brochures have already been developed, and these could be distributed at the Library. Homes open to the public could be introduced to tourists. White Star has prepared its estimate to include two interpretive markers and a stone memorial marker at the Library vicinity, because we

believe that the role of the town in the engagement of Spring Hill is worthy of importance, and because it is important to local merchants to "showcase" the town. Placing a historic marker at the library places visitors directly in the middle of the business center of Spring Hill, which should provide some economic benefit to local merchants. This marker has been coordinated with the Spring Hill Library.

From the library, the tour route would turn right (south) on Highway 31 to the seventh tour stop. This stop would interpret the significance of the dominant Federal artillery position with a short walking trail, an interpretive marker, and a reproduction of a full scale Civil War artillery piece.

From here, the tour would continue south on U.S. Highway 31 until it ends at the eighth and final tour stop, again at Rippavilla. From Rippavilla, a walking tour would follow antebellum road traces east to the approximate location of Johnson's Confederate Division following dark on November 29, 1864. This walking tour can provide a graphic and visual portrayal of just how near the Confederate battle lines actually came to the Columbia-Franklin Pike. Concluding the driving tour at Rippavilla offers visitors with ready access to restrooms and a visitor center to conclude their visit to Spring Hill, before continuing their explorations of the Middle Tennessee Heritage Corridor. Three markers supporting the walking tour would be established here.

The driving tour would terminate at Rippavilla, offering visitors an additional opportunity to visit the museum, confer with the staff, use the restroom facilities, and utilize the gift shop before their departure from the battlefield. The driving tour is 16 1/4 miles in length.

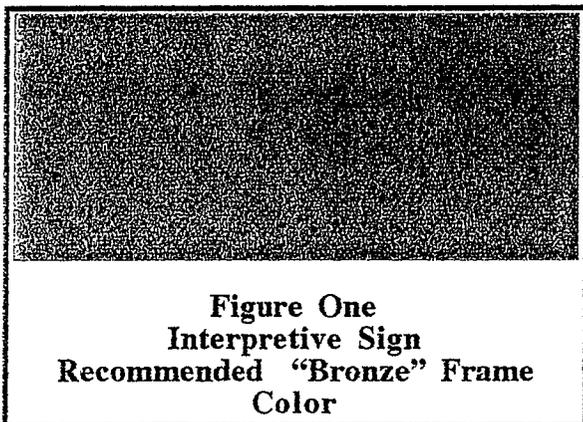
A number of other historic tourism trail initiatives have either recently been established, or are in the process of being formulated. Rippavilla, and the Spring Hill battlefield, are noted on these tour guides, such as that prepared by the Civil War Trust for Civil War sites, Tennessee 200's Civil War Heritage Trail, and the Tennessee Antebellum Trail. Rippavilla's location would facilitate directing visitors to other historic and tourist venues in the middle Tennessee area.

This driving tour would be marked throughout its route by highly visible tour signs. These signs should be approximately 18" by 18" in size, and should be placed on standard highway sign posts, as described in Figure Two. Separate arrows should be located below the basic sign to provide directional markers, these being 18" square. These arrows should be a high visibility red on a white background. In a few cases, specific instructions would be provided instead of directional arrows, these signs being 18" in width, and 12" in height. White Star Consulting has developed three sign concepts, for selection by Maury County. An example of how these signs would look with a directional arrow is provided as Figures Three, Four, and Five.

These tour route markers would be placed at the following locations, on the right of way of the appropriate roads, as described in Table One. Forty-one markers are recommended over the 16 1/4 miles of the tour route.

## 2.2 Driving Tour Markers

Two sizes of interpretive markers would be utilized on the Spring Hill battlefield. Both marker sizes would consist of an aluminum frame and support, and integrated graphics incorporated into an acrylic or fiberglass panel. The aluminum frame and support would be painted in a non-intrusive "bronze" (or closely similar) color.



Unless otherwise indicated, all signs are intended to be the larger size, 36" wide and 24" in height, a size typically used by the National Park Service and other historical sites. Where it is noted that a sign would be the smaller size, it would be 20" in height, and 14" in width. Suggested design drawings for each size of sign are provided, although the sign vendor can utilize a design of their own, so long as it is similar in appearance and function. These signs should have a minimum life expectancy of ten (10) years.

These signs are emplaced by excavating approximately a 6" wide by 24" deep hole in the soil, placing and leveling the sign, and pouring concrete to place the sign permanently in place. Representatives of White Star Consulting, the APCWS, Maury County, or a designated Cultural Resource Management firm should be present when this is accomplished to insure proper placement of the signs. Because the holes are relatively few and isolated, no archaeological survey should be necessary. However, a Cultural Resource professional should be present to examine the soil for artifacts as it is excavated. A framed 1/4" x 1/4" screen should be utilized for this purpose, and any artifacts recovered should be bagged and labeled for later study. The signs can be emplaced by maintenance workers of either the town of Spring Hill, or Maury County.



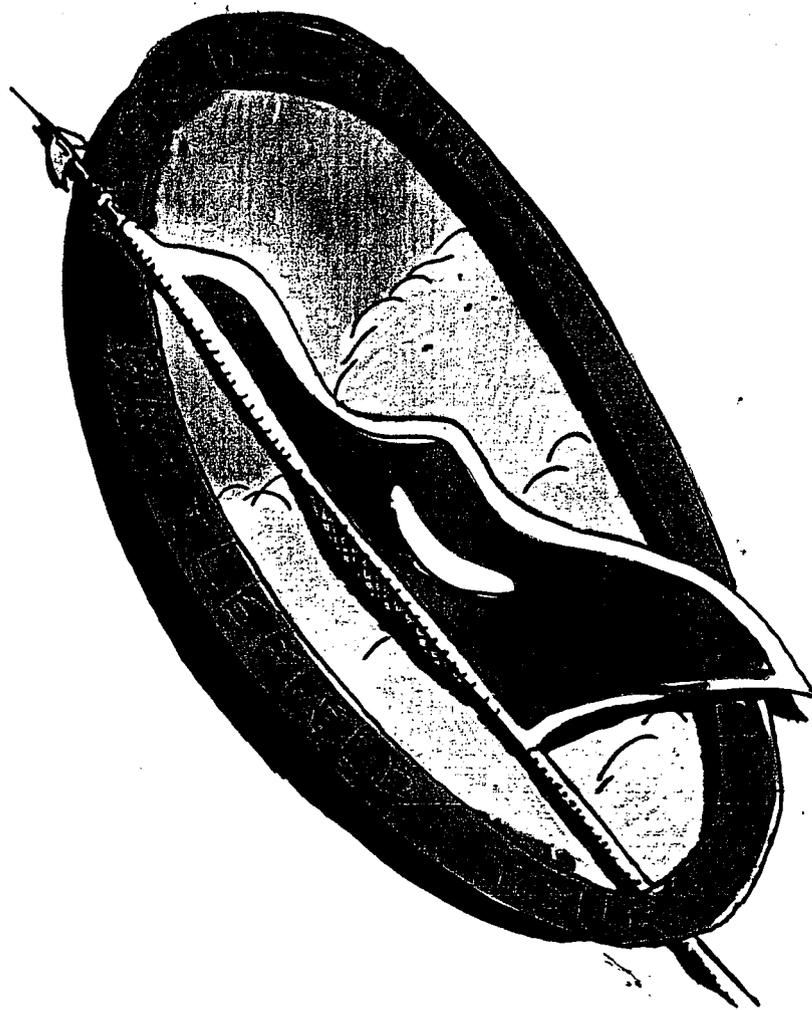
Suggested Logo  
Spring Hill Battlefield Tour





**Alternate Logo  
Spring Hill Battlefield Tour**





**Alternate Logo  
Spring Hill Battlefield Tour**



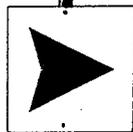
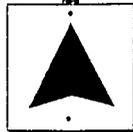
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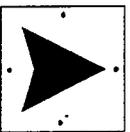
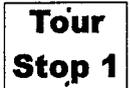
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Tour Directional

Tour Stop Directional

Tour Stop Indicator



SIGN TYPE	SIGN SIZE	QUANTITY	NOTES
 LOGO	18" x 18"	41	
 DIRECTIONAL	18" x 18"	42	
 TOUR STOP INDICATOR	12"H x 18" H	16	QUANTITY INCLUDES OTHER INFORMATION SIGNS

NOTES:

1. Signs to be of .080" thick aluminum sheet. Drill one 3/8" diameter hole at centerline of top and bottom sides (centerline of hole to be 1-1/2" from edge). *EXCEPTION: Directional sign to have one hole at centerline of each side, size and location as described above.* All corners to be rounded (1.5" radius).
2. Aluminum sheet to be coated with 3m Pressure sensitive engineer grade reflective sheeting, color: white.
3. Logo and directional arrow to be silk screened (use 3m 700 series inks).
4. Text on Tour Stop Indicator signs may be a combination of silk screen and applied vinyl lettering. The text "Tour Stop", due to their repetition, may be silk screened using inks specified in note 3 (color: black). The tour stop number (i.e. "1", "2", "3", etc.) may be applied by hand using 3m Scotchcal vinyl letters.
5. All signs to be mounted on 4" x 4" x 10' long pressure treated wood posts (which are FHWA approved). Post to project into the ground a minimum of 3 feet. Attach sign to post with 1-1/2" long wood screws with washers.

Tour Route Directional and Indication Signage  
Spring Hill Battlefield Tour

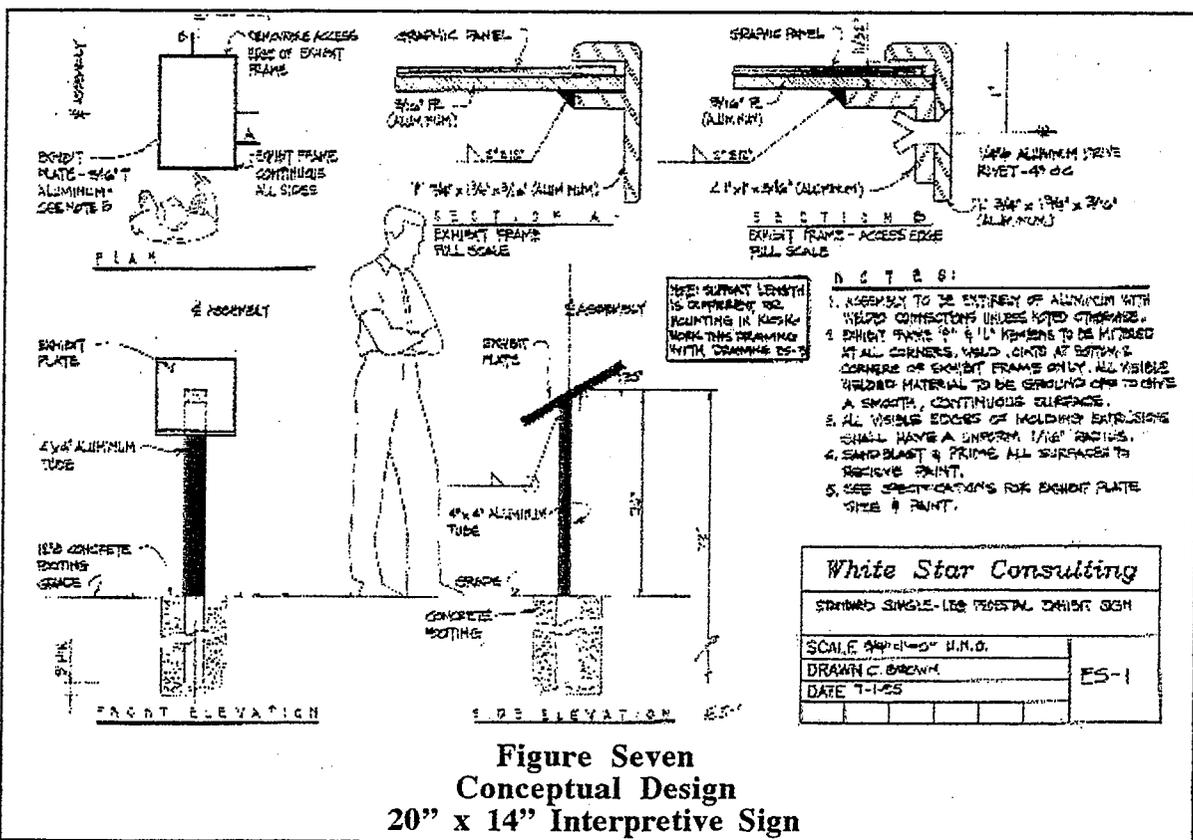
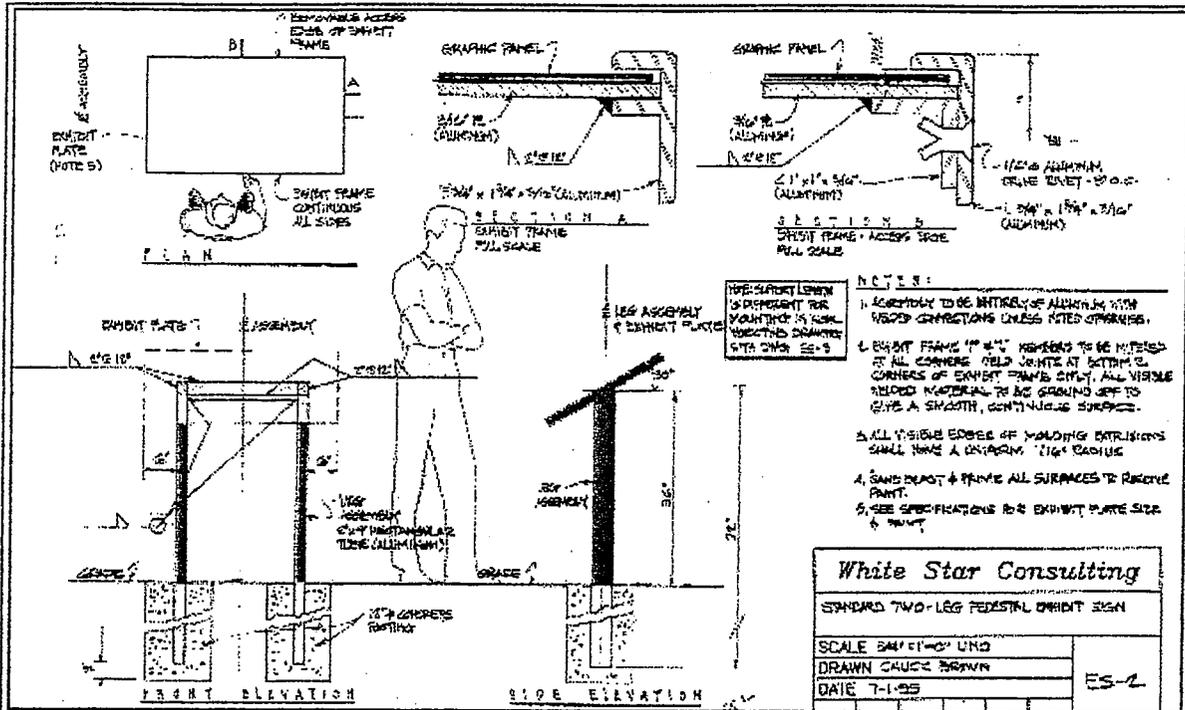


**Table One  
Driving Tour Route Marker Locations**

At Exit from Rippavilla	Left Arrow
1/2 mile north of Denning Lane on Highway 31 South	"1/2 Mile Left Turn"
Intersection of Denning Lane and Highway 31 South	Left Arrow
1/4 mile east on Denning Lane	Straight Arrow
On Denning Lane East, directly across from Oaklawn	Straight Arrow
Intersection of Denning Lane and Kedron Road	Tour Stop One - Right Arrow Tour Stop Two- Left Arrow
Intersection of Kedron Road South and Moore Road	Left Arrow
Moore Road West, just west of Tour Stop One	Straight Arrow
Intersection of Moore Road West and Kedron Road	Right Arrow
Intersection of Kedron Road North and Denning Lane	Left Arrow
1/4 mile south of entrance to Royal Park Boulevard, on Kedron Road North	"1/4 Mile Right Turn"
Intersection of Kedron Road North and Royal Park Boulevard	Right Arrow
Intersection of Royal Park Boulevard and John Lunn Boulevard	Right Arrow
John Lunn Boulevard	Left Arrow
Intersection of John Lunn Boulevard and Royal Park Boulevard	Left Arrow
Intersection of Royal Park Boulevard West and Kedron Road	Right Arrow
Kedron Road North just past Interchange with Saturn Parkway	Straight Arrow
Kedron Road North across from APCWS sign	Left Arrow
Kedron Road North 1/4 mile north of APCWS sign	Straight Arrow
Intersection of Kedron Road and Old Kedron Road	Right Arrow
Intersection of Old Kedron Road and McLemore Avenue	Left Arrow
Intersection of McLemore Avenue and Elm Street	Left Arrow
Intersection of Elm Street and McLemore Avenue	Right Arrow
Intersection of McLemore Avenue and Old Kedron Road	Right Arrow
Intersection of Old Kedron Road and Kedron Road	Right Arrow

**Table One  
Driving Tour Route Marker Locations  
(Continued)**

On Kedron Road, across from Maury Country Spring Hill Recreational Park (once completed), at entrance to Jackson Street	"Rest Rooms" Left Arrow
Intersection of Kedron Road and Highway 31	Right Arrow
Intersection of Highway 31 North and Van Dorn Drive	Right Arrow
Intersection of Van Dorn Drive and Ferguson Street	Left Arrow
Intersection of Ferguson Street and Highway 31	Right Arrow
Intersection of Highway 31 North and Depot Street	Left Arrow
Intersection of Depot Street and Beechcroft Road	Straight Arrow
Depot Street West 1/2 mile west of Railroad Depot	Straight Arrow
Intersection of Depot Street and Beechcroft Road	Straight Arrow
Depot Street East, across from Spring Hill Library	Right Arrow
Intersection of Depot Street East and Highway 31	Right Arrow
Intersection of Highway 31 South and Town Center at Holiday Inn	Right Arrow
SHORT TERM Town Center east of Kiosk	Straight Arrow
SHORT TERM Intersection of Town Center East and Highway 31 by Holiday Inn	Right Arrow
LONG TERM Town Center east of Tour Stop Nine	Straight Arrow
LONG TERM Intersection of Town Center East and Highway 31 by Food Lion and McDonalds Restaurant	Right Arrow
Highway 31 South, just south of Saturn Parkway Interchange	"1/4 mile Left Turn"
Highway 31 South at Rippavilla	Left Arrow



### **2.3 Driving Tour Stops**

on would discuss each individual tour stop. The text for each marker at each interpretive stop is provided, along with the graphics and design for each individual sign. Additionally, design considerations for each tour stop would be provided, discussing access from roads, parking, walking tours, restrooms, benches, etc.

#### **2.3.1 Tour Stop One- Rutherford Creek Crossing**

The first tour stop would be located at the 1864 ford crossing of Rutherford Creek. This tour stop would be located on a twenty year flood plain located astride Moore Lane, and just south of Rutherford Creek. This tour stop would consist of one 36" x 24" interpretive marker. There is already a gravel turnaround at this location, which is suitable for automobiles and vans to turn around at. Thus, for the short term plan, no construction at this location would be necessary. For the long range plan, provisions would be made for automobile parking, and commercial and tour bus turnaround at this location. Additionally, in the long range plan, this tour stop would serve as the southern terminus for a greenway which would run from the Elementary School in the town of Spring Hill south to Rutherford Creek.

#### **Hood's Strategy The Advance from Columbia**

Confederate General John Bell Hood, commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, intended to outflank Union Major General John Schofield's 4th and 23rd Army Corps located at Columbia, and seize Schofield's retreat route at Spring Hill. After defeating Schofield, Hood then planned to advance and capture the important Federal depot at Nashville, and continue his advance north.

With Major General Patrick Cleburne's division of Major General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham's corps in the advance, Hood's army crossed the Duck River three miles east of Columbia at Davis Ford at first light, and marched towards Spring Hill on the Davis Ford Road. The roads were muddy from recent heavy rains and were badly rutted, and the march proceeded slowly.

At this location in 1864 the Davis Ford Road joined the Rally Hill Pike at the Rutherford Creek crossing. At 3:00 p.m. on November 29th, Cleburne's division arrived at the ford here. Hood gave Cleburne and Cheatham definitive orders to cooperate with Forrest's cavalry, and "take possession of and hold that pike at or near Spring Hill."

#### **2.3.1.a Short Term Design, Tour Stop One**

Because of the gravel turnaround that already exists at this site, no construction would be necessary at this site for the short term plan. One sign would have to be emplaced. Additionally, because this tour stop is often used as a lunch spot by local residents, a trash can should be located at this tour stop. This trash can should be of concrete construction, of exposed natural aggregate, and should be an earth tone or natural color. A cement trash can should be used at all tour stops, as it is less vulnerable to vandalism or theft, has a long life, and requires no maintenance. County and city vehicles regularly pass by this location, and Maury County should be responsible for emptying of the trash can, in conjunction with recreational park maintenance. The 199 acre tract of land on which this tour stop is located has recently been purchased by a developer for a golf course and condominiums. It is recommended that this developer be contacted by the town of Spring Hill concerning this tour stop, and it is conceivable that he may pay for either the short or long term Tour Stop One.

PLAN SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"



RUTHERFORD CREEK

STEEP BANK (EXISTING)

PROPOSED LOCATION OF NEW MARKER TOUR STOP ONE

TRASH

EXISTING BRIDGE

EXISTING WOOD POWER POLE

EXISTING PACKED GRAVEL PARKING AREA - SUFFICIENT SPACE FOR INFORMAL PARKING OF SEVERAL CARS

STEEP BANK (EXISTING)

EXISTING TOP CREST OF CREEK BANK

EXISTING 4' WIDE ± ROADWAY

NEW TOUR STOP SIGN

EXISTING LINE OF FOLIAGE

ROADWAY REQUIRES REPAIR AT EXIST. DRAIN PIPE - PRESENT ROAD WIDTH 11'-0"

EXISTING DITCH

EXISTING LOW GROUND

DESIGN: D.C./C.B. DRAWN: C.B.

### TOUR STOP ONE SHORT TERM Rutherford Creek



### **2.3.1.b Long Term Design, Tour Stop One**

At some point in the future, as visitation begins to rise, and as commercial and tour bus traffic increases, vehicular parking, and bus turnaround area, would be required. Accordingly, we have prepared a plan for this construction. Because under the long term plan this tour stop would serve as the southern terminus of a greenway, a bench should also be added to this tour stop under the long term plan.

Coordination would have to be accomplished with the property owner of the land north of Moore Lane, Mr. Joseph Purky, Spring Hill, Tennessee, (615) 486-1414. White Star has tentatively discussed this with Mr. Purky, and he would be supportive of such interpretive efforts on this portion of his property. It is our understanding that a developer has made arrangements to purchase the land south of Moore Lane from the current property owners (the Weavers, refer to Annex A), and intends to develop this land into an eighteen hole golf course, and a residential subdivision. The Spring Hill Zoning Commission has approved this request. White Star suggests that the developer be contacted, and urged to incorporate the construction of the long term tour stop into his development plans. The tour stop design should include a fifty foot vegetation screen to prevent visitors from perceiving a visual intrusion, and to protect visitors from errant golf balls. The vegetation must be either sufficiently dense, or sufficiently deep, to prohibit the passage of golf balls.

This area has been chosen for the tour stop, and for future construction, because its historic integrity from an archaeological standpoint has already been altered by periodic flooding (this property lies on a twenty year floodplain), some human landfill on the southern bank of the creek, and modern construction activities such as the turnaround, modern asphalt road, modern utility pole, modern concrete bridge, and gravel turnoff. As a result of these activities, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources remain, and an archaeological survey of this site should not be necessary.

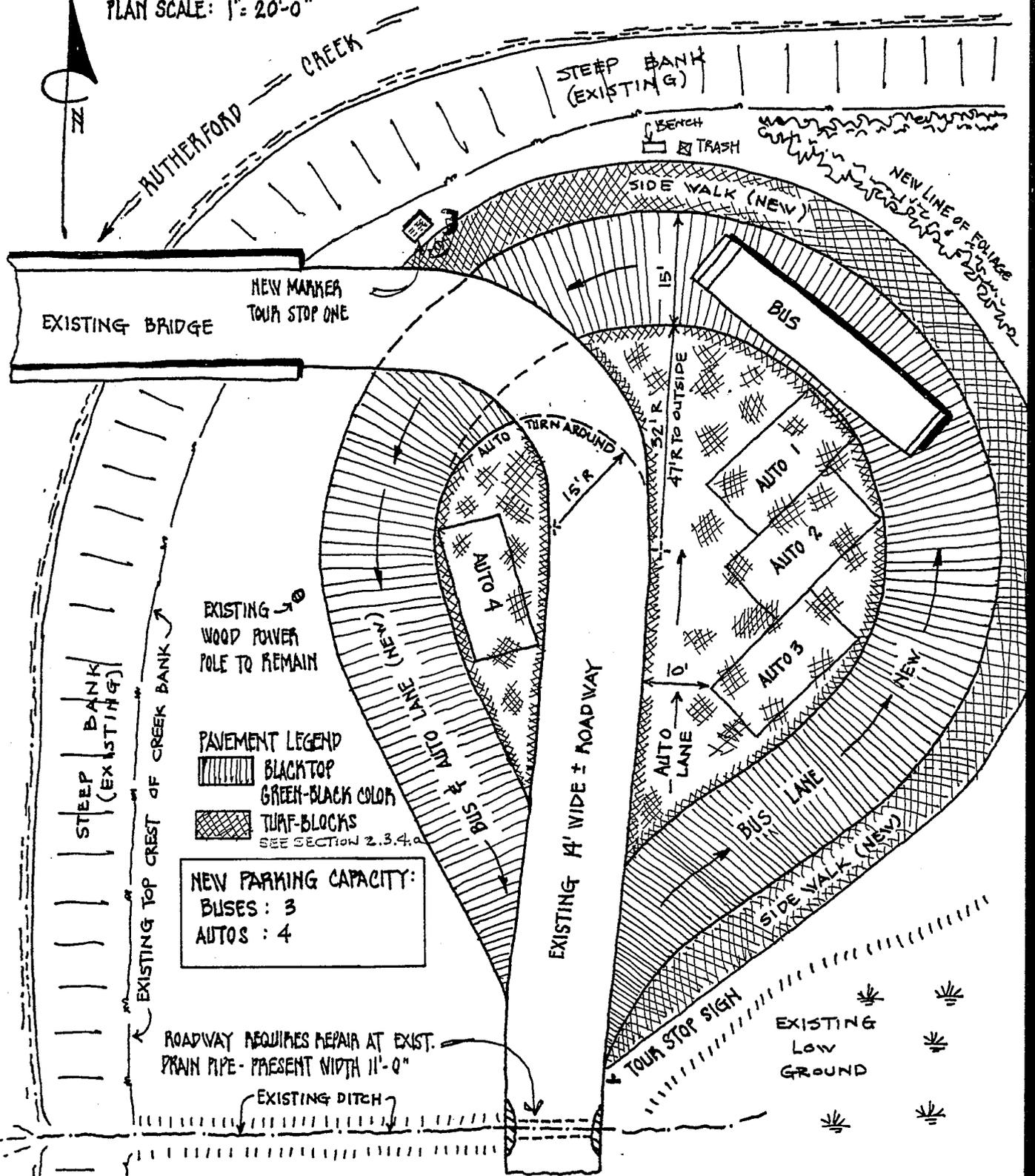
### **2.3.2 Tour Stop Two- Oak Lawn**

The second tour stop would be located at the entrance to Oak Lawn, just north of Denning Lane. This tour stop would consist of one large, and one small, interpretive markers. There is presently a gravel turnaround at this location, which would be acceptable for automobiles and vans to turn around at. Thus, for the short term plan, no construction at this location would be necessary. For the long range plan, provisions would be made for automobile parking, and commercial and tour bus turnaround at this location. Coordination would have to be accomplished with the property owner, Mr. Marvin Parker, of Spring Hill. Mr. Parker has already made personal and financial commitments to historic preservation and interpretation at Spring Hill, and would be supportive of such interpretive efforts on this portion of his property.

