A Preservation Plan
for the
Tebbs Bend Civil War Battlefield
Taylor County, Kentucky
(GA-2255-08-022)

Prepared By
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Prepared For
Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association
Campbellsville, Kentucky

Funded By
American Battlefield Protection Program
Washington, DC

April 26, 2010
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association (TBBA) initiated this preservation planning project in 2008. It was funded by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (GA-2255-08-022). Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc., of Versailles, Kentucky was contracted to prepare the plan.

THE BATTLE OF TEBBS BEND, JULY 4, 1863

The Battle of Tebbs Bend was the first major engagement of Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan’s raid in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio also known as the Great Raid. At the Battle of Tebbs Bend Morgan’s veteran cavalry fought about 200 untested Union infantry. Morgan, with some 1,000 men engaged, could not dislodge the Union defenders. After several frontal assaults he was forced to call off the attack and move on. He lost over 70 men including 20 officers killed. It was a bad way to start off the raid, which ended July 26, 1863 near Salineville, Ohio with most of his command captured.

THE BATTLEFIELD

The Tebbs Bend battlefield is located in Taylor County, Kentucky about seven miles south of Campbellsville. The engagement took place on a narrow neck of land on the Tebbs Bend Road squeezed between the road and the river. The landscape is rolling hills and floodplain framed by the Green River. Farmsteads are the main cultural features.

PRESERVATION STRATEGIES

The plan explores land protection options, funding opportunities, partnerships with land conservation, economic development agencies and organizations and other strategies. Recommended actions are outlined. Priorities for protection are described in detail and specific recommendations made for purchase and protection through easements.

PRESERVATION PRIORITIES

More than 840 acres of the battlefield Core or Study Area is now protected through public ownership or agricultural easements. It is recommended that all of the land within Tebbs Bend and in the National Register boundary between SR 55 and the Green River Bridge be protected by purchase or easement.

PURCHASE OF 18 PARCELS TOTALING JUST OVER 305 ACRES IN THE CORE AREA

- Ensure that the battlefield is preserved in perpetuity
- Enable implementation of a comprehensive interpretive program
- Ensure that professional archaeological investigations can be conducted
- Ensure that visitors experience the battlefield without inappropriate distractions
- Ensure that those who wish to continue farming can do so
PROTECT 402 ACRES IN THE CORE AND STUDY AREAS WITH EASEMENTS.

- Ensure that the battlefield is preserved in perpetuity
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Introduction
INTRODUCTION

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association (TBBA) initiated this preservation planning project in 2008, when the organization applied for and received a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (GA-2255-08-022). The Tebbs Bend battlefield is a significant historic resource and one that deserves protection. In fact, over 800 acres of the battlefield is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For more than a century, the people who live in the Tebbs Bend area and Taylor County have worked diligently to raise awareness of the significance of the battlefield and to insure its protection.

Over the course of the preservation planning project, Joseph and Maria Brent of Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc., traveled to Taylor County several times to evaluate the battlefield, conduct project research, speak with stakeholders, and hold community meetings. The preservation plan for the Tebbs Bend battlefield is based on a thorough evaluation of battlefield resources. It also incorporates the ideas, desires, and needs of the community and stakeholders as expressed in the community meetings and conversations concerning the future of the battlefield. Priority land for protection through purchase and easement is identified as is protection for significant battlefield viewsheds. Protection strategies address partnership opportunities and financial and technical sources of support.

The American Battlefield Protection Program’s willingness to fund this plan demonstrates that preserving this battlefield is more than a local initiative, and that the National Park Service believes that the Tebbs Bend battlefield is significant. The TBBA has worked hard to show the National Park Service that they are serious about preserving the battlefield. It is the purpose of this plan to provide a blueprint for future preservation efforts.

THE BATTLE OF TEBBS BEND

The Battle of Tebbs Bend, also known as the Battle of Green River Bridge, was the first major engagement of Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan’s Great Raid. Morgan, with 2,500 cavalry, artillery and a supply train, moved from Tennessee into Kentucky in July 1863. The battle was fought on July 4, 1863. Events with much larger national implications occurred that same day on the Mississippi River and in the rolling hills of Adams County Pennsylvania. The battle at Tebbs Bend was overshadowed by Vicksburg and Gettysburg in the national media of the time and in history books after the fact.

The Battle of Tebbs Bend deserves greater recognition. Civil War historian James A. Ramage called the Battle of Tebbs Bend “one of the most outstanding victories in the Civil War.” Less than 200 untried Union recruits stood against repeated assaults by Morgan’s experienced force of 800 to 1,000. Morgan’s decision to fight this battle against the advice of his senior officers has been called one of the very few mistakes that Gen. John Hunt Morgan made in his entire career.
Morgan’s defeat at the Battle of Tebbs Bend seems in hind site a portent of the events that followed. Several other battles were fought over the course of the 2,000 mile raid, notably Corydon, Indiana, and Buffington Island and Salineville in Ohio, but none surpassed the intensity of the fighting at Tebbs Bend. Morgan’s Raid in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio (July 1863) ended some 40 miles west of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on July 26, 1863. The raid was a disaster. Most of Morgan’s men, and Morgan himself, ended up in northern prison camps.

THE BATTLEFIELD

The Tebbs Bend battlefield is located in south central Taylor County about seven miles south of Campbellsville, Kentucky (Map 1). The battlefield where forces commanded by Union Col. Orlando Moore and Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan clashed on July 4, 1863, lies within a bend of the Green River called Tibbs or Tebbs Bend (Map 2).

The main engagement took place in a narrow neck of land squeezed between the river and the Tebbs Bend Road, which was the old Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike. The area around the battlefield is rolling hills and floodplain framed by the Green River. As it meanders through Taylor and Green counties, the river creates three sweeping bends—Lemmons Bend, Penitentiary Bend and Tebbs Bend. The Core Area of the battlefield, where the fighting occurred, lies within Tebbs Bend, which the Union army had fortified to protect the turnpike bridge across the Green River.

The people that live in the bends of the Green River, then and now, farmed the fertile fields. Today, corn, soybeans and cattle are common. Farmsteads with numerous outbuildings are the main features of the cultural landscape. There are no retail establishments, no schools, no commercial enterprises in the Core Area.

The turnpike bridge over the Green River was the reason the battle occurred where it did. Today, a small steel Half truss bridge with a wood deck spans the river, perhaps resting on the original 19th century piers. The river it spans is one the nation’s most significant watersheds—The Green River Bioreserve is one of The Nature Conservancy’s priority sites. The Nature Conservancy has purchased over 300 acres in the battlefield area, portions of which are in the Core Area of the battlefield.

The Tebbs Bend battlefield is an important part of the Taylor County, Kentucky, community. The landowners know that they own an important piece of American history. They are proud of their land and they have been good stewards it. The goal of this project is to raise awareness of the battlefield locally and nationally, and to help the landowners find ways to protect the battlefield that respect the resource and allow them and their children to continue to live and farm in this beautiful part of Kentucky.
Map 1: Location of Tebbs Bend Battlefield, Taylor County, Kentucky.
Map 2: Tebbs Bend Battlefield, Taylor County, Kentucky. Map adapted from Campbellsville, Cane Valley, Greensburg and Gresham 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle maps.

Scale: One inch = 1/2 mile
The Battle Of Tebbs Bend
THE BATTLE OF TEBBS BEND, JULY 4, 1863

The Battle of Tebbs Bend is one of five major engagements associated with Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan’s Raid in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio also known as the Great Raid in July 1863. Two of those engagements were in Kentucky - Tebbs Bend on July 4 and Lebanon on July 5, 1863. There was a battle in Indiana at Corydon on July 9, and two in Ohio at Buffington Island and Salineville on July 19 and 26, respectively. Tebbs Bend and Buffington Island were by far the fiercest engagements (Map 3).

MORGAN’S JULY 1863 GREAT RAID

Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan left Alexandria, Tennessee, on June 11, 1863, with almost 2,500 men, most of them Kentuckians, two three-inch Parrott guns, two twelve-pounder howitzers, and a large supply train. His orders were to take his command into Kentucky, attack Louisville and disrupt Union lines of supply and communication, thus slowing the Union advance on the main Confederate army in the west, then at Tullahoma.

On June 20, Morgan’s force crossed the Cumberland River in Tennessee. Morgan’s objective was Louisville and its warehouses full of supplies awaiting shipment on the L&N Railroad but, if fortune shone on him, Morgan also planned to cross the Ohio River into Indiana and Ohio. He already had scouts in both states, looking for the best places to ford the river. Morgan was prepared to attack Carthage, Tennessee, on June 21 when he was ordered to intercept a Federal force threatening Knoxville.1

Union command was well aware of Morgan’s actions. When Morgan crossed the Cumberland, General William Rosecrans informed General Ambrose Burnside of the Confederate strength and location. Burnside quickly sent word to his commanders in Kentucky to prepare for Morgan. General Henry Judah and the 3rd Division, 23rd Army Corps, was headquartered in Glasgow, Kentucky, guarding the approach to the Commonwealth. Judah moved southeast toward Tompkinsville and called his second brigade from Columbia to Marrowbone to guard his left flank. There was now nothing to prevent Morgan from moving from Burkesville to Columbia to Lebanon. In ordering General Edward H. Hobson to move from Columbia to Marrowbone, Judah opened the way for Morgan’s ride north.2

On the evening of June 30, Morgan’s forces again reached the Cumberland River in Kentucky. They began to cross the flooded Cumberland at Burkesville, about thirty-five miles upriver from Tompkinsville. The swollen river was between one-quarter and one-half mile wide and only a portion of the Confederates were able to complete the crossing, which continued by ferry and ford into July 2. The Confederates met almost no resistance. The fords were posted with only light pickets because General Henry Judah believed the river was too high to cross.3
The Great Raid
Morgan’s July 1863 Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio Raid

Map 3: Morgan’s 1863 raid into Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. Courtesy of Betty Jane Gorin
On the afternoon of July 2, Morgan sent scouts to determine the Federals’ strength. Judah had orders to attack with cavalry as soon as Morgan crossed the river. Hearing an exchange of fire, Morgan led a force to the Norris Branch area of the Marrowbone-Glasgow Road, where they surprised a 300-man Union cavalry column. The Union forces retreated, followed by Morgan’s men, who soon found themselves facing a regiment of Federal infantry formed in line of battle. The Confederates stopped short and were met with a volley of fire. The Federals skirmished with Morgan for about an hour and then the Confederates retreated. The skirmish accomplished little of military significance except that Captain Tom Quirk, Morgan’s chief scout and his “eyes and ears,” was wounded and had to be taken back to Tennessee.4

In the 19th century the roads between Columbia and Campbellsville were not nearly as direct as they are today. Like most roads in Kentucky they tended to follow the contours, often following stream beds and crossing major and minor streams by way of fords or ferries. There were few bridges, which made the bridge across the Green River at Tebbs or Tibbs Bend extremely important strategically.

