

Verandah Curlee House | Interpretive Master Plan

Prepared by Howard+Revis Design Services
in association with LCA Associates

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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

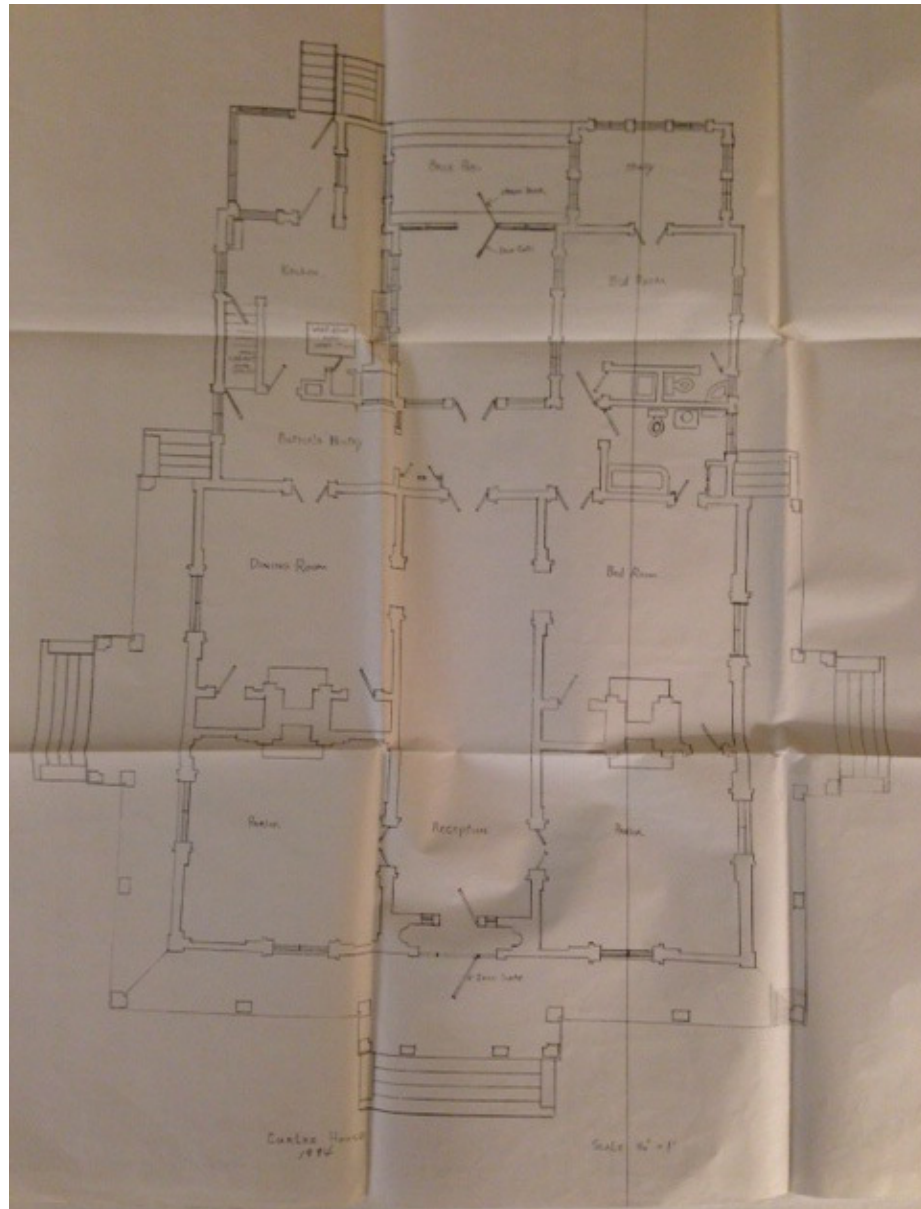
This document is produced by Howard+Revis Design Services, an interpretive planning and design firm in Washington, DC, in partnership with LCA Associates, an historic furnishings consultancy in Philadelphia, PA.

The document follows a site visit to Corinth, MS, conducted in late January of 2014 and the first formal submittal of the project, a preliminary interpretive design planning document submitted on March 28, 2014. This second and final submittal is edited down from this previous version. Elements which were considered inadvisable, such as an expanded retail area and creative merchandising, have been removed and/or reduced. Elements which received a positive response, such as the Walking Tour, have been retained. An Historic Furnishing Plan produced by LCA Associates is being submitted under separate cover.

This Interpretive Master Plan submittal is intended to serve as a “road map” to guide future design and programmatic decisions regarding the renovation and operations of the historic Verandah-Curlee House.

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I | Existing Conditions

Exterior

The Verandah-Curlee House at 705 Jackson Street was built for Hamilton Mask, one of the two founders of Corinth, in 1857. The builder is believed to be William F. Turner. The house is a significant example of Greek Revival Architecture, and includes some Italianate features. The porch which wraps around the front and side of the house is atypical for Mississippi (a portico is more common) and is associated with the high style coastal architecture of New Orleans. The home is a designated National Historic Landmark and is further described in the application submitted in 1975: <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/75001038.pdf>. The serious structural problems which threaten the house, particularly the roof and foundation, are currently being addressed. The landscaping is in poor shape and is not original to the house. The brick wall enclosing the site and the brick front steps are later additions from the 1920s. The LCA Report, submitted under separate cover, provides further details.





FRONT DOOR



CENTER HALL WITH MURALS FROM CURLEE PERIOD



PARLOR



LIVING ROOM OR LIBRARY



BEDROOM



Interior of 1857 house

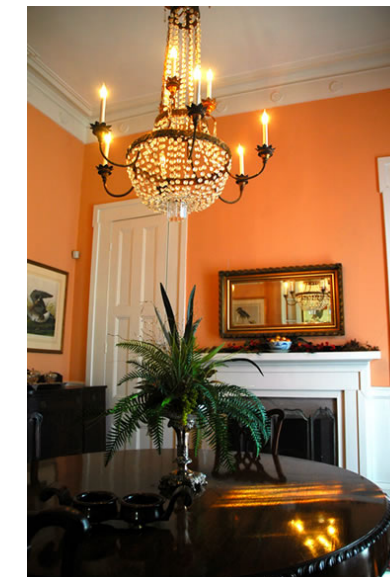
The interior of the 1857 house features 16-foot ceilings with elaborate plaster molding and other significant architectural features. There is a center hallway and four large rooms of similar size: the parlor, the living room (or library), the dining room, and the bedroom.

Refer to the Historic Furnishings Report under separate cover for information on the home's original finishes and furnishings.

The Veranda house was purchased in 1875 by Mrs. Mary E. Curlee, mother of Shelby H. Curlee, founder of nationally famous Curlee Clothing Company. Recognizing the house's significance, the Curlee family undertook a major restoration of the house during the Great Depression. The family deeded the home to the city in the early 1960s.



DINING ROOM



1930s Addition

An addition to the 1857 house was added in the 1930s. The addition includes a hallway that spans the full width of the house, a kitchen, a bedroom with storage closet, one full bathroom and one half bathroom. The Department of the Interior has recommended that this later addition stay in place and not be demolished.



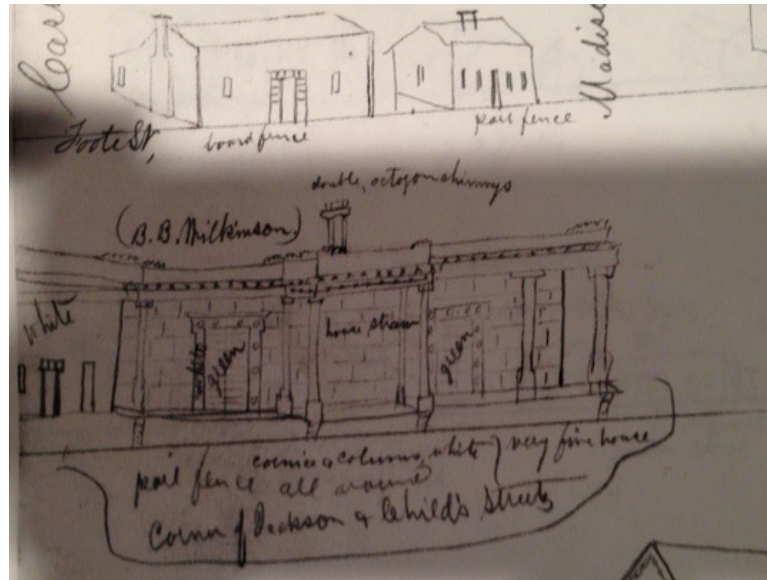
HALLWAY IN ADDITION



1920S KITCHEN



"MUD ROOM" WITH DOOR TO STORAGE ROOM



MATTHEW MILLER SKETCH, 1860-1861



PHOTOS OF HOUSE DURING CURLEE PERIOD



PHOTO OF HOUSE DURING CIVIL WAR



PHOTOS OF HUGGINS FAMILY IN FRONT OF HOUSE



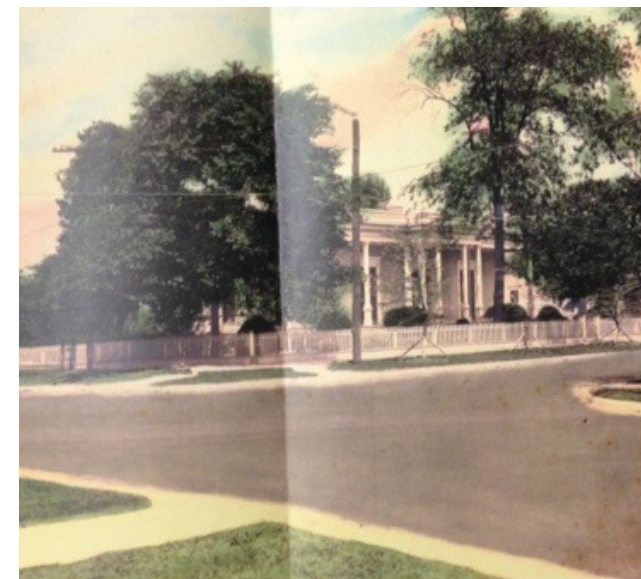
PHOTOS OF GARDEN DURING CURLEE PERIOD



II | Historic Images of House

There are a limited number of historic photos of the Verandah-Curlee House documenting the building and site, and a few period illustrations. The pen-and-ink sketch at top left was drawn just before the outbreak of the Civil War in 1860-1861 by Matthew Miller, who drew sketches of many of the buildings in Corinth. The notes on the sketch say: "double octagon chimney," "cornice and columns white," "very fine house," "green" (presumably describing the color of the shutters), "rail fence all around", and "corner of Jackson and Child's Streets." The sketch shows inscribed "faux masonry coursing" in the exterior plasterwork.

The Civil War era photo shown above features a wood rail fence enclosing the property and several trees in the yard. Most of the photos reflect the house during its occupation by the Curlee family. The plantings that were put in place during this period have mostly been removed. The wood picket fence which replaced the wood rail fence was also removed and replaced with a brick wall.