#### **2.3.2.a Short Term Design, Tour Stop Two**

Because of the gravel turnaround that already exists at this site, no construction would be necessary at this site for the short term plan. Two signs would be emplaced.

PLAN SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"



EXISTING WOOD POWER POLE TO REMAIN

PAVEMENT LEGEND

- BLACKTOP GREEN-BLACK COLOR
- TURF-BLOCKS SEE SECTION 2.3.4.0

NEW PARKING CAPACITY:

- BUSES : 3
- AUTOS : 4

ROADWAY REQUIRES REPAIR AT EXIST. PRAIN PIPE - PRESENT WIDTH 11'-0"

EXISTING DITCH

**TOUR STOP ONE LONG TERM**  
Rutherford Creek

DESIGN: DC/CS DRAWN: CR

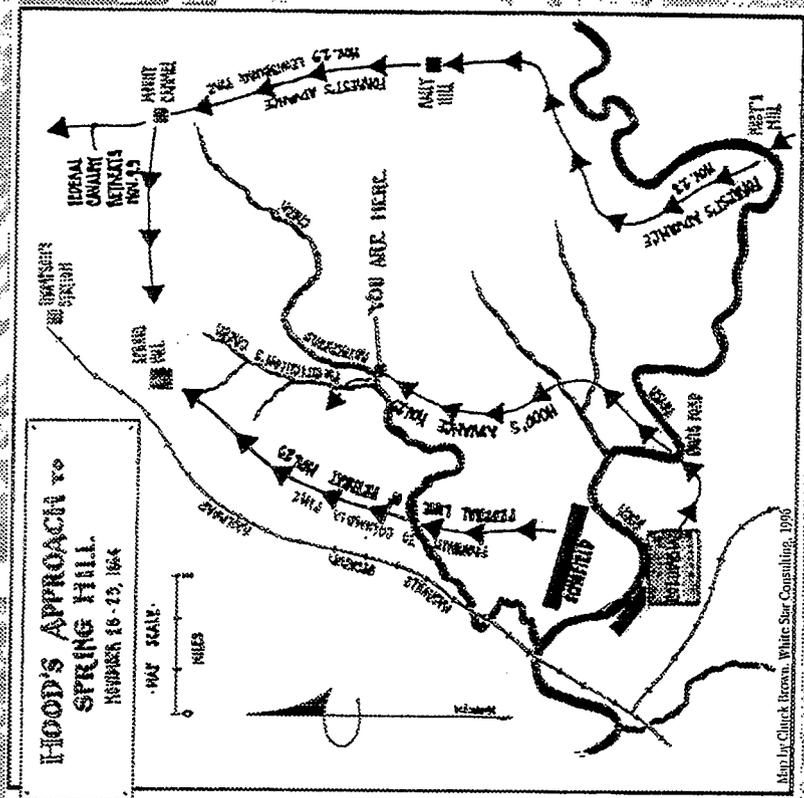


# Hood's Strategy The Advance from Columbia

Confederate General John Bell Hood, commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, intended to outflank Union Major General John Schofield's 4th and 23rd Army Corps located at Columbia and seize Schofield's retreat route at Spring Hill. After defeating Schofield, Hood then planned to advance and capture the important Federal depot at Nashville, and continue his advance north.

With Major General Patrick Cleburne's division of Major General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham's corps in the advance, Hood's army crossed the Duck River three miles east of Columbia at Davis Ford at first light, and marched towards Spring Hill on the Davis Ford Road. The roads were muddy from recent heavy rains and were badly rutted, and the march proceeded slowly.

At this location in 1864 the Davis Ford Road joined the Rally Hill Pike at the Rutherford Creek crossing. At 3:00 p.m. on November 29th, Cleburne's division arrived at the ford here. Hood gave Cleburne and Cheatham definitive orders to cooperate with Forrest's cavalry, and "take possession of and hold that pike at or near Spring Hill."



Map by Chuck Brown, White Star Consulting, 1998

**Oak Lawn**  
**The Absalom Thompson Home**  
**Hood's Headquarters**

Late in the afternoon of November 29, 1864 Hood established the headquarters of the Army of Tennessee at this location. Hood spent part of the evening sitting on a log near the fish pond of the house, while officers and generals came and went seeking orders. While Confederate attacks and units went awry south of town, Hood told one General, "General Forrest...holds the turnpike with a portion of his forces north of Spring Hill, and would stop the enemy if he tries to pass toward Franklin, and so in the morning we would have a surrender without a fight.... We can sleep quietly tonight." The Thompson family provided Hood and his staff with "a big feast."

Hood, whose right arm had been crippled at Gettysburg and whose left leg had been amputated at Chickamauga, had an accident with his horse on the treacherous roads earlier that day. Already suffering from two serious wounds, he was in physical pain, and it has been suggested that he used whiskey or laudanum (an opium derivative) to dull his agony. Believing that Schofield's army was trapped, and being physically incapacitated by his injuries, Hood went to bed at 9:00 in the evening.

Meanwhile, Schofield's army was continuing to move north on the Columbia-Franklin Pike.

**small sign**  
**(TEXT ONLY):**

**Oak Lawn**

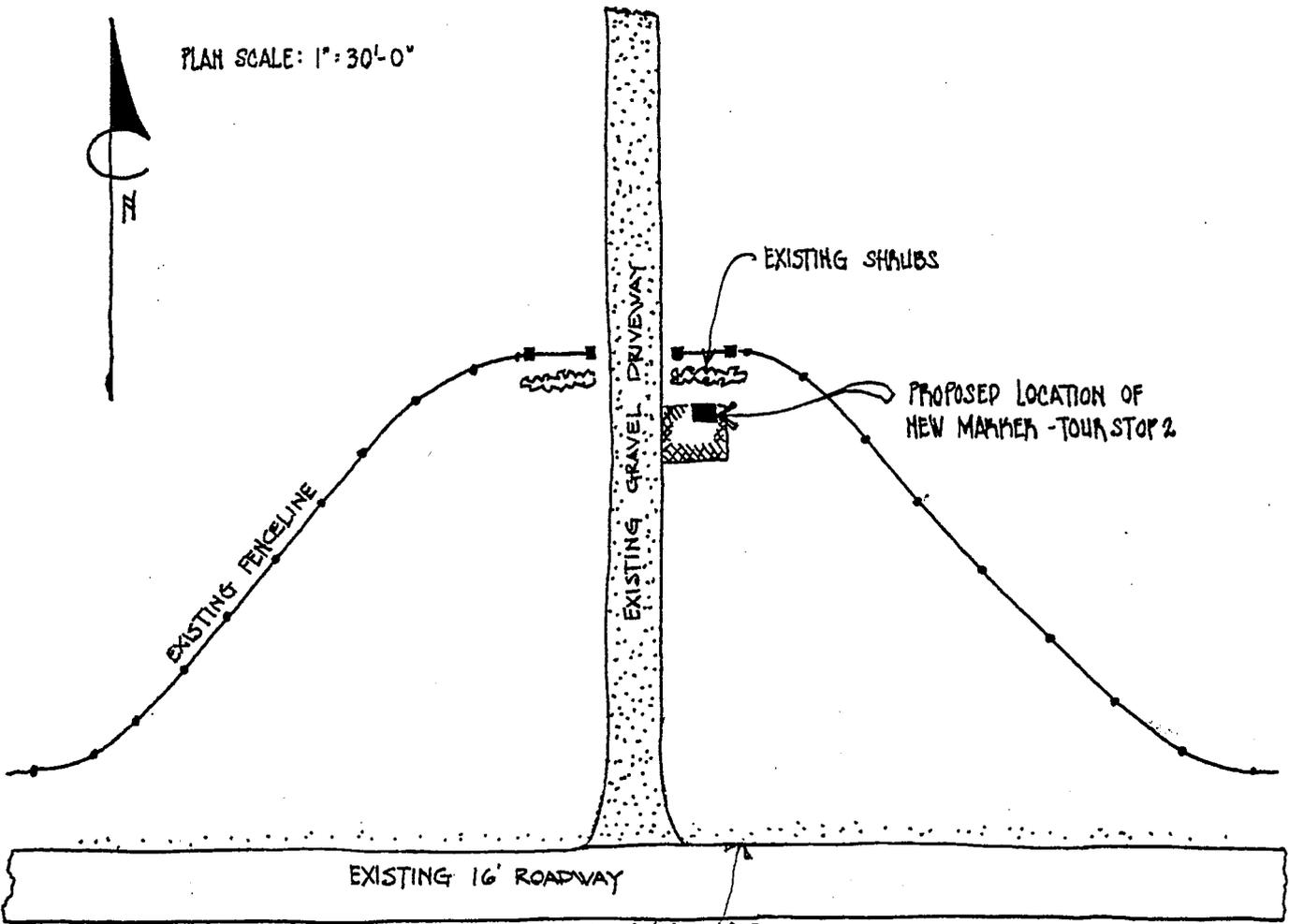
This house, a Classical Revival structure, was constructed by Absalom Thompson in 1835. Thompson was 63 years old in 1863, and his son, Dr. James T. S. Thompson, also lived here. Thompson, a Captain in the Confederate Army, had served as Staff Surgeon for General Joseph Johnston.

**2.3.2.b Long Term Design, Tour Stop Two**

As some point in the future, as visitation begins to rise, and as commercial and tour bus traffic increases, a vehicular parking and bus turnaround area would be required. Accordingly, we have prepared a plan for this construction.

This area has been altered by modern road construction on both Denning Lane and the entrance to Oaklawn, and the installation of gravel and a turnaround at the entrance to Oaklawn. Because of these postbellum intrusions, it is unlikely that any archaeological or subsurface resources remain. Accordingly, an archaeological survey here should not be necessary.

PLAN SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"



EXISTING PACKED GRAVEL SHOULDERS  
PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SPACE FOR  
INFORMAL PARKING OF SEVERAL  
CARS

DESIGN: DC/CL, DRAWN: CL

TOUR STOP TWO SHORT TERM  
Oak Lawn



White Star Consulting

1996

## Oak Lawn

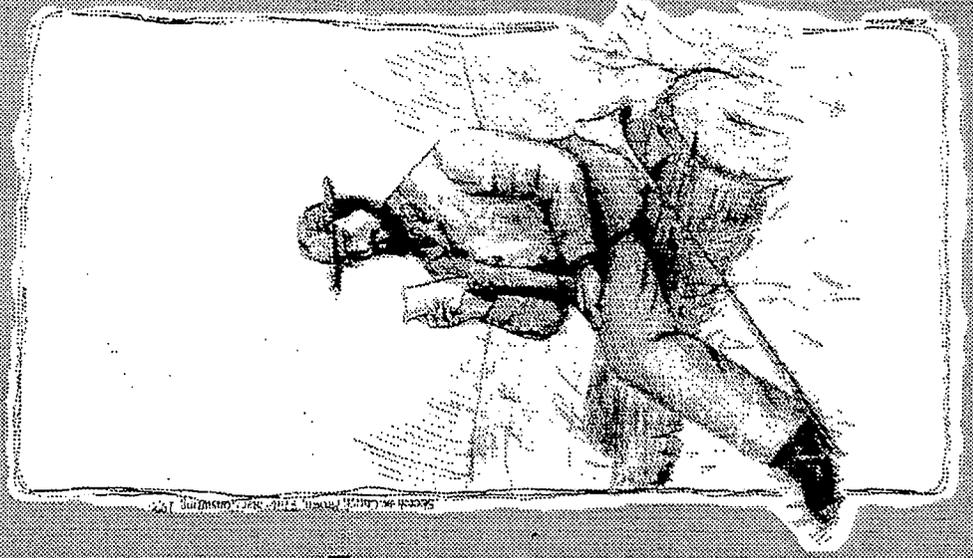
### The Absalom Thompson Home

### Hood's Headquarters

Late in the afternoon of November 29, 1864 Hood established the headquarters of the Army of Tennessee at this location. Hood spent part of the evening sitting on a log near the fireplace of the house, while officers and generals came and went seeking orders. While Confederate attacks and units went awry south of town, Hood told one General, "General Forrest, holds the turnpike with a portion of his forces north of Spring Hill, and will stop the enemy if he tries to pass toward Franklin, and so in the morning we will have a surrender without a fight.... We can sleep quietly tonight." The Thompson family provided Hood and his staff with "a big feast."

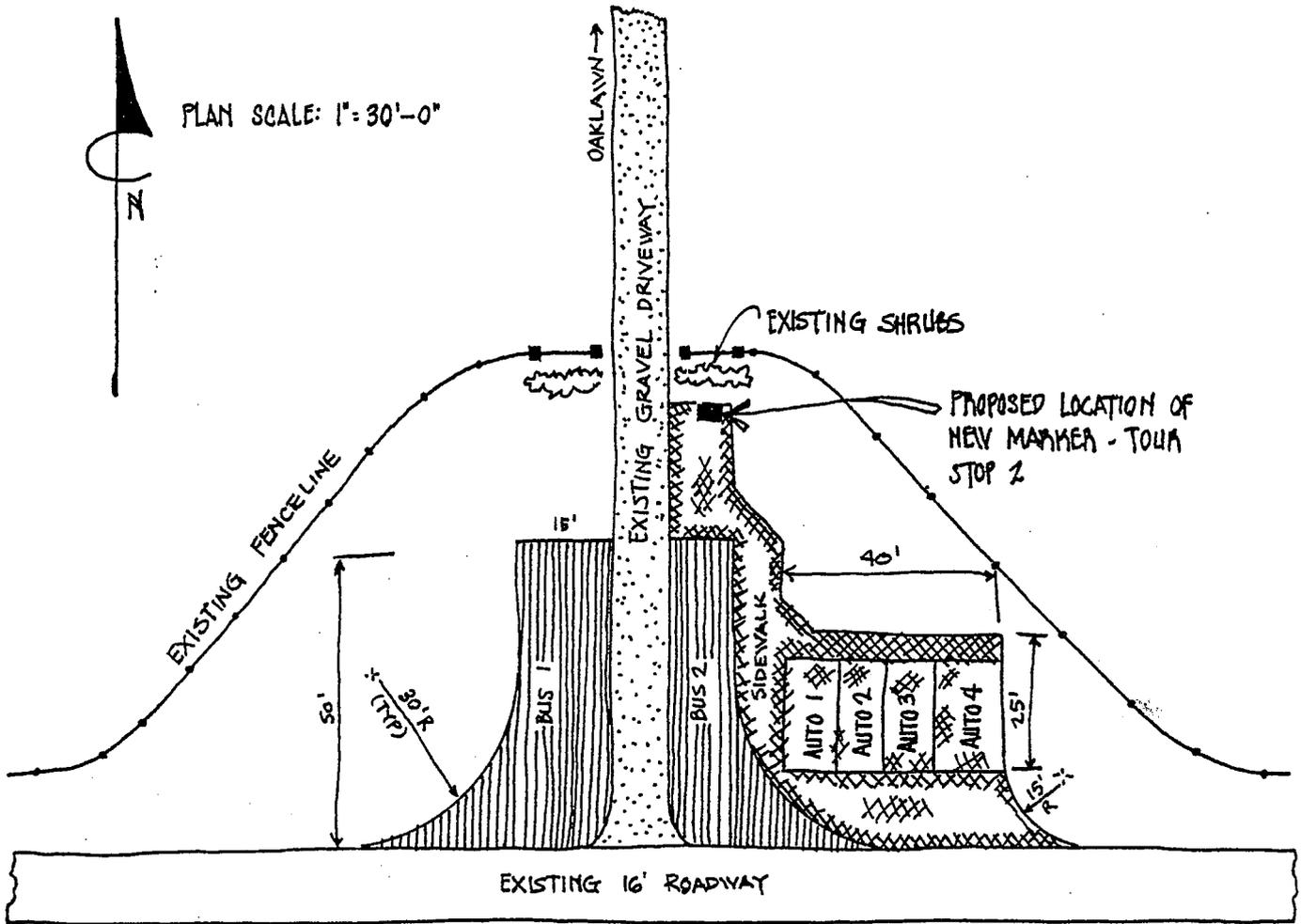
Hood, whose right arm had been crippled at Gettysburg and whose left leg had been amputated at Chickamauga, had an accident with his horse on the treacherous roads earlier that day. Already suffering from two serious wounds, he was in physical pain, and it has been suggested that he used whiskey or laudanum (an opium derivative) to dull his agony. Believing that Schofield's army was trapped, and being physically incapacitated by his injuries, Hood went to bed at 9:00 in the evening.

Meanwhile, Schofield's army was continuing to move north on the Columbia-Franklin Pike.





PLAN SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"



NEW PARKING CAPACITY:  
 BUSES: 2  
 AUTOS: 4

PAVEMENT LEGEND  
 BLACKTOP  
 GREEN-BLACK COLOR  
 TURF-BLOCKS  
 SEE SECTION 2.3.4.2

DESIGN: DC/CS, DRAWING: CS

TOUR STOP TWO LONG TERM  
 Oak Lawn



White Star Consulting

1996

### **2.3.3 Tour Stop Three- Caldwell Cemetery in Royal Park**

The third tour stop would be located at the Caldwell Family Cemetery, in the Royal Park Industrial Park. This tour stop would consist of one large interpretive marker, and the Caldwell Family Cemetery itself. There is presently a wide, modern three lane road at this location, where cars and vans are able to park. Thus, for the short term plan, no construction at this location would be necessary. For the long range plan, provisions would be made for automobile parking at this location. Coordination would have to be accomplished with the Royal Park Industrial Boulevard.

On a related topic, it is White Star's understanding that Royal Park is responsible for the maintenance of the Caldwell Family Cemetery. In two separate visits to the cemetery, during August and October, 1996, this cemetery was observed to be in bad repair, with debris littering the interior of the cemetery, and the fence falling apart. Royal Park needs to be reminded of their responsibility by the town of Spring Hill and Maury County.

#### **2.3.3.a Short Term Design, Tour Stop Three**

Because of the road that already exists at this site, some construction would be necessary at this site for the short term plan for safety purposes. This would consist of a limited number of automobile parking places off the south side of the road. Buses can park in the center lane. Based upon a number of visits to this site, commercial traffic in this area should not constitute a safety problem with this concept. One sign would be emplaced.

A Phase II Archaeological Survey should be performed here, as some of the ground appears to retain historic integrity, even given the Park Royal Boulevard construction.

#### **Caldwell House Nathan Bedford Forrest's Headquarters**

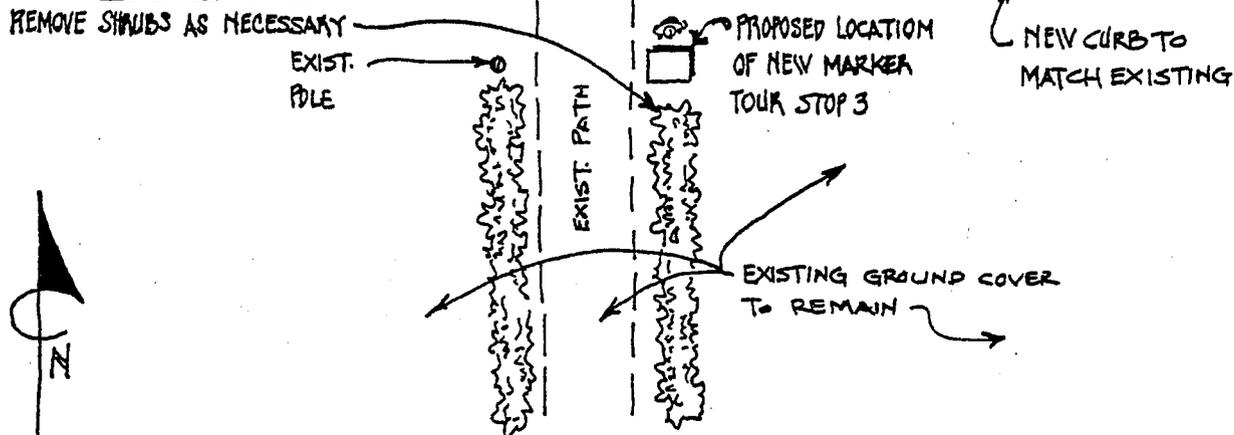
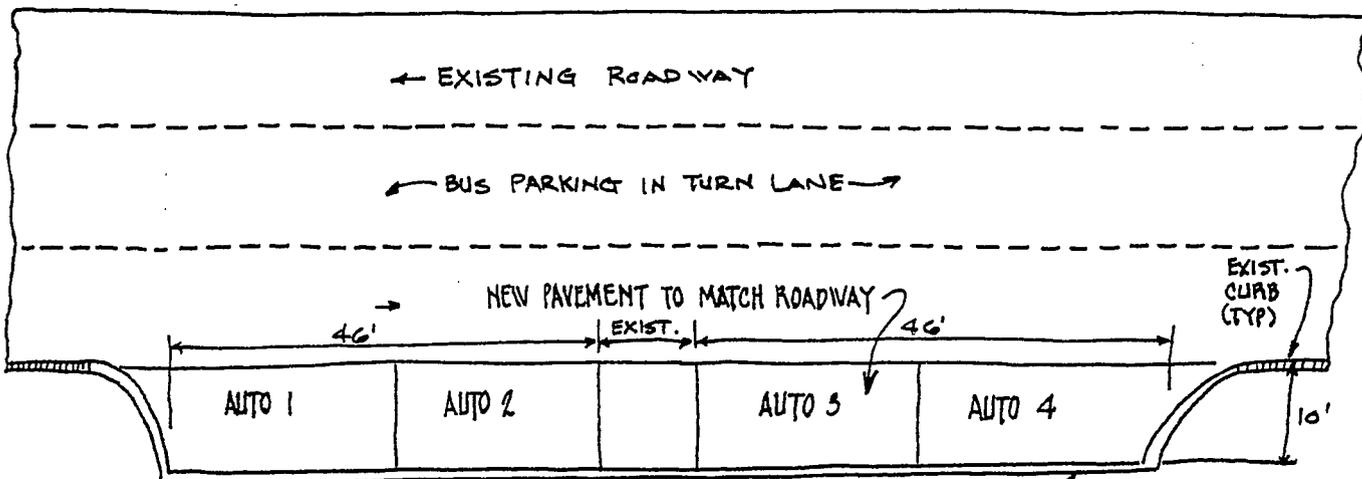
About 11:30 a.m., Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry approached Spring Hill from the east. Approximately two miles east of town, Forrest bumped into advanced skirmishers of the small Federal garrison. For the next two and one half hours, Forrest's Cavalry, well organized and heavily outnumbering the impromptu Federal covering force, drove them back toward Spring Hill. The Union defenders fought well in heavy skirmish lines, however, that took full advantage of the terrain and their superior firepower, which consisted of Spencer carbines, other breech loading carbines, and Colt Revolving Rifle Muskets.

Arriving Federal infantry and artillery repulsed Forrest's attempts to capture Spring Hill. Forrest's men were fatigued after two long days in the saddle and over three hours of combat, and their ammunition was nearly exhausted. He had performed his job admirably, but Hood's infantry would have to continue the work that Forrest and his cavalymen had begun.

That evening, Forrest established his headquarters at the Caldwell home. Only the family cemetery remains today.

#### **2.3.3.b Long Term Design, Tour Stop Three**

As some point in the future, as visitation begins to rise, the short walking path leading to the Caldwell Cemetery would have to be paved with exposed aggregate concrete. White Star has prepared a plan for this construction. Busses can continue to park in the center lane, or off the south side of the road, at this tour stop.



PLAN SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

TOUR STOP THREE SHORT TERM  
Caldwell Cemetery



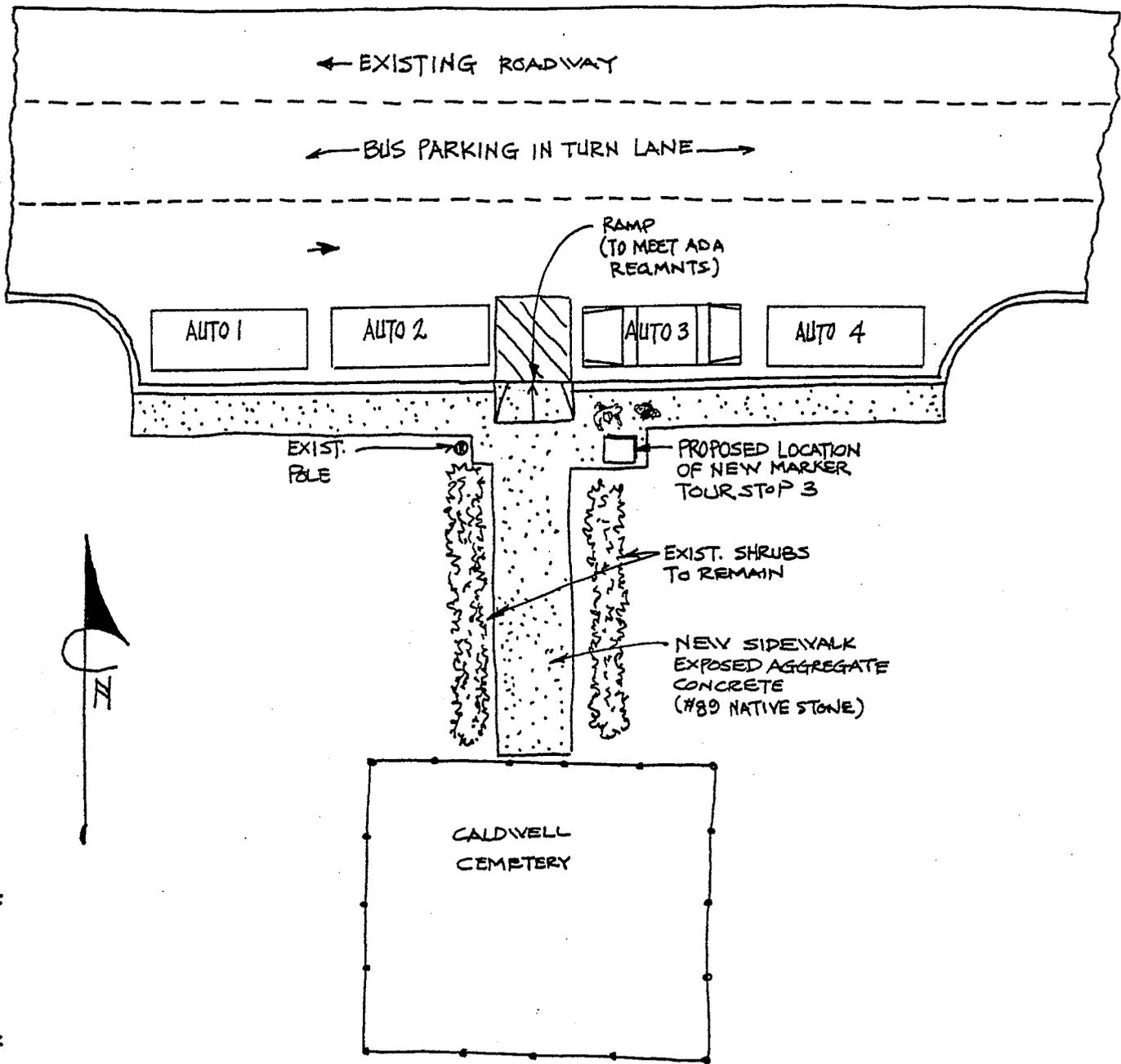
# Caldwell House

## Nathan Bedford Forrest's Headquarters



Nathan Bedford Forrest

Caldwell House  
c. 1900



DESIGN: DC/GS DRAWN: CB

PLAN SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

TOUR STOP THREE LONG TERM  
Caldwell Cemetery



## 2.3.4 Tour Stop Four- Bradley's Knoll

### 2.3.4.a Tour Stop Four- Short Term Plan

The fourth tour stop would be located at Bradley's Knoll, on the 110 acres owned by the APCWS. Because of the large amount of land owned here, and the fact that this is where a substantial amount of the fighting at Spring Hill occurred, this would become one of the most important stops on the route. This stop would include a parking lot for both automobiles and busses, a walking tour, several benches to rest at because of the severe climb up the hill here, a trash container, and a number of interpretive markers.

