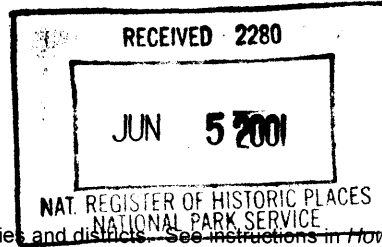


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

127

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wauhatchie Pike

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Old Wauhatchie Pike

N/A not for publication

city or town Lookout Mountain

vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Hamilton

code 065

Zip code 37350

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Herbert L. Boyce*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/31/01  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain.)

*Boe*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*Edson H. Beall*

7.11.01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
1	4	structures
		objects
1	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Chickamauga-Chattanooga Civil War-Related Sites, 1863-1947

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/ road-related

DEFENSE/ battle site

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation NA

walls NA

roof NA

other asphalt, gravel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons Significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or Represents the work of a master, or possesses High artistic values, or represents a significant and Distinguishable entity whose components lack Individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, Information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for Religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY

Period of Significance

Circa 1863-1918

Significant Dates

1863-65

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park

Wauhatchie Pike  
Name of Property

Hamilton Co., TN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 3/4 mile Chattanooga 105 SE

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>650660</u>	<u>3876310</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>651510</u>	<u>3876250</u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Abbey Christman  
organization Center for Historic Preservation date 5/1/1999  
street & number Box 80, Middle Tennessee State University telephone (615) 898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Hamilton County, Claude Ramsey County Executive  
street & number Hamilton County Courthouse Telephone (423)209-6100  
city or town Chattanooga state TN Zip code 37402

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Wauhatchie Pike,  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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## VII. Narrative Description

The nominated property is an approximately three-quarter-mile-long section of the Wauhatchie Pike that runs along the northern face of Lookout Mountain in Hamilton County, Tennessee. The road is narrow, ranging from ten to fifteen feet in width, with an approximately one-foot shoulder on either side of the roadbed. It is tree-lined and situated on the side of the mountain, bordered by rock bluffs and steep drop-offs. The road overlooks the Moccasin Bend section of the Tennessee River.

The historical integrity of the site is intact with the road maintaining its historic route and width. The narrow and difficult character of this early road is still evident, especially in contrast to the modern highway visible beneath it. The view from the road reflects the important historical associations of the site. The new Cummings Highway, circa 1918, can be seen approximately 400 feet below the Wauhatchie Pike, showing the continued importance of this general transportation route around Lookout Mountain. The modern highway is only visible from the historic pike at one location, and then viewers must step off the pike, leave the right-of-way and peer down at the highway.

Sections of the Wauhatchie Pike, which was originally approximately five miles in length, exist to the east and west of the nominated property, but the nominated section is the only one that has been converted to a hiker's trail and is closed to vehicular traffic. The other extant sections have been paved, and in several areas widened, and many contemporary buildings and structures line their rights-of-way. The other extant segments do not retain the high degree of integrity of setting and association evident in the nominated property.

To convert the historic pike to a pedestrian greenway, gravel has been laid over the pike's surface, but the site is otherwise undisturbed. Circa 1993 city officials placed along the road four metal signs, which interpret landmarks and events associated with the Civil War and the road's historic development. The four signs are non-contributing objects due to their date of construction, but due to their placement on the right of the pike, along the right-of-way, and their small size and low height, they do not significant intrusions in the visual integrity of the historic pike.

Outside of these changes to facilitate the recreational and interpretive use of the roadway, this section has changed little since Union soldiers widened the road between 1864 and 1865 and the construction of the Cummings Highway in 1918, after which this nominated section of the Wauhatchie Pike fell into disuse for most automobile traffic. The Wauhatchie Pike retains integrity of location and setting. The construction of the historic Cummings Highway below the Wauhatchie Pike in 1918 did not diminish the setting of the road. Although the 1918 road is sometimes visible from the pike, a wooded setting otherwise surrounds the road on the steep side of Lookout Mountain. This means that Wauhatchie Pike also retains integrity of feeling because the vista or view shed around the nominated property conveys its historic sense of time and place. It retains integrity of design, since its essential alignment is present. It has a lesser degree of integrity of materials since the road was paved with asphalt at an unknown date in the twentieth century and was covered with gravel after its conversion into a hiking trail c. 1990. However, the nominated property still displays much of its construction techniques, especially where the road was carved from the rock bluffs in the mid-nineteenth century and it retains its overall form and plan.