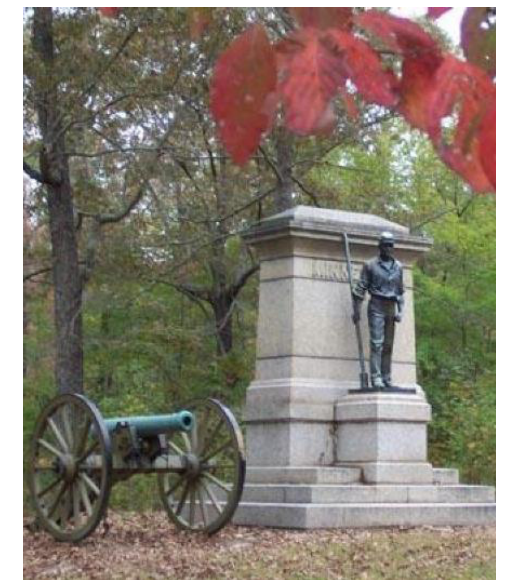


PHOTOS OF HOUSE. DATE UNKNOWN





SHILOH BATTLEFIELD AND VISITOR CENTER



III | Nearby Visitor Venues

When open to the public, the Verandah-Curlee House will need to complement the great number of nearby venues that interpret the Civil War. It will also need to compete for visitors. A brief survey of these venues indicates that the preponderance of them are devoted to telling the complex, many-chaptered story of the military conflict in the region, including most notably Shiloh Battlefield and Visitor Center and the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, along with smaller sites such as Battery F and Battery Robinett. The Contrabands Camp and Black History Museum tell a fascinating side-story to the main battlefield saga, the experiences of African Americans during the war. Though the civilian experience may be present within some of these interpretive venues in a minor way, there is scant coverage of the impact that the Civil War had on ordinary individuals and on a small town like Corinth. This is a fascinating untold story.

To the extent possible, the interpretation at the Verandah-Curlee House should pick up on the learning that occurs at these other visitor sites, and, from that foothold, broaden the story. The Verandah-Curlee House need not tell the story of each battle — other venues already do that — but instead could tell the story from the perspective of a single individual such as General Braxton Bragg, or from the perspective of a town resident, such as Hamilton Mask, or even from the perspective of an enslaved servant in the house. The Verandah-Curlee House need not tell the story of the African-American refugee crisis in Corinth — the Contraband Camp tells that story — but can tell the story of the Lorenzo Thomas' speech announcing the induction of African-Americans into the Union Army, an event of national significance that occurred on site.

Additionally, we would recommend that the Verandah-Curlee House use its' cameo appearance in the film shown at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center to its advantage. Costumed docents could dress like the film's characters and be scripted to tell their individual stories. If the budget allows, Argentine Productions could even film within the house to extend the storylines to include events and character more specific to the interpretation of the house and to Corinth.



CORINTH CIVIL WAR INTERPRETIVE CENTER





CORINTH CONTRABAND CAMP



BATTERY F, BATTERY ROBINETT & OTHER OUTDOOR BATTLE SITES



CROSSROADS MUSEUM



CORINTH COKE MUSEUM
VERANDAH CURLEE HOUSE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM





CORINTH NATIONAL CEMETERY



BORROUM'S DRUG STORE



HISTORIC CIVIL WAR ERA HOMES





IV | The House's Role in Corinth

To remain viable in the long run, the Verandah Curlee House must fill a need for both tourists and local residents. The newcomer to town has a number of different visitor venues available to them and will want to know what is unique and appealing about the particular experience this house has to offer. The house should provide a satisfying experience for all types of tourists: the casual passer-by, the architecture aficionado, and the Civil War enthusiast.

Local residents also need a reason to visit the house — and not just once when out-of-town guests come to visit, but repeatedly. These residents are the potential long term stakeholders in the survival of the property. They are the ones most likely to raise funds to ensure its financial viability, to support special events held at the house, to frequent the gift store, to organize gatherings at the house, to incorporate the house into school programs, to volunteer as docents, to appreciate the beauty of the house and its contributions to the unique character of the town.

Interpretation of the War's Impact on Civilians

The town of Corinth and its environs offer the visitor a host of interpretive opportunities to explore the impact of the Civil War in the region. How does the interpretation offered at the Verandah-Curlee House nest with these other established visitor venues? What can the house offer that is unique and appealing to potential visitors? Our recommendation would be to use the house to interpret an aspect of the Civil War that is not well-addressed at existing nearby venues, and indeed is not well-addressed at Civil War-related venues nationwide — namely, the experience of the Civil War by local populations. Most National Park Service sites, including the sites at Shiloh National Battlefield and at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center are focused on telling the story of the battles. The experience of the war from the perspective of the civilian is either not present, or very much of a sidebar topic. The Verandah-Curlee House is well-situated to tell the story of how a single family — the Hamilton Mask family — was impacted by the outbreak of hostilities, and how an entire town — Corinth — could be turned upside down and transformed by the experience of war.

Civil War Heritage Center

Many of the tourists who seek out Corinth are Civil War buffs. This potential constituency should be encouraged to “find a home” at the Verandah-Curlee House. The home should accommodate the requests for or even encourage the staging of Civil War re-enactments by making it possible to pitch tents in the yard and tie up horses at the curb. Local Civil War buffs in the community, or locals with a casual interest in their own family's Civil War history, should be able to display family photos and artifacts from the period, share family stories regarding the war, and post notices on their research and/or re-enactments targeted to other parties interested in the Civil War in Corinth.

House Tours

Architectural aficionados, whether they be local or from out-of-town, would be well-served by restoring the home to its pre-war grandeur. The interpretation can also cover the effects of war upon the house. As discussed in the accompanying Historic Furnishings Plan, the eastern end of the hall (nearest the front door) and the two front rooms (best bedroom at room 101 and formal parlor at room 103) would be restored to reflect the Mask family occupation before the onset of the war. The west end of the hall (near the addition) and the two rooms at the back of the house would be outfitted as an officer's bedroom (room 102) and a meeting room for the military (room 104). The interpretive strategies used — whether they be static graphic panels, multimedia presentation, digital handheld device, docent-led tours or some combination thereof — should provide information on the architectural environment and the furnishings and fittings for each room. Organized house tours, such as the annual Spring tour, should add special interpretive features to encourage repeat visitation by locals. For example, the tour might include graphics which show the building crafts, such as plasterwork, interpreted as a step-by-step process. Or even better, an architectural craftsman might be set up on site to demonstrate a particular building craft. Costumed docents could be employed to provide a more intimate and personal form of interpretation to tour-goers.

Educational Programs

The schoolchildren of Corinth are an especially important constituency. If field trips are encouraged and supported, this could potentially greatly increase visitation to the house, as well as open up new opportunities to increase your prominence in the community. Volunteers and dedicated stakeholders could be recruited among the adult chaperones, or over time, among the children grown to become adult members of the community. The interpretation offered at the Verandah-Curlee House should nest well with Mississippi's standards of learning for the various age groups. Tactile and hands-on features should be incorporated for the young learners (especially since many of the furnishings are out-of-reach and “untouchable”) and compelling storytelling and access to primary source documents should be present for the older students.

Rental, Festivals & Special Events

Due to the potential for damage to the property and furnishings from food and foot traffic, the consensus is to prohibit rental of the interior of the house. The potential exists to rent the grounds for special events, such as weddings and outdoor gatherings. However, without appropriate support spaces (caterers' kitchen, dressing rooms, restrooms, etc) on the interior, the potential for outdoor rentals is limited. The property has hosted a variety of festivals and special events in the past, including Civil War heritage programs, music-based events, craft shows, Christmas caroling and tree-decorating, even High Tea. The new renovation will bring furnishings and exhibitry that could be damaged by these large public gatherings. If considered, easily-damaged items will need to be moved out-of-reach and extra staffing added to supervise the visiting public.

Retail Store

The current consensus is that the retail store should have a minimal presence and be located within the addition, either at the north end of the back hallway or within the storage room. To keep inventory low, the offering would be limited to souvenir-type items, such as postcards, books and inexpensive guides on the town and house for visitors and small low-cost trinkets for schoolchildren.

V | Interpretive Strategies

Furnish house to pre-war period

In the initial kick-off meeting in late January of 2014, the decision was made to restore the house to its pre-Civil War state, circa 1860. This showcases the beauty of the architecture and the furnishings to best advantage. Refer to the Historic Furnishings Plan by LCA Associates for recommendations.

Represent military occupation at back of house

Since the significance of the house is due to its occupation by military officers during the Civil War, and to the pivotal war-related events which occurred on the property and in the town of Corinth, the decision was made to represent the disruption of the military occupation at the back of the house, in particular, at the west end of the central hall and two back rooms. Refer to the Historic Furnishings Plan by LCA Associates for recommendations regarding furnishings and props to achieve this end.

Primary Focus on Civil War in 1857 House

The Verandah-Curlee House was occupied by a number of different generals and stands as a silent witness to major milestones in Civil War history. During the initial occupation by the Confederates in spring of 1862, it served as the residence and headquarters for Confederate Generals Braxton Bragg, Earl Van Dorn, and John B. Hood. After the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Shiloh, the Union Army successfully attacked the town at the Siege of Corinth and commanding Union General H.W. Halleck moved into the house. The Confederates under Van Dorn rallied to take back the town at the Battle of Corinth, but were defeated. By June of 1862, the Union Army had turned their attention elsewhere and had begun to move out of Corinth. Union General Grenville Dodge stayed to organize and run a Contraband Camp for the enslaved African-Americans looking for refuge behind Union lines. Dodge took up residence in the Verandah-Curlee house. In December of 1863, the camp moved to Memphis and the town — once again — was back in civilian hands.

In addition to witnessing the two major battles in Corinth — the Siege of Corinth from April 29 to May 30 of 1862 and the bloody Battle of Corinth on October 3-4 of 1862 — there are two major events that occurred at the Verandah-Curlee House which give it particular significance. These are:

- The Decision to Attack at Shiloh - Recognizing the strategic importance of the railroad crossing at Corinth, the Confederate Army occupied Corinth. They carefully monitored the build-up of Union troops near Shiloh at Pittsburg Landing. The Union also saw the railroad crossing as critical to their success. On April 2, 1862, at close to midnight, Confederate Generals Johnston and Jordan knocked on the door of the house, which was then occupied by Confederate General Braxton Bragg. They brought with them a telegram that Jordan had carried from commanding General Benjamin Cheatham. The telegram proposed that the Confederate Army attack the Union troops amassing at Shiloh. A conversation over when and how to attack must have ensued within the Verandah-Curlee house that night. The next morning, Johnston issues the order to attack. The Battle of Shiloh would prove to be the greatest carnage seen in battle up to that

date. Indeed, the battle takes the life of Johnston on April 19th.

- The Decision to induct African-Americans into the Union Army - After Union General Halleck is called to DC, Union General Grenville Dodge is put in charge of the district and occupies the Verandah Curlee House. He organizes and serves as commander of the Contraband Camp. In this role, he is a participant in the discussion over whether to bring African American fighting age men that have fled behind Union lines for safety into the Union Army. General Lorenzo Thomas is on tour in the region to solicit opinions on when or how this might be done. After the Emancipation Proclamation is announced in September of 1862, Thomas travels to Corinth — one of the last stops on his tour — and makes a speech on May 16, 1863 announcing the new policy of bringing African American men into the Union Army. The speech is given in the side yard of the Verandah-Curlee House and is documented with a well-preserved historic photograph. The 1st Alabama is organized five days later from men living at Corinth's Contraband Camp. They are among the first regiments organized under the banner of the United States Colored Troops.

These two momentous events truly changed the outcome of the Civil War and the course of the nation and are the primary reasons that the house has national significance, and therefore, the attention of the National Park Service. This house — particularly in the context of the other houses in the neighborhood — is also able to tell a very compelling story of the impact of the war on the home-front. For these reasons, we would recommend that interpretation within the 1857 house focus strongly on the period of the Civil War.