The parking area would be located just north of the immediate vicinity of the present APCWS sign, north of where the prominent tree is today. A hasty perusal of this area clearly indicated that considerable disturbance of the ground has occurred here. Accordingly, because of this substantial ground disturbance, it should not be necessary to perform any archaeological work here, and historic integrity would not be compromised because this area has already been altered in the postbellum period.

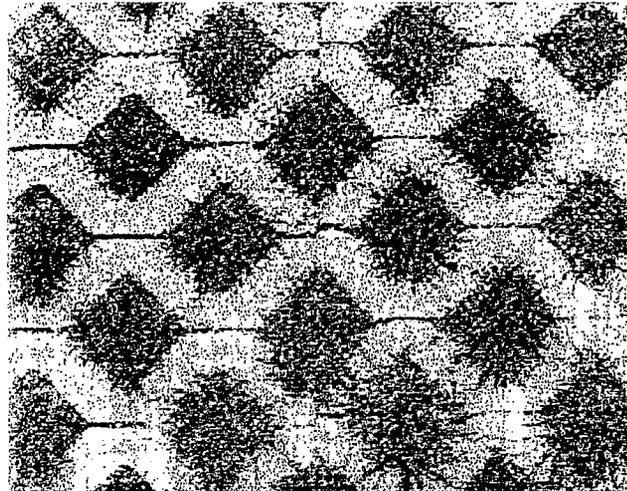
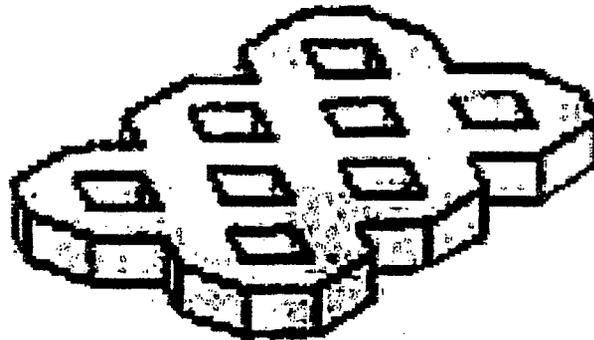
The parking area would be constructed of concrete paving blocks, also known as "turf blocks." Concrete grid pavements emerged from Europe in the 1960s as a method of providing a grass surface capable of surviving vehicular traffic. The surface was developed as an alternative to water runoff and heat producing parking surfaces of asphalt and poured concrete. These paving blocks provide a firm, solid base capable of supporting automobiles and other vehicles. Typically, these concrete paving blocks are 16" by 24" wide (2.66 square feet), and are 3 1/4" thick. A number of them are emplaced at the parking lot, and the spaces within the concrete paving blocks are filled with soil and grass. Because these paving blocks permit the soil to absorb water, there are no water runoff or erosion problems. Since the parking area would have grass growing, there would not be a heat reflection and absorption problem at the site, which is particularly a consideration given middle Tennessee summers. Solid pavers can be used to indicate parking lanes. The only maintenance requirements is that the grass be mowed regularly, which can be provided under the agricultural lease. Figure 17 provides a drawing and photograph of these blocks, and a parking lot constructed of them. A number of vendors manufacture these turf blocks. Our information was provided by:

Goria Enterprises  
P. O. Box 14489  
Greensboro North Carolina 27415  
(800) 446-7421  
(919) 375-5656.

Goria Enterprises was most helpful in providing detailed design and manufacturing specifications for these paving blocks.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The use of these hollow concrete blocks has been described and assessed in Gettysburg National Military Park, U. S. National Park Service, *Draft Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment, Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War* (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: Gettysburg National Military Park, U. S. National Park Service, April 1995), pp. 20, 22, 43, 45.

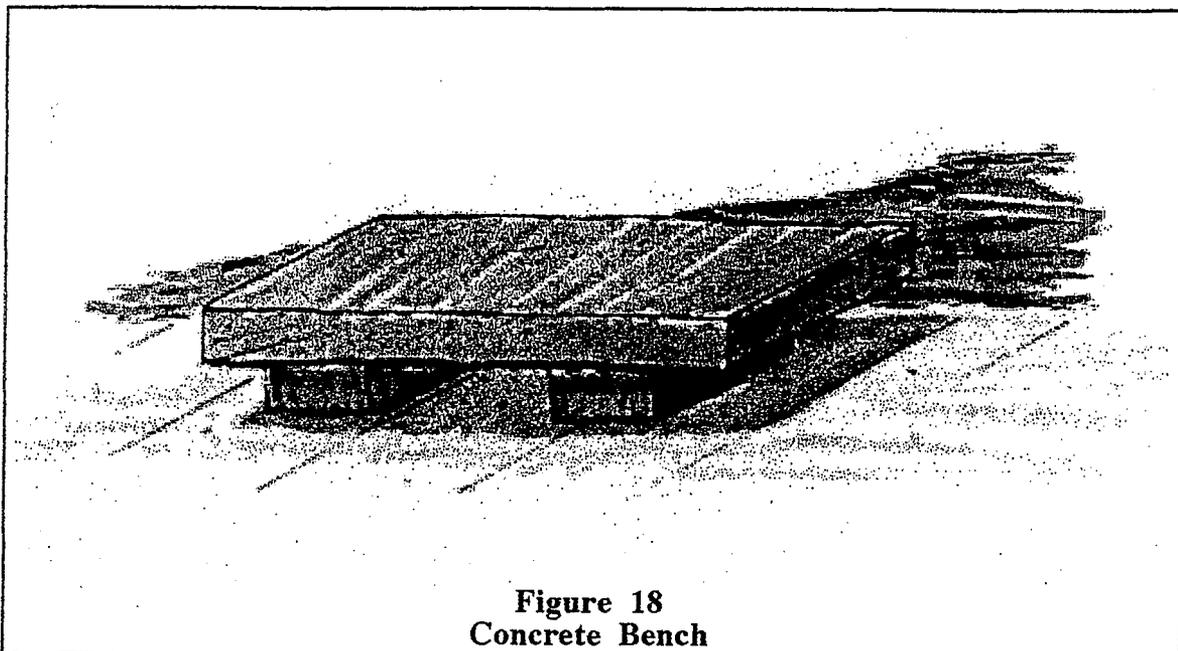


**Figure 17**  
**Concrete Paving Block**  
**and**  
**Parking Lot Constructed of Concrete Turf Block**

The utility poles and lines running from Mr. Weaver's residence to the APCWS location should be removed, as should the majority of the farm buildings to the west of the Weaver house. The previous owner of the property, has one year to remove these buildings. If Mr. Weaver does not remove these buildings by June, 1997 they revert to the APCWS, and the remaining buildings should be auctioned off and/or removed at the earliest opportunity. The Maury County Convention and Visitors Bureau has suggested that one building be retained for future uses, to facilitate eventual maintenance of the battlefield. Accordingly, if the APCWS acquires these buildings, one should be retained. To the best of our knowledge, these buildings are not required for the agricultural lease, which would be separately discussed in Paragraph 3.1.1.

The walking tour can simply be mowed, which should provide a sufficient path for most visitors to follow, particularly given the visible interpretive markers and benches. Should visitation expand to the point where the grass becomes destroyed and the path becomes difficult to traverse, it can be covered with bark or a similar wood product. However, we do not believe this to be necessary, at least initially. The agricultural lease for the property should include stipulations that the lease holder regularly mow the path for the walking tour.

White Star Consulting recommends the use of a low-profile, non-intrusive, maintenance-free steel-reinforced concrete bench for this walking tour, and all other locations on the battlefield. Our recommendation is a 72" long, 20" high one piece concrete bench, similar to the one illustrated below.

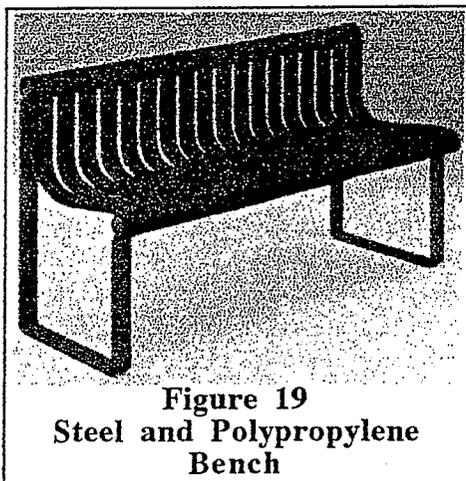


**Figure 18**  
**Concrete Bench**

These benches are resistant to carving, vandalism, and theft because of their concrete and steel construction and weight (600 pounds). These benches are made of river rock aggregate, and can be purchased in a tan color. The price for each bench of this type is approximately \$485.00 apiece, plus shipping, when purchased in quantities of six. Their only drawback is their vulnerability to being spray painted with graffiti, which is not easily removed. However, because they present no vertical surface, this should reduce their ability to attract graffiti. Our recommended vendor for this bench, and also for concrete trash cans (\$247.00), is:

Bohlmann Concrete Specialties, Inc.  
P. O. Box 369  
Denison, Iowa 51442  
(800) 325-2380  
Fax (712) 263-8077.

Another recommended bench alternative is a powder-coated steel frame with high-impact ultraviolet stabilized polypropylene ribs, which is essentially maintenance-free. Our recommended size for each bench of this type is 70" in length, similar to the one illustrated here.



**Figure 19**  
**Steel and Polypropylene**  
**Bench**

Fax (630) 231-9289.

These benches are resistant to carving, vandalism, and graffiti because of their construction. These benches are not as resistant to theft, because they weight only 113 pounds. Therefore, they would have to be secured to the ground by concrete footers to provide security. These benches can be purchased in non-intrusive charcoal color. Our only concern with this bench is that it presents a more modern appearance than the low-profile stone and concrete Bohlmann bench. Our recommended vendor for this bench (approximately \$400) is:

Maximum Seating Inc.  
1000 Atlantic Drive  
West Chicago Illinois 60185  
(800) 825-5085

At the location of the fifth interpretive marker, some vegetation (approximately fifty feet) of vegetation should be removed, to provide a clear vista to Bradley's position. Some vegetation may also have to be removed to provide a clear walking path access to the fourth and fifth sign locations.

Because the APCWS already owns this land, no coordination for land access would be mandated. This tour stop would have five interpretive markers, all of the larger size:

#### **Confederate Deployment**

By 4:00 p.m., Patrick Cleburne had moved his division north on the Rally Hill Pike. A brief meeting with several of Forrest's officers indicated that Federals were located in force between the Rally Hill Pike and the Columbia-Franklin Pike due west. Accordingly, Cleburne aligned his division of a little more than 3,000 men parallel to the Rally Hill Pike. Cleburne's three brigades were aligned *en echelon* fronting westward, Brigadier General Hiram Granbury's Brigade on the left (south), Brigadier General Daniel Govan's brigade in the center, and Brigadier General Mark Lowrey's brigade on the right (north). Colonel Tyree H. Bell's brigade of Forrest's cavalry formed on Cleburne's right (north) flank, even though they were out of ammunition. One Confederate cavalry officer remembered, "It is well understood that our command had no ammunition, and the only thing we could do was to 'yell'."

Lowrey's brigade marched across the ground where this marker is located. Bell marched to the north, and Govan and Granbury to the south. Govan and Granbury followed the approximate route of the modern Saturn Parkway, with Govan to the north, and Granbury to the south.

### Forrest's 3:00 p.m. Cavalry Attack

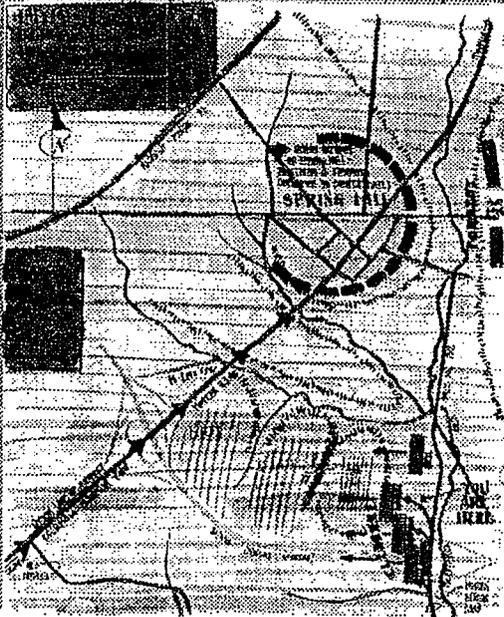
As Forrest fought his way to the outskirts of Spring Hill at approximately 2:30 p.m., he observed Brigadier General George Wagner's division move into Spring Hill. Forrest, aggressive as ever, determined to make one hard shove to grab the town. Brigadier General James Chalmers, whose division Forrest had selected to make the attack, protested that Federal infantry and artillery were present in force. Forrest ordered Chalmers to "drive those fellows off.... I think you are mistaken; that is only a small cavalry force." One Confederate cavalry officer described the ensuing charge: "We had almost reached the edge of the woods when the shock came. Twenty pieces of artillery opened upon us, followed by the fire of a long line of infantry. Horses tumbled over each other and fell, men were shot, and horses galloped away riderless, and limbs and bark covered the ground. It was a dreadful few minutes." With the charge a failure, Chalmers went back to Forrest, who laconically remarked, "They was in there sure enough, wasn't they, Chalmers?"



# Confederate Deployment

## 4:00 p. m., November 29, 1864

By 4:00 p.m., Patrick Cleburne had moved his division north on the Rally Hill Pike. A brief meeting with several of Forrest's officers indicated that Federals were located in force between the Rally Hill Pike and the Columbia-Franklin Pike due west. Accordingly, Cleburne aligned his division of a little more than 3,000 men parallel to the Rally Hill Pike. Cleburne's three brigades were aligned *en echelon* fronting westward, Brigadier General Hiram Granbury's Brigade on the left (south), Brigadier General Daniel Govan's brigade in the center, and Brigadier General Mark Lowrey's brigade on the right (north). Colonel Tyree H. Bell's brigade of Forrest's cavalry formed on Cleburne's right (north) flank, even though they were out of ammunition. One Confederate cavalry officer remembered, "It is well understood that our command had no ammunition and the only thing we could do was to 'vell'."



Lowrey's brigade marched across the ground where this marker is located. Bell marched to the north, and Govan and Granbury to the south. Govan and Granbury followed the approximate route of the modern Saturn Parkway, with Govan to the north, and Granbury to the south.



### **Federal Defense of Spring Hill**

On the morning of November 29, 1864, Spring Hill had a small Union garrison. Throughout the day it would be strengthened by a "scratch force" consisting of the 103rd Ohio Infantry Regiment, and several companies of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Tennessee (U. S.) cavalry. This garrison fought well, but by midday had been forced back to the town of Spring Hill by Forrest's cavalry.

About 12:30 p.m., Federal forces under the the direct command of Major General David Stanley, commander of Schofield's 4th Army Corps, including lead elements of Wagner's division, began entering Spring Hill from the south. Colonel Emerson Opdycke's veteran brigade moved through the town, and occupied a ridge just north of Spring Hill. Colonel John Q. Lane's brigade came next, and continued Opdycke's line east of town. Brigadier General Luther P. Bradley's brigade assumed the critical defensive position on a knoll south of town. The 103rd Ohio Infantry and a section of Battery A, 1st Ohio Light Artillery were placed across the Columbia and Franklin Pike. Eighteen artillery pieces were emplaced on a prominent ridge on the southern outskirts of the town.

Lane had approximately 1,700 men in position, and Bradley could muster approximately 2,000 soldiers. They began constructing light fortifications of fence rails. Stanley had placed Wagner's division in a well chosen position, which had been occupied barely in time to prevent Forrest's cavalry from capturing the pike or the town.

### **Cleburne's attack**

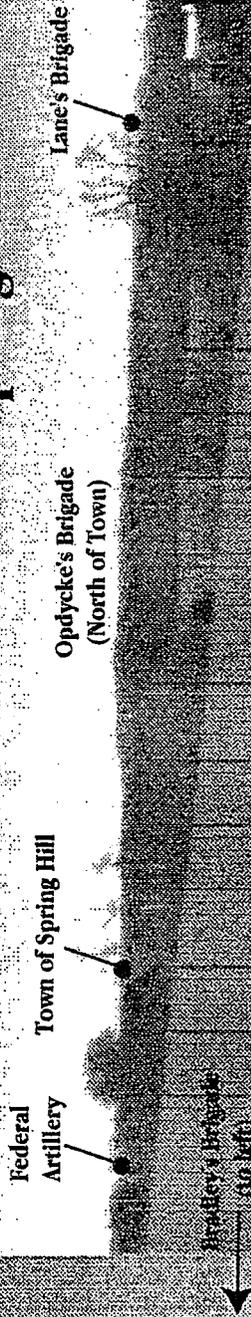
**4:00- 4:30 p.m., November 29, 1864**

Cleburne's division moved west, from the Rally Hill Pike, at approximately 4:00 p.m. Cresting the large hill just west of the pike, they crossed a light strip of woods and moved into an open field. Their line of march took them across the front of Bradley's brigade, which raked the exposed right flank of Lowrey's brigade with "a very destructive fire and somewhat staggered them in front."

Because of the division's alignment, Lowrey was forced to wheel his brigade to the right, and fought Bradley without assistance. Lowrey told Cleburne that the enemy was about to charge his flank. Cleburne replied, "I'll charge them!" and turned his other two brigades to Lowrey's support, changing their line of advance from west to north.

Lowrey's brigade had been stunned by the violence of Bradley's initial fire, but many of Bradley's men were inexperienced and poorly drilled recruits in their first fight, and they were opposed by hardened veterans who were arguably among the toughest fighters in an army of fighters. As Govan and Granbury wheeled their brigades and came on line with Lowrey, Cleburne's entire division moved forward en mass, and the result was inevitable. Bradley's lines began to waver, then crumble, and finally shattered. Bradley was wounded in the assault, the highest ranking officer on either side to become a casualty at Spring Hill.

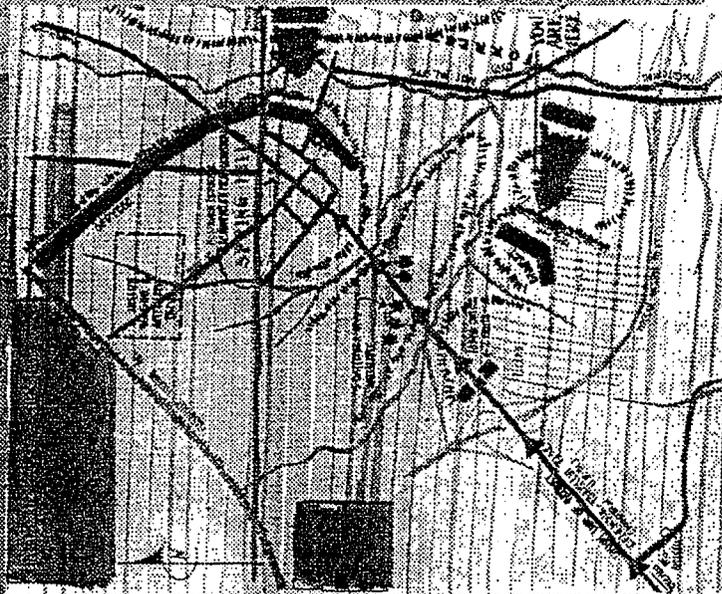
# Federal Defense of Spring Hill



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Lane had approximately 1,700 men in position, and Bradley could muster about 2,000 soldiers. They began constructing light fortifications of fence rails. Stanley had placed Wagner's division in position barely in time to prevent Forrest's cavalry from capturing the pike and town.



# Cleburne's Attack

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

November 29, 1864

Brigadier General  
Luther P. Bradley,  
United States Army

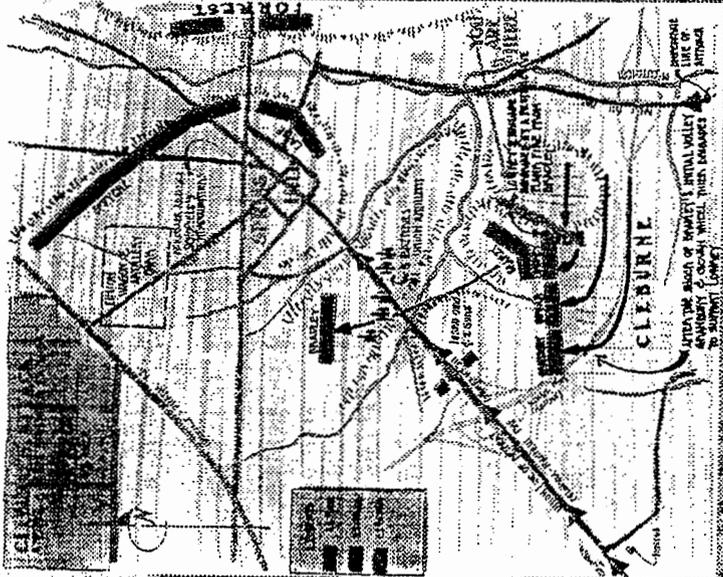


Cleburne's division moved west, from the Bally Hill Pike at approximately 4:00 p.m. to a position on the west side of the pike, they crossed a high strip of woods and moved into an open field. This line of attack was the front of Bradley's brigades, which took the exposed right flank of Lowrey's support.

Because of the division's alignment, Lowrey was forced to wheel his brigade to the right and bring up Bradley's flank assistance. Lowrey told Cleburne that the enemy was about to charge his flank. Cleburne replied, "I charge ahead" and turned his other two brigades to Lowrey's support, changing their line of advance from west to north.

Lowrey's brigade had been stunned by the violence of Bradley's initial line, but many of Bradley's men were inexperienced and poorly drilled recruits in their first fight and they were opposed by hardened veterans who were arguably among the toughest fighters in an army of fighters. As Gibvan and Granbury came on line with Lowrey, Cleburne's entire division moved forward *en masse*, and the result was inevitable. Bradley's lines began to waver, then crumble, and finally shattered. Bradley was wounded in the assault, the highest ranking officer on either

side to become a casualty at Spring Hill



**Cleburne's pursuit  
4:30 - 5:00 p.m., November 29, 1864**

Cleburne's advance rolled north in pursuit of Bradley's retreating brigade, which fled north of McCutcheon Creek to establish new lines at the southern edge of town. Reacting promptly to the retreat of Bradley, Lane's brigade began to reposition itself to the south. Cleburne's pursuit was brought to a sudden halt by massive volleys from the artillery and the 103rd Ohio Infantry positioned across the Columbia-Franklin Pike. Cleburne's veterans pulled up short and sought cover under an intense and deadly accurate barrage from the well positioned Union artillery.

It was now nearly 5:00 p.m., sunlight had faded into sunset (sunset was 4:49 p.m.), and Cleburne had run into unexpectedly heavy opposition. He called for support and instructions.

**2.3.4.b                      Tour Stop Four- Long Term Plan**

Should additional core battlefield property be acquired at some point in the future, the walking tour would be extended west to Bradley's Knoll. Additional interpretive markers would be required, providing a more intensive and detailed interpretation of Bradley's defensive position, and Cleburne's attack. There would be no other changes to Tour Stop Four.

**2.3.5                      Tour Stop Five- south end of Elm Street**

The fifth tour stop would be located at the south end of Elm Street. This tour stop would consist of one large interpretive marker. There is presently a gravel turnaround at the end of the street, which would be acceptable for automobiles and vans to turn around at. Thus, for the short term plan, no construction at this location would be necessary. For the long range plan, provisions would be made for automobile parking, and commercial and tour bus turnaround at this location.

An additional requirement for this tour stop would be the replacement of the "Stop Sign" at the north end of Elm Street, at its intersection with McLemore Avenue. This sign is presently badly faded, and all but impossible to read. In its present condition, this sign could present a safety hazard to visitors who are not familiar with the community. Accordingly, the town of Spring Hill should replace this sign at the first opportunity.

**2.3.5.a                      Short Term Design, Tour Stop Five**

Because of the gravel turnaround that already exists at this site, no construction would be necessary at this site for the short term plan. One sign, of the large size, would be located here. The short term plan would be located entirely on the right of way for Elm Street, so coordination would be required with the town of Spring Hill.