Other sections of Wauhatchie Pike exist, but as discussed above, due to widening, modern pavement, and commercial and residential development, they lack the integrity of setting, feeling, and association found in this nominated section.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Wauhatchie Pike  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

## VIII. Narrative Statement of Significance

The three-quarter-mile portion of Wauhatchie Pike is being nominated to the National register under criterion A for its association with locally significant events in the transportation and military history of Hamilton County. Wauhatchie Pike is significant for its role in the Battles for Chattanooga during the Civil War. Chattanooga was of vital strategic importance as the gateway to the South. Several transportation routes, including the Tennessee River, various railroads, and turnpikes such as the Wauhatchie Pike, passed through Chattanooga, making it an important transportation hub and a military target. The capture of Chattanooga marked the beginning of the end of the war, for once the Union held Chattanooga, the way was clear for Sherman's March to the Sea. In addition, as the historic main road from Chattanooga to Nashville and Birmingham from the mid-nineteenth century until the early twentieth century, the Wauhatchie Pike is an important part of the early transportation history of the region. The nominated property meets the registration requirements for transportation-related resources in the Chickamauga-Chattanooga Civil War-Related Sites, 1863-1947 Multiple Property Nomination.

The Wauhatchie Pike is named for Wauhatchie, a Cherokee chief who lived in Lookout Valley along Lookout Creek. Wauhatchie took part in the Creek War with Andrew Jackson and was one of the chiefs signing the Hiwassee Purchase in 1817. He was among the Cherokees forced west on the "Trail of Tears" in 1838. The Wauhatchie Pike led to the village of Wauhatchie, which grew up around a junction on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad in the early 1850s.

Following the battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, the defeated Union Army fell back to a position within Chattanooga, a city with vital strategic importance.

"It enjoyed a national reputation as a transportation hub from which two of the most important of the Confederacy's few railroads penetrated deep into the South's lightly defended interior, thus earning Chattanooga its popular label as 'Gateway of the South.' Its occupation was essential both to future federal operations into the deep South and to continued Union control of Tennessee. No other viable base of operations for Federal armies existed nearer than Nashville."<sup>1</sup>

In order to defend the city and the supply lines leading into it from the west, the Union Army occupied Moccasin Point on the Tennessee River. In September, a small force of four infantry divisions and two artillery batteries was established there. Throughout the siege of Chattanooga, the Union artillerists on Moccasin Point fired their pieces on multiple targets across the Tennessee River, including Confederate army camps and signal corps stations on the northern tip of Lookout Mountain. Other targets included the various routes traversing the northern end of Lookout Mountain. At the base of the mountain, the Federal gunners prevented travel along the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad and the Wauhatchie Pike.

Confederate commanders attempted at several times to move troops and supplies over the Wauhatchie Pike, but each time the Union artillery kept any major movements from being completed. The nominated property was especially vulnerable to Union fire, making it one of the road's most impassable sections. Denying the Confederate Army full use of the turnpike and railroad was the most important contribution made by the Union forces stationed on Moccasin Point during the fall of 1863. "The effectiveness of the Union guns," concludes historian Douglas Cubbison, "was an integral component of the plan to seize Lookout Mountain, and to eventually raise the siege of Chattanooga."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Peter Cozzens. *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994), 7

<sup>2</sup> Douglas R. Cubbison, "'That awful storm of iron and smoke:' Union Artillery at Moccasin Bend, Chattanooga, 1863," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* ( Winter 1999).