Secondary Focus on pre- and post-Civil War events in 1930s Addition

Though the primary focus of the interpretation is the Civil War period, visitors should have access to interpretation regarding the other periods in the house's history as well. Our recommendation would be to stage a very simple exhibit composed of framed images and documents with captions in the 1930s addition to cover this additional material. The topics covered would include:

- The life of the house prior to the Civil War, including its creation for Hamilton Mask, co-founder of Corinth in 1855.
- The residency by the Mask family and their enslaved servants, 1857 to 1860.
- Also mention should be made of the other two pre-war owners of the house, Burnett B. Wilkerson (1860) followed by William Simonton (1860 - 1872).
- Life in Corinth prior to the Civil War, including images of the neighborhood, neighbors, enslaved servants, etc.
- The design and construction of the house and its decorative features
- The occupation of the house by the Huggins family.
- The occupation of the house by the Curlee family.
- The restoration of the house and its site by the Curlee family and decision to deed the house to the City.
- The stewardship of the house by the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, including the restoration of the house to its current state

Paint Portrait of People and the Community

In general, visitors respond to people more than they do events. Therefore, the occupants of the house should be the starting point and the window for the telling of history. Because houses are so intimately connected with people, the venue is well-suited for this sort of intimate interpretation. The various occupants of the house should feel present and alive to visitors. This can be achieved through careful selection of graphics, well-done written interpretation, characterful furnishings, well-selected props in the rooms, and through re-creations of the historical characters using multimedia (audio or video).

The people that occupied the house, though, did not live in a vacuum. The character and setting of the neighborhood provides context and enlarges the story. As much as possible given the limited scope of the project, interpretation should paint a portrait of the house within the town.

Use House as Trailhead for Walking Tour

Indeed, the Civil War story of the Verandah-Curlee House is incomplete without an understanding of the total occupation of the town by both Confederate and Union Armies. Generals and officers commandeered many of the prominent houses in the neighborhood and made military decisions from their parlors and backrooms. The town served as a backdrop for two battles which undoubtedly involved house-to-house battle. And after those battles, the houses served as hospitals for the care of the wounded.

A well-done walking tour of the immediate neighborhood of the Verandah-Curlee House could tell a more complete story of the impact of the Civil War on civilians, and allow the story to unfold at a leisurely pace and develop in depth.

Use Primary Source Material and Quotes

To the extent possible, we would recommend that primary source materials — historic photographs, illustrations, sketches, letters, military orders, telegrams, etc. — be displayed within the exhibit to convey authenticity and to give a sense of immediacy to the story. Visitors appreciate having access to these critical bridges to the past. At the Verandah-Curlee House, among the most important primary sources to display would be the April 1862 telegram from Confederate General Benjamin Cheatham, the May 16, 1863 speech by Lorenzo Thomas and the accompanying photograph of the speech being given that day. Other primary source material — such as documents and illustrations from the Van Hedges Collection or historic photos of Corinth and local families during the period of significance — would also greatly enrich the interpretive experience.

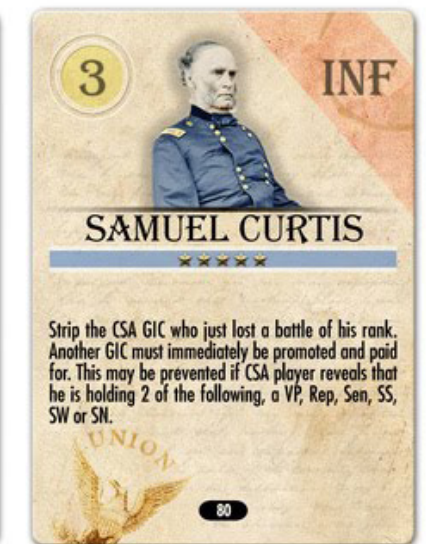
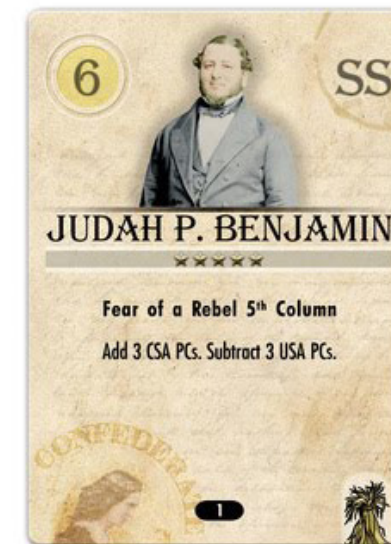
Similarly, we would recommend that to the extent possible, the voice of the exhibit be the voice of the actual participants in the action. Towards this end, we would suggest culling historical materials and oral histories for quotes that can bring the past to life.

Make House a Repository for Family Histories

The Civil War history of Corinth is not only present in documents and historic photos, but is also embodied in the memories of the people who live in the town. We envision that the house could serve as a repository for these very personal family-oriented stories of the war as well. Local people could be encouraged to submit Civil War-era family photos and small artifacts (such as bullets, belt buckles and insignia dug up in the yard) which would be displayed as an assemblage. Additionally, a bound comment book, touchscreen monitor or audio- or video-recording device might be present to encourage local visitors to leave behind their family story in a tangible and long-lasting way. These stories would grow in number over time to form an impressive archive and compelling portrait of a community caught up in the throes of war.

Incorporate Tactility and Interactivity

Since many of the room furnishings will be behind barriers and out-of-reach, we would recommend that touchable items be provided at close reach to satisfy visitors' urge to "get their hands on history." Small children, in particular, learn through touching, though adults also find items that they've touched particularly memorable. Small metal relics — such as bullets, uniform buttons, military insignia, cups, bugles, etc. — as well as other low-cost touchable reproductions — such as hats, gloves, leather canteens, playing cards, medicine flasks, even Confederate money — could be tethered to graphic panels or integrated into a touchable timeline. Alternatively, some props and reproductions could be fully accessible to the public. For example, visitors may be able to sit down at a reproduction piano and play period sheet music, or even try their hand at a popular game, such as snookers or dominoes.



VI | Phased Alternatives for Interpretation

Phasing the Project

The options available for renovating the house as a visitor attraction are subject to the success of future fundraising efforts and the time it takes to design and implement the solutions. The design team anticipates three phases for the interpretive component of the renovation. Phase I provides an initial package of interpretation which is intended to meet the immediate need for telling the story to visitors touring the house. Phase II provides a more permanent interpretive package and may incorporate multimedia solutions, pending the success of fundraising efforts. Phase III provides more extensive interpretation on the exterior of the building and is dependent on the restoration of the grounds and/or surrounding neighborhood.

Each of the three phases includes architectural/site improvements, furnishing recommendations and options for interpretation.

Phase I: Temporary Interpretation

Architectural/Site Improvements:

- Continue with existing planned renovations of the building exterior and interior.
- Clean the site and fix life safety issues, such as tripping hazards.
- Add room barriers, such as movable stanchions with rope

Furnishings:

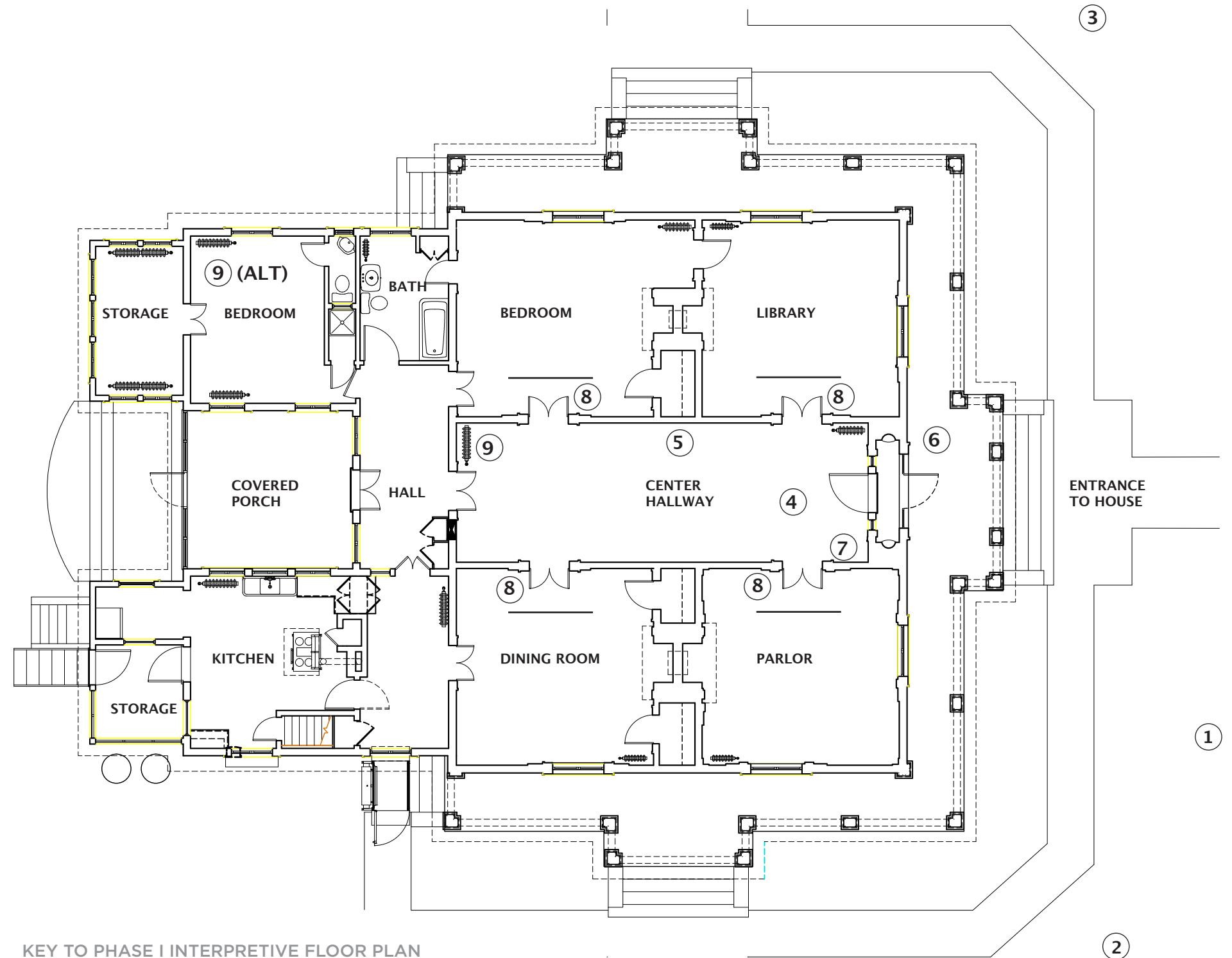
See LCA Historic Furnishings Plan for detailed recommendations. The Report recommends that the period-of-significance for the furnishings in the house be the period just prior to the Civil War.

- Use only existing furnishings recommended in LCA Report.
- Purchase new furnishings recommended in LCA Report.
- Purchase and/or acquire readily available props recommended in the LCA Report, including books, tableware, faux food, clothing, hats, etc.

Interpretation:

The following interpretive recommendations are alternatives and are not all intended to be implemented. The criteria for selecting which alternatives to implement include initial and long term costs, ease of implementation, contribution to long-range interpretation of the house, and effectiveness in engaging visitors.

- Restore historic marker. The surface of the existing plaque is badly damaged and hard to read.