# Cleburne's Pursuit

4:30 - 5:00 p.m., November 29, 1864

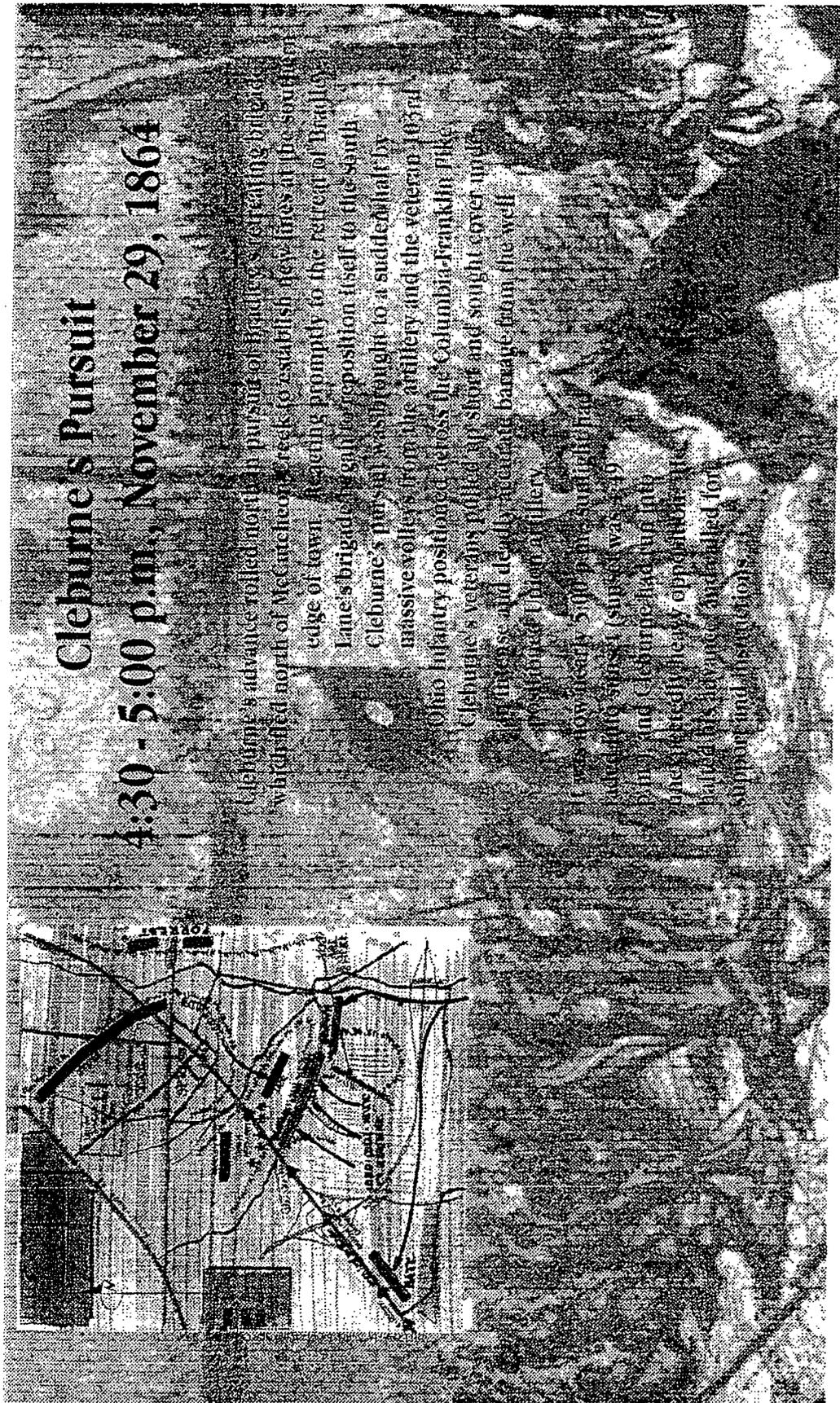
Cleburne's advance rolled north in pursuit of Bradley's retreating brigade which fled north of McEachern's Creek to establish new lines at the southern edge of town. Reacting promptly to the retreat of Bradley's

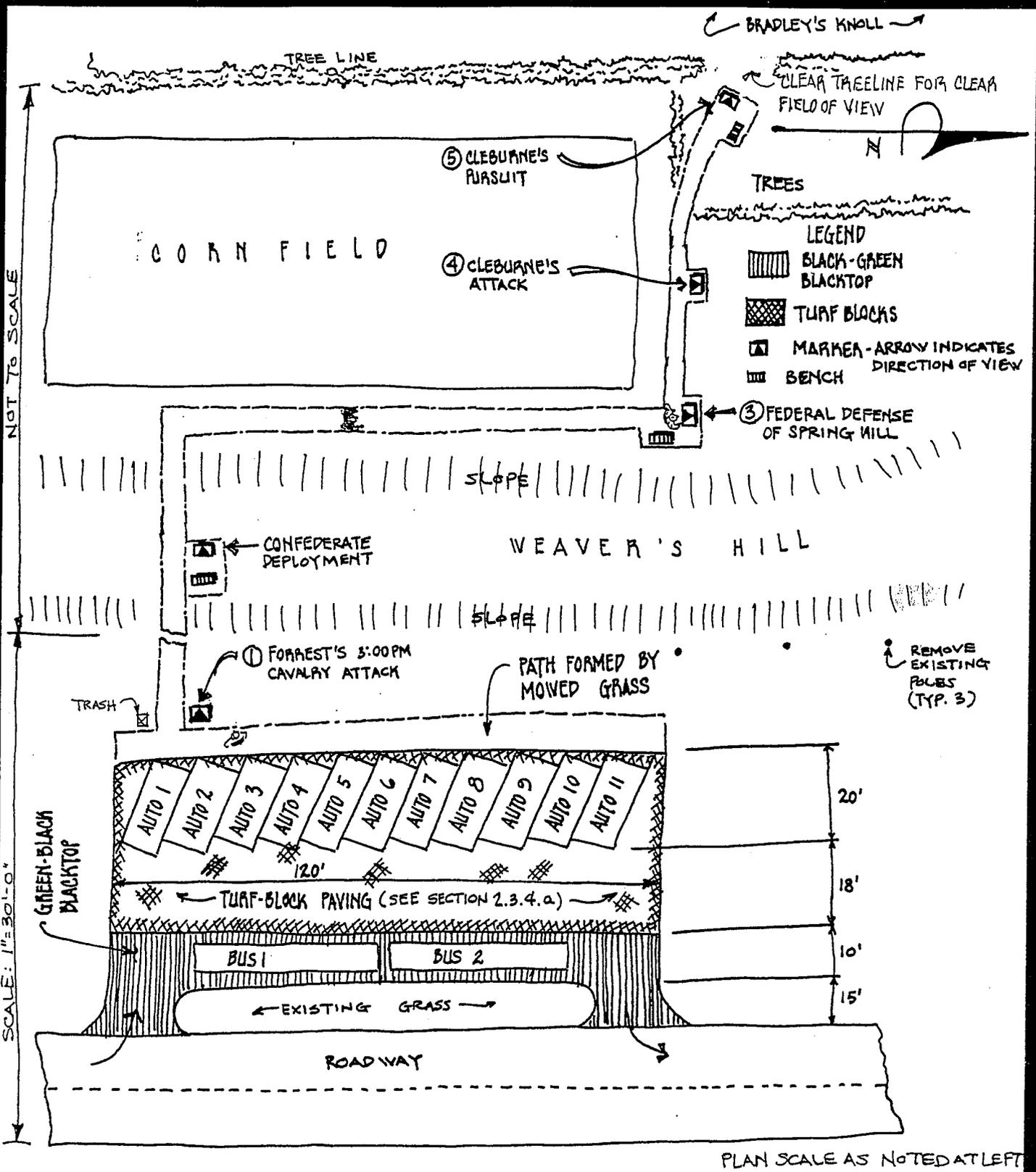
Lane's brigade, he galloped to reposition itself to the south.

Cleburne's pursuit was brought to a sudden halt by massive volleys from the artillery and the veteran 103rd Ohio Infantry positioned across the Columbia-Franklin Pike.

Cleburne's veterans pulled up short and sought cover under an intense and deadly accurate barrage from the well-positioned Union artillery.

It was now nearly 5:00 p.m. and the sun had faded into dusk. (Sunset was 4:19 p.m.) and Cleburne had run into some of the heaviest opposition he had faced. However, he called for support and these men's





**TOUR STOP FOUR**  
Bradley's Knoll



**Center of the Union Defensive Position  
Lane's Brigade**

You are located at the center of the Union defensive position established to the north, east, and south of Spring Hill by Brigadier General George D. Wagner's division. The defense of Spring Hill was orchestrated by Major General David S. Stanley, commanding officer of Schofield's IVth Army Corps.

Colonel John Q. Lane's brigade was typical in both strength and composition of the Federal forces that fought here at Spring Hill. Consisting of the 100th Illinois Infantry, the 40th Indiana Infantry, the 57th Indiana Infantry, the 28th Kentucky Infantry, the 26th Ohio Infantry, and the 97th Ohio, the brigade fielded 80 officers and 1,586 enlisted men. When Lane approached Spring Hill, "...it became apparent that the enemy was trying to get possession of that place.... I moved my command at the double quick to the east side of town, formed line of battle, deployed the 28th Kentucky as skirmishers and...moved at once on the enemy." After driving off Forrest's cavalry, Lane withdrew to this position, where he constructed a line of rifle pits on this ridge, a small stream protecting his front.

When Bradley's brigade was driven north of McCutcheon Creek, Lane shifted his brigade to protect the south of the town.

**2.3.5.b Long Term Design, Tour Stop Five**

As some point in the future, as visitation begins to rise, a vehicular parking area and bus turnaround, would be required at this tour stop. We propose that this area should be extended further south of the current terminus of Elm Street, onto the land currently owned the Tennessee Childrens Home. Approximately one acre of land would be required for this area. Additionally, the sign would have to be re-located, as its short term location would place it directly in the middle of the access to the long term tour stop five. Construction of this tour stop would be similar to the other proposed parking areas, to consist of paving blocks and rough aggregate, natural colored cement sidewalks.

Coordination with the Tennessee Childrens Home would be required for the implementation of the long term phase of this tour stop. Additionally, as this ground has remained in agricultural use since the military operations here in 1864, it is highly possible that subsurface archaeological resources remain here. Accordingly, a Phase II Archaeological Survey should be performed here prior to any construction.

**2.3.6 Tour Stop Six- east of Tennessee Orphan's Home**

This tour stop would be located just east of the Martin Cheairs Home, with the tour sign located immediately west of Van Dorn Drive. The tour sign here would be of the larger size. At some point in the future, it is our understanding that the Tennessee Childrens Home intends to open this house to the public. When this happens, interpretation of this tour stop would have to be revised, depending upon the specific plans and available resources of the Tennessee Childrens Home. Until this time, the tour sign would provide sufficient interpretation of the house from Van Dorn Street. Discussions with the Tennessee Childrens Home would be required to coordinate the specific sign placement. Because this would be a "drive past" tour stop, no parking would be required.

# Center of the Union Defensive Position

## Lane's Brigade

You are located at the center of the Union defensive position established to the north, east, and south of Spring Hill by Brigadier General George D. Wagner's division. The defense of Spring Hill was orchestrated by Major General David S. Stanley, commanding officer of Schofield's IVth Army Corps.

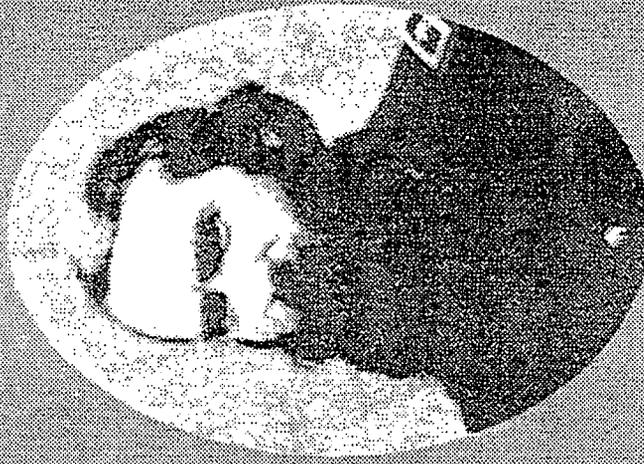
Colonel John Q. Lane's brigade was typical in both strength and composition of the Federal forces that fought here at Spring Hill. Consisting of the 100th Illinois Infantry, the 49th Indiana Infantry, the 57th Indiana Infantry, the 28th Kentucky Infantry, the 26th Ohio Infantry, and the 97th Ohio, the brigade fielded 80 officers and 1,586 enlisted men. When Lane approached Spring Hill, "...It became apparent that the enemy was trying to get possession of that place.... I moved my command at the double quick to the east side of town, formed line of battle, deployed the 28th Kentucky as skirmishers and moved at once on the enemy." After driving off Forrest's cavalry, Lane withdrew to this position, where he constructed a line of rifle pits on this ridge, a small stream protecting his front.

When Bradley's brigade was driven north of McCutcheon Creek, Lane shifted his brigade to protect the south of the town.



Brigadier General  
George D. Wagner

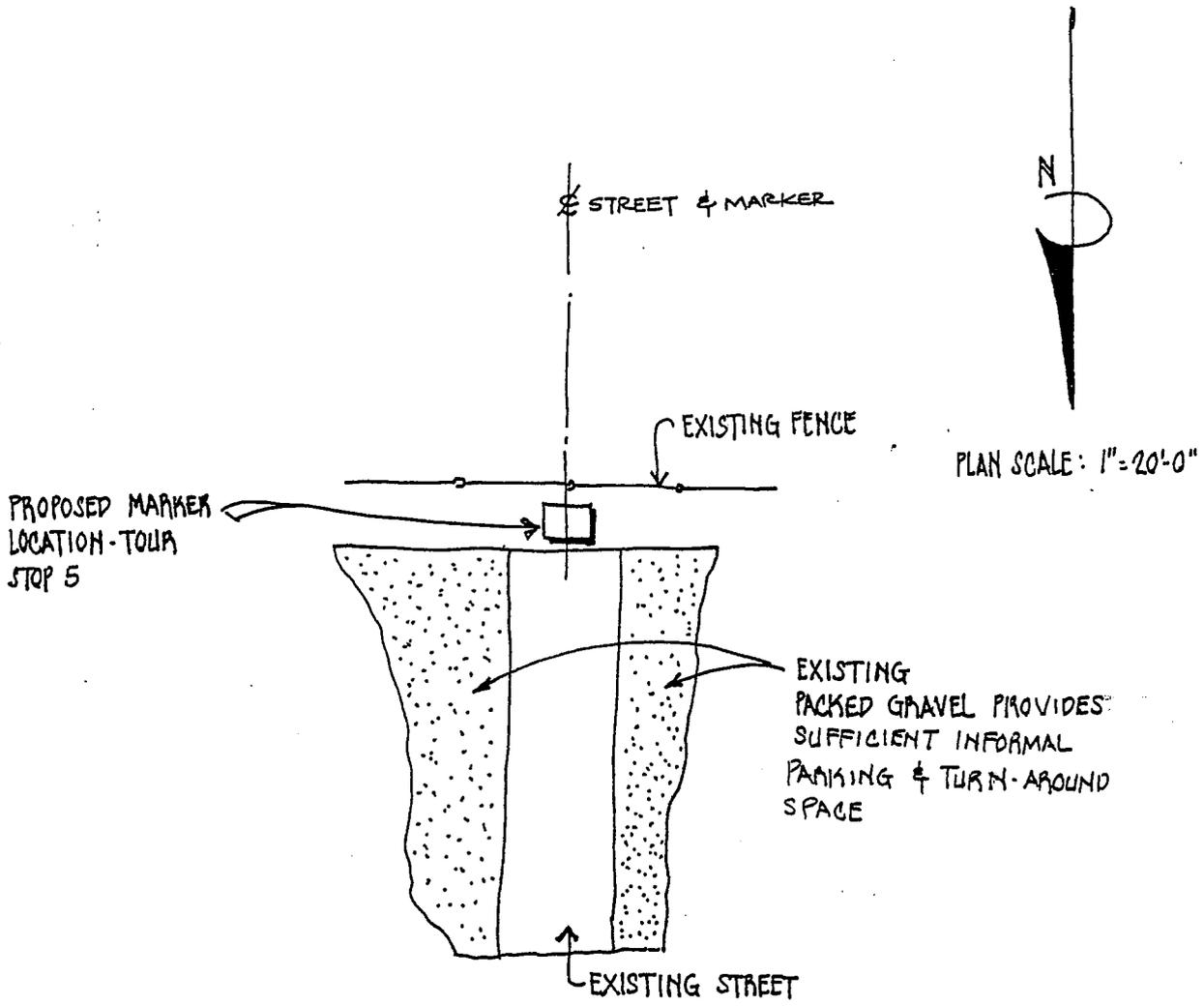
His division successfully defended Spring Hill, allowing Schofield to withdraw his army to Franklin.



Major General  
David S. Stanley

"It was the biggest day's work I ever accomplished for the United States" Stanley writing about his command at Spring Hill.

November 29, 1864

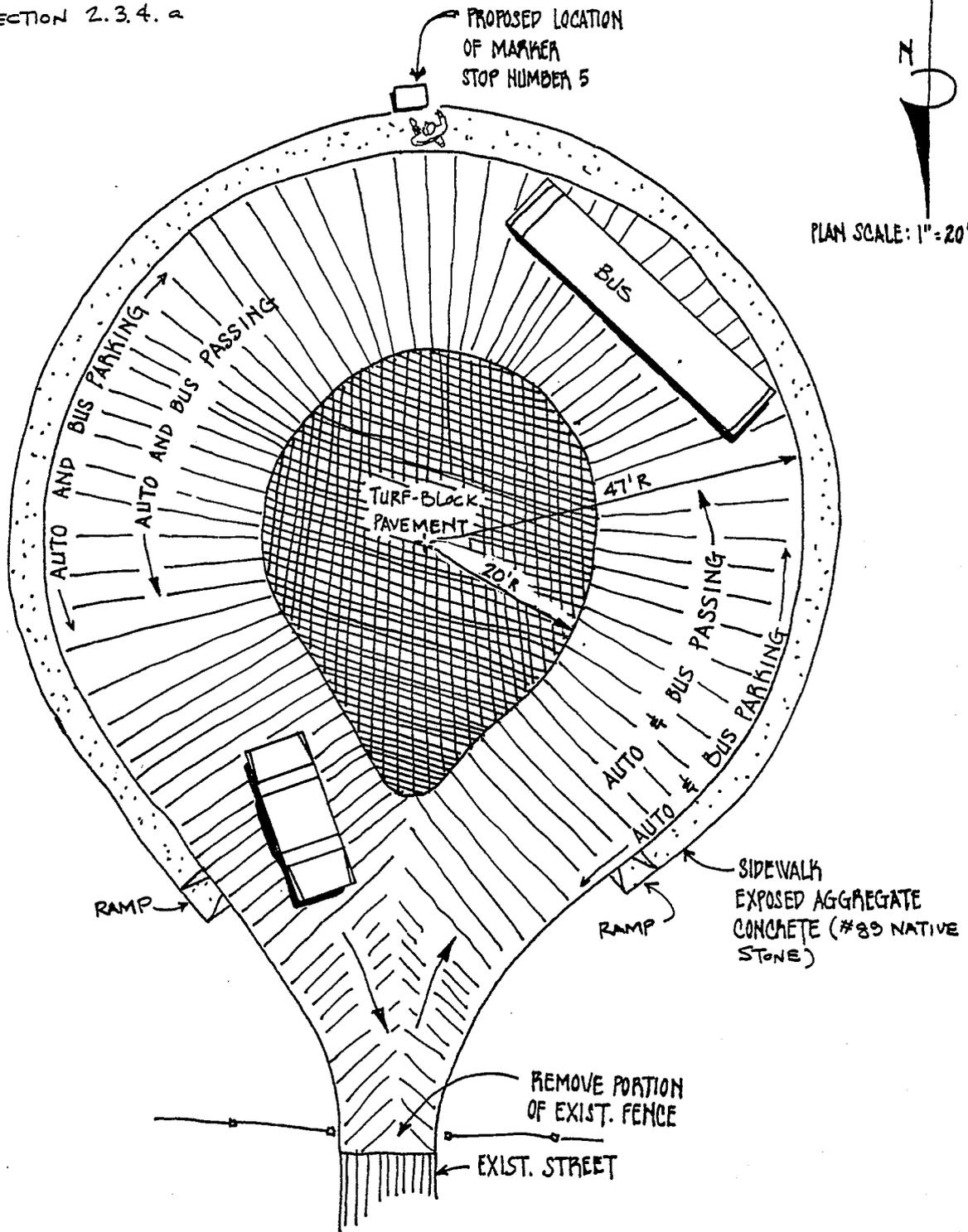


**TOUR STOP FIVE SHORT TERM**  
**Lane's Brigade Position**



**NOTES:**

1. TURF BLOCK PAVING BLOCKS -  
SEE SECTION 2.3.4. a



DESIGN: DC/CS DRAWING: CS

**TOUR STOP FIVE LONG TERM  
Lane's Brigade Position**



### **Martin Cheairs Home Headquarters of Confederate General Earl Van Dorn**

In the Spring of 1863, Confederate Brigadier General Earl Van Dorn established the headquarters of his cavalry command at Spring Hill. On March 5, 1863 Van Dorn had commanded his cavalry in a fight at Thompson's Station, which resulted in the overwhelming defeat of a Federal brigade. Van Dorn, a veteran of the Mexican War and several engagements with Indians on the frontier, was a successful cavalry commander, but also enjoyed a reputation as a lady's man.

Van Dorn originally established his headquarters at the residence of Dr. Aaron White on modern Duplex Road. Officially because of "crowded conditions," but more likely because of improper social activities, Van Dorn moved his headquarters to the Martin Cheairs Home in late April.

On May 7, 1863, Dr. George B. Peters, a prominent Spring Hill physician and politician, visited Van Dorn to discuss allegations that Van Dorn had been having an affair with his wife, and possibly with his oldest daughter. Sometime during their interview, Dr. Peters shot Van Dorn in the back of his head with a pistol. Van Dorn died within hours without regaining consciousness, and Dr. Peters was never prosecuted for his actions.

After the war, the Cheairs residence became the Branham-Hughes Military Academy, and is today part of the Tennessee Childrens Home. The home is not currently open to the public.

#### **2.3.7 Tour Stop Seven- along Depot Street**

This tour stop would interpret four important themes of the driving tour, the postbellum Ewell Farm, the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, Opdycke's Brigade line on November 29, and the Federal Wagon and Artillery Park of November 29. All four of these themes can be easily interpreted from a site north of Depot Street, and just east of the present CSX Railroad (which follows the same route as the historic Nashville and Decatur). To provide a visually attractive tour stop in the middle of the town of Spring Hill, we recommend that four interpretive signs be placed around a kiosk constructed of natural limestone. This kiosk would require a parking area, trash container(s), and a turnaround for vehicles. Additionally, as noted in the White Star Consulting plan, "...also recommend that a picnic area with unobtrusive picnic tables and barbecue grills be located here, to provide lunch accommodations to both visitors and residents of Spring Hill."<sup>2</sup> Currently, recreational facilities in the town of Spring Hill are severely limited. This attractive kiosk, located in the middle of the town, could serve as an informal park and community meeting area. Residents would also be drawn to the interpretation presented here, which could also foster public interest and involvement in battlefield preservation and interpretation.

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<sup>2</sup> White Star Consulting, *Preservation Action Plan for the Spring Hill, Tennessee Battlefield* (Madison, Alabama: White Star Consulting, January, 1995), p. 31. Hereinafter cited as White Star Consulting, *Preservation Action Plan for Spring Hill Battlefield*.

# Martin Cheairs Home Headquarters of Confederate General Earl Van Dorn April-May, 1863

In the Spring of 1863, Confederate Brigadier General Earl Van Dorn established the headquarters of his cavalry command at Spring Hill. On March 5, 1863, Van Dorn had commanded his cavalry in a fight at Thompson's Station, which resulted in the overwhelming defeat of a Federal brigade. Van Dorn, a veteran of the Mexican War and several engagements with Indians on the frontier, was a successful cavalry commander, but also enjoyed a reputation as a lady's man.

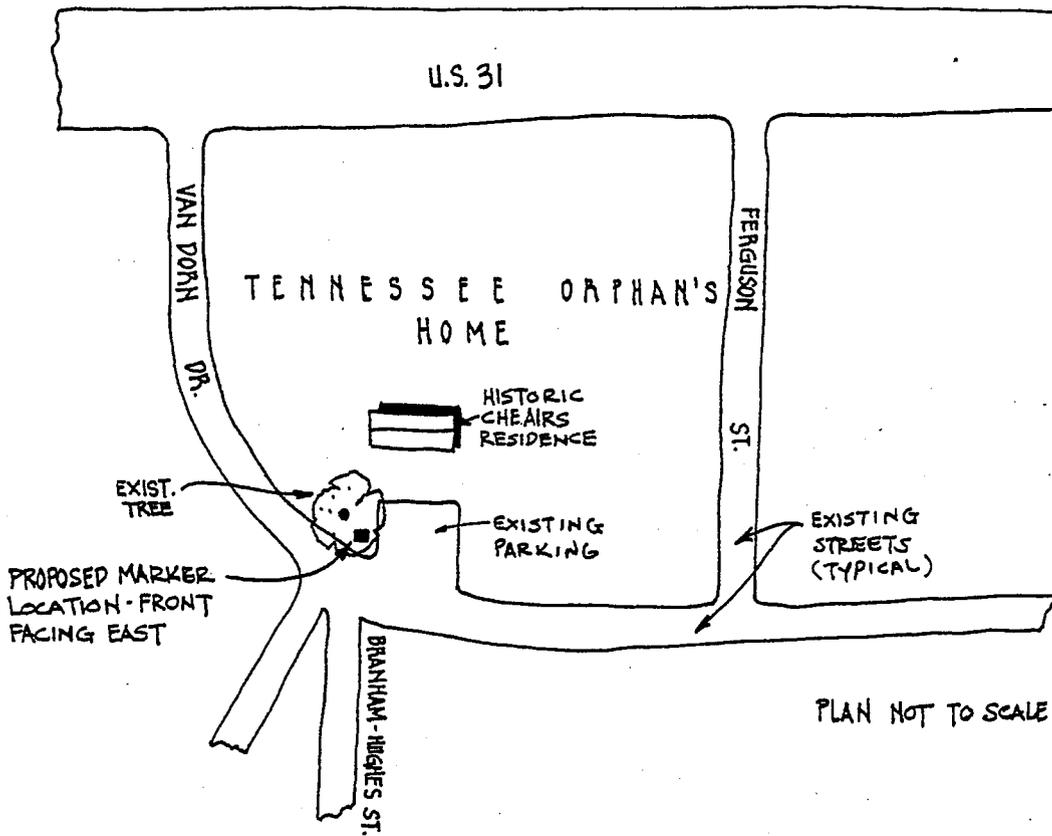
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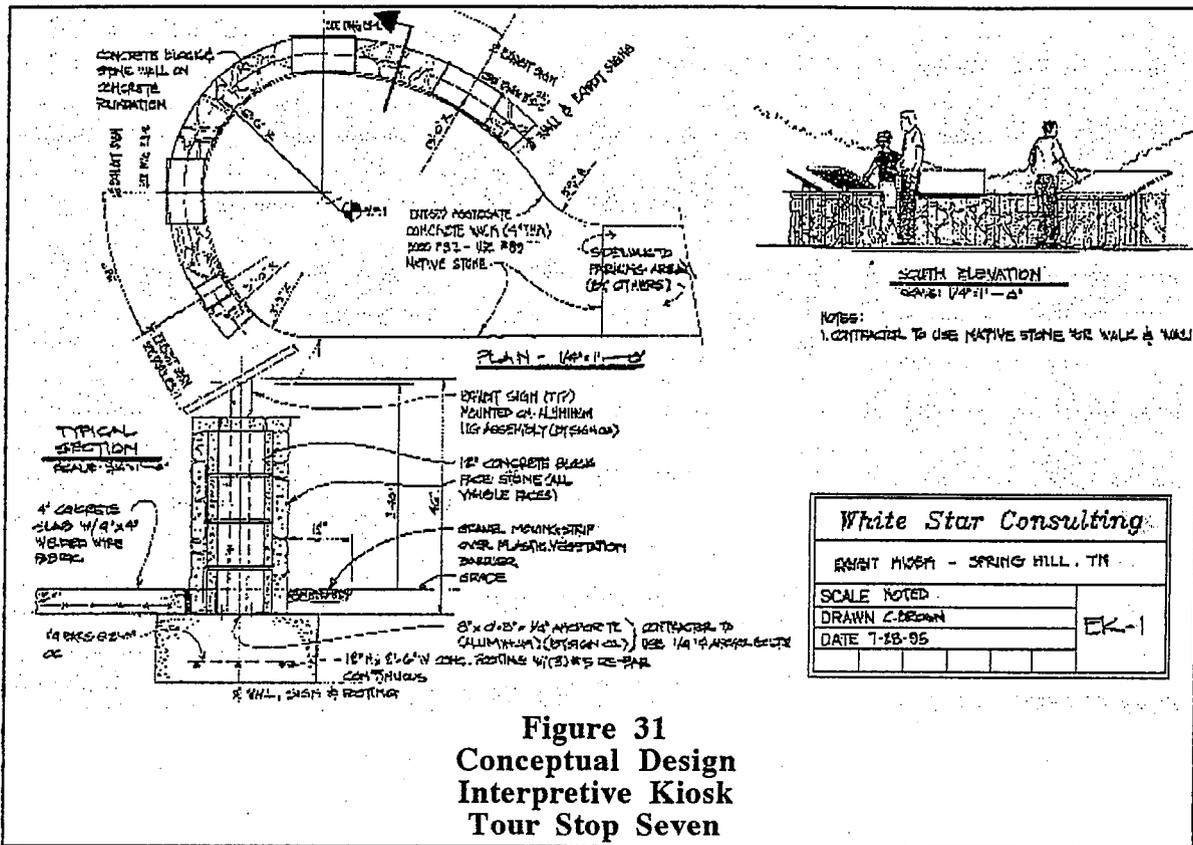
Earl Van Dorn



**TOUR STOP SIX**  
**Earl Van Dorn's Headquarters**



There are three tax parcels available for this kiosk, and land acquisition to support this tour stop is comprehensively discussed in Section 3.1.3. Because all three proposed locations for the kiosk are on land which has remained in agriculture since the engagement and military operations that occurred at Spring Hill in late, 1864, Phase II Archaeology is recommended before any excavation is performed. A design for this kiosk is provided. This tour stop would remain unchanged for the short and long term plans.