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Wauhatchie Pike  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

The end of October 1863 found the Union forces in Chattanooga near starvation. In an effort to bring more supplies to the hard-pressed army, the Union command formulated a plan to capture the important Tennessee River crossing at Brown's Ferry and Lookout Valley to the west. Brown's Ferry would be captured in a nighttime waterborne assault on the Tennessee River. Capturing Lookout Valley would be the responsibility of General Joseph Hooker, then commanding a large force in Bridgeport, Alabama. Hooker received orders to cross the Tennessee River, pass through a gap in Raccoon Mountain, and enter Lookout Valley from the west. Once Union forces held Raccoon Mountain, Lookout Valley, and Brown's Ferry, the way would be clear for steamboats to ply the Tennessee from the Union supply base at Bridgeport to Brown's Ferry. Both the assault on Brown's Ferry and Hooker's march were planned for dawn on October 27th. The assault on Brown's Ferry was successful and it was in Union hands by the early morning of the 27th. Hooker began his march on the morning of the 27th and had reached Lookout Valley by the morning of the 28th, marching along the Wauhatchie Pike towards Brown's Ferry. General Howard's troops at the head of the column reached Brown's Ferry that evening and set up camp while General Geary's troops at the rear bivouacked near the community of Wauhatchie, protecting the road to Kelley's Ferry. Confederate Generals Braxton Bragg and James Longstreet had observed the Union troops moving along the Wauhatchie Pike on the 28th, and Bragg ordered Longstreet to attack. This resulted in a series of confused engagements around Wauhatchie between Union and Confederate troops during the night of October 28th and early morning of the 29th.

Although both sides made serious mistakes and suffered heavy casualties in the night fighting at Wauhatchie, the Union troops could clearly claim a victory. The capture of Brown's Ferry and the fighting at Wauhatchie ended the Confederate siege of Chattanooga and marked the beginning of the Union offensive. The Union controlled the roads through Lookout Valley, allowing for easier communication and reinforcement, and the "Cracker Line," by which badly needed supplies could be brought to Chattanooga, had been opened.

As part of the campaign for and later defense of Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga in late 1863 and early 1864, Union soldiers improved the Wauhatchie Pike. Blasting brought the road at some places to 30 feet wide (sections not in the nominated property), the soldiers also macadamized it at the same time. Union commanders considered the road a more direct route than the Federal Road (Old Jackson Road) and preferred it despite its dangerous rocky bluffs. Union soldier Chesley Mosman remarked in his diary on January 28, 1864, of the Wauhatchie Pike, "If the teams take fright and go off to the left side they are lost sure, going over the steep declivity of the mountainside and at some place they would likely roll into the river."<sup>3</sup> From the Jonas Bluff vista along the Wauhatchie Pike there is an excellent view below to the Moccasin Bend of the Tennessee River and the city of Chattanooga. (An interpretive marker has been placed there). Many historic photographs were taken from this perspective on the north end of Lookout Mountain, making Jonas Bluff an important scenic landmark after the war.

The Wauhatchie Pike remained the main road from Chattanooga to Nashville and Birmingham until 1918, with only a steep bluff above the Tennessee River below it. The Old Wauhatchie Pike began to fall into disuse after a new highway was blasted from the bluff below. The \$125,000, two-lane "New Wauhatchie Pike" was completed in 1918. It was widened in 1930 and renamed Cummings Highway, for the influential Hamilton County Judge Will Cummings. It was among the nation's first federal-aid highways.

Thus the Wauhatchie Pike has transportation significance as the main road around Lookout Mountain from Chattanooga to Nashville and Birmingham from 1845 until 1918. The Wauhatchie Pike has military significance due to its strategic importance during the Battles for Chattanooga. After their defeat at Chickamauga, Union forces pulled back to Chattanooga. The Confederate forces laid siege to Union occupied Chattanooga, trying to force a Union retreat by