KEY TO PHASE I INTERPRETIVE FLOOR PLAN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Restoration of historic marker | 7 Introductory Graphic |
| 2 Civil War Encampment in yard | 8 Interpretive graphics (brochure, banner or poster) for period rooms |
| 3 Dramatic re-enactment of Lorenzo Thomas speech | 9 Monitor playing existing intro film |
| 4 Costumed docent tour with props and script | |
| 5 Tabletop artifact case and touchables | |
| 6 Tour sign with "welcome" message | |

Phase I: Temporary Interpretation cont'd

- Invite local re-enactors to create a Civil War encampment in the yard of the Verandah-Curlee House, complete with reproduction tents, guns, possibly even horses. One special event that could be incorporated into the House Tour could be a dramatic re-enactment of the reading of the orders to induct African-Americans into the Union Army in the side yard, as documented by the existing historic photo and archival letter.

- Buy period costumes and prepare narrative scripts for docents. The docents could be assigned to historical characters from the house's past and given set stories to convey to visitors. Props might be provided, including reproductions of letters, military orders, battle maps and newspapers, to assist the costumed docents in telling their tales and to provide authenticity and veracity to their stories. The narrative scripts could incorporate questions that the costumed docents would ask their audience, including challenges to encourage visitors to think and/or look more closely.

- A tabletop display could be set up in the hallway with touchable props like hats, buttons, belt buckles, and framed photos, alongside laminated facsimiles of historical documents that help to tell the house's story, such as telegrams, letters and diaries. Another option would be to purchase an off-the-shelf tabletop artifact case of the type seen in memorabilia shows, and borrow documents from Van Hedges collection and other sources to put on display.

- Interpretive graphics could be prepared simply and inexpensively that provide overall context for the house and room-by-room interpretation. We would anticipate a panel on the front porch, one in the main hall, and one for each of the four main rooms for a total of six. These graphics could take the form of retractable vertical banners, such as the Nimlok system shown at right, or posters mounted on foam board and set atop display easels, such as those available from Displays2Go.com, also shown at right. Another option would be to incorporate brochure stands with laminated interpretive graphics for each location, or, a single brochure stand with multiples of a single flyer that interprets the entire house.

- Purchase audio-visual equipment (or use existing, if available) and play the existing introductory film within the house.



TOUCHABLE PROPS & ENCASED PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL DISPLAYED ON A TABLETOP



BROCHURES OR LAMINATED INTERPRETATION AT STAND(S)



PORTABLE DISPLAY WITH FULL-HEIGHT BANNER GRAPHICS



Phase II: Permanent Interpretation

Architectural Improvements:

- Provide ADA accessibility through a ramp or lift.
- Provide fittings and fixtures for a small retail store in the rear bedroom, including additional lighting
- Upgrade bathroom
- Create more permanent barriers at each of the four period rooms

Site Improvements:

- Add footings for new outdoor signage and appropriate landscaping modifications
- Improve site landscaping to provide a safer environment for visitors and to provide a more attractive and welcoming backdrop for the house

Furnishings & Props:

See LCA Historic Furnishings Plan for detailed recommendations. The two front rooms of the historic house will be furnished in pre-war fashion. The back two rooms of the historic house will show evidence of the military occupation.

Interpretation - General:

• Rather than focusing exclusively on the interpretation of the Verandah-Curlee House, the focus should be expanded to treat the house and town of Corinth as emblematic of the war's impact on civilians — especially women and children — and on communities. The occupation of the town by both Confederate and Union Armies provides a unique window on the experience of the war from the homefront.

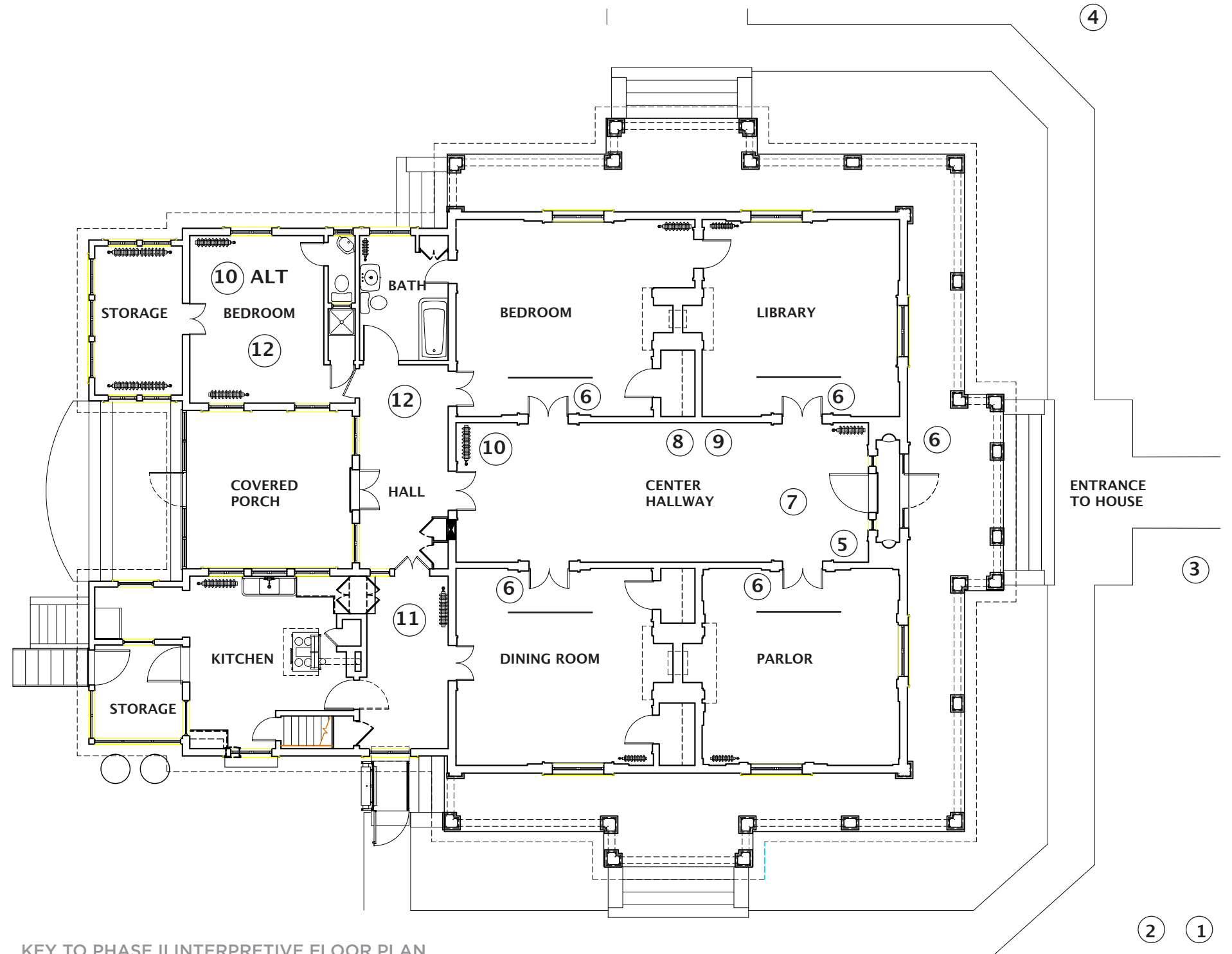
• In order to bring the Civil War alive for visitors, it is important to convey in a very visceral way the presence of the occupying armies within the town of Corinth.

• The interpretation, as much as possible, should incorporate primary source materials, such as telegrams, letters, diaries, maps, newspaper articles, etc., and present them with the minimal text needed to provide context.

• Create a logo for the Verandah-Curlee House that establishes the house as a center for interpreting the impact of the Civil War on the homefront. Use the logo on signage out front. Consider potential use of the logo for a more expansive walking tour of Corinth during Phase III.

Interpretation - Outdoors:

• The Verandah-Curlee House could become the trailhead for a walking tour of Civil War-related sites in the neighborhood. A map based panel (facing north for ease of reading the map) would trace the route of the tour and identify houses occupied by generals and other spots in town with stories to tell. The trailhead could incorporate a brochure holder with handheld map, or feature an RFID code and/or website for downloading a map by cell phone.



KEY TO PHASE II INTERPRETIVE FLOOR PLAN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 New signage with logo | 7 Costumed docent |
| 2 Trailhead for walking tour | 8 Local civil war heritage, artifacts, touchables |
| 3 "Scene-setter" wayside | 9 Trunk with touchable items |
| 4 Wayside on Lorenzo Thomas speech | 10 Monitor with film |
| 5 Intro "welcome" panel (with digital tour instructions if needed) | 11 Pre- and post-war history exhibit |
| 6 Interpretive graphics with touchables and/or multimedia for period rooms | 12 Retail |

- Replace the outdoor interpretive panel in the front of the house with a scene-setter for the interpretation within. The interpretation could paint a picture of Corinth at midnight, just prior to the arrival of the April 2, 1864 telegram from Benjamin Cheatham, hand-delivered by Johnston and Jordan to General Braxton Bragg who was living within the Verandah House. Cheatham and Bragg's decision on that night, which sets the events of the Civil War in Corinth in motion, would be illustrated through imagery of the historic telegram, a map showing the railroad crossing in the context of the overall war, images of the Union troops amassing up north near the river, and portraits of the Union and Confederate Generals involved.

- An outdoor interpretive panel could be added to interpret the announcement of the induction of African Americans into the Union Army. Presumably this panel would be located on the side of the house to put visitors in the same position as that shown in the historic photo of the event. This panel could also steer visitors to the Contraband Camp and to the Black History Museum for further interpretation on the issue of African American involvement in the war.

Interpretation - Exhibits in 1857 Home:

- Graphic panels within the original home are thought to number no more than five, including an introductory "Welcome" panel in the center hall and one panel for each of the four rooms, located atop or in front of the room barriers. These indoor panels would expand upon the story that begins at the front curb with the wayside that describes the midnight knock on the door announcing the arrival of a telegram which will set the battles in Corinth in motion. The town thought to be a strategic crossroads during the war is about to be over-run.

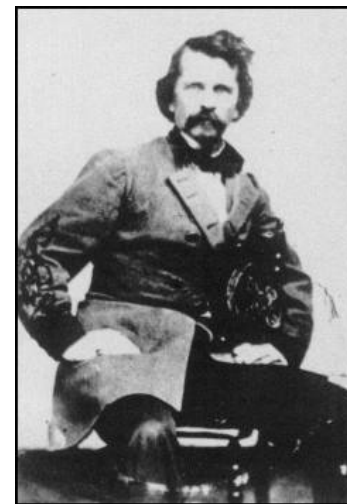
- The Hallway introductory panel picks up on the scene-setter of the outdoor wayside, but dials the narrative back in time somewhat to the founding of the town at the crossroads of the railroad by Hamilton Mark. The development of a thriving rail town is described, including construction of many genteel homes. The narrative then proceeds to describe how the town's greatest asset becomes its greatest liability as the crossing becomes the nexus of both Confederate and Union war aims. A trunk and/or crates featuring clothing and/or valuables might become a touchstone for telling the troubling story of the rapid pre-war departure of the Mask family, as Confederate soldiers pour into the town and occupy the homes.

The panel explains that the gentility of pre-war life reflected in the furnishings and fittings of the two rooms at the front of the house is about to be disrupted by the disruption and chaos of war that is about to ensue.

- Graphic panels within the home should be unobtrusive and restrained so as not to overwhelm the historic fabric of the house. The interpretation should be complementary to the function of the room and the furnishings, encouraging closer inspection. Since the rooms at the front of the house will represent the pre-war period, these panels could focus on the furnishings and architecture, and the pre-war life that they represent. These panels could also paint a fuller picture of the life of the town prior to the war.