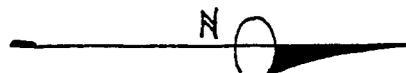


**Figure 31**  
**Conceptual Design**  
**Interpretive Kiosk**  
**Tour Stop Seven**

### Nashville and Decatur Railroad

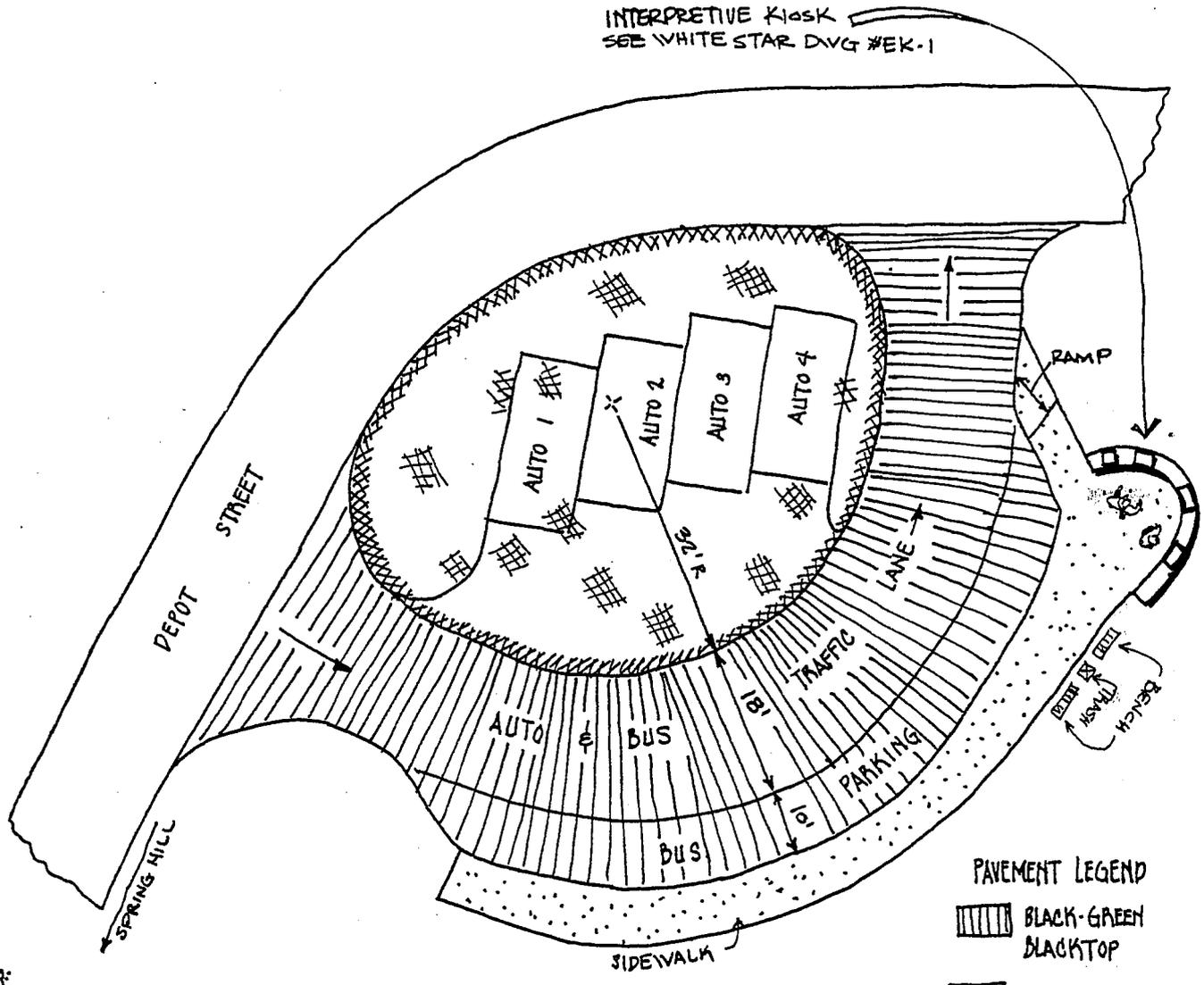
Just west of this kiosk is the antebellum Nashville and Decatur Railroad. During Sherman's Campaign against Atlanta, May to September, 1864, this railroad played a critical logistical role when it served as the northbound or return route for his supplies. Trains returning from Sherman's army carried wounded soldiers, Confederate prisoners of war, southern refugees, mail, and empty freight cars. In the fall of 1864, this railroad was used as a major supply line for Union garrisons throughout Tennessee, north Alabama, and north Georgia.

Spring Hill was an important wood and water stop on this railroad, and an antebellum railroad depot stood approximately where the modern depot is today.



PLAN SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

INTERPRETIVE Kiosk  
SEE WHITE STAR DVG #EK-1



PAVEMENT LEGEND

-  BLACK-GREEN  
BLACKTOP
-  TURF-BLOCK  
SEE SECTION 2.34.2
-  EXPOSED AGGREGATE  
CONCRETE (#80  
NATIVE STONE)

DESIGN DC/CS DRAWING

TOUR STOP SEVEN ALTERNATIVE ONE  
Depot and Wagon Park



White Star Consulting

1996

# Nashville and Decatur Railroad

Just west of this kiosk is the antebellum Nashville and Decatur Railroad.

During Sherman's Campaign against Atlanta from May to

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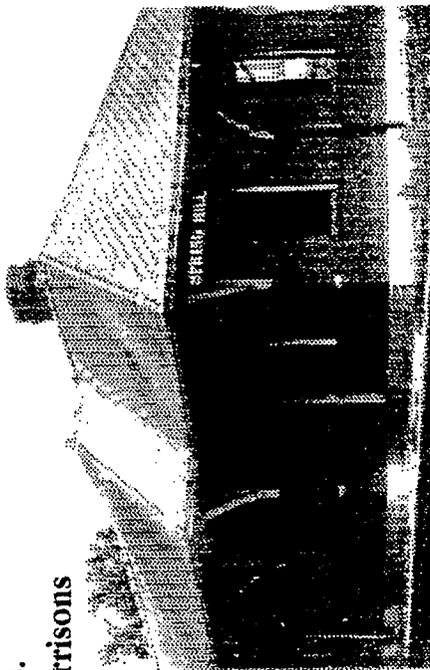
At the time, this railroad was used as a major supply line for Union garrisons

throughout Tennessee, north Alabama, and north Georgia.

Spring Hill was an important wood and water stop on this railroad, and an

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where the modern depot is today.



Spring Hill Depot, Post Civil War (courtesy Spring Hill Library)

### **Ewell Farm**

On a knoll just southwest of the railroad depot is the antebellum home of the widow Lizinka Brown. Her son, Campbell Brown, was a staff officer with Confederate General Richard S. Ewell of the Army of Northern Virginia. Ewell and Mrs. Brown were married in 1863, and returned here at the end of the war. Ewell became a quiet farmer and made several contributions to agriculture, to include introducing the Jersey Cow to Tennessee and the south, and being instrumental in the birth of harness racing. Ewell and his wife both died in 1872, and are buried together in Nashville.

The home is in private hands today, and the family's privacy should be respected.

### **Union Wagon Park November 29, 1864**

When General John Schofield began his withdrawal from Columbia, he first had to evacuate the wagon trains of his two army corps, consisting of 800 wagons, ambulances, and artillery. After the eleven mile drive from Columbia, the horses and mules had to be rested and watered. Additionally, congestion, narrow bridges, and Confederate cavalry actions north of Spring Hill on the Columbia-Franklin Pike caused massive traffic jams. Staff officers directed the horses to pull off the main road into farm fields northwest of Spring Hill (along modern Depot Street), where water and grass was available. By the late afternoon of November 29, 1864, this entire area was a crowded swirl of animals, wheels, and men waiting to be directed back onto the road to Franklin.

### **Left of the Union Defensive Position Opdycke's Brigade Line**

At approximately 12:30 p.m. on November 29, 1864, Colonel Emerson Opdycke's veteran brigade, known unofficially as "Opdycke's tigers," marching in the lead of Wagner's division, swept through Spring Hill to secure the town from Confederate cavalry which was working its way north of the town. Opdycke established his lines from the Nashville and Decatur Railroad extending east across the Columbia-Franklin Pike to the Mount Carmel Road where he connected with Lane's brigade. His regiments occupied a slight rise of ground with a small flooded stream guarding their front. This ridge is visible through the trees to your front.

Several miles to the north, an attempt would be made by Forrest's cavalry to sever the pike at Thompson's Station, but the arrival of Federal infantry rapidly cleared the road. There would be no further attempt to cut Schofield's retreat route north of Spring Hill.

Opdycke experienced no combat action at this location, and his brigade served as the rear guard for Schofield's army. Opdycke's last men did not leave the town until 5:00 a.m. on November 30th, just before first light. That afternoon, this brigade won eternal fame when it repulsed a Confederate breakthrough at the Carter House in Franklin.

# Ewell Farm

is a private home

and the family's privacy should be respected.

The home is in private hands today, and the family's privacy should be respected.

The home is in private hands today, and the family's privacy should be respected.

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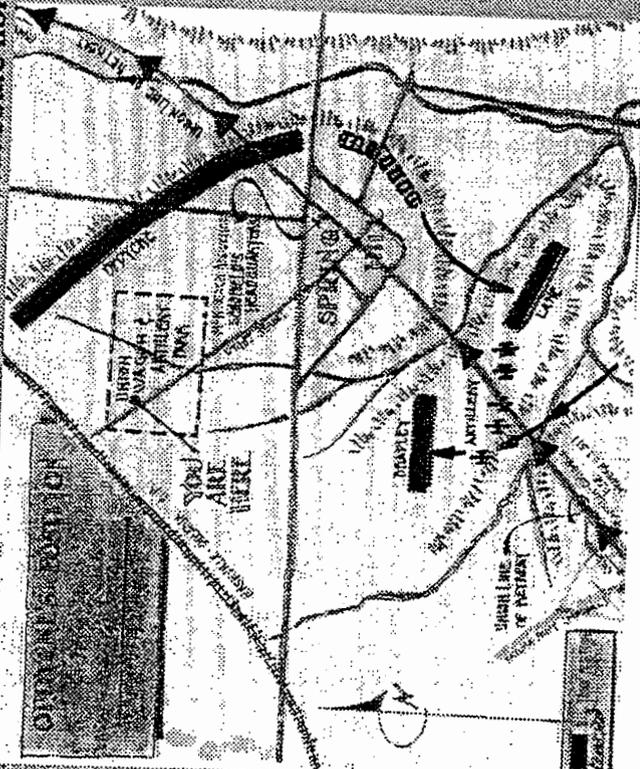
Confederate General  
Richard S. Ewell

Home West, a subsidiary of Spring Hill Farm.

# Left of the Union Defensive Position Opdycke's Brigade Line

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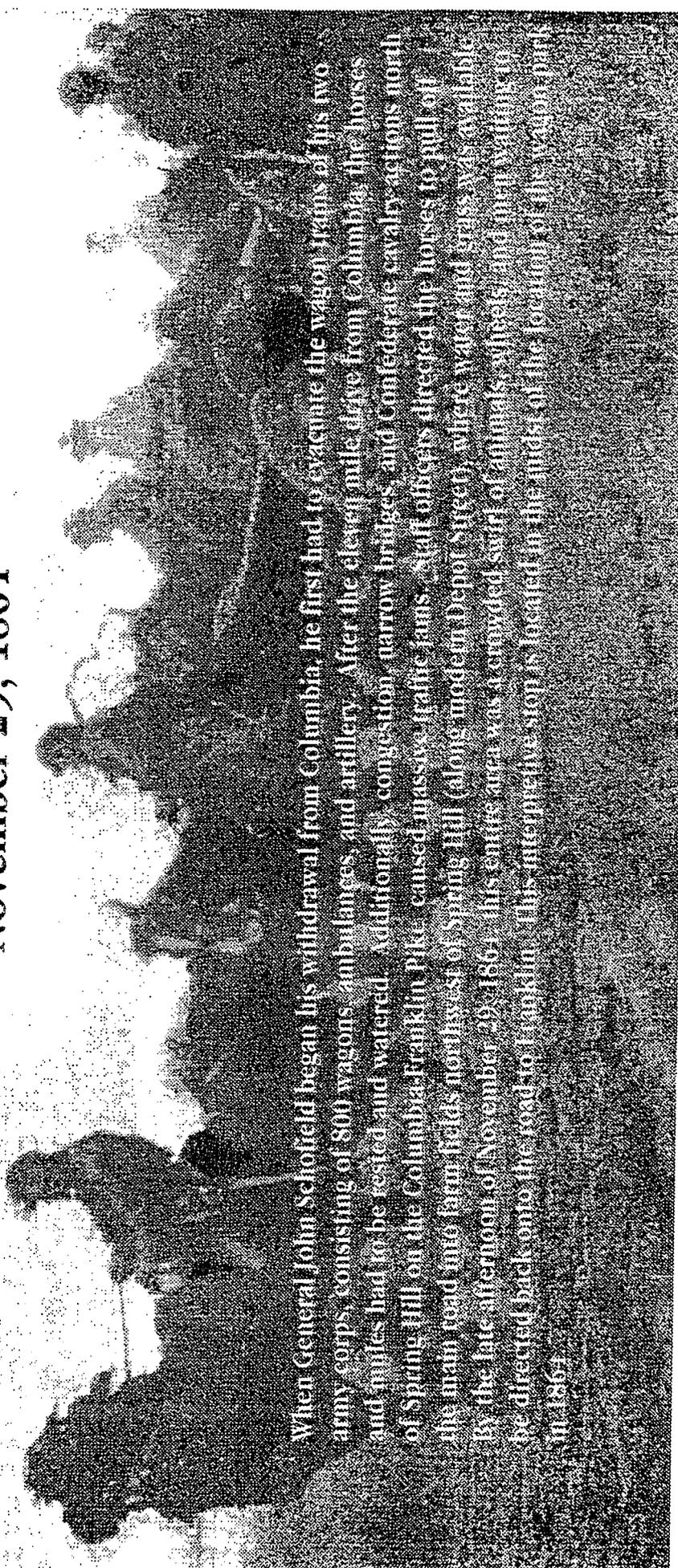


Left of the Union Defensive Position

Opdycke experienced no combat action at this location, and his brigade served as the rear guard for Schofield's army. Opdycke's last men did not leave the town until 5:00 a.m. on November 30th, just before first light. That afternoon, this brigade won eternal fame when it repulsed a Confederate breakthrough at the Carter House in Franklin.

## Union Wagon Park November 29, 1864

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### **2.3.8 Tour Stop Eight- Spring Hill Library**

This tour stop is located on a small piece of land currently used as landscaping on the property of the Spring Hill Library. The library has sufficient parking for tour purposes. Having this tour stop in the middle of town would introduce visitors to the community, and possibly provide local businesses with some financial advantage. The present walking tour of Spring Hill is currently distributed at the Spring Hill Library, and a box with tours should be made available here for visitors when the Library is closed. Following discussions with the Spring Hill Library, we have also designed this tour stop to be a small memorial to the early citizens and community of Spring Hill. This stop would have two markers, and a small stone monument. Because of previous ground disturbance, no archaeological survey would be necessary here.

The layouts for these two signs have not been finalized yet, pending additional coordination to be performed with the Spring Hill Library.

#### **The Town of Spring Hill, Tennessee**

The area on which most of the town of Spring Hill is located was originally part of a land grant to Revolutionary War veteran Major George Doherty of North Carolina. Albert Russel of Virginia, another Revolutionary War veteran, constructed the first home on the site in 1808-1809. James Peters built a church here in 1819, and the site became a popular religious revival location in the first half of the nineteenth century. General Richard Ewell brought the first Jersey cows here in 1867, and he is also credited with contributing to the birth of harness racing. Branham and Hughes Military Academy was established in 1890 in the community, and educated thousands of young men before its closing in 1932. In 1935 the Tennessee Orphans' Home opened in Spring Hill. In 1938 a disastrous fire destroyed the entire business district on the eastern side of the town, and another conflagration in 1940 damaged much of the western business district. A tornado in January, 1963 also devastated the community. The town's population had remained steady at approximately 1,200 between 1900 and 1989.

The opening of the Saturn Automobile Company in 1989 has resulted in great growth in Spring Hill, which is expected to continue into the 21st century.

#### **stone memorial, language:**

This memorial is dedicated to those pioneer families who settled the land that would become the town of Spring Hill in the early 1800s; and the townspeople who cared for the Confederate and Federal wounded who littered the farm fields and ridges on the morning of November 30, 1864. The hearty families of northern Maury County have survived fires, depression, and tornado to build what is in 1997 a thriving, prosperous community, as Spring Hill builds upon its past to create a bright future.

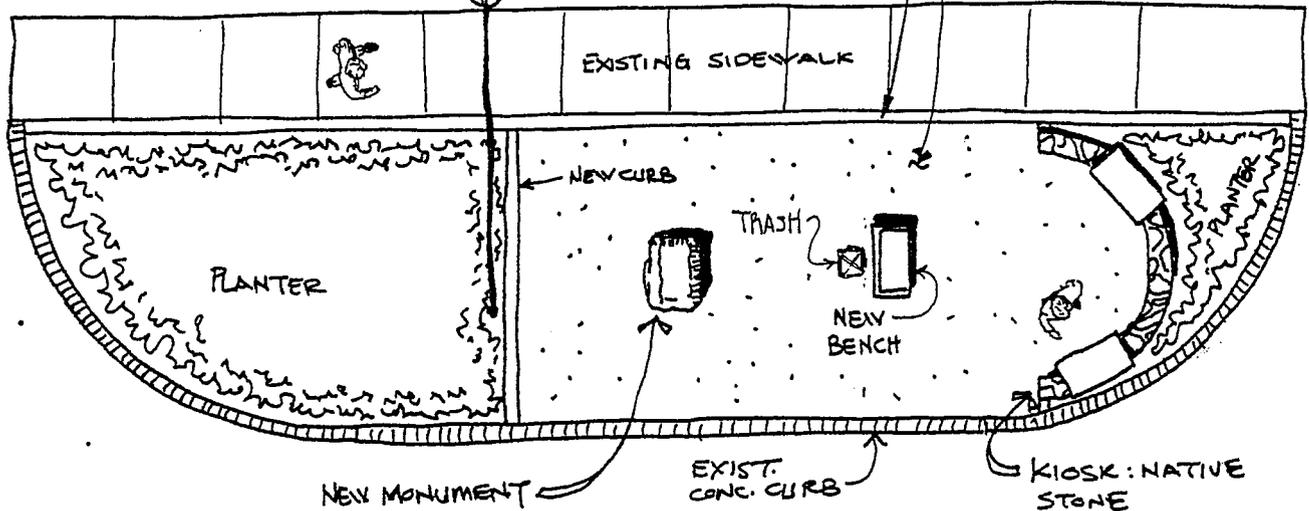


← ROADWAY →

EXIST.  
POWER POLE

REMOVE EXIST. LANDSCAPE  
TIMBER ALONG SIDEWALK  
REPLACE W/ CONCRETE  
CURB TO MATCH EXIST.

EXISTING STONE  
TO REMAIN



PLAN SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

KIOSK: NATIVE  
STONE  
CONSTRUCTION  
SIMILAR TO  
WHITE STAR DVG EK-1

TOUR STOP EIGHT  
Spring Hill

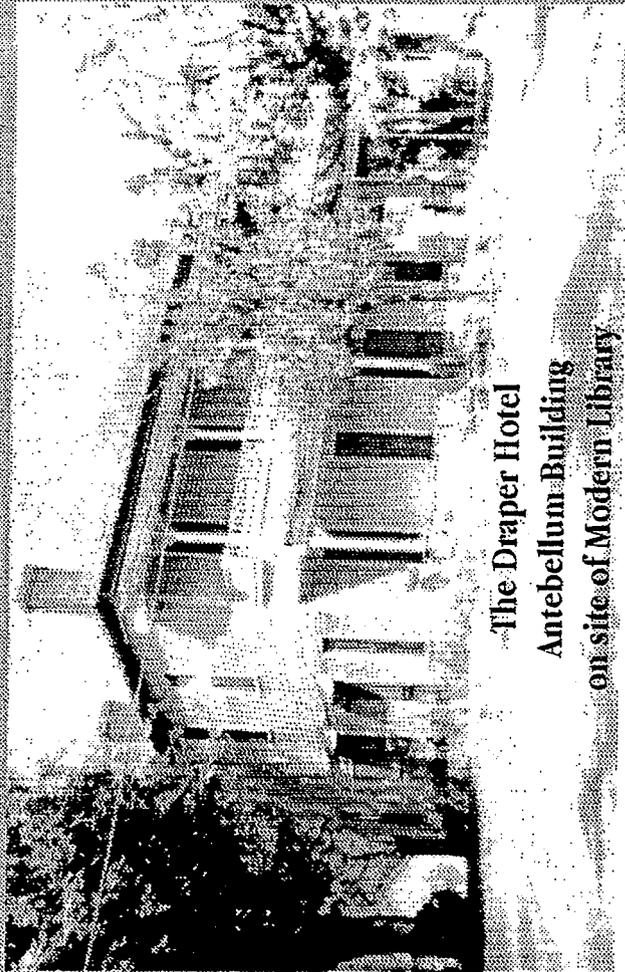


## The Town of Spring Hill, Tennessee

The area on which most of the town of Spring Hill is located was originally part of a land grant to Revolutionary War veteran Major George Doherty of North Carolina. Albert Russell of Virginia, another Revolutionary War veteran, constructed the first home on the site in 1808. 1809 James Peters built a church here in 1819, and the site became a popular religious revival location in the first half of the nineteenth century. General Richard Ewell brought the first Jersey cows here in 1867, and he is also credited with contributing to the birth of harness racing. Brahan and Hughes Military Academy was established in 1890 as the community and educated thousands of young men before its closing in 1932.

Intersection of  
Main Street and Depot Street  
Looking North  
c. late 1800s

In 1935 the Tennessee Childrens Home opened in Spring Hill. In 1938 a disastrous fire destroyed the entire business district on the eastern side of the town, and another conflagration in 1940 damaged much of the western business district. A tornado in January, 1967 also devastated the community. The town's population had remained steady at approximately 1,200 between 1900 and 1989. The opening of the Saturn Automobile Company in 1989 has resulted in great growth in Spring Hill, which is expected to continue into the 21st century.



The Draper Hotel  
Antebellum Building  
on site of Modern Library

**Spring Hill, Tennessee  
November 29, 1864**

In 1864, Spring Hill was a small, prosperous farming community. Although the town had been occupied by both Confederate and Federal forces at various times, it had not been seriously impacted by the war. All that changed as Hood's and Schofield's armies clashed south of town, hundreds of wagons and artillery pieces passed through the town, earthworks were erected around the town by Union defenders, and both armies marched past on their way to Franklin. During the evening of November 29, Schofield made the McKissack House his field headquarters. The next day, hundreds of southern and northern wounded would be left behind by the armies to be cared for by the community.

On the night of December 17, 1864, Hood's Army of Tennessee was again camped overnight south of Spring Hill, following their retreat from the Battle of Nashville. A brief cavalry skirmish would be fought north of town, and then the Union army would pass through in pursuit. For the remainder of the war, Federal units would again garrison the town.

**2.3.9            Tour Stop Nine- Atop Ridge near Town Center, east of Town Hall**

This tour stop would be located on the prominent ridge in the center of the current Town Center development, approximately 100-200 yards east of the Spring Hill Town Hall. This prominent ridge provided an artillery position for eighteen Federal artillery pieces, which played a key role in the repulse of Cleburne at sunset on November 29. Although the basic concept for interpretation here would not change from the short term to the long term, changes in roads planned for the area would entail a change in parking and traffic flow. This tour stop would consist of a parking area, a fifty foot paved ramp leading to the interpretive site, and an interpretive marker, bench, and two reproduction full scale artillery pieces at the interpretive site. These cannon would be a 12-pounder Napoleon Howitzer and a 3-inch Ordnance Rifle. According to official reports and a report of ammunition expenditures from the IVth Army Corps, the following batteries were present at Spring Hill:

- Battery A, 1st Ohio Light Artillery (Napoleons)
- Battery G, 1st Ohio Light Artillery (3-inch Ordnance Rifles)
- 6th Ohio Light Artillery Battery (Napoleons)
- Independent Battery B, Pennsylvania Light Artillery (Napoleons)
- Battery M, 4th U. S. Artillery (Napoleons).<sup>3</sup>

The interpretive site and ramp leading to it would not be changed once constructed. The necessary land for Tour Stop Nine can be acquired simply through a permanent land use arrangement with Town Center, for only approximately 1/10 of an acre of land would be required (100 yards by 5 yards to insure visibility). Although there has been extensive ground disturbance associated with the development of the Town Center, the ridgetop where Tour Stop Nine would be located does not appear to have been impacted. Accordingly, a Phase II archaeological survey should be performed before any construction or subsurface disturbance at this site.

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<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Volume 45, Part One, p. 322.



## Spring Hill, Tennessee - November 29, 1864

In 1864, Spring Hill was a small, prosperous farming community. Although the town had been occupied by both Confederate and Federal forces at various times, it had not been seriously impacted by the war. All that changed as Hood's and Schofield's armies clashed south of town, hundreds of wagons and artillery pieces passed through the town, earthworks were erected around

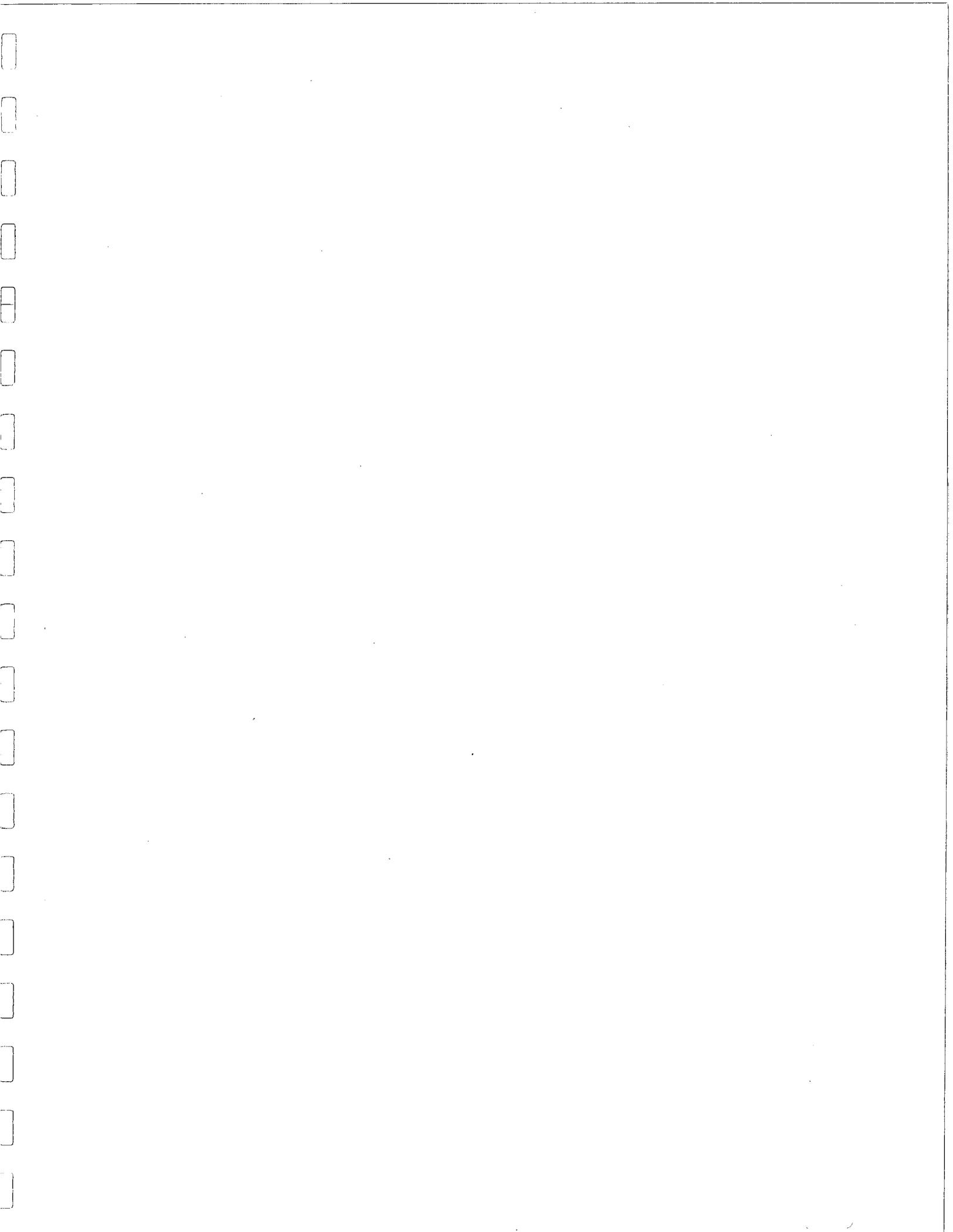
the town by Union defenders and both armies marched past on their way to Franklin. During the evening of

November 29, Schofield made the McKissack House his field headquarters.