Morgan, like many cavalry commanders, divided his command and sent them north along various routes, both to avoid crowding the main roads and to disguise his numbers from Federal authorities. Late in the afternoon of July 3, 1863, Morgan’s command began to file out of Columbia. The soldiers traveled along the Columbia-Campbellsville Turnpike heading north. They reached the villages of Coburg and Cane Valley that night, where the Confederate cavalry foraged for food for themselves and their mounts. Knowing that the Confederates were headed their way, people hid their horses, money, and other valuables. Morgan made his headquarters at the John F. Bridgewater House in Cane Valley. There, he took his dinner and breakfast the next morning. Between meals, Morgan ordered Capt. Tom Franks north toward Campbellsville to assess the strength of the Union forces at the Green River Bridge. Morgan did not believe that the Federal force in Taylor County posed much threat to his command.5

**Union Preparations**

The Union army had been guarding the bridge across the Green River since 1862 and had constructed a stockade on the heights overlooking the bridge. The families in the Tebbs Bend area were used to having the soldiers encamped at various places in and around the
The day before the Battle of Tebbs Bend, Morgan’s command fought a skirmish in Columbia. The Federal soldiers who would normally have been in Columbia were scattered all over south-central Kentucky looking for Morgan. As a result, only a very small detachment of soldiers was left to defend the town against Morgan’s entire command. The fight was brief but deadly. Morgan took Columbia and the Union cavalry retreated to Jamestown.7

Even before the fighting in Columbia, work was underway at the Green River Bridge to prepare for Morgan’s advance into the area. Union Col. Orlando Moore was in command of 250 or so men of the 25th Michigan who were charged with guarding the bridge. On June 29, Moore began his defensive preparations. As part of that preparation, Moore increased patrols and pickets in Tebbs Bend and the surrounding area. West of Moore’s main defensive position, at the extreme end of Tebbs Bend, were two fords, both of which led directly to the Howard House. From the Howard property a road ran to the Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike, which could be used by Confederate cavalry to get behind the Federal defenses. Moore posted guards at the fords (Map 4).8

Col. Moore spent the next few days preparing for an attack that he believed was inevitable. He abandoned both the stockade and his encampment north of the Green River after he determined that they could not be defended with the force he had at his disposal. He chose to erect a temporary fortified position on a narrow neck of land east of the bridge, on a knoll in the Tebbs Bend of the Green River. The only access to the Bend was through the Narrows, an opening only 100 yards wide flanked on both sides by the river. This site
Map 4: The Battle of Tebbs Bend, July 4, 1863.
gave the defenders a decided advantage. Here the land “. . . drops precipitously on the north side of the ridge 150 feet into the river.” Confederate Col. Basil Duke, Morgan’s brother-in-law and right-hand man, later described it as “one of the strongest natural positions I ever saw.”

Moore had no artillery and he knew Morgan had several pieces. He detailed seventy-five men to construct a temporary forward line. A rifle pit was dug about 100 yards in front of the main position along with a number of supplementary trenches that provided an avenue for the quick withdrawal of Moore’s men to the main defended position. A work detail felled trees to provide timber for the main defense line. They worked until almost midnight and then slept where they worked. The next morning, July 2, a relief work detail arrived to fell trees to clear a field of fire. They set logs on end in a trench and put dirt in front of them, forming a breastworks. Felled trees with sharpened branches, abatis, pointed toward the enemy’s line of approach. When Morgan’s force was within one mile of the south bank of the river on July 3, they could hear Moore’s men felling trees to complete the fortification. Work continued into the night as men placed sharpened spikes in two zigzag rows in front of the abatis. The hurriedly constructed parapet was finished the morning of July 4. It was admirably sited, protected by thick woods and steep banks on three sides. It was impossible for artillery to shell the fortification. This defensive preparation forced the Confederates to attack in a narrow front that did not allow them to maneuver or use their superior numbers to their advantage.

General John Hunt Morgan, who commanded a large, well trained, experienced force, expected little trouble from Moore’s smaller force of untried troops. The report of his scout, Capt. Franks, led Morgan to believe that Col. Orlando Moore would put up little resistance. It was the first time Franks had led a reconnaissance mission; his report to Morgan was in error. Col. Moore was well prepared and ready to fight.

MORGAN MOVES

Morgan decided to send three regiments in a direct attack against the Union position, holding two regiments in reserve. Two more regiments commanded by Col. Roy S. Cluke and Lt. Col. Wash Owen would carry out a flanking maneuver north of the bridge, cutting Moore’s communications, preventing reinforcements from Lebanon, and blocking the retreat of the defeated Union troops. The night of July 3, Morgan’s scouts set out, followed shortly by the main body of troops. They were guided by men who had grown up in the area and were well acquainted with the location of the Green River’s many fords. Cluke and Owen crossed the Green River south of the Union position at three fords in the
Lemmons Bend area. This circuitous route took them west of the Union position. They rode around Tebbs Bend, where a portion of the force forded the river. When they arrived at the bottomland on the north side of the bridge they did not find the Union camp they expected. The rest of the Confederates began to ride up the road toward the Union line.12

Moore had begun to move the camp some hours earlier, when he received reports that the Confederate force was only two miles away. Working by the light of the full moon, the Federal troops slowly and quietly began to move the wagons toward the temporary bridge built to replace the partially finished bridge destroyed by high water less than a week before. When they reached the end of the bridge at least one company of foot soldiers and a number of mounted men turned and walked back over the bridge, repeating the maneuver a number of times, hoping to give the impression that reinforcements had arrived.13

It took all night to move the men, horses, wagons, and supplies across the Green River. Moving the sick and wounded in the hospital was especially difficult and time consuming but finally only a few men, remained ordered to defend the old camp site. Moore formed up his untried troops and told them, “Don’t be afraid, my boys. Be quiet, men. Let your guns speak for themselves. No shouting. No colors are to fly so the enemy will not know our numbers... We can take on thousands.” Moore’s final preparation included getting the local citizenry out of harm’s way. The Michigan troops rode to the houses located within what they feared would be the battlefield and urged the inhabitants to flee.14

At daybreak on July 4, Morgan and his staff mounted up and left Cane Valley. Although his scouts reported that Moore was preparing a defensive position, and some of his officers recommended that they avoid Tebbs Bend, Morgan still expected an easy victory. At about 6:30 the morning of July 4, the Confederates deployed their artillery and began shelling the Union position. After several shots, Morgan sent Moore a demand for surrender. It was Independence Day and Moore answered Morgan’s demand saying, “Present my compliments to General Morgan, and say to him that, this being the fourth day of July, I cannot entertain his proposition.” Moore had no artillery and his force numbered only about 265 men; with only about 170 on the field. The remainder was deployed at the fords and at the bridge; some were serving as teamsters and hospital stewards. Morgan’s infantry and artillery totaled 800 to 1,000, not including the two regiments held in reserve. Moore was outnumbered 4 or 5 to 1. When Col. Alston, who delivered Morgan’s demand for surrender, pointed out the Confederate advantage, Moore replied, “I have a duty to perform to my country, and the presence of this day supports me in my decision; therefore I cannot reconsider my reply to General Morgan.”15

His demand for surrender rejected, Morgan ordered the artillerists to resume their bombardment. Moore ordered his sharpshooters, “Now boys, rise up and take deliberate aim. Shoot those Rebel gunners.” The Union sharpshooters, skilled in hunting game as
small as a squirrel, decimated the Confederate gunners. The effect of their small arms fire was so great that it forced Morgan to withdraw his artillery. This left Morgan with two choices, to cut his losses and withdraw or to attack the Union position. Had John Hunt Morgan been another man he might have taken the prudent course of action and withdrawn without attacking the formidable position. He did not; Morgan ordered his division forward.\textsuperscript{16}

\textbf{THE BATTLE}

Morgan’s strategy was to take the forward rifle pit first and to then make a frontal assault. Moore had anticipated just this action. The rifle pit was dug so that the northern side was open and in view of his forces. The Confederate capture of the trench would be a hollow victory—those in possession would be exposed to fire from the main Union defensive position. The Confederates advanced under heavy Union fire, suffering many casualties. Morgan’s men drew back, regrouped, and moved forward again. The Union troops in the rifle pit came under heavy fire and were forced to fall back. As they did so, the Federals in the main works and those positioned behind felled trees directed intense fire on the Confederates.\textsuperscript{17}

Finally, Morgan and his staff were in a position to clearly see Moore’s defenses and it was clear that the Union position was extremely strong. An assault on the Federal works required a charge over an open field, a fight through the abatis, and crossing a ditch filled with water. The terrain afforded little cover. The advancing Confederates would be exposed to direct fire. Col. Adam R. Johnson had advised Morgan not to fight at Tebbs Bend earlier that day. He now asked Morgan not to make a frontal assault. Once again, Morgan declined to take his advice; he ordered the charge (Map 4).

The dismounted Confederate cavalry advanced on the double-quick. Moore ordered his men to hold their fire until they had taken careful aim. As the first wave of Confederates neared the Union position they became mired in the abatis. Morgan sent more men forward in support. Moore’s regiment, though untested, was very well drilled. His men efficiently fired, reloaded, and fired again. They were all skilled hunters used to making every shot count. They did so now with devastating effect. The Confederates soon realized, some too late, that kneeling to fire or standing to reload their weapons made them attractive targets. Some lay on the ground to reload before running forward again.

But some Confederates made it to within several feet of the Union position, both sides
shooting at each other from either side of the abatis. According to Moore, “The conflict was fierce and bloody. At times the enemy occupied one side of the fallen timber, while my men held the other, in almost a hand-to-hand fight.” The Confederates were never able to use their much superior numbers effectively against the entrenched Federals. One cavalryman later reported that he had not so much as seen a Union soldier, only the ends of their rifles protruding from the port holes of the fortification. 

Time and again the Confederates fell back, regrouped, and charged again. Col. Tucker was ordered to set the Union fortifications on fire but could not ignite the green wood. In spite of the heavy losses, Morgan wasn’t finished. He ordered Col. David Waller Chenault to carry out a flanking maneuver, getting his regiment into a position where enfilading fire could be poured into the Union fortifications. To do so, Chenault had to lead his men into the ravine, along the river bank, and up the steep slope to the Union fortification. Chenault in the lead, his men charged the abatis, forcing the Federals back.

Hoping to create the illusion that reinforcements were arriving, Moore blew his bugle, calling up a company that had been held in reserve and signaling part of the detachment guarding the bridge to come forward. The reserve troops arrived and the Federal troops rallied, pouring pistol shot into the Confederate line. Col. Chenault was hit, falling dead at the feet of his second in command, Maj. James B. McCreary. Seeing their leader fall, the shocked Confederates pulled back momentarily. McCreary assumed command as Lt. Colonel, designating Capt. Alex Tribble his second in command. Moments later, Tribble lay dead. Seeing that something was wrong, Major Thomas Y. Brent raced across the field. He, too was killed.

As the Confederates faltered Moore signaled his force to advance. He quickly reconsidered, however, and decided that it was best to remain behind his fortifications. Victory was his, in any case. Morgan, meanwhile, was being told that the Federals could not be dislodged.