GRAPHIC SHOWING FOCUS ON INDIVIDUALS



CONFEDERATE GENERALS THAT OCCUPIED THE HOUSE (L TO R):
BRAXTON BRAGG, EARL VAN DORN, JOHN B. HOOD



UNION GENERALS THAT OCCUPIED THE HOUSE (L TO R):
H.W. HALLECK, GRENVILLE DODGE



ARMY ADVANCING ON TOWN OF CORINTH



GENERAL BEAUREGARD'S HEADQUARTERS 1862

- The bedroom at the back of the house will be outfitted as an officer's bedroom and the dining room will be outfitted as a meeting place for generals and army officers to discuss war strategy. The panels associated with these two rooms should tell the story of the occupation of the town by both Confederate and Union Armies, as described in the 'Interpretive Strategies' section of this report. This includes the first Confederate occupation in April 1862, the Union occupation and eventual take-over of the town in June of 1862 and the Battle of Corinth in October of 1862. One possibility is that the Dining Room tells the story of the Confederate occupation and the Bedroom tells the story of the Union occupation.

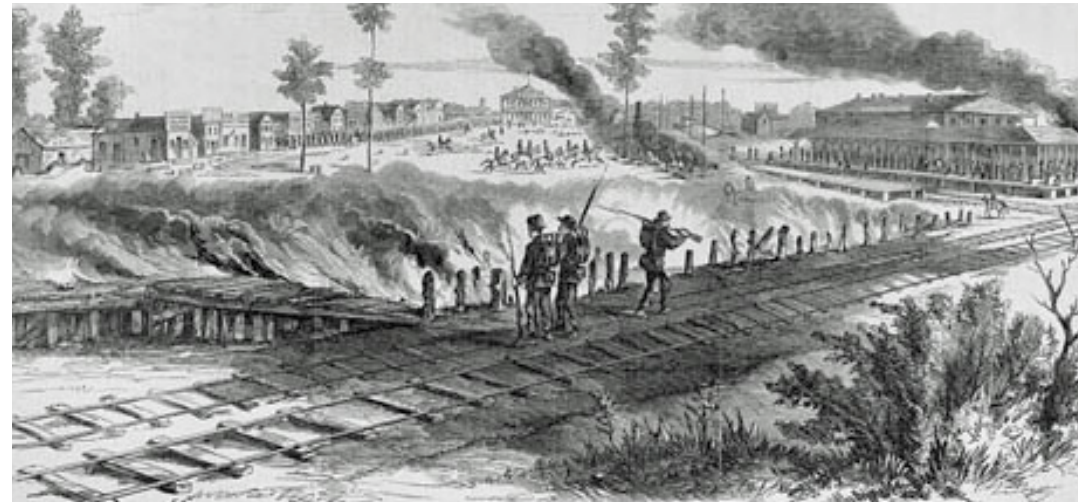
- Dining Room interpretation - The current thinking is that the panel and the props within this room reflect the first Confederate Occupation of Corinth. The primary focus should be on the night in April of 1862 when the Confederates made the difficult decision to attack at Shiloh. Interpretation would focus on the telegram arriving from Confederate General Benjamin Cheatham and hand-delivered by Johnston and Jordan to General Braxton Bragg who had taken residence in the house. Through graphics and label script — and possibly an ambient audio track of overheard conversation in the dining room — the generals and officers that resided in the house should become very real and present to the visitor.

- Bedroom interpretation - The interpretation and props in this room would reflect the Union occupation. The interpretation opens with the sudden evacuation of the Confederates from the town under threat by amassing Union troops. The arrival of the Union troops to take over in June of 1862 is described along with the occupation of the house by General Halleck. The Battle of Corinth which made the town a site of house-to-house combat is described in vivid detail, culminating in the departure of Halleck and the Union troops in October 1862.

A sidebar might discuss the use of the house as a place to protect and heal the sick following the Battle of Shiloh. Interpretation could focus on the devastation of that battle and the unsanitary and unhealthful conditions in the town.

- The interpretation at each of the four rooms should use question-based looking to get visitors to examine the features of the room, and in the case of the two back rooms, imagine the upheaval of the house and town by the occupying militaries. Props and/or tactile replicas at textrails could serve as touchstones for storytelling. These could include battle maps, the April 1862 telegram, a General's hat, bullet casings, bandages and first aid gear, etc.

- The Verandah-Curlee House should not only welcome out-of-town visitors and Civil War buffs, but also serve as a gathering place for local residents to explore their own town's history, and indeed, their family's history. To the extent possible, local knowledge and/or artifacts related to Civil War events in the town of Corinth should find a home here. For example, the display in the hallway might include an expandable scrapbook or changeable artifact case containing family Civil War memorabilia, such as photos and clippings and shell casings, or there may be a means to leave behind family stories, such as notes in a comment book or formal written transcript of a recorded



SOLDIERS AT THE RR CROSSROADS



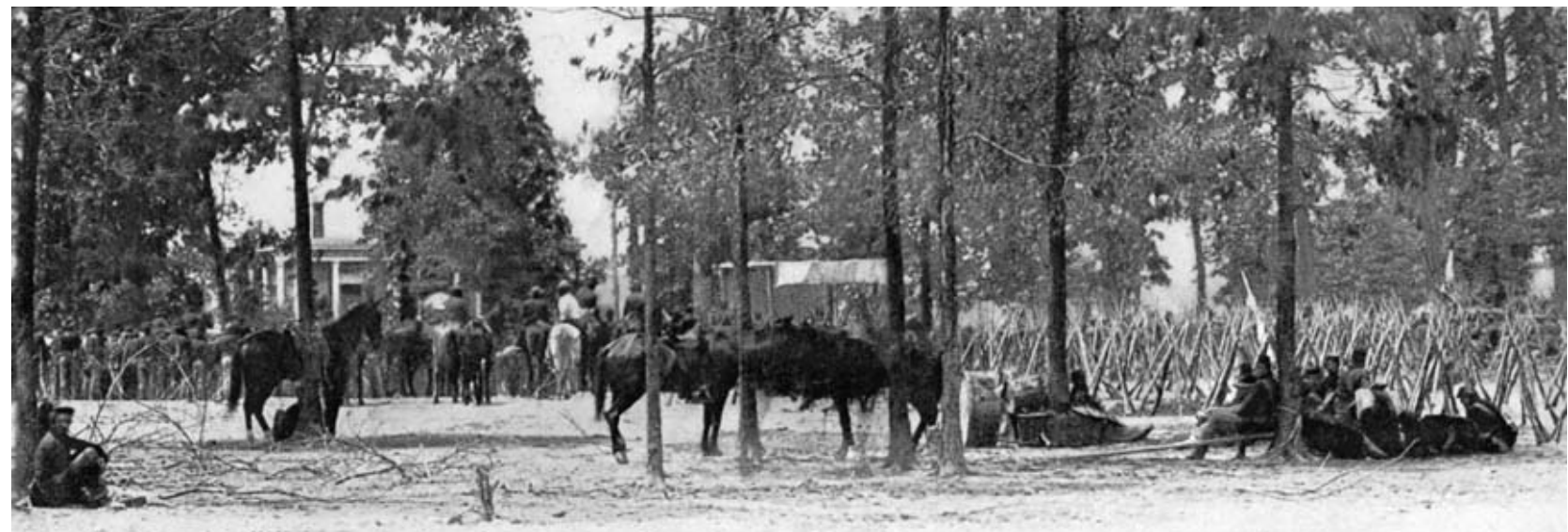
CONFEDERATE TROOPS AFTER SHILOH



SCENE AT RR CROSSROADS



SOLDIERS OUTSIDE HOUSE, 1862



TROOPS GATHERED AT VERANDAH HOUSE TO HEAR LORENZO THOMAS' SPEECH

oral history. This would communicate the impact of the war on the community of Corinth — not only during the historic period but also in the memories of those living in the present. The redefinition of the house as a center for local Civil War history would also help to keep the interpretation alive and changing, as well as build a community of local stakeholders with an interest in seeing the house survive and thrive.

- The tabletop case with artifacts proposed in Phase I for the hallway could be expanded upon to include more developed interpretation. Small Civil War replica props, such as metal insignia, uniform buttons and braiding, belt buckles and hats, can become touchable icons to anchor a tactile timeline tracing Civil War battles and milestones impacting Corinth.

Interpretation - Multimedia in 1857 Home:

- The use of multimedia provides an alternate means of delivering the same narrative described above as static graphic panels at each of the house's rooms. Options here include fixed-in-place monitors within graphic rails, an iPad distributed at the front door, or a downloadable cell phone tour with numbered stops. Re-enactments of events could be filmed within the house and possibly in the town to bring the characters and events and settings to life. Some of the same actors used in the Argentine Productions film could be employed to tie together the two media re-enactment experiences.

- Another option to consider would be to use audio, alongside conventional printed graphics, to bring the past to life. Audio tracks could be triggered by proximity sensors located throughout the house which sense the visitor's presence and only turn on when needed. Ambient audio could include the overheard conversations of army officers discussing battle plans, the moans of the wounded following the Battle of Shiloh, the sound of bullets and cannon fire to signal the Battle of Corinth within town. One advantage of audio is that — in contrast to other media delivery strategies — evidence of the 21st century can be kept to a minimum within the house.

- Another alternative would be to re-purpose the the existing film. If this film is shown in the historic 1857 house, we suggest that it be shown at a small monitor embedded in a pylon located at the end of the center hall. The film should be shortened to a maximum of 5 minutes so that it potentially could be watched standing up. If it becomes a sit-down event, than we would favor locating the film in the back bedroom of the 1930s addition, since introducing chairs into the center hall would negatively impact the 1857 house. Ideally, budget permitting, Argentine Productions would be employed to film additional historical re-enactments within the house and town to tell the human story of the war's impact on the town. The modified film would be designed to complement the sit-down film at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center and might feature some of the same actors and narrators for continuity.

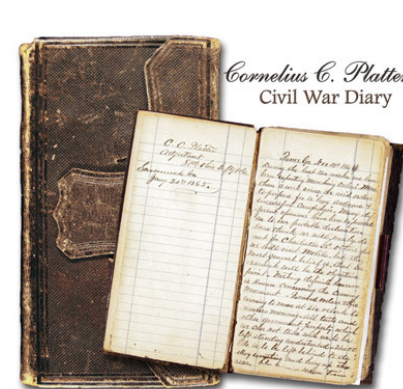
- Another possible use of media would be to strengthen the use of the house as a center for local Civil War history by incorporating oral histories of the Civil War contributed by members of the Corinth community. This strategy would help to communicate to



HUMAN-SCALE ARTIFACTS AND PROPS WITHIN ROOMS: BOOKS, CLOTHING, DECORATIVE ITEMS, GAMES



TOUCHABLE REPLICAS, AND REPRODUCTIONS IN HALLWAY



DONATIONS FROM CORINTH LOCALS

visitors and schoolchildren that “it really did happen here” and would strengthen the ties to the local community.

Interpretation - Use of the 1930s Addition:

- Since interpretation in the original portion of the house will be focused on Civil War history, the hallway in the addition that connects the kitchen and bedroom could be used to interpret other periods, including information on the original owner Hamilton Mask, information on the architect, photos of the Curlee and Huggins families, information on the house’s restoration and reclamation, information on the current stewards of the house, the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission. Most of the interpretation would take the form of framed photos with small caption labels. An alternative would be to design scrapbooks that would deliver this history while leaving the walls as is.