<sup>3</sup> "The Old Wauhatchie Pike" roadside marker.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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Wauhatchie Pike  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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starving them out. The control of supply and transportation routes played a vital role in the fight for Chattanooga. During the fall of 1863, the Wauhatchie Pike was under fire from the Union battery on Moccasin Point. There was also fighting along the road during the engagement around the community of Wauhatchie during the night of October 28, 1863. After the Union gained control of Lookout Mountain, federal troops improved and widened the road, using it as a major supply route during its occupation of Chattanooga.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 5

Wauhatchie Pike  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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## X. Bibliography

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Civil War Site Assessment. "Actions on Moccasin Bend, September 21- November 27, 1863, Hamilton County, Tennessee." (Draft)

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Civil War Site Assessment. "Engagements at Wauhatchie and Smith's Hill, October 28-28, 1863, Hamilton County, Tennessee." (Draft)

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Wauhatchie Pike  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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## X. Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated section contains an intact, approximately three-quarter-mile portion of the historic route of Wauhatchie Pike and its immediate right-of-way owned by Hamilton County. The section begins at the eastern trailhead of the public Wauhatchie pedestrian trail at Old Wauhatchie Pike and extends westward for approximately three-quarter-mile to the eastern trailhead adjacent to the Sky Harbor Motel on Old Wauhatchie Pike.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant property of the Wauhatchie Pike that is known to retain integrity. This is the most intact section and the longest historic portion of the road, that was once around five miles long. It retains integrity and its associative characteristics with the war..

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 7

Wauhatchie Pike  
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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**Photographs**