It was a little before ten o’clock when Col. Cluke, hearing no further fire from the battlefield, advanced his force. As he neared the Green River Bridge, Cluke expected to intercept Union troops retreating in the face of General Morgan’s victory. Instead, Union sharpshooters opened fire, unseating two or three of his cavalry. Realizing that his assumption of Confederate victory was in error, Cluke withdrew under fire and rejoined the Confederate forces bypassing the position.
At 10:30 A.M. Morgan sent a flag of truce forward with a note that read, “I have sent under Flag of Truce Dr. J. F. Keiser, the Rev. Mr. Moore, Chaplain of the 5th Ky. Regiment, other attendants to recover the bodies of our dead and wounded who are left on the field.” It was signed D. Keller, Surgeon, 1st Brigade, Ky. Cavalry, C.S.A., 10 ½ o’clock.21

Moore’s men laid the bodies of the dead out along the road. Four Kentuckians, including Col. Chenault, were taken home for burial. The rest were left to be buried by others. It was not until Col. Moore was sure that the Confederates had withdrawn and that rumors of further Confederate attacks were proved false that he was willing to send out a burial detail.22

It was a short battle, lasting just four hours from the first artillery shot to Morgan’s message of truce, but it was a very costly battle for John Hunt Morgan. He lost 27 men, twenty of whom were experienced officers including Colonel David Waller Chenault and Major Thomas Y. Brent. Fourteen men were wounded; 32 captured. Col. Moore’s losses were much lighter; 6 men killed, 24 wounded and 1 captured.23

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE

Morgan biographer, James A. Ramage called the Battle of Tebbs Bend, “one of the most outstanding victories in the Civil War” because it was unusual for such a small Union force to resist Morgan and to fight so determinedly and effectively. Less than 200 untried Union recruits stood against the assaults of Morgan’s experienced force of 800 to 1,000. Morgan persisted in his determination to fight the battle against the advice of his senior officers. His decision to continue the fight after his artillery had been rendered ineffective has been called one of the very few mistakes General Morgan made in his entire career.

Col. Orlando Moore and his men were universally praised and commended for their bravery and their victory over Morgan. A reporter from the Louisville Times wrote that “the Battle of Tebbs Bend was evidently one of the finest planned and best fought battles of the war.” Major Gen. George L. Hartsuff and Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside wrote commendations. After hearing Col. George T. Wood describe the battle and voice his opinion that Moore and his men had “saved the city of Louisville from sack and pillage by the rebel hordes,” the Kentucky House of Representatives acknowledged Col. Moore and his command in two complimentary joint resolutions.24

Morgan could have avoided this battle altogether, and may well have wished he had. It set the tone for what became a disastrous military misadventure. Morgan was bloodied the next day at Lebanon. He would eventually cross the Ohio River and fight numerous skirmishes and three more major battles before he was captured about forty miles west of Pittsburgh, near West Point, Ohio.
ENDNOTES


5. Gorin, “Morgan is Coming!,” pp. 132-134.


The Battlefield Today
THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield retains excellent integrity and the viewshed from any point on the battlefield is excellent. All that a visitor sees driving from SR 55 south along the Tebbs Bend Road is a scattering of houses and farmsteads. The battlefield was listed with statewide significance under Criterion A. There are no commercial establishments within the National Register boundary or Core Area of the battlefield.

The Tebbs Bend Road, a remnant of the Old Columbia Turnpike, winds south from SR 55 past the old tollgate house and the Sublett farmstead before crossing the Green River on the 1907 steel bridge. It proceeds up a steep slope to a hairpin curve at the top of the ridge. At the top the hill the Tebbs Bend area comes into view. This narrow ribbon of asphalt then winds through the battlefield — past the site of the old stockade, the main battlefield, several house sites, and the Confederate Cemetery before it again intersects SR 55. The route has changed little over time. This narrow county road and the associated Green River Bridge retain the setting, feeling and association that make the route and the bridge significant battlefield features. The bridge is not the original covered bridge but it is in the same location as the original. The soldiers’ spring about halfway up the hill is a reminder of a time before city water and indoor plumbing.

The terrain and the use of it by the Union forces is the key to both the understanding of the battle and the Union victory at Tebbs Bend. At the top of the ridge, the land opens to the south and west into broad rolling hills bounded by the Tebbs Bend of the Green River. From here, the road hugs the ridge line, following the river southeast. About halfway down the neck of the Bend the river swings to the north while the road continuing to the southeast. Here, on a narrow ridge north of the road known as the “Narrows,” is where the main engagement of the battle was fought. It was on the north end of the ridge that Union Col. Orlando Moore placed his defenses. The placement was nearly perfect. Moore left the Confederates with the high ground but little else.

The Confederates could not see Moore’s position until they rounded a bend in the road. Even then, they would have seen only his forward rifle pit. Moore’s main position was on a narrow ridge nose between the river and the road, protected on the flanks by steep slopes falling away from his position in both directions. Any assault had to come from the southeast. Given the width of the ridge, very few attackers could be thrown at the position at any one time, reducing their firepower and making Moore’s more effective.

There are five 20th century houses on the battlefield’s main engagement site and a small stretch of the road has been shifted to the south. Originally, the road ran south of the manufactured home, which sits where the Union rifle pit was located. The narrow avenue of approach to the Union defensive position is still evident. Steep slopes drop off to the southeast and behind the houses north of the road. From the Confederate artillery position
Map 5: Tebbs Bend Battlefield National Register boundary.
one can see that the terrain falls off in two directions and that the area where the Union position was located is almost totally concealed by the terrain features (Map 5).

Just south of the Confederate artillery position the land again opens up, this time to the east. From this area all the way south to the Confederate Cemetery, one catches glimpses of SR 55. This area, known as Romine, is the area of the battlefield with the most development. There are houses and outbuildings on both sides of the road. Protecting viewshed is the priority for this portion of the battlefield. The open space between the cemetery and SR 55 is broad and flat and, given its easy access to SR 55, would make an excellent location for a residential development.

THE BATTLEFIELD SURVEY

The Tebbs Bend battlefield was not included in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Survey (CWSAC) in 1993. Betty Jane Gorin, a retired educator from Campbellsville, Kentucky, has been preserving and interpreting the Tebbs Bend Battlefield for nearly 40 years. Ms. Gorin made a presentation to the CWSAC in Lexington in 1992, pleading the battlefield’s case in the hope of getting the battlefield included in the study. Unfortunately, neither her pleas nor those of the Kentucky Heritage Council swayed the Commission.

Because it was not previously surveyed, the Tebbs Bend Battlefield was surveyed using CWSAC methodology as part of this project. The survey determined a Core and Study Area for the battlefield and identified its defining features (Map 6). Together, these three elements define the battlefield boundary. During the CWSAC survey update recently completed for Kentucky, the Potential National Register Boundary, or PotNR, was also defined for each battlefield. A PotNR was not drawn for the Tebbs Bend battlefield because the current National Register boundary is larger than the Core Area.
Defining Features

1. Green River Toll House
2. Sublett Farmstead
3. Original site of Green River Toll House
4. Site of the Union Stockade
5. Site of 1863 Green River Bridge
6. Union Barracks/Hospital
7. Green River Ford at Green River Bridge
9. Green River Ford 2
10. Green River Ford 1
11. Site of the Howland House
12. Site of the Tibbs House
13. Union Rifle Pit
14. Union Defensive Position
15. Log House
16. Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike
17. Confederate Artillery Position
18. Original site of the Atkinson-Griffin House
19. Atkinson-Griffin House
20. Bailey’s Ford
21. Lemmon’s Ford
22. Johnson’s Ford
23. James F. Bridgewater House

Map 6: Tebbs Bend Battlefield Core Area, Study Area, Defining Features, PotNR and National Register Boundary.

**Defining Features** are sites and place names found in battle descriptions or shown on historic maps that can be used to locate significant actions and events in the field. Defining features may be extant or lost. Nineteen defining features were identified for the Tebbs Bend Battlefield. Extant features are indicated by red dots on Map 6; lost features are indicated by blue dots.

**Defining Features of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield**
1. Green River Toll House
2. Sublett Farmstead
3. Original site of the Green River Toll House
4. Site of the Union Stockade
5. Site of 1863 Green River Bridge and location of current bridge, built in 1907
6. Union Barracks/Hospital
7. Green River Ford at Green River Bridge
8. Camp of the 25th Michigan
9. Green River Ford 2
10. Green River Ford 1
11. Site of the Howard House
12. Site of the Tibbs House
13. Union Rifle Pit
14. Union Defensive Position
15. Log House
16. Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike
17. Confederate Artillery Position
18. Original site of the Atkinson-Griffin House
19. Atkinson-Griffin House
20. Bailey’s Ford
21. Lemmon’s Ford
22. Johnson’s Ford
23. James F. Bridgewater House

**The Study Area** represents the historic extent of the battle as it unfolded across the landscape. The Study Area contains resources known to relate to or contribute to the battle event—where troops maneuvered, deployed, and fought immediately before, during, and after combat. Historic accounts, terrain analysis, and feature identification inform the delineation of the Study Area boundary. The Study Area indicates the extent to which historic and archeological resources associated with the battle (areas of combat, command, communications, logistics, medical services, etc.) may be found and protected. The Study Area is shown in yellow on Map 6.
The Core Area represents the areas of fighting on the battlefield. Positions that delivered or received fire fall within the Core Area. Frequently described as “hallowed ground,” land within the Core Area is often the first to be targeted for protection. The Core Area lies within the Study Area. The Core Area is shown in orange on Map 6.

Potential National Register Boundaries (PotNR) was added for the Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields, which began about 2005. This boundary is drawn to indicate that the battlefield retains enough integrity to show the site’s significance. The boundary is drawn with the National Register of Historic Places guidelines in mind. However, the boundary does not constitute a formal determination of eligibility by either the SHPO or the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. In the case of Tebbs bend the National register boundary has already been expanded once it is unlikely, but not impossible that the boundary could be expanded to include all of the PotNR as drawn. Map 6.
Cultural and Natural Resources

Cultural and natural resources are significant extant features or potential archeological resources on the battlefield. Eleven cultural resources and eight natural resources have been identified on the Tebbs Bend Battlefield (Map 7).

1. Green River Toll House (TA-58) – This frame structure dates from the mid to late-19th century. It housed the toll collector for this portion of the Columbia-Campbellsville Turnpike. The building is built on piers and has a single door facing the road and an end gable roof covered with metal roofing. The structure was moved from its original location adjacent to the Green River Bridge in the early 20th century. It is now located immediately west of the Tebbs Bend Road on the Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Preserve.

2. Sublett Farmstead (TA-1) – The Sublett House sits on a knoll east of and overlooking the Tebbs Bend Road. The log house is a contributing structure in the Battle of Tebbs Bend National Register nomination. James Allen Sublett built the house in 1849. The smokehouse and corn crib also date from before the Civil War. The Sublett family farmed and also made a living as innkeepers from the mid-19th century into the first quarter of the 20th century. The Sublett family was well known to the Union soldiers who fought in the battle. The family visited the soldiers and no doubt traded fresh produce and other goods for cash. In fact, James A. Sublett, who was living in the house at the time of the battle, grew corn under contract for the Union army. During the Battle of Tebbs Bend, the Sublett House was used by Union forces as a hospital. The original log portion of the house is sixteen feet square. There have been several additions to the original house but the log core remains intact.

2a. Sublett corn crib – This log structure pre-dates the battle and is part of the larger complex of outbuildings that constitute the Sublett farmstead. This structure is a contributing element of the Battle of Tebbs Bend National Register nomination.
Map 7: Cultural and natural resources associated with the Tebbs Bend Battlefield.
2b. Sublett smokehouse – This small end gable log structure is one of three buildings associated with the Sublett farmstead that contributes to the Battle of Tebbs Bend National Register nomination.

3. Original location of Green River Toll House – The Green River toll house was originally located on the east side of the road just north of the Green River Bridge. The site is now an agricultural field. The site has archeological potential.

4. Columbia-Campbellsville Turnpike – The Tebbs Bend Road that traverses the battlefield is a remnant of the old Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike. With the exception of a couple of minor adjustments in its route, the road has not changed since 1863. The road was paved with asphalt sometime in the second quarter of the 20th century.