- As mentioned above, the current film could be shown in the bedroom which would operate as a small sit-down theatre. The film should be edited to be somewhat shorter and have a tighter focus on Civil War history. The story of the house could be expanded to include the larger story of the impact of the Civil War on the entire town of Corinth. The material on the Curlee family and other past owners should be reduced.

- To generate an additional source of revenue for the house’s upkeep, we would recommend that limited retail be incorporated into the house within the 1930s addition. Potentially, postcards and books could be displayed in the hallway at the back of the house, with larger items displayed on period-appropriate fixtures located along the walls of the former bedroom. As long as visitors are required to pay for goods with debit and/or credit card, a cash register is not needed. A simple iPhone app carried by the staff person on duty is sufficient. Graphics in the retail space could extend the thematic interpretation and include Civil War engravings and photos, fun facts, evocations of historic characters, etc. Until the retail area proves that it can be profitable, the merchandise should be low-cost and the inventory kept low.



MONITOR MOUNTED TO ROOM BARRIER



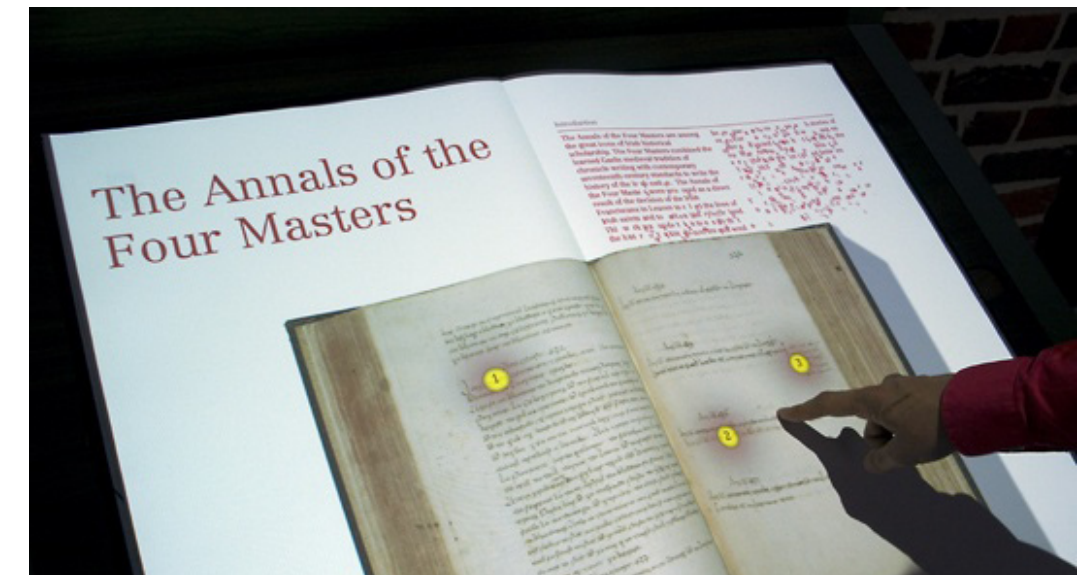
COSTUMED DOCENT WITH SCRIPT



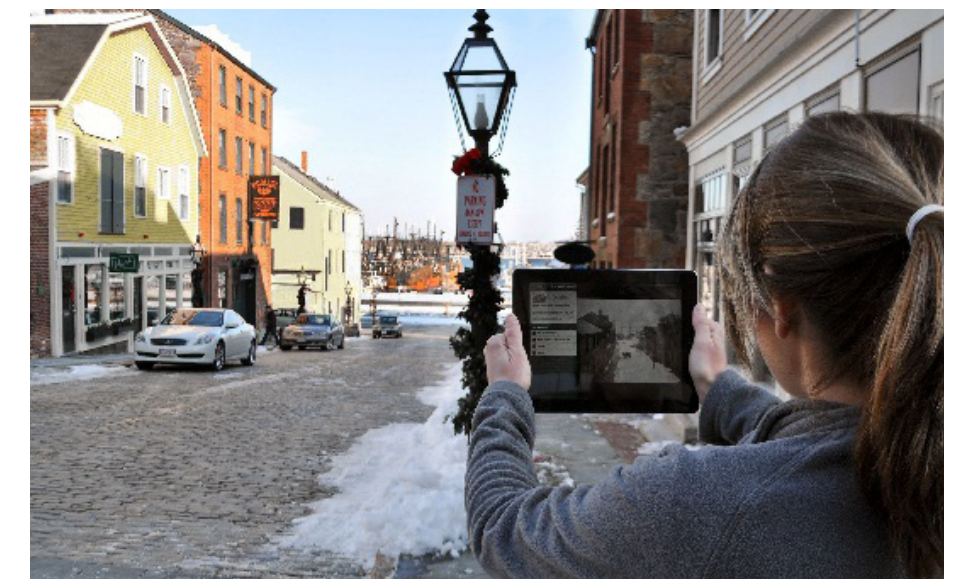
SPECIAL EVENT RE-ENACTMENT



FILMED RE-ENACTMENTS PRESENTED WITHIN HOUSE



HANDS-ON MULTIMEDIA INTERACTIVE



DOWNLOADABLE HOUSE TOUR OR WALKING TOUR APP FOR SMART PHONE OR SMART TABLET

Phase III: Site Development and Walking Tour

Architectural Improvements:

- Upgrade the restrooms.

Site Improvements:

- Remove the existing brick fence that surrounds the property and re-create the wood rail fence shown in the historic photos for a more period-appropriate appearance and a more attractive and welcoming backdrop for the house
- Restore the landscaping to a pre-Civil War appearance, including adding a garden if one was present

Interpretation:

- Create a more developed neighborhood walking tour that starts at the Verandah Curlee House and loops past the occupied Civil War-era houses, the cemetery, and other sites of interest and/or relevance. A trailhead at the curb would map the route and provide information on the stops along the way. Interpretation along the route could include outdoor interpretive panels at each of the major sites.

- Another option for delivering interpretation is to train docents to give the tours. Ideally, these docents would wear costumes and be highly scripted to ensure a consistently good visitor experience. Visitors might need to book these tours in advance to ensure that there are sufficient numbers to form a group.

- A third option for delivering interpretation on the walking tour is to deliver it digitally from a handheld device. Visitors could download an app on their smartphones, or alternately, check out iPads from the Verandah Curlee House which would be returned at the end of the tour. The advantage of the iPad is that the larger screen allows for more complex media, such as interviews, dramatic re-creations, more complex graphic layouts, etc. The disadvantage is the cost and the upkeep on the equipment. The media on these devices could be triggered in a number of different ways, such as by GPS technology, by scanning an RFD code, or by inputting a number on their keypad.

The digital walking tour could operate as a theatrical re-enactment involving movement. As they walk, visitors might encounter historical figures that “speak to them” on their digital devices or find themselves in the middle of a battle scene or other historic event.

Alternately, the tour could incorporate interactive features and be geared towards different visitors’ interests. For example, one tour might be geared towards children and use a scavenger hunt format; another tour could be geared towards the highly-motivated Civil War buff; yet another tour could be geared towards architectural enthusiasts.



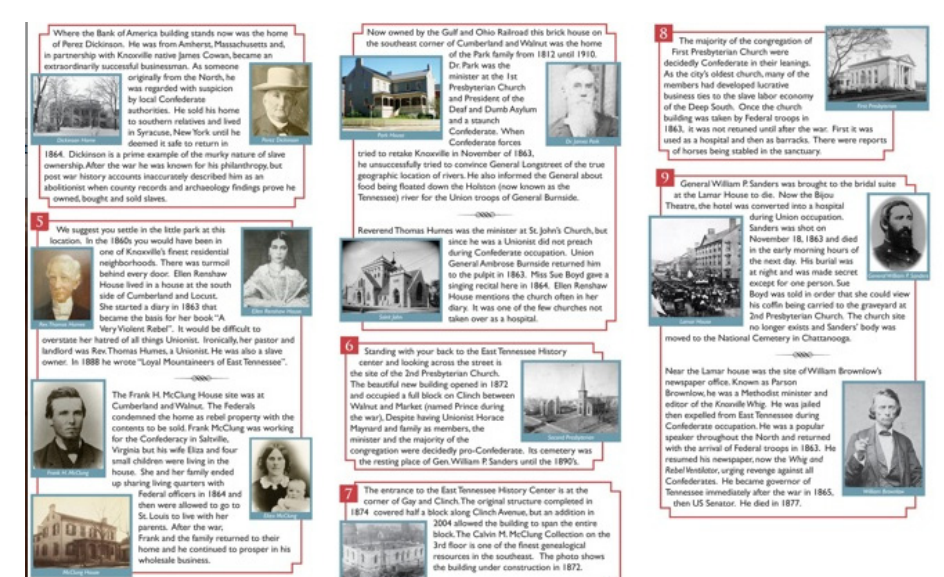
HISTORIC VIEW OF TOWN



TRAILHEAD FOR WALKING TOUR



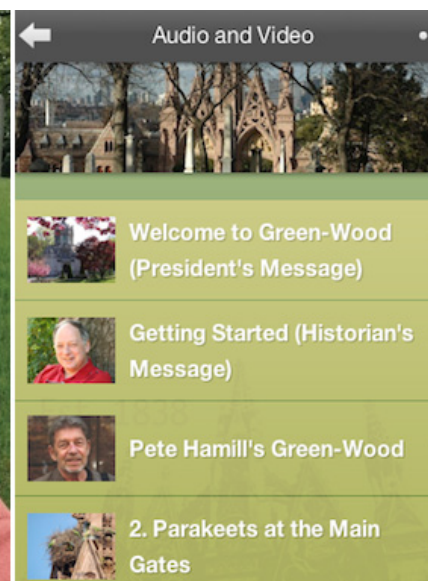
BANNERS MARK TOUR STOPS



WALKING TOUR BROCHURE - PRINTED OR DOWNLOADABLE TO PHONE



DIGITAL WALKING TOUR



WALKING TOUR WITH COSTUMED DOCENT

VII | Cost Guidelines for Phased Alternatives

The cost guidelines provided below are rough estimates designed to guide decision-making regarding the best course of action. More accurate cost estimation is needed to determine the project budget for implementation. The items listed represent alternatives and would not all be implemented. Note that architectural and site renovation costs are not included. Costs for furnishings and fittings are provided separately in the LCA Historic Furnishing Plan.