The next day, hundreds of southern and northern wounded would be left behind by the armies to be cared for by the community. On the night of December 17, 1864,

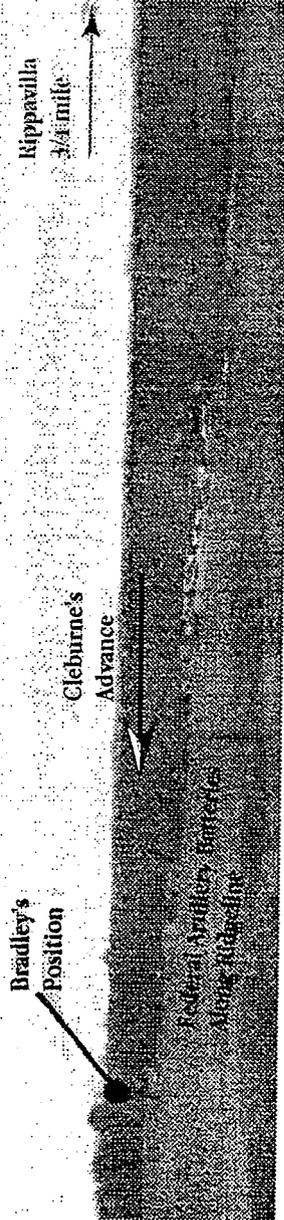
Hood's Army of Tennessee was again camped overnight south of Spring Hill, following their retreat from the Battle of Nashville. A brief cavalry skirmish would be fought north of town, and then the Union army would pass through in pursuit. For the remainder of the war, Federal units would again garrison the town.

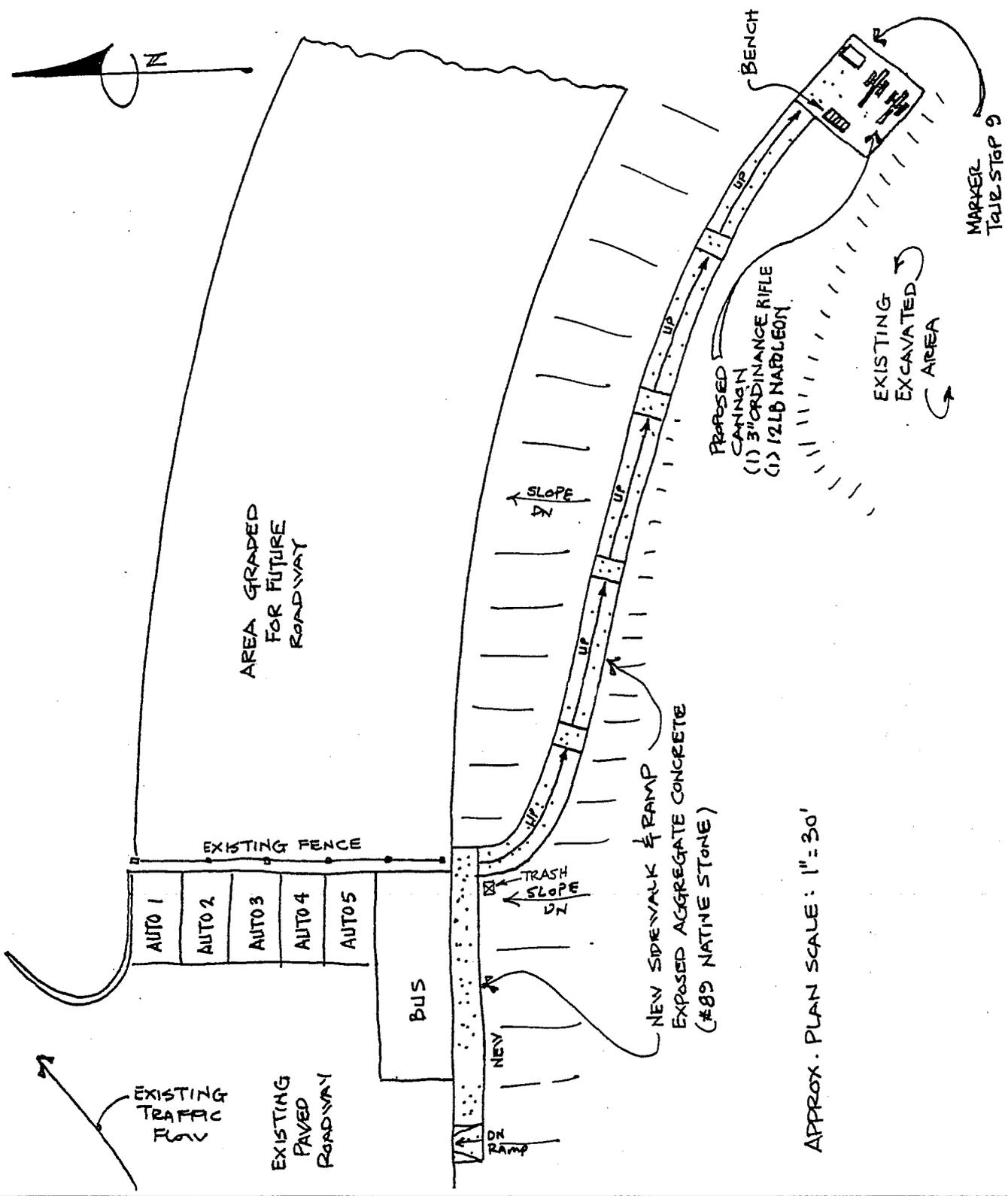
Main Street Looking South  
late 1800s  
(courtesy: Franklin Park Library)



# Federal Artillery Batteries Key to the Union Defense

Five batteries of Union artillery positioned on this prominent ridge, extending from this general location east across the Columbia. Franklin Pike, played a critical role in repulsing the attack of Patrick Cleburne's division late in the afternoon of November 29. This high ridge provided a classic artillery position, with excellent fields of fire that permitted the yankee "red legs" to control the fields immediately east of the pike with their gunfire. An example of the volume of artillery fire is provided by the four guns of Battery A, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, which expended 166 rounds in this action. The artillery pieces located here are a 12-pounder Napoleon Howitzer and a 3-inch Ordnance Rifles, representative of artillery pieces employed by those batteries of the 14th Corps Artillery present at Spring Hill.





**TOUR STOP NINE SHORT TERM**  
 Federal Artillery Positions

### 2.3.10

### Tour Stop Ten- Rippavilla

The final tour stop would be Johnson's division bivouac at Rippavilla. This would also provide visitors with a chance to visit the gift shop and restrooms at Rippavilla, and have any questions clarified by the museum staff. Additionally, this would offer Maury County an opportunity to direct visitors who have completed their visit to Spring Hill with information and directions to additional tourist sites, lodging, restaurants, and other services.

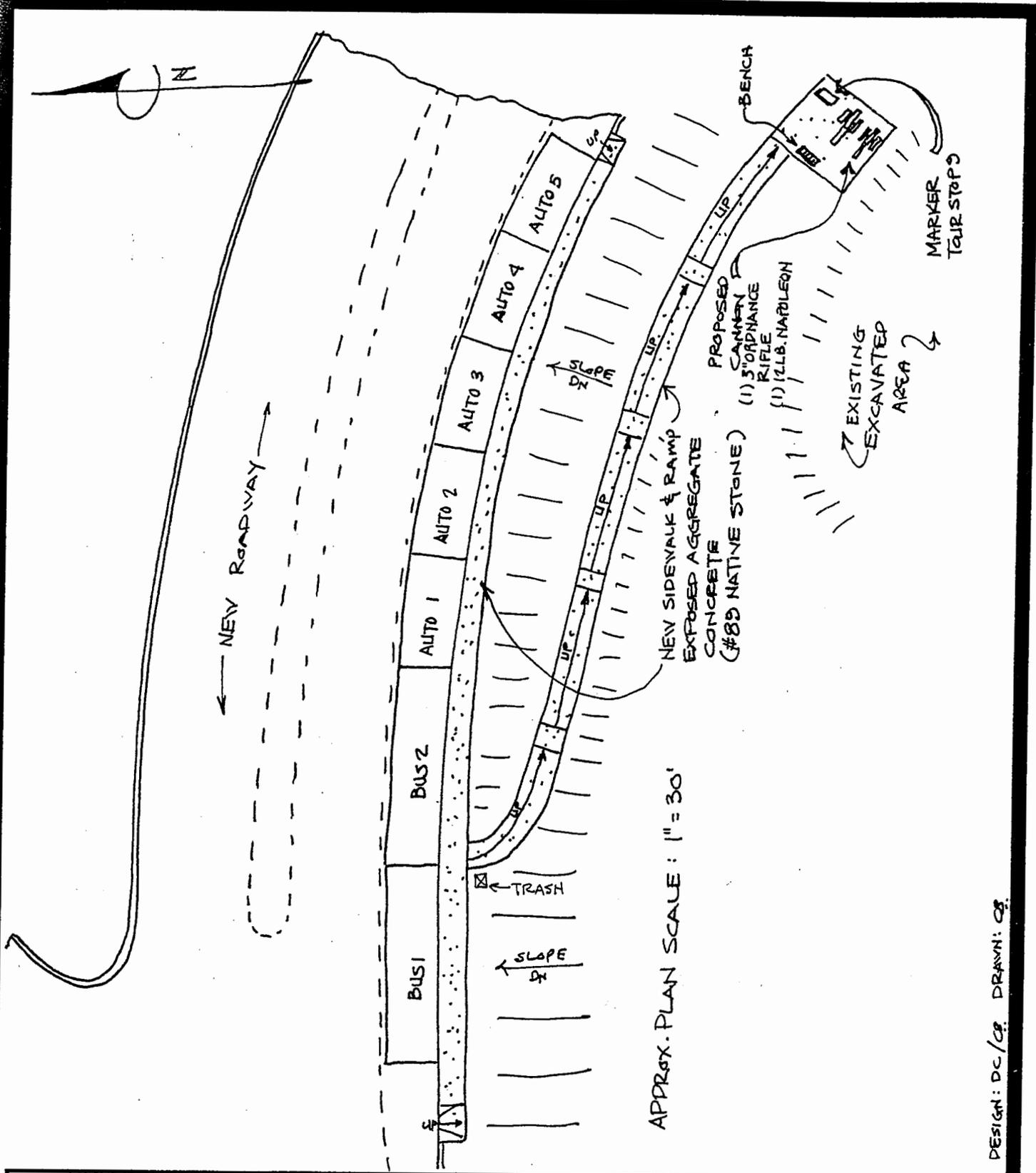
Parking at Rippavilla is already established. A walking tour was initially planned for this tour stop, but because of land access issues, the four interpretive markers will instead be placed north of Rippavilla, in locations where they will not be particularly intrusive. The markers will be placed on the periphery of pedestrian walks recently installed at Rippavilla.

#### **Confederate Movements After Sunset November 29, 1864**

In the post sunset darkness, Confederate plans began to quickly fall apart. Hood appeared to be confident that Forrest held the pike north of Spring Hill, and thus was not unduly concerned with cutting the pike south of town. Hood's orders indicate an unfamiliarity with the terrain. To add to the confusion, division commanders also began to receive conflicting orders from Hood and Cheatham. While Cheatham's orders were aimed at an assault on Spring Hill to the north, Hood continued to issue orders orienting movements towards the pike to the west. Hood's men had made a long and exhausting march, they were unfamiliar with the terrain, and it was pitch dark. The tired and confused Confederate army sat down for the night, cooked supper, and went to sleep. John Bell Hood later stated that his movement on Spring Hill had been "the best move in my career as a soldier... I was thus destined to behold come to naught."

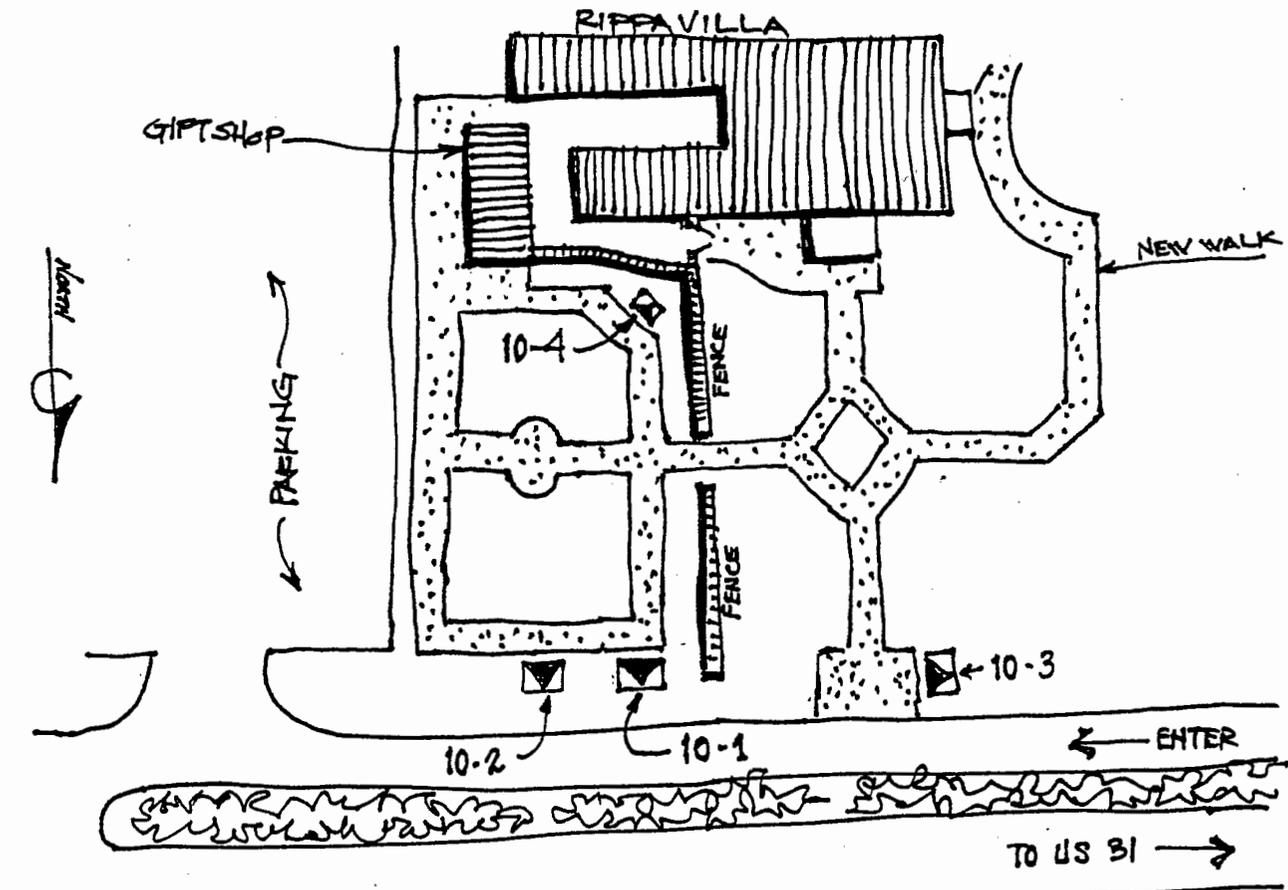
#### **Bivouac of Johnson's Division Night of November 29-30, 1864**

Along the ridge just east of this large tree, the Confederate division of Major General Edward Johnson, the only portion of Stephen D. Lee's corps present on the field, spent the night of November 29-30, 1864. They arrived at this position at 10:00 at night, and were on the extreme left of the Confederate battle line. Johnson and his soldiers were completely unfamiliar with their position. Johnson's line of pickets was sent as far ahead as the low ground only a few hundred yards away from the Columbia-Franklin Pike. At about 2:00 a.m., Cheatham ordered the division to advance and seize the Columbia-Franklin Pike, but a reconnaissance found the road empty, and Johnson was unfamiliar with the terrain and did not know the position of adjacent Confederate units. Johnson noted, "If [I] went to moving about in the dark, he would be liable to run into some of our own troops, and they would fire at each other." Accordingly, Cheatham canceled his orders, and the exhausted men went back to sleep. While they lay wrapped in their blankets, the Union army marched north, escaping Hood's trap.



TOUR STOP NINE LONG TERM  
Federal Artillery Positions





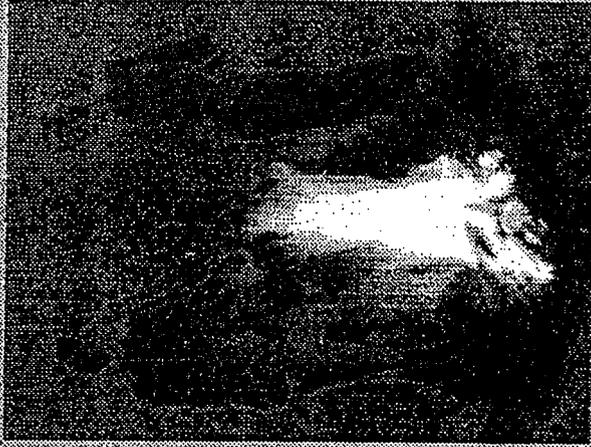
**TOUR STOP TEN**  
Rippavilla





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**Schofield's Retreat**  
**Night of November 29-30, 1864**

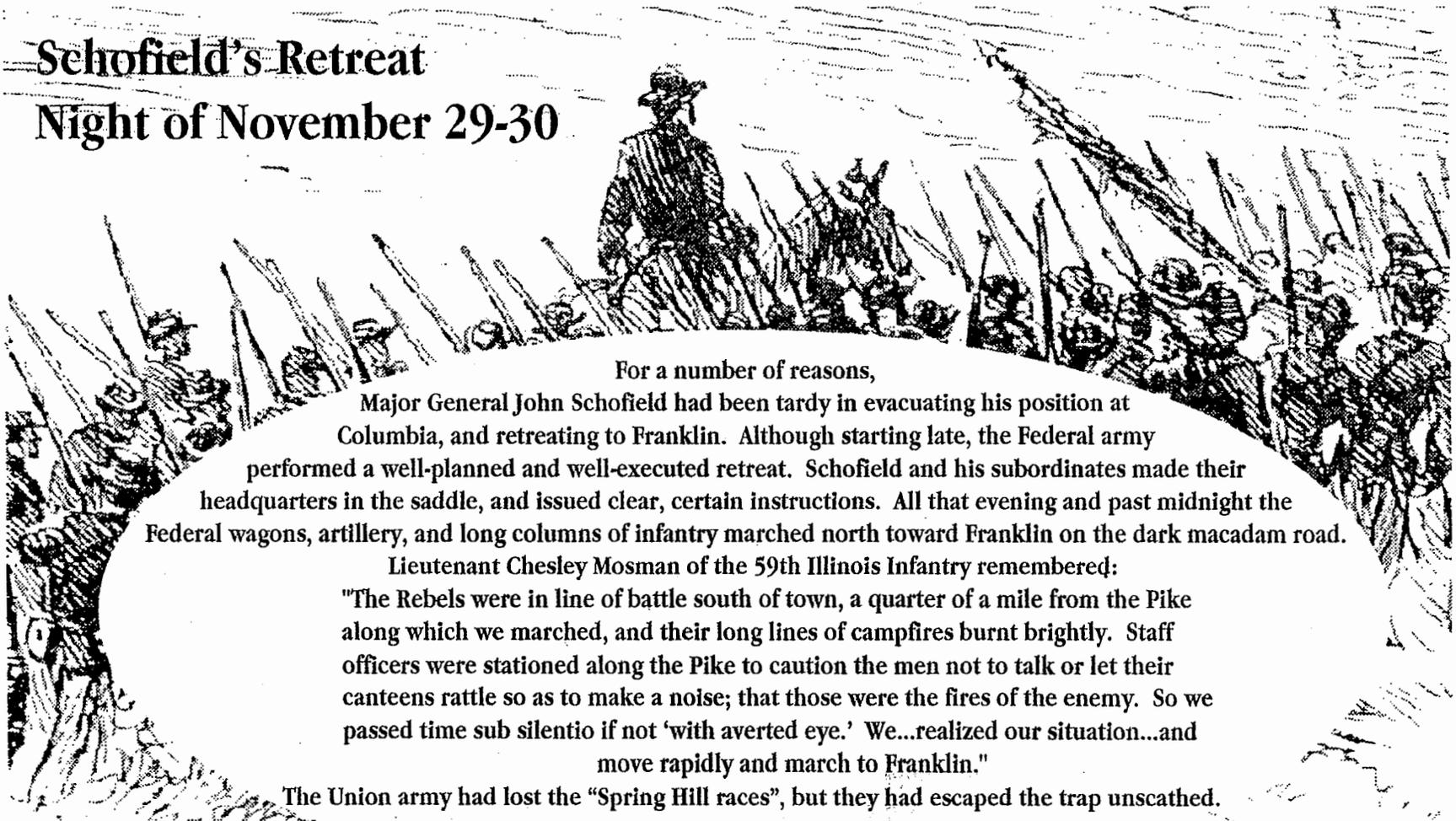
For a number of reasons, Major General John Schofield had been tardy in evacuating his position at Columbia, and retreating to Franklin. Although starting late, the Federal army performed a well-planned and well-executed retreat. Schofield and his subordinates made their headquarters in the saddle, and issued clear, certain instructions. All that evening and past midnight the Federal wagons, artillery, and long columns of infantry marched north toward Franklin on the dark macadam road. Lieutenant Chesley Mosman of the 59th Illinois Infantry remembered:

The Rebels were in line of battle south of town, a quarter of a mile from the Pike along which we marched, and their long lines of campfires burnt brightly. Staff officers were stationed along the Pike to caution the men not to talk or let their canteens rattle so as to make a noise; that those were the fires of the enemy. So we passed time sub silentio if not 'with averted eye.' We...realized our situation...and move rapidly and march to Franklin.

The Union army had lost the "Spring Hill races", but they had escaped the trap unscathed.

**"As Wrathful as a Rattlesnake"**  
**Confederate Leadership Breakfast at Rippavilla**  
**Morning, November 30, 1864**

The morning of November 30, 1863 found Schofield's army at Franklin, digging in to cover the Harpeth River crossings. John Bell Hood awoke to discover that the Union army had slipped through the trap, and he was infuriated. A Confederate staff officer wrote that "He is as wrathful as a rattlesnake this morning, striking at everything." In a morning breakfast at the Nathaniel Cheairs home (Rippavilla), Hood lashed out angrily at his commanders, heaping abuse upon them and condemning their failures in unmistakable and probably profane language. Late that afternoon, a still livid Hood ordered a poorly planned, recklessly considered, near suicidal frontal assault on the Union army at Franklin. By ten o'clock that night, the Confederate Army of Tennessee no longer existed as a cohesive, viable fighting force. The roots of that destruction reached directly to the engagement and military operations that had occurred on November 29th and the early morning hours of November 30th at Spring Hill.



## Schofield's Retreat

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## “As Wrathful as a Rattlesnake” Confederate Leadership Breakfast at Rippavilla Morning, November 30, 1864

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### 3.0 Interpretation and Management Recommendations

#### 3.1 Short Term Plan

##### **Battlefield Management and Administration**

At present, the Spring Hill battlefield consists of only two parcels of land. Twenty acres of Tax Parcel 42-11, consisting of Rippavilla and surrounding land, is administered by Maury County. Tax Parcel 28-13.01, consisting of 110 acres, is owned by the APCWS. These two organizations presently work closely together, and they have an effective and efficient working relationship.<sup>4</sup> With only two parcels of land, this informal management arrangement is adequate. However, as additional parcels of land are acquired, and as interpretive markers are erected along with support facilities such as parking areas, route markers, kiosks, etc., some formal management of the battlefield must be established.

It is White Star Consulting's recommendation that representatives of interested parties be appointed to a management committee for the battlefield. This management committee should be incorporated as a not-for-profit, educational organization in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations 501 (C) (3). Recommended parties include:

- Maury County
- Town of Spring Hill
- Tennessee Wars Commission
- Spring Hill Battlefield Preservation Association
- Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites.

Establishment of this committee as a not-for-profit, charitable organization would permit it to accept "tax deductible" contributions and donations, both monetary and land.<sup>5</sup>

This committee must continue to develop and enhance the Spring Hill Battlefield, and be responsible for the maintenance and continuous operation of battlefield's facilities. It must be stressed that this committee is not ceremonial or honorary, but is rather a working, result oriented organization.

##### **Land Management**

As of this date, the APCWS has informally permitted an agricultural lease established by the former owner of the property, Mr. Jack Weaver, to continue. The APCWS should formalize, and continue, this agricultural lease for the land management of the 110 acres of the battlefield that this association owns. This lease is similar to arrangements used by the National Park Service for a number of battlefields, and identical to those used by the APCWS for other battlefields. The lease holder currently uses no-till farming techniques, which should be encouraged to continue.

One recommendation in conjunction with this lease is that the farmer should be encouraged to grow corn on as continuous a basis as crop rotation and good soil management would permit. The reason for this is to maintain the historic integrity of these fields. On November 29, 1864, Frank Stovall Roberts, Second Georgia Sharpshooter Battalion in Gist's Brigade of Brown's Division, wrote:

We halted in a cornfield, the corn not having been gathered. It was of the 'gourd seed' variety, and was very mealy and sweet.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Alton Kelley, Executive Director of the Maury County Convention and Visitors Bureau, is on the Board of Trustees of the APCWS.

<sup>5</sup> This would make donations of land much more likely. Refer to The Countryside Institute, *The Countryside Exchange, The Spring Hill Report* (Washington, DC: The Countryside Institute, Fall 1995), p. 30. Hereinafter cited as The Countryside Institute, *Countryside Exchange*.

Gourd Seed Corn is an open pollinated variety of corn, which is today considered to be a heritage or heirloom variety typically grown only at living history farms and other similar historic sites. The biggest difference in appearance is that the ears of Gourd Seed Corn are much larger than modern hybrid varieties. Since we can validate the growth of corn on the battlefield, this crop should be grown when possible.<sup>7</sup> If arrangements can be made with the farmer, a crop of gourd seed corn, or even an acre or two, would make a particularly excellent interpretive tool. Gourd Seed Corn is still a viable forage crop for domestic animals, and the seed can also be sold to living history farms and heirloom seed retailers.

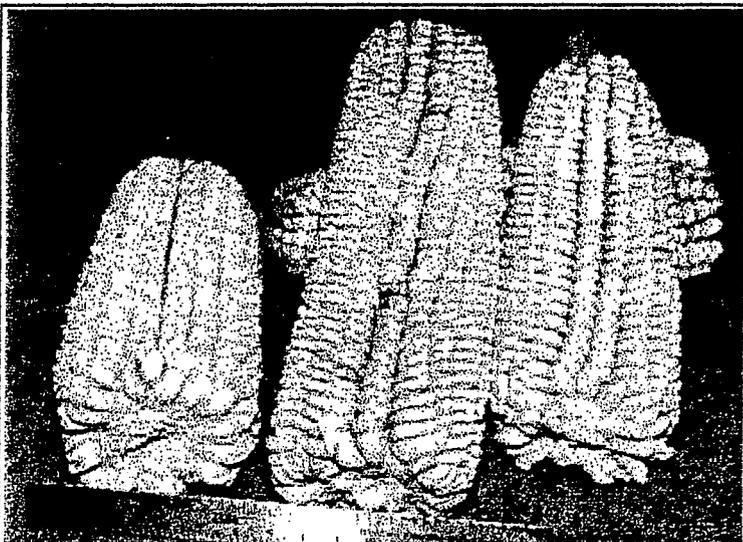


Figure 48  
Gourd Seed Corn

Additionally, since the APCWS now owns this land, there is no possibility that it would be used for its zoning purposes of B-3, Intermediate Business; and R-2, Residential (Medium Density). Therefore, we recommend that the APCWS, as land-owners, file for this property to be re-zoned AG, Agricultural. It is possible that this re-zoning action could serve as a catalyst to initiate other re-zoning actions recommended by The Countryside Institute in their report.<sup>8</sup>

#### Routine Maintenance

As with any facility in a rural or urban area, routine maintenance must be planned for at all tour sites. The following routine maintenance activities can be anticipated:

- Emptying of trash cans at Tour Stops One, Four, Seven (to be performed by town of Spring Hill);
- Routine inspection of interpretive signs, tour route markers, walking paths, benches, trash cans, parking areas, tour stops;
- Spot painting of benches, signs, reproduction cannon at all tour stops and along tour route;
- raking leaves, cleaning up trash and vegetation debris, removing graffiti, etc. at all tour stops and along greenway;
- Mowing grass at parking areas established with hollow concrete blocks
- If reproduction cannon are emplaced at Tour Stop Nine as this plan recommends, they must be painted on an annual basis. Painting should be done in Spring, to present the best appearance during the period of peak visitation.