5. Green River Ford at Green River Bridge – Also known as the Demosses or Tate-Sublett Ford, this ford is located just north and west of the bridge. The ford road, still visible from the south bank of the river, was once part of the shipping network that took tobacco and other goods down Kentucky’s river system to New Orleans.

6. Green River Bridge (TA-56) – This half truss steel bridge was built in 1907 to replace the wooden covered bridge constructed in 1863. The present bridge may be built on the original stone abutments on which the wooden bridge rested. While this is not the original bridge it still adds to the overall setting and feeling of the battlefield. It is a very significant resource.
7. *The Green River* – The battlefield is defined by the Green River. The bridge across the river was the reason that this battle was fought. The river meanders through Taylor County, cutting three sweeping bends near the battlefield—Tebbs, Lemmons and Penitentiary. The narrow neck of land at the mouth of Tebbs Bend was where the main engagement of the Battle of Tebbs Bend took place. Without the Green River, there is no battle.

8. *Green River Ford 2* – This ford is located on the west side of an island formed by the Green River just west of the Green River Bridge. It was guarded by Union troops during the battle to prevent Confederate cavalry from crossing.

9. *Green River Ford 1* – This ford is located on the north end of an island formed by the Green River just around the southward bend from Green River Ford 2. It was guarded by Union troops during the battle to prevent Confederate cavalry from crossing.

10. *Soldiers’ Spring* – This spring flows out of the side of the bluff on the south side of the Tebbs Bend Road as it winds from the Green River to the top of the bluff above. The spring is known as Soldiers’ Spring because it is said to have been used by men who marched up the road and those camped in the fields below.

11. *Site of Union stockade* – In 1862, the Union army constructed a wooden stockade on the ridge above the Green River. The stockade was located on the bluff above the bridge and would have commanded the bridge and the fields below. Originally, it had no artillery and the stockade was captured and burned in early 1863 by Gen. John Hunt Morgan’s forces during his Christmas Raid. The stockade was rebuilt and armed with artillery after the Battle of Tebbs Bend. This site has archeological potential and should be preserved.
12. Kerr Spring – This spring, located on the William J. Kerr farm, was used by Union soldiers who were encamped in the battlefield area. There is a cave associated with the spring.

13. Confederate Cemetery and Monument (TA-13) – The bodies of unclaimed Confederate soldiers were moved to this location in 1872 after James Madison Griffin donated the land expressly for use as a Confederate cemetery. The monument was erected that same year. The memorial headstones and plaques were placed in the cemetery in 1998. The monument is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Civil War Monuments in Kentucky thematic nomination.

14. Site of the Atkinson-Griffin House – Joel Dupuy Atkinson built this house on the east side of the Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike about 1840. At the time of the Civil War, Atkinson’s widow, Virginia Griffin Atkinson, her daughter Martha Rebecca Griffin, and her son-in-law James Madison Griffin occupied the house. Confederate forces used the house, which was located only about 440 yards from the battlefield, as a hospital after the battle. The house was moved from its original site in 1986.

15. Atkinson-Griffin House – This house was moved from its original location by the Friends of the Log House in 1986. The owners of the house donated the house to the historical society with the understanding that it would be moved off of the property. After its relocation to Green River Lake Park, the shiplap siding was removed and the house was restored. The two-story double pen log structure houses exhibits on the Battle of Tebbs Bend. The Atkinson-Griffin House is now owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
16. James F. Bridgewater House – Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan made this house in Cane Valley, where most of his men bivouacked the night before the battle, his headquarters. The James Bridgewater House is a two story, three bay frame structure with an end gable roof and exterior end brick chimneys. The house sits on a continuous rough cut limestone foundation. The story-and-a-half ell has an end gable roof and an exterior limestone chimney. It is very likely that the ell predates the front of the house. The house is now covered with aluminum siding.

17. Johnson’s Ford – This ford is in Lemmons Bend off of Ebenezer Church Road, CR 585. It is located immediately north of CR 585 and west of an unnamed seasonal stream that flows into the Green River. Confederate cavalry crossed at this ford the morning of the battle. Morgan’s cavalry planned to round up Union troops on the Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike as they retreated from their defeat in the engagement with Morgan.

18. Lemmon’s Ford – This ford, also in Lemmons Bend, is approximately one mile west of Johnson’s Ford. It is located just east of an unnamed stream that flows into the Green River. Confederate cavalry crossed here on the morning of the battle. They were part of the force with orders to capture Union troops retreating on the Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike following their defeat by Morgan.

19. Log House in Lemmons Bend – This two pen story-and-a-half log house was built by Union soldiers who camped in the fields of Lemmons Bend. It would have been on the route that the Confederates used when they withdrew from the battlefield.
Previous Preservation Activities
A Preservation Plan for the Tebbs Bend Battlefield, Taylor County, Kentucky

PREVIOUS PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

Efforts to commemorate the Battle of Tebbs Bend and the men that took part in that battle began in the late 19th century. Since then, the effort has grown to encompass preserving the battlefield as a significant part of this nation’s history, so that the lessons it has to teach us are passed on to future generations of Americans.

PRIOR TO 1960: COMMEMORATION

In 1872, the Confederate dead were moved from a mass grave along the Columbia Road to a plot of land donated by James Madison Griffin now known as the Confederate Cemetery. A small obelisk was erected that same year; later, a stone wall was built. Mr. Griffin’s donation preserved about an acre of ground that has since been exempted from taxation as the “Old Confederate Burying Ground.”

In 1911, on the 50th anniversary of the Civil War, a large gathering was held at the Confederate Cemetery. According to a local newspaper article, some 4,000 people gathered at the cemetery for the “last Confederate Decoration Day.” Included in the crowd were some sixty Civil War veterans.

The obelisk fell over in the 1930s. It was repaired in 1940 by a local monument company that added the large, distinctive concrete base, most likely to insure that the monument would not fall over again. More repairs and refurbishments were made to the monument by the local American Legion in 1961 for the Civil War Centennial.

The Green River Bridge, which gave the area its strategic importance, was burned by John Hunt Morgan during his Christmas Raid of 1862. Union forces in the area repaired the bridge and the stockade on the bluff above the river. The temporary bridge built in the winter of 1863 was improved after the Battle of Tebbs Bend and by the fall of 1863, a fine covered bridge once again crossed the Green River. The Union army also rebuilt and upgraded the

stockade to include artillery—a twenty-four pounder, probably a howitzer. The current steel bridge replaced the wooden covered bridge in 1907. It is rumored that some of the lumber from the old covered bridge was used to build one of the barns on the Isaac Tate Farm, now preserved as Homeplace on Green River.

1960-1996: RAISING AWARENESS AND PRESERVING THE PAST

In 1972, one hundred years after the monument was erected at the Confederate Cemetery, the first battle reenactment was held on the Tebbs Bend Battlefield. This event, which took place on the weekend of July 8-9, 1972, was a county-wide celebration that included window displays, a parade in Campbellsville, and other activities. Since 1972, there have been other reenactments and living history events associated with the battle anniversary. These events have helped raise awareness of the battle and its significance and needed funds for preservation and interpretation.

The Atkinson-Griffin House, a two-story log structure built about 1840, was located about 440 yards south of the main engagement site. At the time of the battle the house was occupied by James Madison Griffin, his wife Martha Rebecca Griffin, and his mother-in-law Virginia Griffin Atkinson. The house was used by the Confederates as a hospital after the engagement. The house, located on the east side of the old turnpike where the road made a turn to the south, would have been one of the most prominent structures in the area at the time of the battle.

The house stood in its original location until 1986. Several years earlier, the owners of the property built a new house and donated the log structure on the condition that the organization would move it. In 1979, the Friends of the Log House began fund raising that eventually led to the relocation of the house to the Green River Lake Visitor Center. The house is open to the public and contains interpretive exhibits, many of which were funded by the Taylor County High School Chapter, Kentucky Junior Historical Society. The exhibits focus on the battle and the history of the area. The house is located on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property.

Improvements were made to the Confederate Cemetery in 1988. It was not uncommon for vehicles to be driven up to and parked behind or beside the monument. The wall in front of the monument did not extend far enough along the road frontage to prevent this practice. To help preserve the monument and the cemetery, the wall was extended far enough to prohibit
vehicle access.

All of these improvements and activities were spearheaded by the Friends of the Log House and/or the Taylor County Young Historians. These organizations helped with reenactments, the relocation and restoration of the Atkinson-Griffin House, and the creation of a twelve-stop driving tour of the battlefield.

**SINCE 1997: THE TEBBS BEND BATTLEFIELD ASSOCIATION**

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association (TBBA) was formed in 1997. The TBBA, a 501(c)3, is made up of landowners in the battlefield area and other interested persons. After its organization, the TBBA took the lead in all battlefield activities. The TBBA worked with the Kentucky Heritage Council to get the Confederate Monument listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. That same year, residents of the battlefield area voted to change the name of Romine Loop Road, the road that runs through the battlefield and is the former Campbellsville-Columbia Turnpike, to Tebbs Bend Road.

A year later, the TBBA raised money to purchase 125 headstones to the soldiers buried in the Confederate Cemetery. The Veterans Administration donated the two memorial plaques. Volunteers placed the stones and plaques and installed an interpretive marker for the cemetery. The improvements were dedicated in a public ceremony in 1998.

A year later, 376 acres of the battlefield were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2006, the boundary was expanded to include all of Tebbs Bend, another 426 acres, making a total of 802 acres of battlefield land listed in the National Register. In 2008, the TBBA applied for and received ABPP funding to develop a preservation plan for the Tebbs Bend battlefield.

Over the years, many activities have been initiated on the battlefield. Although those activities did not preserve any battlefield land they did draw attention to the historical significance of the site and helped make landowners and others aware of the importance of the battlefield. On their own initiative, landowners in the Battle of Tebbs Bend National Register boundary have placed 234 acres of land under easement as a part of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture PACE program. An application is pending that will enroll another 100 acres in the program.

In 1999, The Nature Conservancy negotiated with the Hall brothers to purchase their farm,
which included land along the Green River and in the battlefield. Eventually, the entire 392-acre farm was purchased. The tract was divided into two parcels. One parcel became the Homeplace on Green River, an agricultural museum. The other, the 172.5 acre tract on the battlefield, became the Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Preserve. A portion of the 172.5 acres is within the National Register boundary and in the Core Area of the battlefield. The purchase and subsequent donation of property to a tri-county consortium was the first action that preserved battlefield land since the donation of the land for the Confederate Cemetery in 1872.

In 2002, the Taylor County Fiscal Court acquired the Green River Toll House (TA-58), which is located adjacent to the Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Area. Transportation enhancement funding has been secured to restore the mid-19th century toll house and to install interpretive displays.

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association and the other individuals and organizations that have worked on and at the battlefield are to be commended for all they have accomplished.
The Planning Process
THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Tebbs Bend battlefield preservation plan was developed by Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. using methodology established by the American Battlefield Protection Program, which over the last 20 years has become the standard for battlefield preservation.

In February 2008, Joseph E. Brent and Maria Campbell Brent of Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. met with Betty Jane Gorin of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association to evaluate the battlefield from the point of view of both a visitor and a preservation planner. The meeting was to determine how the remarkable Tebbs Bend battlefield landscape can be preserved in a way that respects the resource and the people that live and farm there. The objective of the project was to produce a plan that helps those trying to preserve the battlefield make informed decisions.