Phase I: Low-Cost Temporary Interpretation

Architectural and site renovations	not included
Temporary room barriers	\$ 300 - \$ 800
Restoration of historic marker	\$ 750 - \$ 1,300
Costumes and props for docents	\$ 500 - \$ 1,000
Professionally written narrative scripts for docents	\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,000
Tabletop artifact case and mounts	\$ 600 - \$ 1,600
Props, reproductions, replicas	\$ 500 - \$ 1,500
Poster and poster stands	\$ 4,000 - \$ 7,500
Brochure, design and production	\$ 4,000 - \$ 8,000
Retractable banners	\$ 15,000 - \$ 45,000
Monitor and player for Intro Film	\$ 2,500 - \$ 10,000
House Furnishings and Fittings	see LCA Report

Phase II: Permanent Interpretation

Architectural renovation incl. ramp, restroom upgrade	not included
Site landscaping	not included
Permanent room barriers within home	\$ 20,000 - \$ 28,000
Retail store furnishings, fittings and graphics	\$ 12,000 - \$ 40,000
Merchandise for retail store	not included
Logo design	\$ 1,000 - \$ 1,800
Trailhead for walking tour, design thru install	\$ 15,000 - \$ 21,000
Brochure for walking tour, design thru printing	\$ 8,000 - \$ 14,000
Digital walking tour	\$ 20,000 - \$ 65,000
New outdoor waysides, design thru install	\$ 25,000 - \$ 45,000
Additional outdoor signage	\$ 10,000 - \$ 20,000
Graphic panels, design thru install	\$ 30,000 - \$ 45,000
Prop trunk with touchable items	\$ 12,000 - \$ 20,000
Touchable props and replicas in hallway	\$ 4,000 - \$ 15,000
Props, clothing, games, other fittings for rooms	\$ 12,000 - \$ 35,000
Changeable artifact case for hallway	\$ 1,500 - \$ 2,500
Comment book/scrapbook	\$ 500 - \$ 1,500
Oral history recording station	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000
Custom illustrations and mapwork	\$ 1,000 - \$ 25,000
Editing of existing film	\$ 3,500 - \$ 8,000
Monitor and player for film, installed	\$ 3,500 - \$ 10,000
Chairs for "mud room" theater	\$ 2,000 - \$ 3,500
New film with dramatic re-enactments	\$ 28,000 - \$ 60,000
Multimedia interactive program for period rooms	\$ 35,000 - \$ 75,000
Monitors and players for each period room, installed	\$ 10,000 - \$ 36,000
Ambient audio in house, design thru install	\$ 15,000 - \$ 40,000
Downloadable smart-phone or smart tablet tour	\$ 20,000 - \$ 60,000
Costumes and props for docents	\$ 6,000 - \$ 10,000
Narrated scripts for docents	\$ 8,000 - \$ 12,000
Framed images and captions in 1930s addition	\$ 15,000 - \$ 30,000
Interpretive scrapbook for 1930s addition	\$ 6,000 - \$ 10,000
House Furnishings and Fittings	see LCA Report

Phase III: Site Development and Walking Tour

Removal of brick fence and replacement with wood rails	not included
Renovation of restrooms	not included
Upgrades to site landscaping	not included
Architectural and site upgrades to houses on tour	not included
Banners or other signage for tour stops	\$ 40,000 - \$ 80,000
Waysides for tour stops, design thru install	\$ 80,000 - \$ 120,000
Costumes, props and narrated scripts for docent-led tours	\$ 65,000 - \$ 95,000
Training for docents and long-term costs such as salaries	not included
Digital walking tour	\$ 65,000 - \$ 145,000

VIII | Timeline

From the start of the war to the end of Union occupation in January 1864, Corinth was host to 400,000 soldiers and 200 general officers, and saw more than 100 battles, engagements, skirmishes and raids within 50 miles of the city.

	1855	Spring 1862			October 1862		1864
Verandah Curlee House	1855: Hamilton Mask helps survey and found town of Cross City, later, Corinth 1858: Corinth home to 1,500 people	1860 to 1872: Simonton owns house. Unknown if he occupied it. April 2, 1862: Johnston confers with Bragg, who occupies VCH, and decides to attack Federals at Shiloh, makes decision in VCH		Early June 1862: Halleck (USA) occupies VCH			May 16, 1863: Lorenzo Thomas's speech re Contrabands and USCT at VCH
Civil War	January 9, 1861: MS votes to secede. Civil War begins April 12.	March 1862: Corinth becomes prime target of the Federals, intent on severing the South's rail lines.	April 6-7, 1862: Battle of Shiloh. To date, the bloodiest conflict the nation had seen to date and the CSA's greatest defeat. Death of CSA Gen. Albert S. Johnston. Beauregard assumes command	End of April 1862: Beauregard fortifies northeastern approaches to Corinth April 29-May 30, 1862: Siege of Corinth	May 29-30, 1862: Beauregard orchestrates secret evacuation of Corinth	Oct 3-4, 1862: CSA loses Battle of Corinth, the last major CSA offensive in the MS theater. Proportionately, it is a very costly battle (as costly for Van Dorn as Antietam was for Lee). US Grant begins conquest of MS, culminating in victory at Vicksburg, July 1863	Oct 1862 to Dec 1863: Occupation averages 25,000 Federal troops. Union activities: maintaining fortifications, periodic raids, liberating slaves January 1864: Union pulls out of Corinth.
Town of Corinth	1855: Town settled as Cross City, incorporated as Corinth in 1856	Feb 1861 to Spring 1862: Corinth is major thoroughfare of CSA soldiers being mobilized to the front. Tens of thousands of soldiers pass through	Through April 9, 1862: most of the civilian population is still in the town. Orders to evacuate come after the Battle of Shiloh.	Mid April 1862: Corinth overwhelmed by some 8,000 injured returning from Shiloh. Hospitals overtake all public buildings. Locals and volunteers nurse the wounded.	May 1862: USA tightens grip on Corinth. Thomas's Army strangles Mobile and Ohio RR, Pope's Army attacks Memphis and Charleston, destroying telegraph lines and tracks	May 1862: CSA troops in town face lack of drinking water and deadly diseases like typhoid and dysentery. Conditions in town deplorable.	
Contrabands			Following Shiloh, mid April 1862: gangs of slaves labor impressed from local farms build massive entrenchments for the CSA to defend Corinth	September 1862: Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation after Union victory at Antietam. Number of refugees pouring into Union lines at Corinth increases dramatically		Fall 1862 to mid-1863: Tent city at Corinth blooms into full fledged camp. Peak population of camp is 6,000, generally more like 2,500 (more at any given time than the town itself). Residents farm 300 acres cotton, 100 acres vegetables. Raise \$5,000 a month profits. Under supervision of Chaplain James M. Alexander. Late 1862: USA Dodge recognizes importance of freed blacks to war effort, and begins using them as laborers, cooks, and teamsters. Also actively recruits armed soldiers for raiding parties, foraging patrols January 1, 1863: Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect	May 21, 1863: 1st Alabama Infantry of African Descent is organized (later the 55th USCT) December 1863: Sherman orders forces at Corinth recalled to Memphis Contraband Camp disbanded. No other large scale cooperative farming effort is undertaken in the MS valley

Source: "Corinth: Crossroads of the Western Confederacy" by Stacy D. Allen, in *Blue and Gray Magazine*, Corinth Visitors Guide issue

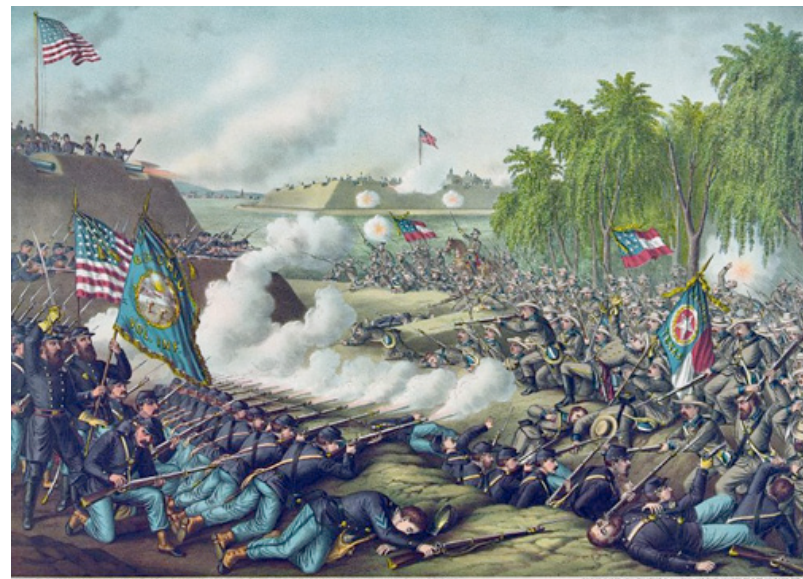
IX | Exhibit Assets

Graphics:

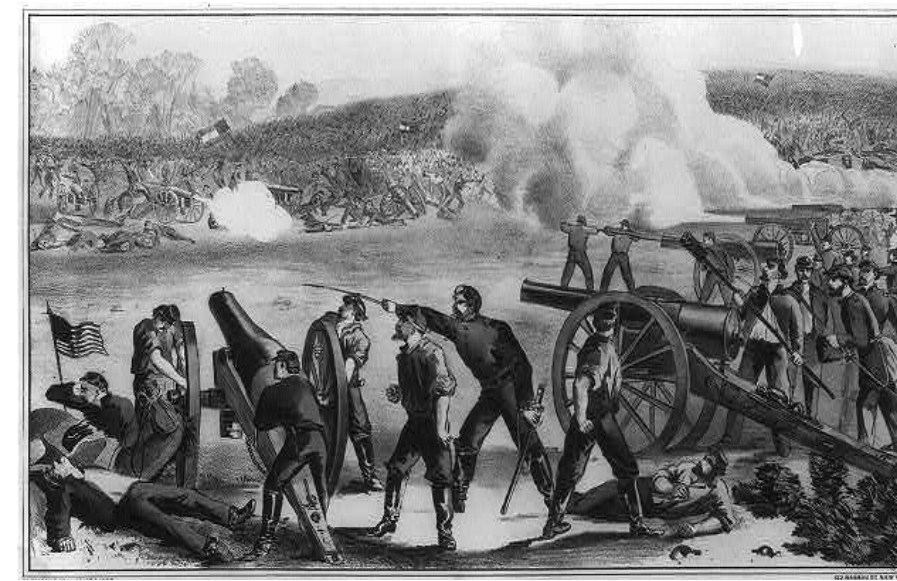
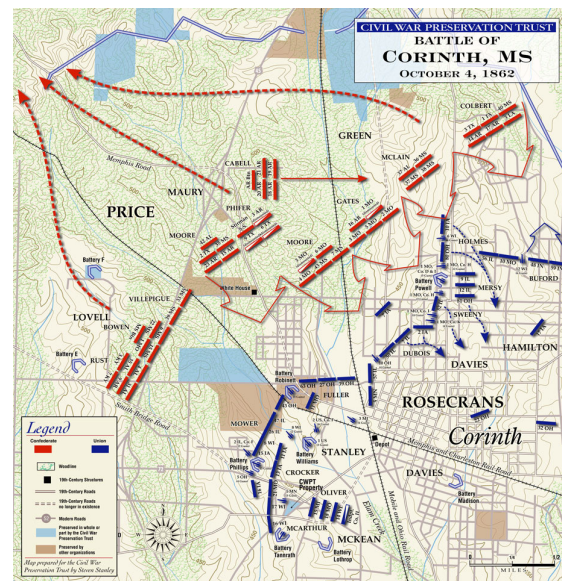
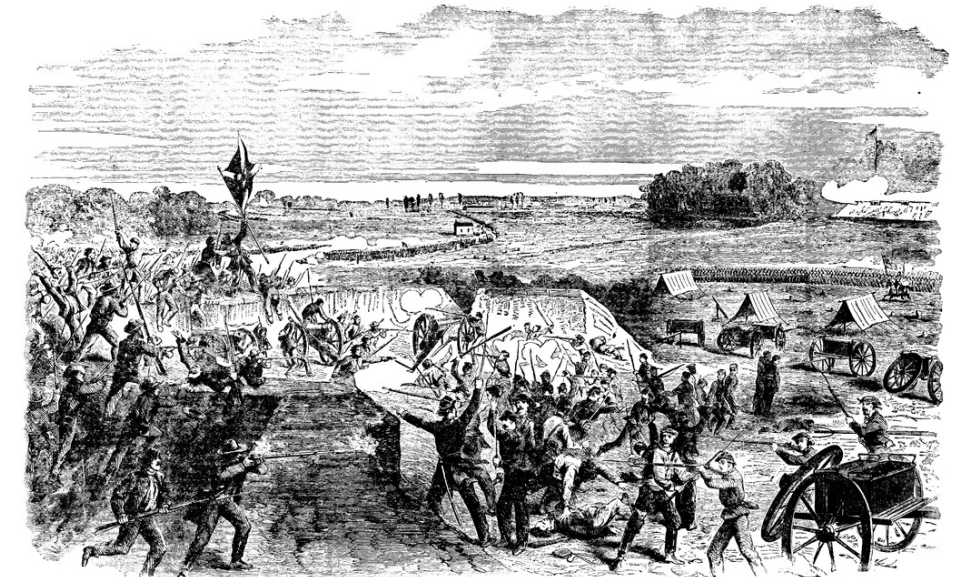
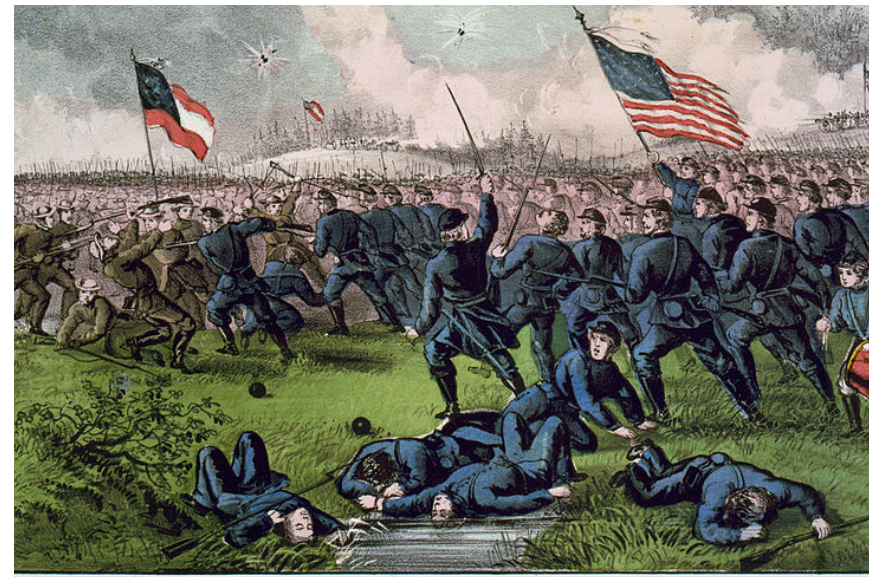
In addition to the graphics used earlier in this document, Howard+Revis Design Services has located a number of other historic photos and illustrations which may prove useful in subsequent design efforts. A selection has been included here.