Wauhatchie Pike, Hamilton Co., TN

Photos by: Carroll Van West

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: July and October, 1998

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

2941 Lebanon Road

Nashville, TN 37243

West Trailhead, facing southwest

1 of 11

Wauhatchie Pike, facing east

2 of 11

Detail, rock bluffs on trail, facing southeast

3 of 11

Jonas Bluff Vista interpretive sign, facing northeast

4 of 11

Jonas Bluff vista, facing northwest

5 of 11

Cummings Highway from Jonas Bluff vista, facing north

6 of 11

Wauhatchie Pike, facing east

7 of 11

Wauhatchie Pike, facing west

8 of 11

Wauhatchie Pike, facing west

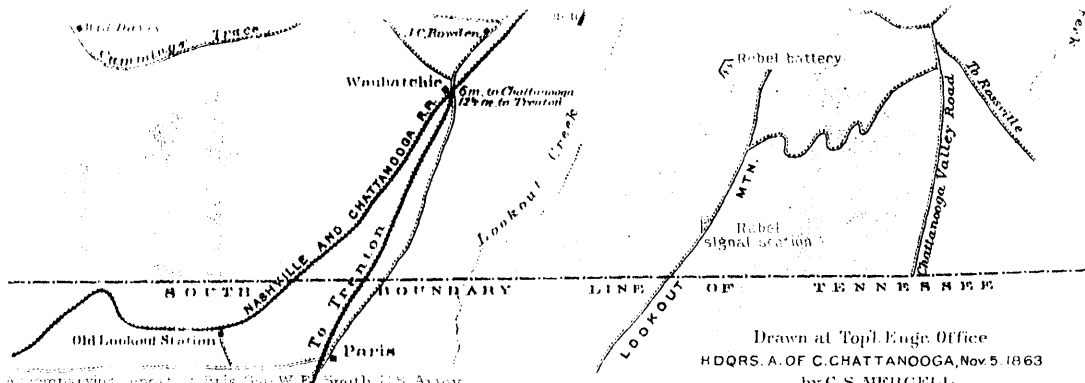
9 of 11

Wauhatchie Pike, facing southwest

10 of 11

East Trailhead, facing west

11 of 11

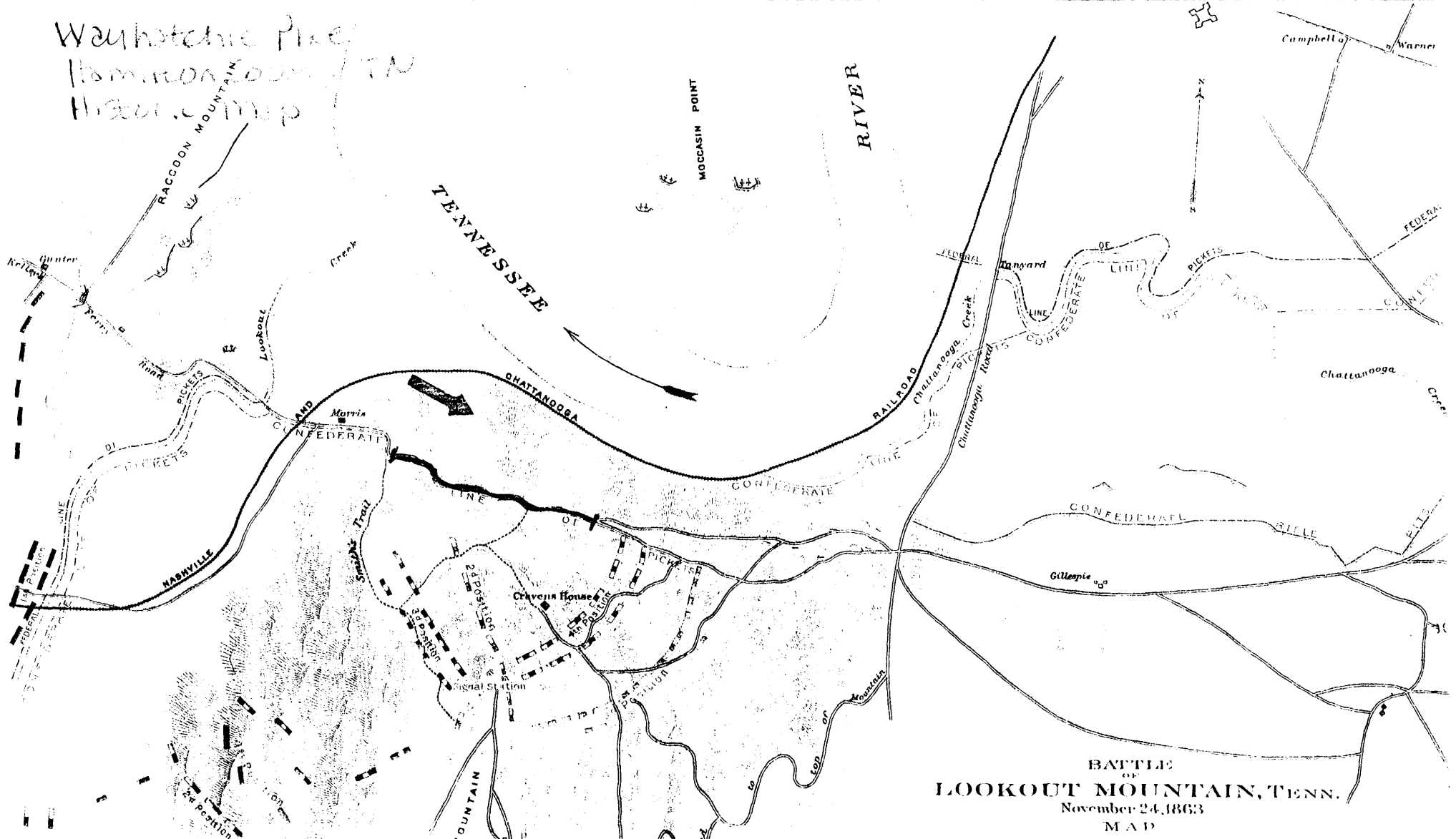


Accompanying report of Brig. Gen. W.F. Smith, U.S. Army  
SERIES 1707, 220, PART 1, PAGE 27

Drawn at Top. Eng. Office  
HDQRS. A. OF C. CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 5, 1863  
by C.S. MERGELL.

Accompanying report of Major Gordon Granger, U.S. Army  
SERIES 1707, 220, PART 2, PAGE 103.

Wayhatchie Pike  
Hammond Mountain  
Historic Map



BATTLE  
OF  
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, TENN.  
November 24, 1863  
MAP