Two community meetings were held to gather input from the public. The community meetings were well attended and the attendees shared their thoughts and feelings concerning the battlefield, insights that were very helpful in preparing the plan. The first community meeting, held February 18, 2008, in Campbellsville, introduced the project to the public. The attendees were asked four questions to determine their views regarding the battlefield. The draft plan was presented at the second community meeting held November 19, 2008, in Campbellsville. The public was asked to comment on the plan as presented at the meeting and were encouraged to review the plan and provide comments at their convenience. Two copies of the plan were placed at the Taylor County Public Library for review. Copies of the draft were also submitted to the American Battlefield Protection Program, Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association, Taylor County Fiscal Court, Team Taylor County (Taylor County Economic Development Board), the board of Homeplace on Green River, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Green River Lake, for review.

During the planning project, representatives of Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. made several trips to Taylor County to gather information, meet with landowners, take photographs, inventory features, visit government offices, and gather data on land parcels. Because the Tebbs Bend battlefield is not eligible for funding through the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, identifying alternate sources of funding and partnership opportunities was a project priority.

As part of the planning project, Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. completed a battlefield survey for Tebbs Bend. Most battlefield plans funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program are for battles included in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Survey (CWSAC), which defines battlefields in terms of size, scope, features and integrity; and identifies the Core and Study Areas of the battlefields and the significant cultural and natural resources that define the battlefield landscape. Because the Tebbs Bend battlefield was
not included in the original or updated CWSAC list, no survey of the battlefield had been completed.

The battlefield was mapped using ArcMap 9. The survey data was given to the ABPP at the conclusion of the project for incorporation into their battlefield database. This information will prove useful when road and other improvements involving Federal funding are proposed for the battlefield area. Such survey data has been used by local and state governments, the Federal government, planners and others to help protect battlefields from inappropriate development.

**THE COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING**

On February 18, 2009, a meeting was held at the agricultural extension office in Campbellsville to gather public input concerning the preservation of the Tebbs Bend battlefield. Fifty-three people attended the meeting, eleven of whom were battlefield landowners. Each attendee was given a questionnaire; thirty-seven were completed and of those twenty-eight were signed. Eight included additional comments.

The questionnaire asked eight yes or no questions. Below are the answers received at the community meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you a member of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association?</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you take friends or relatives to visit the battlefield?</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you own battlefield land?</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does Taylor County need a battlefield park?</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you belong to the Civil War Preservation Trust?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you visited other Civil War battlefields?</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you taken the Tebbs Bend Battlefield driving tour?</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you visited the Atkinson-Griffin House?</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to answering the yes/no questions eight people provided additional comments in the space provided. All eight individuals signed their questionnaires. Below are those comments.

A video recounting the battle with live action, maps, etc. plus highlighting modern/current significance of the area would be great. Could be used in the visitor center for area promotions, etc.

Agricultural District – Tebbs & Lemmon’s Bends – Taylor and Green Counties 2,000 Acres? History & nature = desirable destination. Richie Kessler

Appreciate very much the effort that has been put forth in preserving the field and area. Very beneficial for teaching history for our schools.
Grateful for the community interest in the battlefield. Rev. Ken Forman

I make the fifth generation of my family that has lived on the property. My kids will make the sixth. I like the idea of keeping it the way it is. The only negative I can think of is the increase in traffic, but I can live with that. Chris Sublett

This is a great project. It will increase tourism, which will create a greater tax base of our community. It will preserve our history. Ron McMahan

These historical remnants are important for all generations. If not preserved and documented they will be lost forever, as have so many sites to date. Seeing & realization of the past can only enhance the present and future. Brenda Philpott

It is important our historical heritage be preserved. Battlefields are important in remembering how much our soldiers and their leaders have done for us in the past.
Gordon E. Smith

It is essential to preserve the battlefield. It is an integral part of Kentucky’s history. A park will also help attract tourism (in conjunction with Green River Lake). As a professor at Campbellsville University, I feel a park will help with post secondary instruction, promote educational opportunities for students, and compliment the University’s commitment to historic preservation. Dr. Wendy Benningfield

I love to visit battlefield sites. (Vicksburg, Tupelo, Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry) are a few of the sites I’ve visited. To live right by one makes me appreciate all the others that much more. Marilyn Clarke
The responses to the questionnaire and the comments were all positive and all indicated that those in attendance favored preserving the battlefield. Many of the responses indicated a desire for a larger interpretive program. All in all, those in attendance understood what was being proposed and what a preservation plan would mean. Another preservation effort is currently underway in Taylor County. The Homeplace on Green River, an agricultural museum, is adjacent to the battlefield. This project preserved over 200 acres of agricultural land and a number of structures and outbuildings that document the evolution of the historic farm, which was owned by only three families from the early 19th century through the 1990s. The project has been popular with local citizens and the elected officials of the area and statewide. Preserving the battlefield complements the Homeplace and other preservation and conservation efforts underway in Taylor County and the region.

THE VISIONING SESSION

A visioning session was conducted as part of the community meeting. Those in attendance were asked four questions.

QUESTION 1: HOW DO YOU USE THE BATTLEFIELD?
This question was asked to determine if the battlefield was recognized as a vital community resource. The answers demonstrate that the community does indeed feel that the battlefield resource is important and special. The responses reflect solid options for land use, partnership opportunities, educational opportunities, and long-term land use and preservation.

RESPONSES
- Teaching facility
- Birding, wildlife observation for biology courses, water sampling, biological work associated with Green River and university classes
- Take friends and relatives to see battlefield & take tour; when they come back they ask to return
- Promote tourism
- Entertainment
- Take travel writers to see the battlefield
- Family visits tours
- School program for city & county schools
- Make a living on it agriculture
- Battlefield is an addendum to Homeplace on Green River
- Live on the battlefield – place of residence
- The annual yard sale – 2,000 visitors
- Organized bus tours – Filson Club, Chicago Civil War Roundtable, Smithsonian
- Hardwood planting 80 acres.

Most of the battlefield is actively farmed, just as it was at the time of the Civil War. Several landowners mentioned a desire to continue farming the land while at the same time expressing a wish to preserve it as a battlefield. In the 1860s there was a scatter of farmsteads in the Bend. That is still the case. Farming methods have changed but the battlefield remains agricultural.

Several answers indicate that the battlefield is used for field trips for school age and college students by local and regional educators. It is also a popular destination for adult groups in the form of organized Civil War battlefield tours, Civil War roundtables, and other organizations that visit the site on a regular basis. A partnership with Homeplace on Green River would present an opportunity for educational programs discussing the relationship between the national conflict and agriculture during the Civil War; the effect the battle had on local residents, whose crops surely suffered from the presence of thousands of troops marching across the land and felling trees; and other topics. The original brick house at the Homeplace was extant at the time of the Civil War. In fact, some of the outbuildings date from the mid-19th century and one barn is rumored to have been constructed from the timbers of the Civil War-era Green River Bridge.

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield is a vital part of Taylor County’s tourism offerings. There is a multi-stop driving tour of the battlefield with wayside interpretation. The Atkinson-Griffin House at nearby Green River Park houses a number of exhibits on the battle. The battlefield is listed in the Civil War Discovery Trail. It is listed in the travel guide distributed by the Kentucky Department of Travel and is part of the Cumberland Cultural Heritage Highway, a state scenic byway promoted by TourSEKY, the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association.

**QUESTION 2: WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE BATTLEFIELD?**

This question was asked to get attendees to describe what they felt was the most important feature of the battlefield both in terms of tangibles and intangibles. The respondents appreciated the natural beauty of the battlefield resource. Those who responded, especially the
landowners, expressed a love of the land. Attendees value the cultural and natural resources of the battlefield including the Green River, the Confederate Cemetery, and the driving tour.

RESPONSES:
- Viewshed
- An inspirational place where you can learn about and appreciate your heritage
- Continuity of place 5th generation family farms, area that has remained the same
- Private citizen involvement in battlefield
- Government support of battlefield resource
- Confederate Cemetery improvements
- A place of pride for the community
- A reminder of the sacrifices of past individuals
- A compact battlefield, easily understood
- The beauty of the landscape in each season
- The Green River
- Recreation

Those who attended the meeting value and enjoy the battlefield. They expressed the feeling that the battlefield has personal meaning for them—as a battlefield, a farm, or both. It is a source of pride because it is unique to the community. As hallowed ground it both awes and inspires people.

There was no consensus regarding what people liked about the battlefield; the responses were as varied as those in attendance. The battlefield resource was respected as a whole. The responses indicate that the land, the sacrifices of those who fought there, and the work of private citizens to preserve and interpret the battlefield are all part of why they value and respect the battlefield resource.

QUESTION 3: WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE GREATEST CONCERNS REGARDING THE BATTLEFIELD?
This question was raised to help the attendees focus on the future of the battlefield and how this plan could help mitigate future concerns. The responses to this question were more concise than any other question asked. The attendees felt that the battlefield was, for the most part, in good hands now. However, they felt that could change in the future, and that was the basis for most of the concerns.

RESPONSES:
- What will happen to the battlefield in the future?
- Development pressures
- Will future generations be willing to be stewards of the resource?
- Many of the families have been here for generations – will that continue?
- The battlefield now has government support – will that continue into the future?
- Property values re: easements, preservation funds are not available now to purchase easements
- The Green River Bridge – could be closed at any time or replaced by a concrete bridge.

The three major concerns were the willingness of future generations to farm and/or remain stewards of the land; the availability of funding for land purchase; and the possible replacement of the Green River Bridge. Farming is an uncertain occupation and some young people from farming families are choosing occupations that involve less physical labor and promise a more reliable income. Many landowners at the meeting want their land to remain agriculture—to remain open space. If their children do not wish to farm or to live on the land many want some mechanism in place to insure that the land, which in many cases has been in their family for generations, is preserved as agricultural land.

Funding for land purchase is a very real issue; without a Civil War Sites Advisory Commission classification this battlefield has no access to land and water monies. The Green River Bridge was built in 1907 and has been threatened with closure by the Kentucky Department of Transportation more than once over the last 20 years. The proposed replacement is a nondescript concrete span. While a concrete span might be safer, replacing the bridge would destroy an important historic feature that has great meaning to residents of the Bend and the surrounding area.

Development and government support were also listed as concerns. Residential development is a very real threat that will only increase in the future. The economic downturn will stifle development for a while, but once the economy recovers development pressure could quickly take large portions of the battlefield as older landowners die or opt to sell their property.

The current county government has taken a very favorable stance on the battlefield and projects associated with it. That, of course, could change with the next election. The Homeplace on Green River and the Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Preserve, both of which are on or adjacent to the battlefield, have county and state support. There is currently no area set aside as a Battle of Tebbs Bend Park where visitors can experience the battlefield. The only place that the public can walk on battlefield land is at the Confederate Cemetery. The Atkinson-Griffin House is open to the public but it is no longer on the battlefield. The multi-stop driving tour takes visitors through the battlefield but does not allow pedestrian access to it.
The current county administration would probably support a battlefield park if one was created and the meeting attendees expressed a desire for such a park. The county has supported the battlefield by using the county road crew to install the waysides and signage associated with the battlefield driving tour. The battlefield is not the county’s largest tourist draw, but it is recognized as an important part of Taylor County’s tourism package. The loss of local political support would seriously damage the battlefield preservation effort.

