

NR 9-17-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Phillips
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Battery D
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hindman Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Military Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Helena
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
One
STATE: AR CODE: 05 COUNTY: Phillips 72542 CODE: 107

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park - Private <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
John M. Connaway and Anne C. Pope
STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 367
CITY OR TOWN:
Helena
STATE: AR CODE: 05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Phillips County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Helena
STATE: AR CODE: 05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
DATE OF SURVEY: May, 1971 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
STREET AND NUMBER:
Plaza West, Suite 1030
CITY OR TOWN:
Little Rock
STATE: AR CODE: 05

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Battery D consists of a series of rifle entrenchments and earthen fortifications on Hindman Hill. Access to this Union Battery is gained via Military Road where two commemorative markers stand at the entrance. Though the other Helena batteries have been greatly altered since they were constructed in 1863, Battery D has changed little.

On the crest of Hindman Hill are the earthworks of Battery D. The remaining rifle trenches lie on the southwest slope of the hill. Battery D is partially covered with trees and thick undergrowth; however, the owner keeps the foliage cut on the crest and upper portion of the hill so that the earthworks and nearby rifle trenches are clearly visible.

Covering about one acre of the hillside, Battery D has remained basically unaltered in the 110 years since its construction. Wind and weather have softened the starkness of this Union Army fortification, but its military purpose remains readily apparent.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) July 4, 1863

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On July 4, 1863, two of the most well-known battles of the Civil War were fought. While Union forces repelled the Confederates' northernmost advance at Gettysburg, Rebel troops at Vicksburg capitulated to Grant's army after a lengthy siege. The Confederate losses at both Gettysburg and Vicksburg foretold the eventual outcome of the war.

The coincidence of Union victories on Independence Day was made still more ironic by a third success in eastern Arkansas. The Battle of Helena was a futile attempt by Confederates to recapture the Mississippi River town of Helena from Federal occupying forces. Like their comrades in Mississippi and Pennsylvania, the Confederate forces in Arkansas also ended the day in defeat.

During the siege of Vicksburg Grant's Union army was supplied via the Mississippi River. If the Confederates could have retaken a river stronghold above Vicksburg they would have been able to harass Federal supply shipments to the besieged city. Hence, the primary objective of the attack on Helena was to relieve Vicksburg.

Union forces, commanded by Major General Benjamin Prentiss, had taken advantage of Helena's topography by building a series of fortifications on hills surrounding the city. Four hilltop batteries overlooked each of the roads leading into town.

Because of rumors that Confederate forces were on the march, the four batteries were strengthened in late June by the construction of a series of rifle entrenchments and abattis in front of each battery. Other defensive

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Phillips	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Significance - (Continued - Page 2)

measures instituted in late June included the sounding of reville at 2:30 A. M. to prevent being caught unawares, felling many trees to obstruct the principal roads leading into town, and stationing a Federal timber-clad, the "Tyler", along the Helena waterfront.

By July 3, the Rebels had moved to within five miles of Helena. That afternoon Confederate commander Lieutenant General Theophilus H. Holmes met with his subordinate officers to explain the order of battle. Simultaneous attacks were to be launched against each of the four batteries. Once these fortifications were captured, the city was to be occupied. With almost twice the number of Union defenders, the Confederates fully expected to retake Helena; however, their own errors, along with the strong Federal fortifications, made victory unattainable.

Because the roads leading into Helena had been barricaded with felled trees, the Confederates, unprepared for this obstructionist tactic, left their artillery behind. Another costly Confederate mistake was a misunderstanding among the subordinate generals as to the exact hour to begin the attack. Poor communications and poor timing hampered the Confederates throughout the morning.

Though three of the original batteries have been lost to urbanization during the last century, one remains intact. Battery D, the southernmost fortification, looks much the same today as it did when soldiers lost their lives in trying to keep or gain possession of it.

Like Batteries A, B, and C, Battery D consisted of earthen fortifications on a hilltop overlooking one of the roads leading into Helena. A series of rifle entrenchments were constructed down the steep hillside in front of Battery D, with a timber abattis lying in front of the first rifle pit. Located atop Hindman Hill, Battery D controlled the road leading into Helena from Little Rock. Colonel

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Phillips	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Significance (Page 3 - Continued)

William E. McLean commanded the Union defenders of Battery D, consisting of troops from Indiana with reinforcements from Missouri and Iowa.

The Battle of Helena commenced with the Rebel attack on Battery D. At daybreak Confederate Arkansas troops under the command of Brigadier General James F. Fagan began their assault on Hindman Hill. After rushing the first rifle pits, the Rebels made a slow but steady climb up the fortified hill. During their hard fought ascent, Fagan's brigade was continually under fire from Union forces in both Batteries D and C. The Confederate commander attacking Battery C misunderstood his orders and waited until sunrise, rather than daylight, to begin his assault. In the meantime, the unhampered guns of Battery C were taking a terrible toll among the Confederate ranks attacking Battery D.

Later in the morning, after the fourth tier of rifle pits had been taken, General Fagan ordered a brief respite for his weary troops. At this point Brigadier General Dandridge McRae led about 200 Rebel troops from the late but successful attack on Battery C to aid in the assault on Battery D. Attacking from Fagan's left flank, McRae's men drew the Union fire from Battery D long enough for Fagan's direct assault to take the last line of rifle pits. As the withering Yankee fire quickly dissolved McRae's attack, Fagan ordered a charge in the final and desperate attempt to take Battery D. However, with the Union guns again focused on Fagan's Arkansas brigade, the Rebel thrust was stopped, and the troops were forced to take cover in the captured Union rifle pits.

While the Battery D guns kept Fagan's men pinned down, orders came from General Holmes to withdraw, and the message was passed verbally through the Confederate lines. Thinking all his men had received the word, General Fagan issued a prearranged signal to retreat; however, about 240 men in an isolated ravine never received the order. As the main force abandoned the area, this group of soldiers was surrounded by Union troops and taken prisoner.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Arkansas	
COUNTY	Phillips	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

Significance (Page 4 - Continued)

The strong fortifications of Battery D protected the Union forces well, as demonstrated by the number of casualties. While 47 were killed and 115 wounded among the attacking Confederates, only five were killed and ten wounded behind the Union earthworks. General Prentiss met superior Confederate numbers with well-constructed defenses.

Besides being representative of Civil War earthworks, the site is also important as visible evidence of the Battle of Helena. On July 4, 1863, Battery D exemplified the fate of the Confederacy and the future of the Union.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bearss, Edwin C. "The Battle of Helena, July 4, 1863." Arkansas Historical Quarterly, XX (Autumn, 1961), 256-297.
 Evans, Clement A., ed. Confederate Military History, Vol. X. Atlanta: Confederate Publishing Company, 1899.
 Crisler, E. T., Jr. The Battle of Helena. Helena, Arkansas: Helena Centennial Association, 1963.
 Scott, Robert N., ed. A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1888.
 The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Wash., D.C.: 1880-1901, Series I, Vol. XXII, pp. 383-442.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 1901, Series I, Vol. XXII, pp. 383-442.

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		34	31	10
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		90	35	49.3
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dianna Kirk, Staff Historian

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program DATE: April 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suite 1030, Plaza West

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: AR CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name William E. Henderson

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 11, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9-17-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Battery D	Hindman Hill	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Phillips	Helena
STREET AND NUMBER		
Military Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G. S. Map, Latour, Arkansas, 15 minutes	1961	1:62,500

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW:

GPO 932.010

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Battery "D"	Hindman Hill	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Phillips	Helena
STREET AND NUMBER		
Military Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
John Connaway	February 1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Facing East.