<sup>6</sup> Frank Stovall Roberts, "Spring Hill-Franklin-Nashville" *Confederate Veteran* 1919, p. 58. Gourd Seed Corn, although popular and widely grown through the 1840s and early 1850s, had been generally superseded by other strains of corn by the 1860s. It is possible that Roberts commented on the Gourd Seed Corn because it was no longer normally seen.

<sup>7</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Milton Barnes of the 97th Ohio Infantry, Lane's brigade, would also record, "...we charged rapidly down upon them, through cornfields, over fences, and across the ravine..." *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Volume 45, Part One, pp. 264-265.

<sup>8</sup> The Countryside Institute, *Countryside Exchange*, pp. 20-25.

As would be discussed in Section 3.1.1, partners or sponsors can be established for some tour stops and the greenway. For tour stops that do not have such an arrangement, Maury County and the town of Spring Hill are going to have to cooperate to insure that these activities are performed. Inspections should be performed on a monthly basis, and clean-up and maintenance should be performed on a quarterly basis, or before a special event.

### **Living Histories, Reenactments, and Public Education**

A national reenactment was held at Spring Hill, in the vicinity of Rippavilla and Oaklawn, late October 1995. This reenactment was quite successful, made a large number of Civil War enthusiasts aware of the significance and integrity of Spring Hill, and raised money for battlefield preservation and interpretation.

Based upon this success, living histories and reenactments should become a regular part of the interpretation of the Spring Hill battlefield. This recommendation is already in the process of implementation, as another regional reenactment is scheduled for the Fall of 1997, and a small living history was held on the APCWS property in late November, 1996.

One concern, however, is that the quality of appearance and interpretation of living historians and reenactors vary widely. Every effort should be made to insure that living historians who present interpretive and educational programs at the battlefield comply to the highest possible standards of authenticity and knowledge. Coordination with the National Park Service at such nearby Civil War sites as Stone's River and Chickamauga and Chattanooga should be performed, to insure that their standards are adhered to: Interpretation and educational activities should be closely monitored, and carefully planned and prepared, to insure that high standards are being maintained.

The Countryside Institute has recommended that:

Community support for battlefield preservation could be developed through displays, school programs, battle reenactments, and volunteer work. Initiate or expand local history programs in schools to include field work at the site... Provide displays and information materials at the Spring Hill battlefield reenactment.... Present all the evidence to the community in an exhibition displayed at the reenactment, City Hall, and Rippavilla.<sup>9</sup>

In conjunction with the Fall, 1997 reenactment at Spring Hill, such a display should be organized. White Star Consulting is in the process of relocating to the Columbia, Tennessee area, sometime during the Spring of 1997. As our first contribution to the community, White Star Consulting would volunteer our services on a *pro bona* basis to design, fabricate, and install this display. Following the reenactment, this display can initially be moved to the Spring Hill Library, then to Rippavilla, and could then serve as a traveling display to schools and other local historic sites.

Coordination should be made with Spring Hill elementary teachers, and high school history teachers, to arrange for interpretive programs on soldier life in the Civil War, and the Engagement of Spring Hill, November 29, 1864. For these programs to prove effective, they must be presented in conjunction with regular history courses on the American Civil War. Again, White Star Consulting would volunteer to assist with such programs. Principals should be encouraged to plan field trips to the Spring Hill battlefield, utilizing the driving tour brochure, and interpretive markers once installed.

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<sup>9</sup> The Countryside Institute, *Countryside Exchange*, p. 31.

Similar programs should be presented to Maury County civil groups such as Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Lions Clubs, Historic Societies, etc. Again, White Star would assist with these programs once their move to Maury County is executed. The Spring Hill Battlefield Protection Association should also be asked to assist with this educational process.

### **Security**

Because a number of the suggested interpretive stops and signs are located in relatively rural areas, they are vulnerable to vandalism and damage. The recommended interpretive marker configurations were chosen because they are relatively resistant to painting and graffiti, carvings with knives or other sharp objects, writing with pens, pencils and other markers, etc. Because of the concrete footers, it is unlikely that the interpretive markers could be readily removed from the ground and stolen. The parking areas, stone memorial at the library, and limestone kiosk recommended for Tour Stop Seven should be relatively durable.

However, the trash cans at several of the interpretive stops can be easily vandalized, and there is little that can be done to prevent damage from firearms, automobiles, and other similar deliberate acts. Accordingly, we recommend that the Spring Hill Police Department be provided with a map with the locations of these markers and interpretive stops, so that routine law enforcement patrols can provide some level of protection. All of the markers are located within the Spring Hill town limits, and these stops can be easily incorporated into existing patrol routes with no financial impact.

The two artillery pieces recommended for Tour Stop Nine should be considered to be high value items, and actions must be taken to permanently secure them to the ground to prohibit theft. Large concrete platforms should be installed under each wheel, approximately two cubic feet in size. Two hardened steel bolts should be incorporated into these concrete platforms, and a large nut and locking device should be welded through each wheel to secure them. A third platform should be located at the end of the trail. A large, hardened steel bolt should be anchored to the concrete, and a large nut and locking device should be welded through the end of each cannon's trail.

#### **3.1.1 Interpretation Partners**

The following organizations have been identified as possible partners for interpretation at the Spring Hill battlefield. We would recommend that organizations be urged to "adopt" a tour stop to provide initial funding, and to assist with routine and periodic maintenance at the tour stop. This would serve to involve members of the community in battlefield interpretation, and would also reduce maintenance costs for the tour once established.

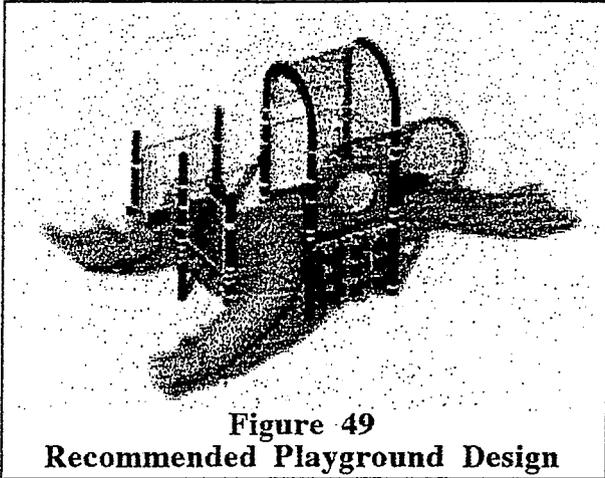
- Tennessee Childrens Home- Assist with funding for Tour Stop Six, "adopt" tour stop.
- Town of Spring Hill or civic organization of Spring Hill- Assist with funding for Tour Stop Seven, and "adopt" tour stop.
- United Auto Workers, Saturn Plant - Assist with funding for Tour Stop Nine, and "adopt" tour stop.
- Spring Hill Library- Assist with funding for Tour Stop Eight, and "adopt" tour stop.
- Boy and Girl Scouts- Assist with establishment of Greenways, "adopt" greenways.

### 3.1.2 Maury County's Spring Hill Recreational Park

Maury County has made a proposal to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites to reimburse the APCWS for outstanding financial obligations remaining on the 110 acres of property purchased at Spring Hill, with the understanding that Maury County would be permitted to establish a small, low impact recreational park north of McCutcheon Creek, and south of Kedron Road. This portion of the 110 acres does not constitute core battlefield, as the combat action occurred almost exclusively north of McCutcheon Creek in this vicinity. To assist in the evaluation of the feasibility of this proposed recreational park, White Star Consulting visited Wouldiam Springs Park, a similar Maury County recreational facility located near Mount Pleasant, Tennessee. This park was purported to be similar in design and appearance to the one proposed for Spring Hill.

Following a careful analysis of this proposal, White Star Consulting believes that this park is a viable option, which could be established without adversely impacting the historic integrity of the battlefield. However, in order to insure that the integrity of the site is not compromised, a number of mitigations should be adhered to. Any land use arrangements or property transfers should contain these mitigations as a restriction on the title and land use. These mitigations are:

- All signage should be low profile, manufactured of wood or natural limestone, and painted in an earth tone or natural color
- All structures should be manufactured of wood, in an architectural style compatible with rural vernacular or agricultural structures of middle Tennessee, and painted in an earth tone or natural color
- All roofs should be brown in color, and be made of wood or asphalt shingles (no tin or metal roofs should be permitted, as these would not have been utilized in the middle of the Nineteenth Century)
- Any concrete should be a rough aggregate or naturally colored (e.g. brown) finish (smooth and/or lightly colored concrete is too visible, and would impact the historic integrity of the adjacent battlefield)
- All garbage/trash containers, picnic benches, grills, and other furnishings should be wooden construction wherever feasible (i.e. grills would have to be metal), painted in an earth tone or natural color, concrete substitutes as previously discussed would also be acceptable
- Any playground constructed for children should be constructed of a primarily wooden structure, and stationary or fixed components should be painted in a natural or earth toned color; moving or revolving components such as swings, etc. should be left in exposed aluminum, metal and/or plastic, or painted in a silver, white, or similar color for safety purposes (extremely high visibility colors such as fluorescents, oranges, etc should not be used). A representative playground utilizing such design features is illustrated below:



**Figure 49**  
**Recommended Playground Design**

This particular playground is a "PipeLine 9621" manufactured by:

Columbia Cascade  
1975 Southwest Fifth Avenue  
Portland Oregon 97201-5293  
(503) 223-1157  
Fax (503) 223-4530.

However, a large number of playground manufacturers produce similar products.

- All exposed aluminum, metal or plastic must be painted in a natural or earth toned color (e.g. back stop for a baseball field, bleachers, player's benches); except where such a color would constitute a

safety hazard, or interfere with the playing of the game (e.g. fence around baseball field, soccer goal), in which case they should be left in exposed aluminum, metal and/or plastic, or painted in a silver, white, or similar color (extremely high visibility colors such as fluorescents, oranges, etc should not be used)

- Vehicular access should be through the subdivision to the west, utilizing Hesta Street; and roads should be constructed of a green or green-black colored asphalt (similar to that used in national parks or parkways)

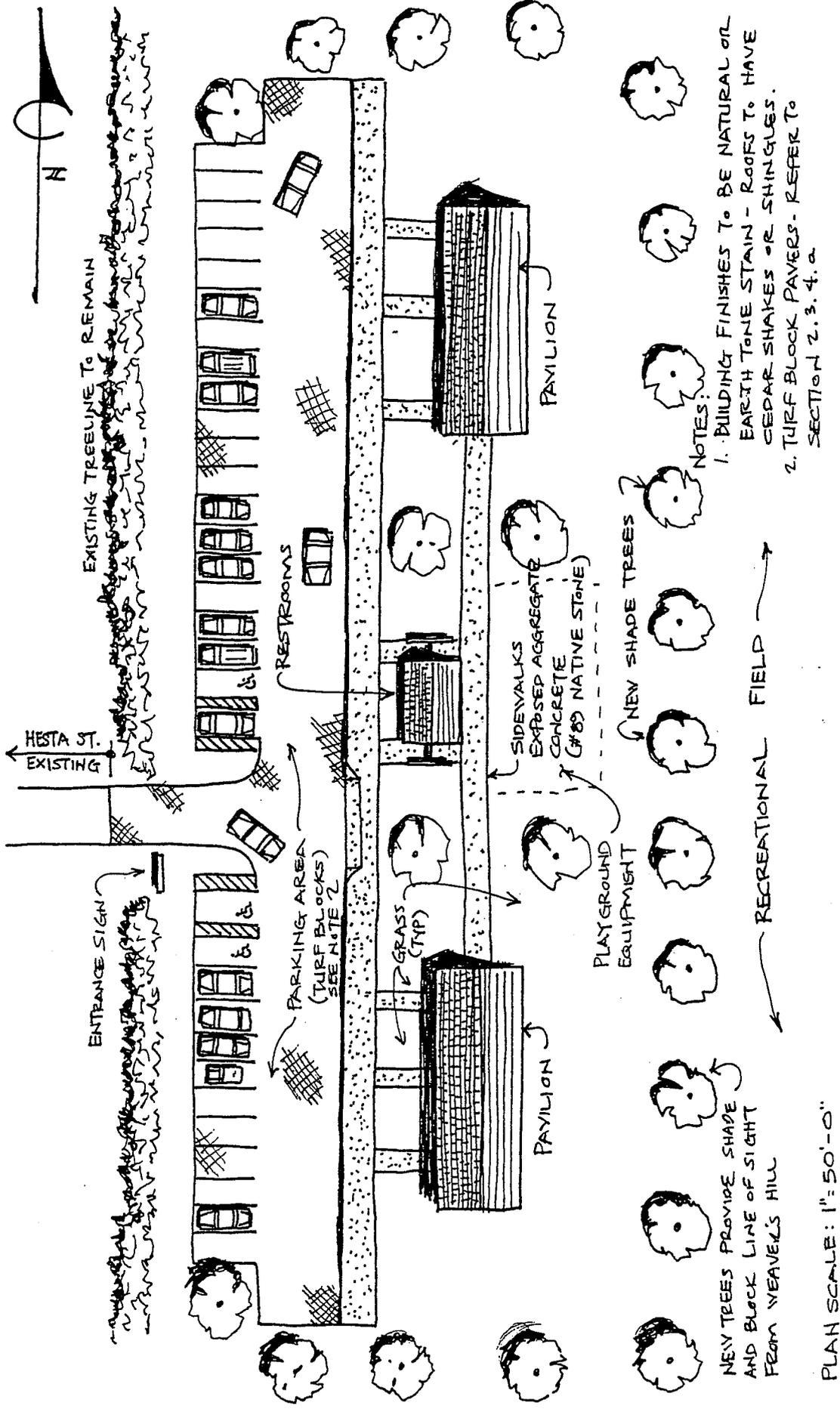
- Parking area(s) should be constructed of concrete paving blocks, should be located parallel and immediately adjacent to the current woodline (gravel is too visible, and would impact the historic integrity of the adjacent battlefield); a vegetation screen should be planted east and south of the parking area once constructed; parking area should be located as far west and south as possible (moving to the south would place facilities in the lee of the hill). The vegetation screen should use plants and trees which are identical to immediately adjacent wood lots.

- Any excavation greater than 12" would require a phase II archaeological survey to be performed by a professionally qualified historic archaeologist with experience in Civil War sites

- The APCWS, or its designated representative, must be offered an opportunity to review and approve the design, materials, colors, and location of all park facilities

- No land uses except for agricultural or recreational should be permitted on the land.

A sketch depicting a conceptual design of this park is provided. With these legally binding mitigations measures implemented, White Star Consulting recommends that the APCWS permit Maury County to develop this recreational facility.



Weaver Farm County Recreational Park  
 Conceptual Sketch



### 3.1.3 Land Acquisition Priorities

Significant progress has been made at the Spring Hill battlefield since the preparation of the *Preservation Action Plan* in 1995. The APCWS has purchased 110 acres of the core battlefield, and the Saturn Corporation has permitted the use of Rippavilla and 20 acres of land east of Highway 31. The Saturn Corporation should be commended for making this contribution to the preservation and interpretation of the Spring Hill battlefield. With these actions, approximately 12% of the core battlefield is effectively preserved. However, land acquisition and land preservation actions must be continued to insure the preservation and protection of, at a minimum, the 1,477 acres of the core battlefield.<sup>10</sup>

The highest, and most significant, priority must be the acquisition of the 237 acres of tax parcel 28-16, belonging to Mr. Ira Adams, a Brentwood, Tennessee developer. This parcel of land represents the remainder of the core battlefield where significant combat action occurred. **Preservation of this parcel is INTEGRAL to the permanent protection and interpretation of the Spring Hill battlefield.** Given the property value of the Weaver property purchased by the APCWS (\$8,000 an acre in 1995-6), and recognizing that the Adams property is immediately adjacent to the more heavily traveled Highway 31 and across from the Town Center development, the land values would probably be greater for the Adams property. Land acquisition costs for this property should be anticipated to range from \$2,350,000 (\$10,000 per acre) to \$2,850,000 (\$12,000 per acre). As The Countryside Institute has mentioned, a number of agencies could be approached to facilitate this acquisition:

- The Tennessee Conservation League (615-252-1133)
- The Tennessee Trails Association (615-842-8043)
- The Land Trust Alliance (202-638-4725).<sup>11</sup>

White Star Consulting also recommends coordination with the following similarly minded organizations:

- American Farmland Trust  
1920 North Street, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington DC 20036  
(202) 659-5170
- The Conservation Fund  
Civil War Battlefields Campaign  
1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120  
Arlington, VA 22209  
(703) 525-6300.

The APCWS and the Civil War Trust, who both participated in the purchase of the Weaver Farm in 1996, could also be expected to make future contributions to land acquisition efforts at the battlefield.

**We do NOT recommend that a preservation organization make direct overtures to the property owner,** as we have received indications that he may not be supportive of land preservation or historic purposes. Therefore, negotiations should be handled by a third party, attorney, or a similar less obvious method.

<sup>10</sup> Land ownership information is contained in White Star Consulting, *Preservation Action Plan for the Spring Hill Battlefield*, Annex A. Land ownership verified by White Star Consulting, October, 1996 at Tax Assessors Office, Maury County, Columbia, Tennessee.

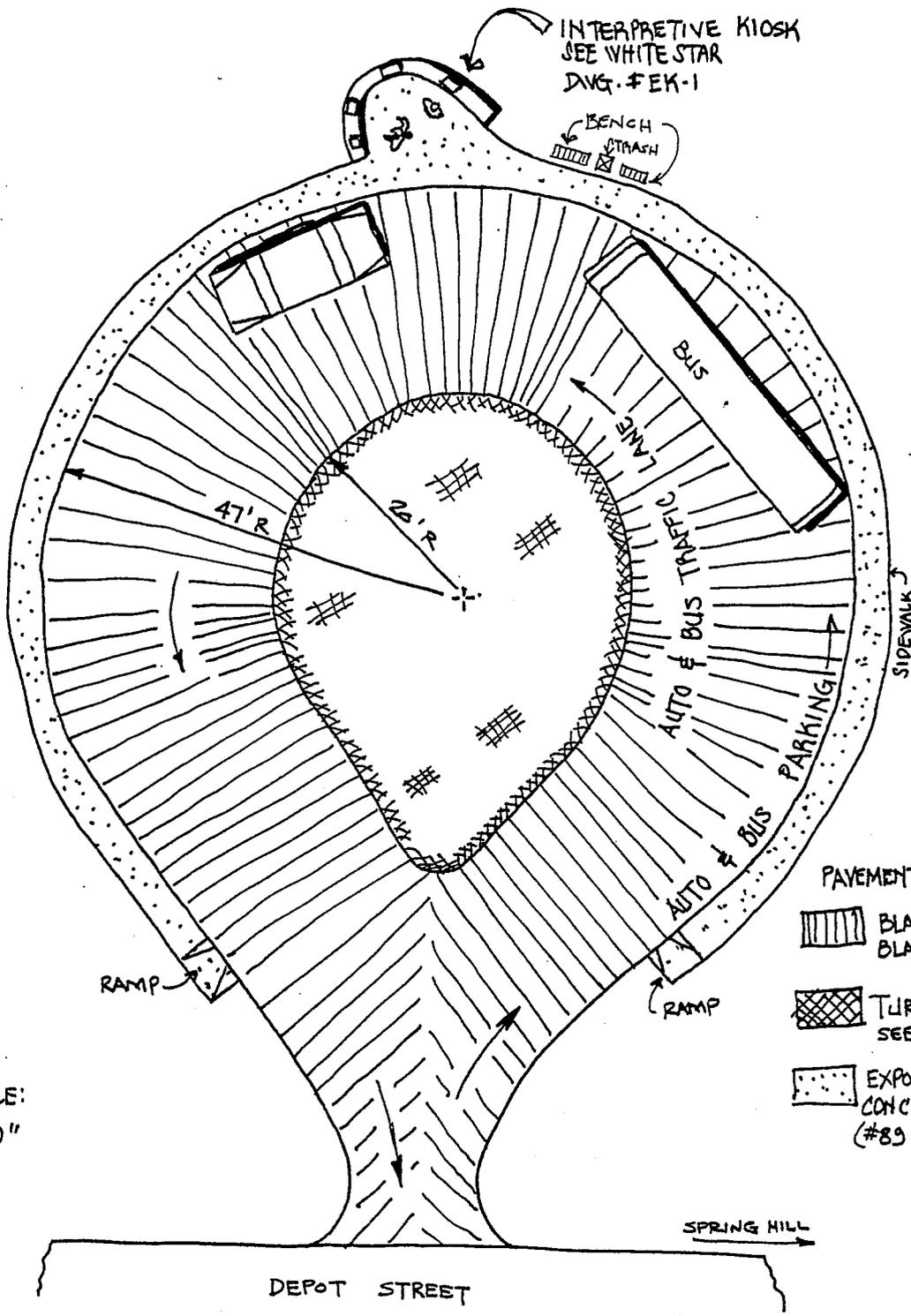
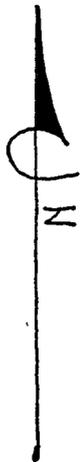
<sup>11</sup> The Countryside Institute, *Countryside Exchange*, p. 31.

Additionally, as of October, 1996, Mr. Marvin Parker had his 237 acres of farmland, and Oaklawn, advertised for sale. Mr. Parker has been a strong proponent of battlefield preservation and interpretation, and is a great friend of the Spring Hill battlefield. White Star Consulting recommends that a Conservation Easement be entered into with Mr. Parker, to provide permanent protection for this land should it be purchased in the near future.

To permit implementation of the driving tour, some land acquisition must also take place. For the short term plan, this would be relatively limited. Specifically, only Tour Stop Seven (Interpretive Kiosk) and Tour Stop Nine (Federal Artillery Position) would require land arrangements. As previously discussed, Tour Stop Nine can be acquired simply through a permanent land use arrangement with Town Center, for only approximately 1/10 of an acre of land would be required (100 yards by 5 yards to insure visibility).

Tour Stop Seven, by the Railroad Depot, has four interpretive themes which should be presented to the visitors (Ewell Farm, Nashville and Decatur Railroad, Opdycke's Brigade Line, and the Wagon and Artillery Park). However, there is currently no location available for this tour stop. A number of alternatives are available. Discussions could be held with three local property owners to review the feasibility of purchasing approximately one acre for a kiosk and parking area. Thomas J. and Ada S. McMeen of Nashville own 5.2 acres as tax plot 25-4.0, this being the extreme southern portion of a 225 acre farm. It is conceivable that they might be convinced to part with one acre of their farm. As an alternative, Ms. Alice P. Campbell of Spring Hill owns 9.1 acres of the adjacent tax plot 25-5.0. Both of these tax plots offer access from Depot Street, excellent visibility of the Ewell Farm, Railroad, and Opdycke's Brigade Position, and are located in the area of the Wagon and Artillery Park. The tour stop interpretive concept presented assumes that arrangements can be made with one of these property owners.

If acquisition of one of these parcels cannot be arranged, Weller Cason Leffler of Nashville has 8.4 acres of tax parcel 25-I-A-10 for sale, approximately 1/4 mile east of the depot. The appraised value of this property is \$33,600, but given the sale price of the Weaver Farm, the purchase price may be closer to \$70,000. In addition to its interpretive value, this land is the site of the November 29, 1864 Federal Wagon and Artillery Park. However, this parcel is not as well suited for interpretation as the two sites closer to the railroad. An alternative interpretive concept for tour stop seven is provided if this alternative has to be utilized.



INTERPRETIVE KIOSK  
SEE WHITE STAR  
DVG. FEK-1

BENCH  
TRASH

47' R

26' R

BUS

BUS

AUTO & BUS TRAFFIC LANE

SIDEWALK

RAMP

RAMP

PAVEMENT LEGEND

BLACK-GREEN  
BLACKTOP

TURF BLOCK  
SEE SECTION 2.3.4.9

EXPOSED AGGREGATE  
CONCRETE  
(#89 NATIVE STONE)

PLAN SCALE:  
1" = 20'-0"

DEPOT STREET

SPRING HILL

TOUR STOP SEVEN ALTERNATIVE TWO  
Depot and Wagon Park



### 3.1.4 Rippavilla

Rippavilla, the 1850s Composite Revival Home of Nathaniel Cheairs used for a Confederate leadership breakfast on the morning on November 30, 1864, is currently in the process of being restored and opened as a visitors center by Maury County. The present interpretive plan is for the southern half of the first floor to be used for weddings, receptions, and other revenue generating events. The northern half of the first floor is to be restored to the general appearance of the house in November, 1864. The southern half of the second floor is to be restored as historic bedrooms. The northern half of the second floor is to be utilized to interpret the appearance of Union and Confederate armies at Spring Hill throughout the Civil War. The extreme northeastern room currently has no interpretation planned for it. The original carriage house has been renovated as a Gift Shop, which opened in October, 1996 to the public. The eastern extension to the house, originally used as servant's quarters, kitchen, and for domestic purposes, would be employed as administrative offices, catering and kitchen facilities for revenue generating events, and public restrooms.

This differs somewhat from the concept initially presented in our *Preservation Action Plan for the Spring Hill, Tennessee Battlefield*:

The building...can provide sufficient exhibit space to interpret three major themes—the appearance of the home as it appeared to General Hood and his officers on the morning of November 30, 1864, the overall Middle Tennessee Campaign, and the specific military operations that occurred at Spring Hill on November 29-30, 1864.<sup>12</sup>

Our concern with the revised interpretive concept for Rippavilla is that only one of our recommended interpretive themes has been carried through (the appearance of the home as it appeared to General Hood and his officers), and that much of the house has been restored to an "old house" theme. Adoption of this interpretive theme appears somewhat redundant to numerous other historic homes in the immediate area which are restored to a particular "old house" historic period. A hastily gathered short list of similar historic homes which are open on a permanent basis, within a fifty mile radius, include:

- Rattle and Snap, Mount Pleasant
- James K. Polk House, Columbia
- the Athenaeum, Columbia
- the Carter House, Franklin
- the Lotz House, Franklin
- Travellers Rest, Nashville
- the Hermitage, Nashville
- the Sam Davis Home, Smyrna
- Belle Meade, Nashville
- Oaklands Historic House Museum, Murfreesboro
- Belmont Mansion, Nashville
- Carnton Plantation, Franklin.<sup>13</sup>

Thus, it should be apparent that devoting nearly half of the interpretive space of Rippavilla to this theme would duplicate the efforts, and marketing, of a large number of other nearby sites.

Therefore, White Star Consulting recommends that the two southern bedrooms in Rippavilla not be furnished as historic bedrooms, but should rather be utilized for the

<sup>12</sup> White Star Consulting, *Preservation Action Plan for Spring Hill Battlefield*, p. 28.

<sup>13</sup> It must be noted that this list does not include the plethora of homes open on a temporary or special event basis, such as Oak Lawn at Spring Hill.

purpose of interpreting the battle of Spring Hill, and Hood's Middle Tennessee Campaign. Additionally, we recommend that the extreme northeastern room be used to interpret the history of the entire Civil War in middle Tennessee. The use of the first floor, the carriage house, the eastern annex to the house, and the northern bedrooms of the second floor should be retained as planned.