An issue concerning the continued effort to preserve the battlefield not raised at the meeting, but often expressed in conversation, is that much of the effort to date has been driven by one individual, Betty Jane Gorin, and that without her, the movement to preserve and interpret the battlefield will wither. Betty Jane Gorin has been the prime mover of this preservation effort for the last 40 or so years. Ms. Gorin is enthusiastic; she is devoted; and she is determined. However, like all of us, she is human and will not live forever. The significance of this or any battlefield preservation plan is that it provides a blueprint to guide the preservation of the battlefield into the future. Some time in the future, someone will have to assume the responsibility that Betty Jane has shouldered. No one will ever be able to replace her, but someone can and must assume the responsibility to move the project forward.

**Question 4: What vision do you have for the future of the battlefield?**

The last question was asked to get the attendees to envision the battlefield resource in the future. The responses were very specific and for the most part expressed a desire to see more interpretation developed for the battlefield.

**Responses:**
- More promotion of battlefield as tourism resource
- Video that captures the action of the battle and relates it to the landscape
- Visitor Center with exhibits
- Animated map of the battlefield
- Living history
- Completion of Visitor Center at Tollhouse
- Hiestand House is another tourism resource
- Walking trails on battlefield
- Reconstruction of stockade
- Toll road is another heritage tourism resource
- Move Michigan marker to area where regiment actually fought
- Recognize/mark soldiers’ spring
- Recognize past uses of resource
- Reconstruct historic bridge

The responses demonstrate that those in attendance see a broader role for the battlefield in the future. They want an in-depth interpretive program, which would include a visitor/
interpretive center and access to the battlefield in the form of trails. However, without a preserved battlefield most if not all of the suggested enhancements would not be possible or would be much less effective.

The respondents also brought up partnerships. The Hiestand House in Campbellsville is a 19th-century stone house where life in Taylor County is interpreted. It was extant at the time of the Civil War and its interpretive program includes a Civil War component. Partnering with the Hiestand House would give visitors more to see and do while in the area and it would keep them there longer. Long-term battlefield preservation will require the development and nurturing of a number of partnerships if the battlefield is to be protected and interpreted.
Preserving the Tebbs Bend Battlefield
**Preserving the Tebbs Bend Battlefield**

The preservation of any historic site is a long-term endeavor. Perpetuity is a very long time. The most pressing threat to the Tebbs Bend Battlefield at this time is residential development. As Taylor County attracts new people seeking jobs and a better quality of life there will be development pressures, especially along SR 55, that will adversely affect the battlefield. The *Taylor County Agricultural Development Council Comprehensive Plan* dated July 2008 reported, “There is also a migration from the city to the county presenting a challenge of production agriculture co-existing with urban sprawl that has increased land values and threatens the use of normal farming practices.”

The concern of the *Taylor County Agricultural Development Council* is also a concern for the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association and anyone else interested in preserving the Tebbs Bend battlefield. Migration from the city to the county, rising land prices, and urban sprawl are the major threats to most battlefields, from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to Taylor County, Kentucky. While development in Taylor County might seem small in comparison to Lexington or Bowling Green, it is happening and it is happening at a steady and accelerating rate. Land that seems safe because it is “in the country” is only one generation away from being sold for the highest and best use, which will probably not be for agriculture. Any development of the Tebbs Bend area, while it might not destroy the battlefield, would certainly have an adverse effect upon it from an integrity standpoint, in terms of the National Register, and in terms of the viewshed.

Three areas are ideally suited to residential development and are likely to be threatened in the foreseeable future. The first area is along SR 55 between its intersection with Tebbs Bend Road and CR 1016. Harley Road connects the Tebbs Bend Road to SR 55. On the east side of SR 55, Quinn Lane and Westshore Drive also connect to SR 55. The second area of concern is the land within Tebbs Bend. The loss of the land between Tebbs Bend Road and Pinch Creek would be the most significant given its proximity to the National Register boundary and the impact on the viewshed. The third is on Tebbs Bend Road north of the bend between the bridge and SR 55. There is easy access to SR 55 from this area, which is open rolling land.

**Areas Currently Protected**

More than 840 acres of the battlefield Core or Study Area are now protected through public ownership or agricultural easements (Map 8). The Nature Conservancy has preserved over 172 acres in the Core and Study Areas. Approximately 20 acres of this land is within the National Register boundary and the Core Area of the battlefield. This land is now the Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Area. The Nature Area is in public ownership, having been donated by the Kentucky Land Heritage Conservation Board.
Map 8: Portions of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield and surrounding area protected by easement as of November 16, 2009.
Another 10.6 acres located between the Nature Area and Tebbs Bend Road immediately north of the Green River Bridge is protected by a PACE (Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program) easement. This parcel is also in the Core Area and National Register boundary.

More than 232 additional acres of land in the National Register boundary is also protected by PACE easements. At least one other landowner has an application pending with the PACE program that would protect just over 100 acres of battlefield land. More than 400 additional acres, including Homeplace on Green River, and two parcels in Lemmons Bend, are also protected by easement. These parcels are in the battlefield Study Area and all or parts of these parcels are in the battlefield viewshed.

PRIORITIES FOR PROTECTION
If possible, all of the land within the Bend and in the National Register boundary between SR 55 and the bridge should be protected. Most of this land is Core Area and all of it is essential viewshed. If the goals of those in attendance of the February planning meeting are to be realized, it is essential that this priority land be protected. There are two ways to protect land, purchase or easement, although all land that is purchased should also be protected with an easement.

Purchasing battlefield land not only ensures its protection, it makes it possible to interpret events where they took place; to allow visitors to experience the battlefield first-hand. This experience is a vital component in helping visitors make a connection to the events that took place there almost 150 years ago. One of the goals of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association is to foster a sense of stewardship toward the battlefield. The organization wants people to understand what took place here, why those events are important and why the battlefield is worth preserving. They want people to care. Interpretation is the means by which the seeds that bloom into stewardship are sown.

Viewshed protection is perhaps the most overlooked aspect of battlefield preservation. While destruction of the viewshed may not affect the National Register boundary or battlefield integrity, it destroys the historic feel and authentic setting that help visitors understand and visualize the events that took place there. Fortunately, the battlefield’s viewshed is limited to some degree by the terrain and the way the road runs through the battlefield, though a good deal of the Bend can be seen from the Tebbs Bend Road between the intersection
with Walters and Joe Kerr roads. Whether a parcel should be protected through purchase or by easement depends on whether the parcel is in the Core Area of the battlefield, if it is necessary or desirable to own the parcel to implement the interpretive program, and if it is desirable to restore an area to the way it looked at the time of the battle.

**PRIORITIES FOR PURCHASE**

It is not necessary for the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association or other not-for-profit preservation organization to own the entire Tebbs Bend area. That scenario will most likely never be realized, nor is it necessarily desirable.

However, those present at the first community meeting named a battlefield park with interpreted walking trails as one of their long-term goals for the Tebbs Bend Battlefield. Approximately 265 acres of land in the National Register boundary is currently protected either by public ownership or agricultural easements, but the only place the public can access the battlefield is at the Confederate Cemetery. The driving tour allows visitors to drive through the Bend, but they cannot leave their cars and explore the battlefield. For purposes of interpretation, owning the entire engagement area should be a long-term objective.

There are 18 parcels totaling approximately 305 acres in the engagement area that should be targeted for acquisition. These lots range in size from less than one acre to 132 acres. The most significant land is north of the road where the Union defensive positions were located as were the Confederate artillery and assault positions. Owning the land north of the road is critical to any future interpretive programs.

Most of this land is currently owned by people who are sympathetic to the preservation of the battlefield. These people may not want to sell their land at this time. However, the TBBA should let the landowners know that if they ever wish to sell that the TBBA would like the first option to purchase it.

The land between the Green River Bridge and the Sublett farmstead should also be purchased. This area includes an encampment site, a ford, the original site of the toll house, and a skirmish site associated with the July 4, 1863 battle. The loss of this property would irreparably damage the battlefield’s integrity. At this time there are open fields on either side of the road. A portion of this land is within the National Register boundary, the Core...
Area, and it is the gateway to the battlefield proper. To lose this viewshed would greatly diminish the effect of the drive from Green River Toll House to the river and the feeling it evokes.

Currently, there is no place in this area for visitors to pull off of the road to access the available interpretation. At this point, that is generally not an issue as the traffic on the road is light. However, that can and will change in the future. The TBBA does not want to put visitors in harm’s way. By owning this property the TBBA could develop a pull-off that allows visitors safe access to on-site interpretation. This area is likely to have intact archeological deposits that could be investigated as part of an ongoing series of public archeology and educational excavations.

The site of the stockade should also be acquired. Though this structure was not engaged during the battle, it is on the battlefield and it is a significant Civil War era feature. This site is also a candidate for long-term archeological investigations, which could provide valuable information on Civil War era stockades. The acquisition of this site will allow the development of a safe pull-off for interpretation. Acquisition would fulfill the desire of those attending the first community meeting to see the battlefield used as an educational facility. An archeological investigation will be necessary to determine the location of the stockade to insure that any property purchased includes the stockade site.

It is recommended that TBBA eventually purchase 18 parcels totaling just over 305 acres of battlefield land. These parcels are all in the Core Area and all except two parcels are in the main engagement area. Purchasing these parcels will insure that the battlefield is preserved in perpetuity and will make it possible to implement a comprehensive interpretive program which gives visitors access to the battlefield. It will also ensure that professional archeological investigations can be undertaken when funds permit (Maps 9 and 10).
Map 9: Overview of priority parcels for protection by purchase.
Map 10: Detail of priority parcels for protection with PVA parcel numbers.
### A Preservation Plan for the Tebbs Bend Battlefield, Taylor County, Kentucky

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**Total acreage: 305.4875**

Most of this land is not currently on the market. Some is owned by members of the TBBA, some is not. Many of the landowners have been in the Bend for generations and want to remain; they know their land and they love it. These landowners have been incredible stewards. The reason for developing this list of properties is to identify parcels that require protection to insure the preservation of the battlefield. People die and sometimes their heirs are unable to, or do not wish to, occupy or farm the property. It is at that juncture, when land goes on the market and can be lost to inappropriate development, that the TBBA must be prepared to take action. The parcels identified above provide a talking point, an opportunity to begin discussions with those landowners to determine what they plan to do with their land in the future. Preservation of a battlefield is a never-ending process. It has taken years for this preservation effort to get to this point. Finding the money to purchase 300 acres may seem like a daunting task, but it is not impossible and is one worth pursuing.
PRIORITIES FOR PROTECTION BY EASEMENT

Viewshed protection is often the most difficult task facing organizations trying to preserve battlefields. In this case it may prove to be easier than land purchase. Several landowners in Tebbs Bend have already taken advantage of the Kentucky PACE (purchase of agricultural easements) program. Over 535 acres are protected by PACE easements and there are applications pending for 100 additional acres. Only the lack of state funds necessary to match Federal funds prevents these applications from moving forward. That should change as the economy improves.

All of the remaining land within Tebbs Bend should be protected with easements, even that targeted for eventual purchase. The Bend’s gently rolling open landscape is beautiful and is an ideal location for single-family housing developments. Any development in this area would adversely affect the viewshed and compromise the visitor experience. The land in the Bend is in the viewshed of the battlefield and is either Core Area or Study Area. The fords, the springs, and the encampment sites are part of the military landscape that was part of the battlefield. The farms that dot the cultural landscape today have left a minimal footprint. Since settlement began in the 1799, the Bend has been agricultural; if that could remain the case, visitors would see the area much as it appeared in 1863. The widely scattered houses and outbuildings do not impact the view of the landscape, which is almost as the soldiers saw it. Conservation or agricultural easements will ensure that that vista remains intact.

Much of the Bend can be seen from the Tebbs Bend Road between the intersection with Walters and Joe Kerr roads. This viewshed remains intact for about a mile southeast along the Tebbs Bend Road. The farm fields that make up most of the Bend allow an unrestricted view, in some cases as far as the tree line along the river when looking south from the road.

The viewshed becomes constricted in the neck of the bend where the ravines on either side of the road are thick with deciduous trees and undergrowth that extends to the edge of the road. This constriction does not completely open up again until just before the Tebbs Bend Road intersects Harley Road.

The viewshed from Tebbs Bend Road to SR 55 between Harley Road and the intersection of Tebbs Bend Road and SR 55 is also critical, especially in the area adjacent to the Confederate Cemetery. The triangle created by Tebbs Bend Road, Harley Road, and SR 55 is low, open land. The viewshed from the Confederate Cemetery across this area is now excellent. Standing at the cemetery one can see across the open fields to SR 55 and beyond. The property is not critical battlefield land but the loss of the viewshed would compromise the setting of the battlefield; compromising the visitor experience and lessening the appeal of the battlefield for visitors.
The open fields east of the Confederate Cemetery should also be protected with easements. This is one of the most critical viewsheds in the battlefield area. Losing this land to inappropriate development would be all too evident to anyone visiting the battlefield. The Confederate Cemetery is currently the one place with public access. The cemetery allows visitors to reflect on the end results of a battle. Looking up from the cemetery to see acres of houses or commercial establishments would detract from the atmosphere of reverence that the cemetery evokes.

The viewshed from the cemetery to the southwest, overlooking Lemmons Bend, is also important. The area that can be seen from the back of the cemetery was guarded by Union soldiers. Confederate cavalry traversed Lemmons Bend while flanking the Union position. The Confederates crossed the Green River from Lemmons Bend as they made their way toward the Green River Bridge during the battle. The Confederates also crossed this area when they withdrew after their defeat. The view from the cemetery is remarkable in that it demonstrates the difference in elevation between the two bends and helps the viewer understand the obstacles that the Confederates faced in confronting the Union defenders and traversing the area. Keeping these fields in agriculture will allow visitors to see what the soldiers saw and will help them better understand the difficulties the terrain posed for Morgan and his men.

It is recommended that 401.96 acres be protected with easements. All are within the Core or Study Area and all but one of these parcels are within the Tebbs Bend area. Protecting this land will ensure that visitors to the battlefield experience the land without distractions and that those who wish to farm can continue to do so (Map 11).
Map 11: Areas of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield that should be protected by easement.
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**Total Acres: 401.96**

**LAND PROTECTION OPTIONS**

The battlefield is currently surrounded by agricultural land. Tebbs, Lemmons and Penitentiary bends all are part of the Green River watershed and all are excellent agricultural land. The improvements to SR 55 adjacent to the battlefield will spur growth and thus development pressure on or near the battlefield. In order to maintain the beauty of the battlefield area and preserve the integrity of the National Register boundary, action will have to be taken by the TBBA. Protecting the land in perpetuity is the only way to insure the survival of the Tebbs Bend battlefield. There are three principle protection options—buying the land, obtaining easements, and zoning or other local ordinances.

**EASEMENTS**

Easements offer the means to preserve land without owning it. This option keeps the land on the tax rolls and keeps it in agriculture, which is generally how the land was used in 1863. Easements can be purchased from the landowner or the landowner can donate the easement. There are two types of easements that could be pursued—Historic Preservation or Conservation Easements and Agricultural Conservation Easements. Both require landowner consent, and some funding is available for both options. Several organizations in Kentucky, including the Kentucky Heritage Council and Kentucky Department of Agriculture, provide information on easements.
Kentucky PACE Program

An agricultural easement is a good option if landowners want to continue farming. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Farmland Preservation Program directs the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program or PACE. This program was established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1994. The funding comes from a combination of sources, including appropriations from the general assembly, federal funds from the Farmland Protection Program, and a $10 million bond issue. Easements can be bought outright for the fair market value of the land or a farmer can donate an easement and take a tax deduction of thirty per cent of his adjusted gross income for six years. Placing an easement on a farm lowers the property value because there is no development potential, thus its assessment for local taxes will be lower.

The PACE Corporation in Kentucky has purchased agricultural conservation easements on 88 farms totaling 20,927 acres for $17,873,444. Easement costs have averaged $854 per acre. The farm size has averaged 238 acres. In addition, 34 easements on 4,638 acres have been donated to the program, bringing the total inventory to 122 farms and 25,565 acres. Since the inception of the program, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has received 816 applications from 75 counties statewide totaling over 160,000 acres. A total of 667 applications are currently pending for a total of over 129,000 acres with an estimated easement value of over $100 million.

Some farmers in the battlefield are already enrolled in the PACE program, with more than 640 acres of battlefield land currently protected. At least one other landowner has an application pending with PACE program officials in Frankfort. It would protect just over 100 acres of battlefield land. PACE is a program with a long track record and is operated out of an agency that many landowners in the battlefield area are familiar with. PACE easements would help protect the battlefield and viewshed and thus help maintain the ambiance of the Tebbs Bend battlefield. PACE was funded every year by the Kentucky General Assembly until 2008. The Federal funding is in place; once the state match is restored the program will continue and should be an option for TBBA.

PACE Program

- Participation is strictly voluntary.
- Enables landowners to realize a portion of the equity in their land without having to sell it.
- Proceeds from the sale of an easement can be used for any purpose.
- Can contribute significantly to the diversification and expansion of our farm economy.
• Can make land and farming more affordable to children and other young farmers by effectively reducing the value of the land.

• Can aid in the transition from one generation of farmers to another.*

[*Features and Benefits of PACE, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, www.kyagr.com/marking/farmland/benefits.htm.]

Conservation Easements
A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land and sell it or pass it on to heirs. When the landowner donates or sells a conservation easement to a land trust certain development rights are sacrificed. For example, a landowner might give up the right to build apartment buildings, stores, additional houses and other structures. However, if the land is used as a farm, it can be maintained as a farm with the right to grow crops. Future owners are also bound by the easement terms.

Funding for conservation easements is available in Kentucky through the TEA-21 Transportation Enhancement Program, which is an 80-20 match. TEA-21 funding has been used to purchase both land and easements at the Mill Springs battlefield, Camp Nelson, Perryville, and other Civil War sites in Kentucky. In fact, any historic properties or land purchased in Kentucky as a part of a TEA-21 project must have a conservation easement placed on it. The easement is held by the Kentucky Heritage Council (the state historic preservation office).

It is often important to own the land in order to establish an interpretive program so easements should not be viewed as an alternative to the purchase of priority land or land that is necessary for interpretive purposes. However, easements are an alternative to protect large tracts of land that are not necessary for on-site interpretation. Preserving the land within the Bend is an important component of preserving the battlefield. Several landowners have already taken steps to protect their land and others should be encouraged to do so, ensuring a pristine viewshed, which will make the visitor experience something special while farming the land continues.

Purchase
The best way to protect land is to buy it. Purchasing property and placing an easement on it ensures that it will be protected and used in the way that the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association envisions now and in the future. Because the Tebbs Bend battlefield is not listed by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) as one of the nation’s 384 most significant and endangered battlefields, some of the tools in the battlefield preservation toolbox are not available. To fund needed protection strategies TBBA will need to be creative and to develop partnerships.
**Right of First Refusal**
The first step in land protection is to ensure that you have an opportunity to purchase property once it comes up for sale. The TBBA should begin a dialog with battlefield landowners who are not currently interested in selling their land to obtain a right of first refusal option on their property. A right of first refusal is a legally binding agreement that specifies a given time span during which the holder of the agreement has the opportunity to purchase the land at a price determined by the landowner. Having this option provides more lead time to put together the funding necessary to purchase the land. Right of First Refusal is a very effective proactive tool.

**Options**
Options can be used when a willing landowner has been identified. The purchase of an option provides a group or individual time to raise the money necessary to purchase the land. The purchase of an option insures that the land will not be sold for the length of the option while funds are being raised. However, if funds cannot be raised within the prescribed time, the cost of the option is lost. In many cases, the cost of the option can be applied to the cost of the land.

**Outright Purchase**
The simplest way to protect land is to buy it outright. This is the best option, but it is also the most costly. An open dialogue should be maintained with battlefield landowners. The TBBA has a great advantage over other battlefield not-for-profits in that many of the members of the organization are also battlefield landowners.

**Bargain Sale**
A bargain sale is the purchase of land at a price below its fair market value. The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association is a 501 (c) 3; therefore this type of sale would entitle the seller to state and federal tax deductions for a charitable contribution. This type of sale is dependent upon the seller’s willingness to take a loss in order to get the tax benefit. The tax deduction is based on the difference between fair market value and the selling price.

Unfortunately, there are not many funding options available to the TBBA for land purchase. In Kentucky, the largest pool of public money is TEA-21. These funds have been used at Camp Nelson, Fort Duffield, and the Civil War fort at Boonesboro to purchase and improve Civil War related sites. All applications for TEA-21 funds must be made through a local government. A price for the land should be established with the landowner prior to submitting the application. The best option for the TBBA is to develop strong partnerships and be creative.

**Zoning Opportunities**
There is no planning and zoning in Taylor County and this would seem not to be an option.
However, the landowners in the Battle of Tebbs Bend National Register District could seek designation as a rural historic district. This designation, which would require approval of the landowners, could create a district in the Bend area very similar to the historic district in downtown Campbellsville. It would provide the property owners with a say in how the land within the rural district was used.

**Preservation Partners**

The largest source of battlefield funding is the *Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program*, which is funded with monies derived from the Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund. The Tebbs Bend battlefield is in the awkward position of being a battlefield that is not eligible for these funds, which are earmarked for battlefields that were part of the original Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Survey. The language of the law would have to be amended by Congress for battlefields not included in the original survey to be eligible for funds under this program. The TBBA might work with the Kentucky congressional delegation to change the wording of the law.

TEA-21 or Transportation Enhancement Funds must be spent on land that has a transportation connection. The transportation connection at this battlefield is obvious. The Union army controlled the turnpike and access to the Green River Bridge, the Confederates had to move them in order to take the most direct route to Lebanon. The battle was fought because of the turnpike and the bridge, as evidenced in the alternate name for the battle—the Battle of Green River Bridge. A successful application for TEA-21 funding has already been made for the restoration of the Green River Bridge Toll House. The case presented to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for further TEA-21 funding can be strengthened by exploring partnerships with the Taylor County Fiscal Court and by working with the Taylor County Tourism Commission, educators, and others to document the numbers of requests for information concerning the battlefield, the number of visitors, tours, field trips and other uses that demonstrate the value of the battlefield to the community.

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield is located in the *Green River Bioreserve*, one of The Nature Conservancy’s priority sites. The Green River is home to 71 of Kentucky’s 103 known mussel species a number of them quite rare. The Commonwealth’s only endemic mussel has been collected from the bioreserve. The Green River is also home to 151 fish species. A number of other rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals are also native to the bioreserve.