There are no other museums in the area which provide an introduction, interpretation, discussion, or explanation of Hood's Middle Tennessee Campaign, and there is certainly no other site that does the same for the engagements that occurred around Spring Hill on November 29, 1864. Additionally, there is no other museum or historic site that discusses the story of the entire Civil War in middle Tennessee.<sup>14</sup>

As noted in The Countryside Institute's report:

Visitor experience goals should include:

- receiving comprehensive orientation and information before and during visits to region;
- understanding the significance of the region and how different sites are associated.<sup>15</sup>

Installing this recommended change in interpretation can insure that these objectives are fulfilled.

We believe that implementing this interpretive concept would greatly enhance the visitor's experience at the Spring Hill battlefield, by providing tourists, schools, and community groups with a detailed explanation of what happened at Spring Hill, and why, before they embark upon a tour of the field. Additionally, this would provide Rippavilla and Maury County with a unique museum, rather than competing with a large number of similar sites already in middle Tennessee. Such a distinctive museum could prove to be a significant asset as various efforts to create new and enhance existing Tennessee Civil War and historic driving tours are realized.

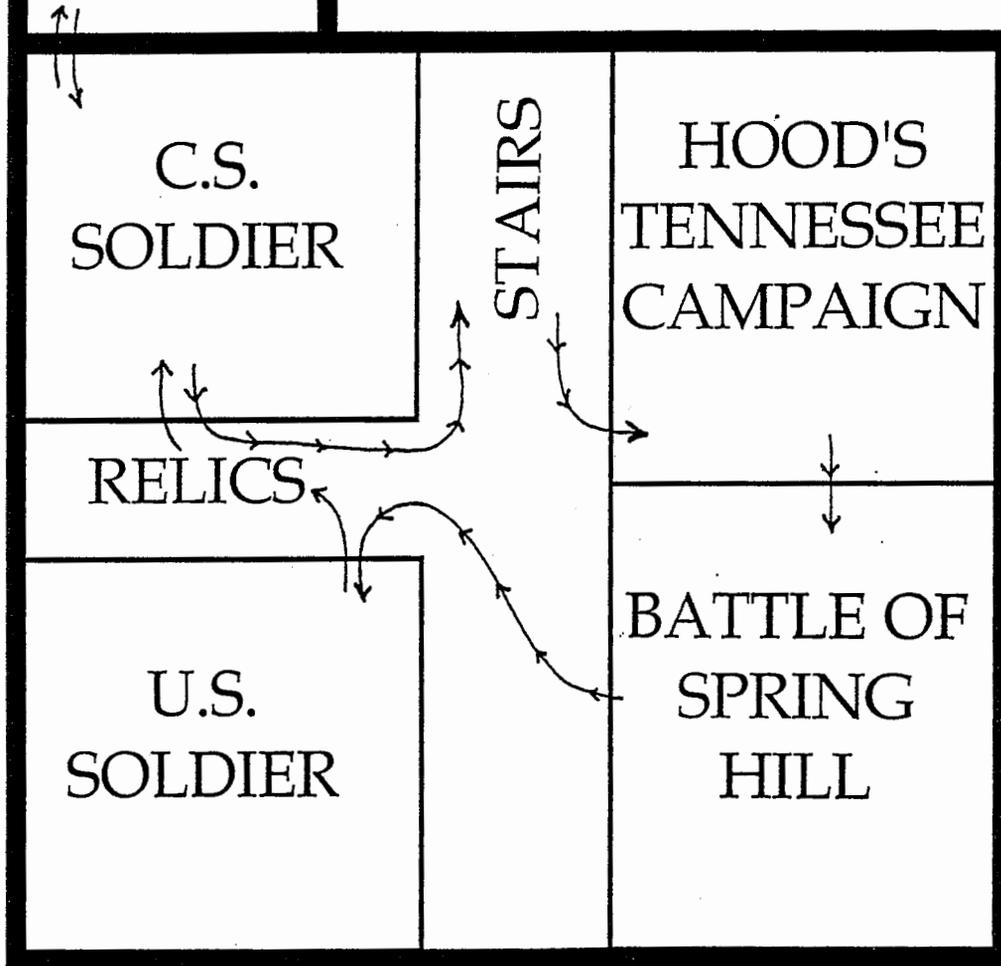
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<sup>14</sup> It should be discussed here that the Carter House and Carnton in Franklin are devoted to the Battle of Franklin; and that Stone's River National Battlefield Park is exclusively focused on military operations in Rutherford County, and around Murfreesboro in particular.

<sup>15</sup> The Countryside Institute, *Countryside Exchange*, pp. 33-34.

CIVIL  
WAR  
IN  
MIDDLE  
TENN.

◀North  
PLAN NOT TO SCALE



Flow Diagram  
Rippavilla Second Floor



### 3.1.5 Greenways

As recommended by The Countryside Institute, "The various interpretive facilities could be linked by hiking trails, bikeways, and driving tours that also take in the other historic areas in Spring Hill and Maury County."<sup>16</sup> It is our understanding that Maury County has recently been the recipient of a grant to begin the construction of greenways in the Spring Hill community. White Star Consulting has reviewed appropriate locations for greenways, and recommends that the battlefield be connected to the community by a trail system. This trail system should be constructed to support walkers, joggers, and bicycles. This trail system should begin at the Spring Hill Elementary School on Highway 31. The school has automobile parking and highway access available, and would provide an excellent opportunity for school children to experience a low cost, educational outing focused on both natural and cultural resources.

Greenways should be constructed out of rough aggregate finished concrete, green or green-black colored asphalt (similar to that used in national parks or parkways), concrete paving blocks, bark or wood material, or similar low visual impact materials that would not intrude upon the historic integrity of the battlefield. If the greenway is constructed to support bicycle traffic, bark or wood materials would not be acceptable.

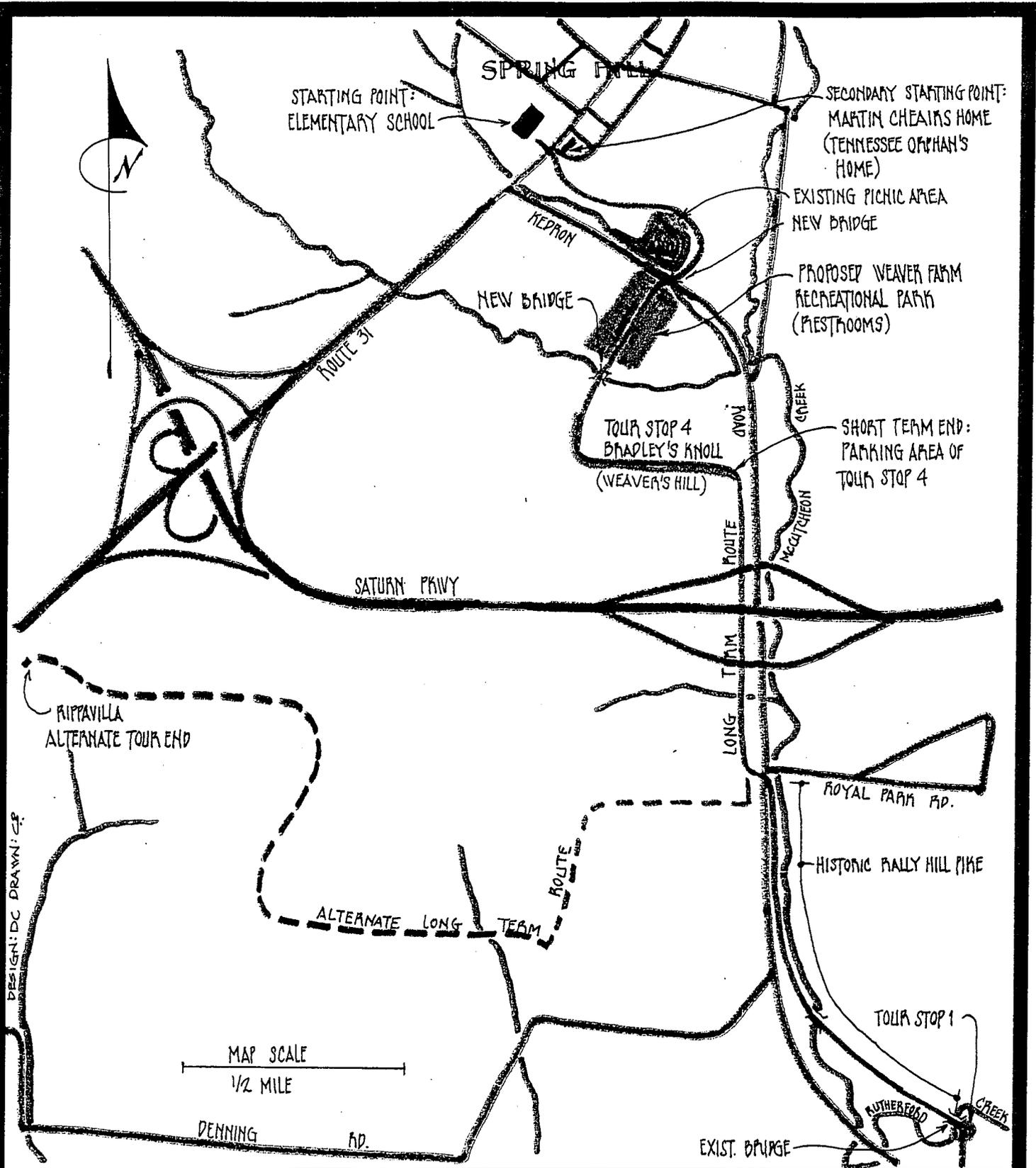
As recommended by The Countryside Institute, a branch of this greenway could proceed west into the Town Center development.<sup>17</sup> Since this would essentially take it away from the battlefield, this portion of the greenway is out of the context for this battlefield interpretation plan.

The greenway of interest to the battlefield would cross Highway 31 east of the Elementary School. To facilitate crossing of the heavily traveled Highway 31, a pedestrian walkway with a stop light activated by a pedestrian pushed button should be located immediately east of the school. Once across the Franklin-Columbia Pike, the greenway can proceed north of a branch of McCutcheon Creek, and north of Kedron Road. This would require coordination with the Tennessee Childrens Home, who legally own the land. But because this route is along a wetlands/floodplain, this area is not available for development or other uses. Discussions with the Tennessee Orphan Home should be held to include this facility in the greenway planning. A secondary starting point, at the Martin Cheairs Home for example, might be desirable. The path can run north of the pond on the Tennessee Childrens Home property, and can pass through the extant recreational facilities (pavilions) located there. A bridge across McCutcheon Creek would have to be constructed just east of the pond. This bridge must be capable of supporting both foot and bicycle traffic. Both entrances to the bridge should be constructed to prohibit vehicular access. A crossing of Kedron Road would be required, just east of the pond, and immediately north of the APCWS property. Because of the relatively light traffic on Kedron Road, a light would not be required here. However, a high visibility pedestrian crossing, with flashing warning lights and a reflective crossing zone, should be installed for safety purposes.

Several interpretive stations should be established at appropriate locations between the Elementary School and the Kedron Road crossing. The majority of these stations should be oriented to natural resource interpretation, which is beyond the scope of this battlefield interpretation plan. However, in the general vicinity where Bradley's brigade would have retreated, one historical marker (large size) should be installed.

<sup>16</sup> The Countryside Institute, *Countryside Exchange*, p. 32. Also refer to similar recommendations concerning greenways on pp. 23, 26, and 27.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 26, 32.



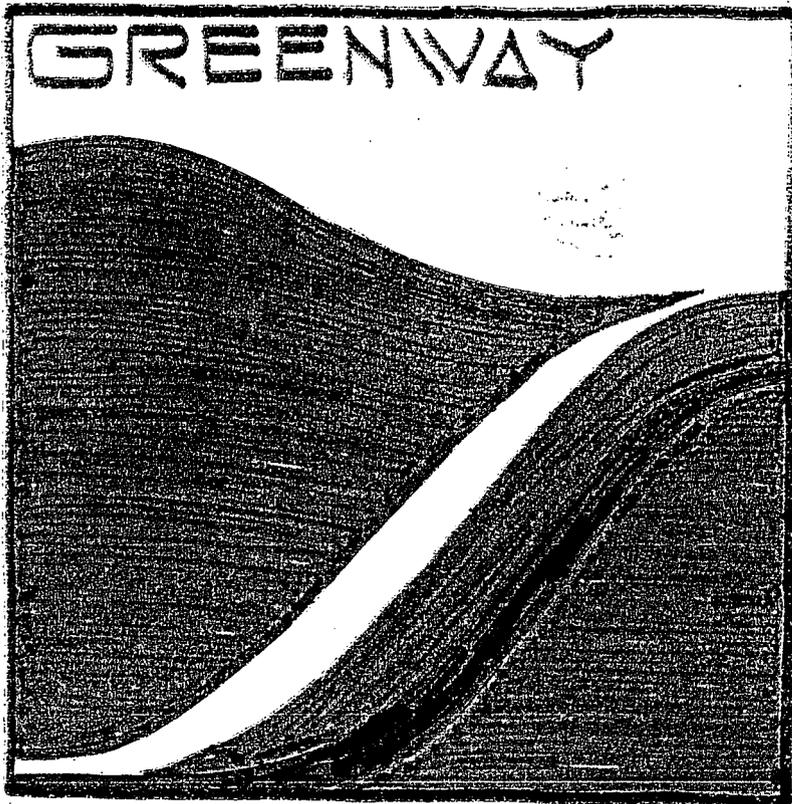
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## Bradley's retreat route

4:10 - 5:00 p.m. November 29, 1864

Following a fierce battle, General Patrick Cleburne's entire division, 11,000 men, was surrounded by Union forces. Cleburne's division was located in the general area where this marker is located. When the Union forces attacked, Cleburne's men sustained heavy casualties. Northern generals David Stanley and George Wagner rallied a brigade of men from the 1st Division of the Army of the Tennessee to attack the Confederates. The Union forces were unable to break through the Confederate lines. The Union forces were unable to break through the Confederate lines. The Union forces were unable to break through the Confederate lines.

Darkness was falling, and Cleburne was forced to retreat. The Union forces were unable to mount another attack on Bradley's retreat route to Franklin.



Suggested Logo



*White Star Consulting*

1996

After crossing Kedron Road, the greenway can enter the proposed Maury County Recreational Park, where restrooms and recreational facilities would be located. This would offer residents of Spring Hill safe and easy access to the park, without utilizing automobiles. From the park, the greenway can proceed up the hill on the APCWS property, and join the walking tour that leads from the parking lot of Tour Stop Four to Bradley's Knoll. Two simple wooden signs should be installed here, one noting "MAURY COUNTY RECREATIONAL PARK AND TOWN OF SPRING HILL" with an arrow pointing to the north, and a second noting "RETURN TO PARKING LOT AND DRIVING TOUR" "GREENWAY TO RUTHERFORD CREEK" with an arrow pointing to the east. These signs would be necessary to keep tour visitors from becoming confused. By connecting the greenway to the battlefield tour route and the recreational park, the recommendation of The Countryside Institute would be fulfilled.

The greenway can briefly follow the Tour Stop Four walking path to the parking lot. In the Short Term Plan, this is where the greenway would terminate.

### **3.2 Long Term Plan**

The Long Term Plan should provide for the continued interpretation and management of the battlefield, five years in the future or more.

At some point in the distant future, it may be desirable to formally create a Spring Hill Battlefield Park as either a Maury County or State of Tennessee institution, to hire a professionally trained superintendent and interpreters, etc. The Spring Hill Battlefield Committee recommended to be formed under the Short Term Plan can ascertain priorities of future efforts, control and plan for future growth, determine financial requirements and funding conduits, and supervise the permanent management of the cultural and natural resources that collectively comprise the battlefield. As visitation grows, and larger numbers of tour busses and similar vehicles begin to utilize the battlefield, the Spring Hill Battlefield Committee can also determine when it is necessary to begin constructing the larger interpretive and parking areas envisioned for Tour Stops One, Two, Three, and Five. The Committee can also monitor the continued growth of the Town Hill Center, so that the necessary changes to Tour Stop Nine can be made when the Town Center Parkway is opened to through traffic from the Spring Hill Town Hall vicinity to Highway 31.

#### **3.2.1 Greenways**

The initial Greenway implemented in conjunction with the Short Term Plan would end at Tour Stop Four, the parking lot for Bradley's Knoll. However, it should be highlighted that if sufficient funding is available, that the greenway described under the Long Term Plan can be completed through to Tour Stop One, the Rutherford Creek Crossing of the Rally Hill Pike.

Starting at the parking lot for Tour Stop Four, this greenway would continue on the western side of Kedron Road. Continuing south, the greenway would cross under Saturn Parkway, and continue west of the road until it was approximately opposite Royal Park Boulevard. Just south of Royal Park Boulevard, the greenway would cross Kedron Road, and would join the historic road trace of the Rally Hill Pike. Because of the relatively light traffic on Kedron Road, a light would not be required here. However, a high visibility pedestrian crossing, with flashing warning lights and a reflective crossing zone, should be installed for safety purposes. Crossings would also be necessary at the two western ramps to Saturn Parkway, and similar precautions would have to be taken. The greenway would then follow the historic road trace of the Rally Hill Pike south, first crossing McCutcheon Creek on an abandoned bridge apparently constructed in the 1930s by the WPA (but

possibly constructed previously). White Star has briefly assessed this bridge, and it appears suitable for light traffic such as pedestrians and bicycles. The greenway would then continue to the present Moore Lane near the entrance to the Spring Hill Town Water Treatment Plant, cross Rutherford Creek on the concrete Moore Lane bridge, and terminate at Tour Stop One. White Star Consulting has walked the route of this proposed greenway from Tour Stop One (Rutherford Creek) to Royal Park Boulevard. It is a beautiful and scenic route with diverse and numerous natural and cultural resources.

This greenway could be routed along the Kedron Road right-of-way to simplify land acquisition and use issues, to the crossing of Kedron Road at Royal Park Boulevard. However, if this is not feasible, arrangements would have to be made with the following land owners:

- Charles R. and Martha Wolff, Jr.
- Millard F. Mitchum, Jr.

Routing of the greenway along the historic Rally Hill Pike would require coordination with Mr. Mitchum, since the road trace is on his property.

South of Royal Park Boulevard, the Rally Hill Pike road trace is still clearly visible, but it would have to be cleared of vegetation and fallen trees. An organization like the Boy Scouts can assist in this endeavor. Once the full length path is completed, it can also provide an excellent route for scouting activities.

An alternative, or additional greenway, would continue to run south along Kedron Road, past Royal Park Boulevard. When the greenway entered the property of Mr. Marvin Parker, it would swing west past Oaklawn, and connect with the historic military road that dates to Andrew Jackson, and that connects Oaklawn with Rippavilla. This road is also extremely scenic, passes the Thompson family cemetery, and was used during the 1995 reenactment. This greenway would terminate at Rippavilla. Approval of Mr. Marvin Parker and Saturn would be required to implement this Greenway

#### 4.0 Conclusions

#### 4.1 Budget

A breakdown of anticipated costs has been prepared to facilitate funding requests and grant applications.

<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Phase of Plan</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Tour Route Markers (41 total)	\$750 per sign Total \$30,750	Short Term	Maury County
Interpretive Signs (23 total, 21 large, 2 small)	\$1,800 per sign Total \$40,000	Short Term	APCWS- \$7, 400 Maury County- \$6,000 Town of Spring Hill- \$2,000 Tennessee Childrens Home- \$2,000 UAW- \$2,000 SHBPA- \$5,000 National Park Service Grant- \$15,600

Parking Area and Turnaround at Tour Stop Five	\$31,400	Long Term	
Phase II Archaeological Surveys of Tour Stops Three, Five	\$1,000	Long Term	Maury County-\$1,000
Greenway from Tour Stop Four (Bradley's Knoll) to Tour Stop One (Rutherford Creek Crossing)	To Be Determined	Long Term	Maury County to apply for second grant as necessary

#### 4.2 Conclusions

The following sequence is recommended for interpretive efforts.

Immediate Actions (within 90 days):

- Establish Spring Hill Battlefield Committee;
- Royal Park clean up and maintain Caldwell Family Cemetery;
- Town of Spring Hill replace Stop Sign at northern end of Elm Street.

Short Term Plan (within 18 months):

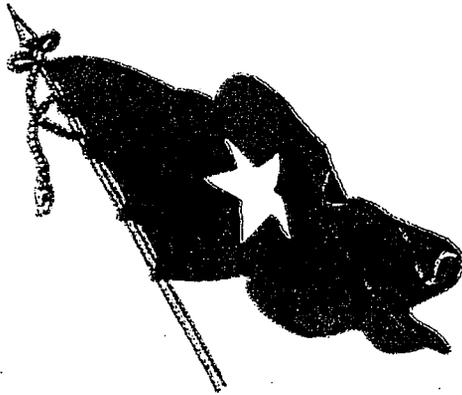
- Prepare and Install 23 Interpretive Markers and 41 Route Markers;
- Phase II Archaeology Surveys of Tour Stop Four, Seven, and Nine.
- Construct Parking Area and Walking Path at Tour Stop Four (Bradley's Knoll);
- Construct Parking Area, Turnaround, Picnic Area/Park, and Interpretive Kiosk at Tour Stop Seven;
- Construct Monument at Tour Stop Eight;
- Construct Parking, Access Ramp, Bench, Reproduction Cannon at Tour Stop Nine;
- Construct Walking Path and Bench at Tour Stop Ten;
- Land Acquisition of core battlefield west of Bradley's Knoll and Tour Stop Four;
- Land Acquisition of site for Tour Stop Seven (by Railroad in town of Spring Hill);
- Conservation Easement with Mr. Marvin Parker;
- Management Agreement with Town Center;
- Land Use Agreements (informal or formal) for Tour Stop One, Tour Stop Three;
- Revise Rippavilla Interpretive Plan;
- Construct Greenway from Spring Hill Elementary School to Tour Stop Four (Bradley's Knoll);
- APCWS request 110 acre property to be re-zoned to AG, Agricultural.

The following routine maintenance activities would be required:

- Emptying of trash cans at Tour Stops One, Four, Seven (to be performed by town of Spring Hill);
- Routine inspection of interpretive signs, tour route markers, walking paths, benches, trash cans, parking areas, tour stops;
- Spot painting of benches, signs, reproduction cannon at all tour stops and along tour route;
- Raking leaves, cleaning up trash and vegetation debris, removing graffiti, etc. at all tour stops and greenway;
- Annual painting of two reproduction cannon at Tour Stop Nine (perform in Spring).

Long Term Plan (post year 2000):

- Phase II Archaeology Survey of Tour Stops One, Two, Three, and Five;
- Construction of parking, turnaround, and other facilities at Tour Stops One, Two, Three, and Five;
- Expansion of Greenway from Tour Stop Four (Bradley's Knoll) to Tour Stop One (Rutherford Creek Crossing)
- Continuous expansion and enhancing of preservation and interpretation at battlefield
- Continuous land acquisition efforts on a "woulding seller- woulding buyer" basis.



**Detailed Interpretation Plan  
for the  
Spring Hill, Tennessee Battlefield**

**ANNEXES**

**Annex A**  
**Selected Land Ownership Information**

This annex reflects updates, changes, and new information pertaining to property ownership on the Spring Hill battlefield. This information should be used with Annex A of the *Preservation Action Plan for the Spring Hill, Tennessee Battlefield* (White Star Consulting, January 1995). All of these properties are in Maury County.

Tax Parcel List							
Tax Parcel	Owner	Acres	Estimate of Value (\$)	Historic Significance	Historic Integrity	Preservation Threat	Remarks
Map 13 Plot 13	Jack and Wanda Faye Weaver P. O. Box 127 Spring Hill, Tennessee 37174	1.56	\$13,000 (\$8,000 per acre), and value of residence	10 Core Battlefield Direct Combat	4 Modern Structures	5 Endangered In Years (Weavers intend to live in for several years)	(19) Core Battlefield Cleburne's and Chalmer's Attacks
Map 13 Plot 13.01	Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites 11 Public Square, Suite 200 Hagerstown, Maryland 21740-5510	110	None (owned by 501 (c) (3))	10 Core Battlefield Direct Combat	9 Near Pristine Wartime (Saturn Parkway and Modern Buildings Visual Intrusion)	0 Preserved	(0) Preserved Core Battlefield Cleburne's and Chalmer's Attacks
Map 13 Plot 13.02	Jack and Wanda Faye Weaver P. O. Box 127 Spring Hill, Tennessee 37174	7	\$56,000 (\$8,000 per acre)	10 Core Battlefield Direct Combat	9 Near Pristine Wartime (Saturn Parkway and Modern Buildings Visual Intrusion)	10 Immediately Endangered (For Sale Now)	(29) Core Battlefield Cleburne's and Chalmer's Attacks
Map 25 Plot 25-I-A- 10	Weller Cason Leffler 1200 Parkview Circle Nashville TN 37204	8.4	\$33,600 (\$4,000 per acre)	8 Core Battlefield Related Site	7 Near Wartime Integrity Modern Structures Nearby	10 Immediately Endangered (For Sale Now)	(25) Federal Wagon and Artillery Park Possible Location for Tour Stop Seven
Map 43 Plot 15	W. H. and Sallie Weaver P. O. Box 473 Columbia TN 38402	199	390,800 land only (\$2,000 per acre)	5 Related Battlefield	10 Near Wartime Integrity Modern Structures Nearby	10 Immediately Endangered (For Sale Now)	(25) Confederate Troop Movements Location of Tour Stop One

## **Annex B**

### **Short Term Plan Implementation**

Recognizing that sufficient funds may not be immediately available to implement the entire short term plan immediately, this annex has been prepared to provide a prioritization to execute this plan.

#### **First Actions**

##### **Complete by May, 1997**

- Coordinate with land owners for Tour Stop One, Two, Three, and Six.
- Interpretive markers at Tour Stops One through Three.
- Interpretive markers 4-2 through 4-5 at Tour Stop Four, emplaced by APCWS.
- Mow path and clear vegetation at Tour Stop Four, actions by APCWS.
- Marker at Tour Stop Five.
- Mow path, emplace four interpretive markers at Tour Stop Ten.
- Total Maury County interpretive markers initially- eight (approximately \$14,400)
- Initiate land acquisition for Tour Stop Seven.
- Initiate Management Agreement for Tour Stop Nine.
- Initiate funding efforts for kiosk construction at Tour Stop Seven and Eight.
- Initiate funding arrangements for cannon acquisition for Tour Stop Nine.
- Initiate funding efforts for driving tour route markers.
- APCWS initiate recreational park arrangement and mitigations with Maury County.
- Town of Spring Hill replace Stop Sign at north end of Elm Street.

#### **Second Actions**

##### **Complete by October, 1997**

- Install trash can at Tour Stop One (cost \$300).
- Install interpretive marker 4-1 at Tour Stop Four, emplaced by APCWS.
- Install parking area, benches, trash can at Tour Stop Four by APCWS.
- Install interpretive marker at Tour Stop Six.
- Paint parking spaces, mow path, interpretive marker, bench, trash can, and two cannon at Tour Stop Nine.
- Initiate funding efforts for Tour Stop Three parking area.

#### **Third Action**

##### **Complete by May, 1999**

- Install driving tour route markers.
- Install parking area at Tour Stop Three.
- Construct kiosk, parking area, facilities, and interpretive markers at Tour Stop Seven.
- Construct kiosk, bench, interpretive markers and monument at Tour Stop Eight.
- Integration with short term and other greenways as completed.

**Annex C**  
**Benches and Trash Containers**

This table has been prepared to elucidate the requirements for benches and trash cans, and their locations, along the driving tour.

<b>Tour Stop</b>	<b>Bench (quantity)</b>	<b>Trash Container (quantity)</b>
One Short Term	1	1
One Long Term	0	1
Two Short Term	0	0
Two Long Term	0	0
Three Short Term	0	0
Three Long Term	0	0
Four	3	1
Five Short Term	0	0
Five Long Term	0	0
Six	0	0
Seven	2	1
Eight	2	1
Nine Short Term	1	1
Nine Long Term	1	1
Ten	0	0

## Annex D References

Gettysburg National Military Park, U. S. National Park Service. *Draft Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment, Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War* (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: Gettysburg National Military Park, U. S. National Park Service, April 1995)

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