The Nature Conservancy purchased the Homeplace on Green River and the Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Area. Continuing a partnership with The Nature Conservancy should definitely be a priority. The TBBA should also use the inclusion of Tebbs Bend within the Green River Bioreserve to its advantage.
Property for sale, especially property that abuts the river, might qualify for funds from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF). Established in 1994, KHLCF provides funds for preserving and conserving natural areas that possess unique features such as:

- Areas which are habitats for rare and endangered species
- Areas important to migratory birds
- Areas that perform important natural functions that are subject to alteration or loss
- Areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education

[KDNR Heritage Land, Providing Funds for Preserving and Conserving Natural Areas, www.dnr.ky.gov/heritageland/]

The Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board gives special consideration to funding agencies working together to meet these goals. Revenue for the fund comes from the Nature License Plate, the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, and environmental fines. Creating a coalition between the county government, TBBA, and The Nature Conservancy would be an excellent partnership and would add strength to an application.

Because the battlefield is located in an environmentally unique, important, and sensitive area, The Nature Conservancy and other agencies and organizations dedicated to protecting sensitive environments will be strong allies in land protection efforts.

The work already undertaken by The Nature Conservancy in Taylor County could be used to the advantage of the TBBA. Rarely does land have as much environmental and historical significance as the Tebbs Bend battlefield. This is an excellent opportunity for environmentalists, historic preservationists, and farmers to work together to find creative ways to preserve this land. Once preserved, the land will provide green space in Taylor County, it will insure that the agricultural heritage of the county remains intact, and it will promote heritage tourism through a preserved and, in the long-term, fully interpreted Tebbs Bend battlefield.

The Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI) provides another opportunity for partnerships. The RHDI is pilot project that seeks to stimulate economic development in the rural areas of eight Central Kentucky counties, one of which is Taylor County. The program’s focus is on five areas: Preservation Education, Local Business Development, Heritage Tourism, Farmland Preservation, and Branding and Image Development. The program is a partnership between the Kentucky Heritage Council, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Dry Stone Conservancy, and was funded in large part by a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.
According to the *Historic Preservation in Kentucky* report on the Rural Heritage Development Initiative:

African-American heritage sites, religious heritage sites, and the idyllic rolling farmland characteristic of this area have just recently begun to receive the attention they deserve. Branding and image development is also an important way to identify and highlight the unique qualities of the selected region.

The TBBA could tap into this initiative. The effort under way in the Bend fits into at least two of the RHDI’s five areas of focus: Heritage Tourism and Farmland Preservation. The TBBA should become active participants in the RHDI and should stay informed regarding opportunities for funding that may develop. Partnering with the initiative may also be a way to secure grant funding and/or technical assistance.

Another Federal partner is the US Army Corps of Engineers who manage the Atkinson-Griffin House. Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act makes Federal agencies responsible for historic properties owned or managed by those agencies. Section 110 specifically states: “the costs of preservation activities are eligible project costs in all undertakings conducted or assisted by a Federal agency.” Over the years the Corps has kept the house in good repair, it might be possible for them to obtain funds to upgrade the interpretation or systems at the house.

**CONCLUSION**

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield is something in which everyone in Taylor County can take pride. Much has been achieved through the efforts of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association and the dedication and hard work of various individuals.

- Atkinson-Griffin House acquired and interpretive exhibits installed
- Battle of Tebbs Bend listed in National Register
- Confederate Monument listed in National Register
- Driving tour developed and interpretive waysides installed
- Battlefield driving tour listed in Civil War Discovery Trail
- Green River Toll House acquired and restoration in progress
- More than 640 acres protected by easements through PACE program
- Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Area established
- Tebbs Bend Battlefield Preservation Plan completed

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield is well-known in Kentucky. The funding of this project through the National Park Service demonstrates that it is also known in Washington, DC. The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association has accomplished just about everything that can be accom-
plished without owning land. The TBBA can take pride in what it has done but its job is far from finished.

This plan recommends the purchase of 305 acres of battlefield land, and the preservation of another 401 acres of battlefield land and viewshed through easements. In order to accomplish the vision outlined in the community meeting, battlefield land will have to be acquired. Protecting battlefield land will ensure that visitors to the battlefield experience the site without inappropriate distractions and that those who wish to farm can continue to do so. Over 640 acres of land has already been placed in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture PACE program with another 100 acres pending. The Nature Conservancy has purchased 392 acres, a portion of which is within the Core Area of the battlefield; even more is viewshed (Map 12). If properly channelled, the love and respect for Tebbs Bend are forces that will lead to a successful battlefield preservation effort.

What happens next is up to the people of Taylor County. The organization is in place and a plan is in hand. If the goals of the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association are to be realized, the organization and the people have to step forward and use the resources available, talk to their friends and neighbors and their state and Federal representatives, continue to cultivate partnerships and find creative ways to accomplish their goals and fulfill their vision for the Tebbs Bend battlefield.
Map 12: *Tebbs Bend Battlefield, summary of protection priorities.*
Recommended Actions
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association has accomplished a great deal during the last decade. The battlefield has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. An interpretive program has been initiated. The site is listed in a number of tourism publications, and it has become one Taylor County’s featured sites. The most important task remains—the preservation of battlefield land.

APPLY FOR ABPP FUNDING

The ABPP is one source of funding that has been successfully tapped. With a successfully completed project they will be likely to fund future requests. The ABPP will fund archeological investigations, interpretive planning, research, and mapping.

FORM PARTNERSHIPS

There are a number of organizations and agencies that the TBBA can partner with to apply for funding, technical assistance in grant writing, design, preservation, and other fields that will help achieve long-term goals. The Nature Conservancy, the Rural Historic Development Initiative, Kentucky Heritage Council, TourSEKY, Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Taylor County Fiscal Court can all be useful partners. Invite people from these and other organizations to speak at TBBA meetings. You’ll be surprised how many will come.

WORK WITH LANDOWNERS

The landowners in the Bend love their land and want to preserve it; the land already enrolled in the PACE program and the pending applications make this abundantly clear. Take active steps to help landowners preserve the battlefield, their land, and their way of life.

MAINTAIN MOMENTUM

Continue hosting events, reenactments, living histories, battlefield tours, and the annual yard sale event. Work with all the tourism organizations to make sure visitors know about and can find the battlefield.

The action plan below outlines specific steps that the TBBA can take over the next decade to achieve the goals outlined in this plan.

2010-2011

➢ Continue dialog with battlefield landowners

This plan identifies over 300 acres of priority battlefield land. Begin conversations with landowners regarding their long-term plans for the land.
Make it known that the TBBA would like the first option to buy the land if it goes on the market. Encourage landowners to place easements on their property.

- **Create a website**
  The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association needs a website. Let the world know you are out there and what you are doing!

- **Apply for additional American Battlefield Protection Program funding**
  The exact location of the stockade and the Union defensive position are not known. Seek ABPP funding to conduct an archeological survey to determine the location of these sites. Seek funding for a cultural resource inventory/survey.

- **Celebrate the Civil War Sesquicentennial**
  The upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial is an opportunity to educate the community, region, state, and nation about the Tebbs Bend battlefield. It may also present opportunities to obtain funding for land or easement purchase.

- **Seek rural historic district designation**
  This is an opportunity for the landowners in Tebbs Bend to gain control of how their land can be used. It is also an opportunity for the landowners to work together and perhaps get to know one another even better. There are very few rural historic districts in Kentucky; this could be the first outside of the central Bluegrass.

- **Begin partnership building**
  The Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association has the opportunity to partner with several organizations to move its agenda of preserving the battlefield forward. Begin this effort by inviting representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Rural Historic Development Institute, Kentucky Heritage Council, Taylor County Fiscal Court, Team Taylor County, and others to speak at TBBA meetings.

- **Open toll house interpretive center and upgrade interpretation**
  Funding is in place to restore the Green River Toll House. After the building is restored and the exhibits installed would be a good time to upgrade battlefield interpretation should be upgraded. Some of the panels are ten years old and are worn. They need to be replaced. Seek permission to place interpretive trails on the Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Preserve tract.
2012-2014

- **Continue land preservation activities**
  Continue working with landowners to purchase land and/or obtain easements. Work with the Kentucky PACE program, The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Trust Fund, and others to locate and secure funding.

- **Seek funding for an interpretive plan**
  The Civil War Sesquicentennial is an excellent time to reevaluate the interpretive program. Apply for ABPP funding for a comprehensive interpretive plan.

- **Observe the Great Raid Sesquicentennial**
  Work with Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, and other sites to hold a month-long *Great Raid* event. Use this as an opportunity for education and fund raising.

- **Staff the battlefield**
  With the Green River Toll House open, the TBBA has the opportunity to have a presence on the battlefield during the tourist season. Work with the county government and other partners to find funds to pay an individual to staff the toll house and operate a gift shop. If no funding is available, seek volunteers.

- **Create four annual battlefield events**
  The TBBA hosts the annual “Tebbs Bend flea market.” Now is the time to begin to host Civil War related events. Living histories, demonstrations, ghost walks, a Memorial Day ceremony, a lecture series, or other events will draw attention to the battlefield and help with fund raising.

2015-2020

- **Continue land preservation activities**
  Continue working with landowners to purchase land and/or obtain easements. Work with the Kentucky PACE program, The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Trust Fund and others to find funding.

- **End the Civil War Sesquicentennial on a high note**
  It should be the goal of the TBBA to have purchased some battlefield land by the end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (2015). The Sesquicentennial provides a four year opportunity for partnership building, good publicity and fund raising.
➢ **Open on-site interpretive trails**  
   Land has been purchased and a new interpretive program designed. Open the trails to the public for the first ever on-site battlefield tour.

➢ **Seek funding for battlefield visitor center**  
   At this point the battlefield has grown and the TBBA is ready to expand. Seek funding to build or rehab an extant structure for use as the battlefield visitor center.

➢ **Apply for ABPP funding for new preservation plan**  
   Regardless of how much you have accomplished after ten years much has changed. A new plan will give the new board fresh ideas and a new perspective. Seek funding for a historic structures report for the Sublett house and the tollgate house.
Bibliography

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Duke, Basil W. *History of Morgan’s Cavalry*. Miami Printing, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1867.


Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. “Providing Funds for Preserving and Conserving Natural Areas.” DNR, Heritage Land, Frankfort, Kentucky. www.dnr.ky.gov/heritageland/.


APPENDIX: SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

American Association for State and Local History  
www.aaslh.org

American Battlefield Preservation Program  
www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/

Blue & Gray Magazine  
www.bluegraymagazine.com/

Civic Tourism  
http://civictourism.org/

Civil War News  
www.civilwarnews.com/

Civil War Preservation Trust  
www.civilwar.org

Cultural Heritage Tourism  
www.culturalheritagetourism.org/

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence  
http://free.ed.gov/

Kentucky Council for the Social Studies  
www.kcss.org/content/

Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Office of Agricultural Marketing & Product Promotion – PACE Program  
http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/farmland/index.htm

Kentucky Department of Travel  
www.kentuckytourism.com/

Kentucky Heritage Council  
http://heritage.ky.gov/
Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund
www.dnr.ky.gov/heritageland/

Kentucky Museum & Heritage Alliance

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet – Office of Local Programs
http://tea21.ky.gov/

National Association for Interpretation
www.interpnet.com

National Council for the Social Studies
www.socialstudies.org/

National History Day, Inc
www.nationalhistoryday.org

National Trust for Historic Preservation
www.preservationnation.org/

Rural Heritage Development Initiative
www.kycrossroadsregion.com/

Teaching with Historic Places
www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp

The Nature Conservancy
http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/kentucky/projects/

TOURSEKY
www.tourseky.com/

USDA Rural Information Center – Historic Preservation Resources
www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/preserve.html