QUIET TOWN OF CORINTH



BATTLE OF CORINTH

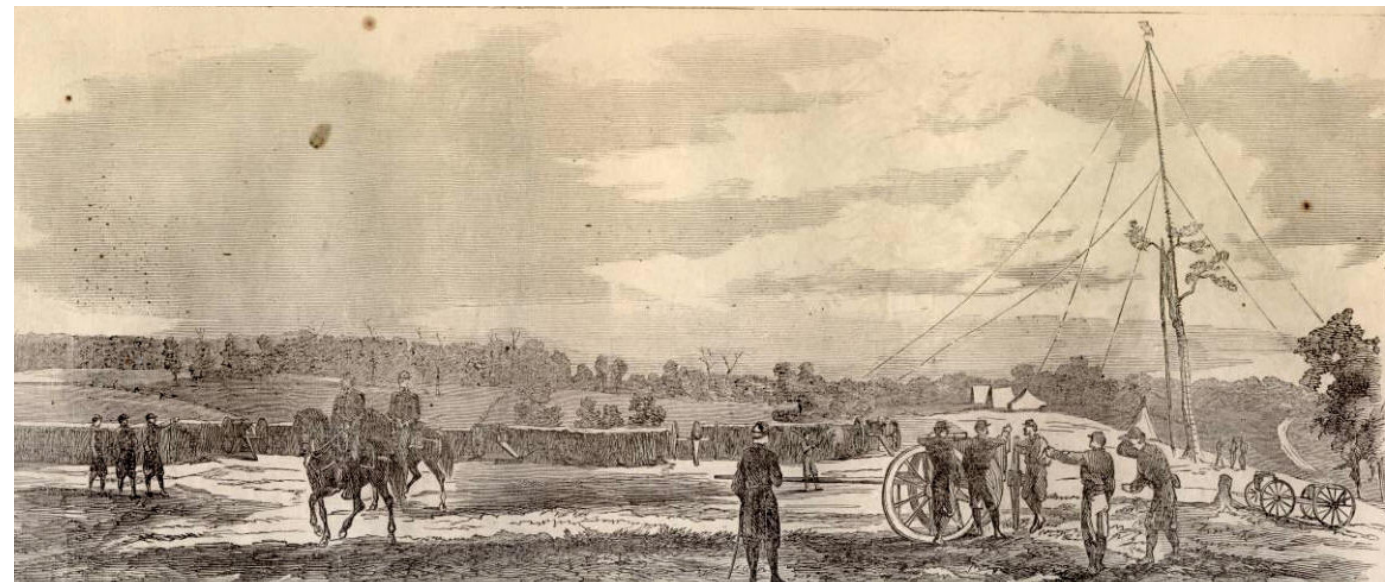




ENCAMPMENT SCENES



VAN DORN'S ATTACK



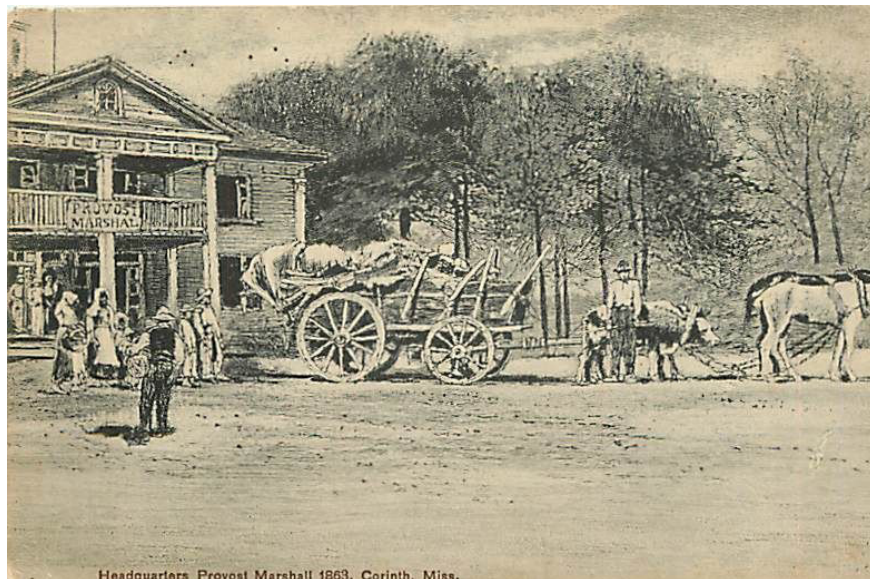
ENCAMPMENT SCENES



"ADJUTANT GENERAL THOMAS ADDRESSING NEGROES IN LOUISIANA"



CEMETERY SCENE

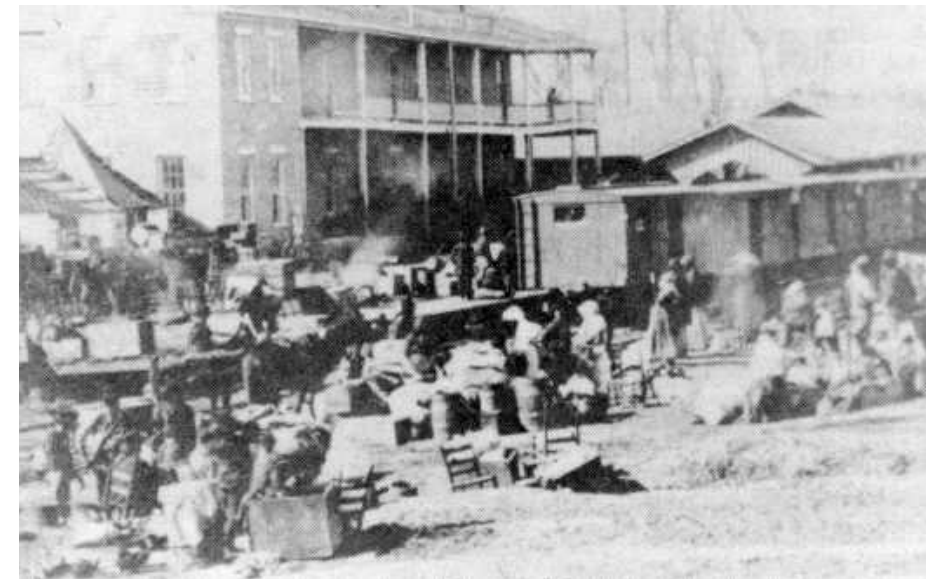


Headquarters Provost Marshall 1863, Corinth, Miss.

HEADQUARTERS PROVOST MARSHALL, CORINTH, 1863



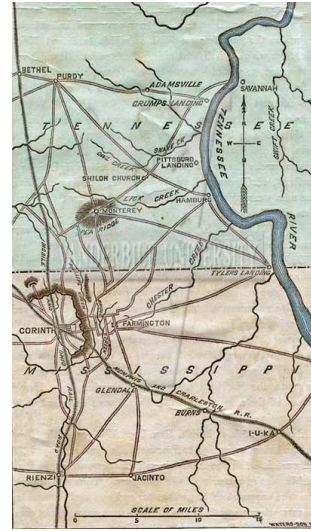
CORINTH SCENE



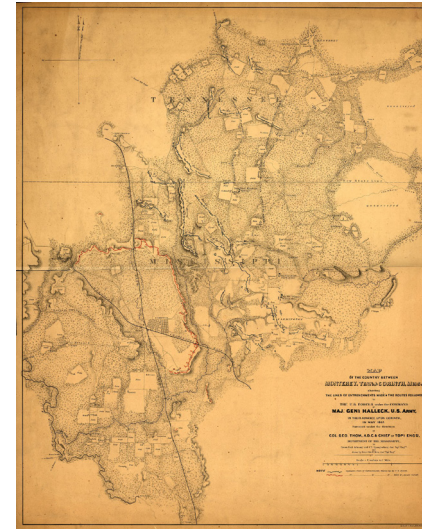
CORINTH SCENE

Artifacts:

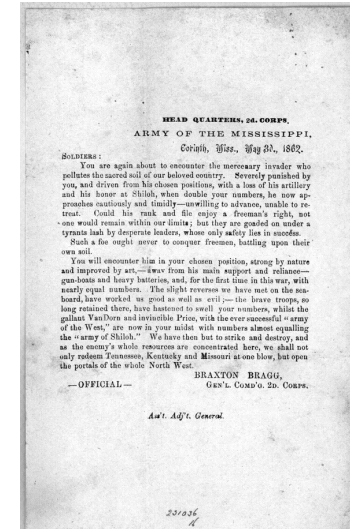
Howard+Revis Design Services has located a number of potential documents and objects for use in the exhibit as artifacts and/or reproductions. The objects are from Van Hedges collection, the Curlee Collection (in the possession of Rosemary Williams), the Rosenbach Collection, the Library of Congress and other sources as noted.



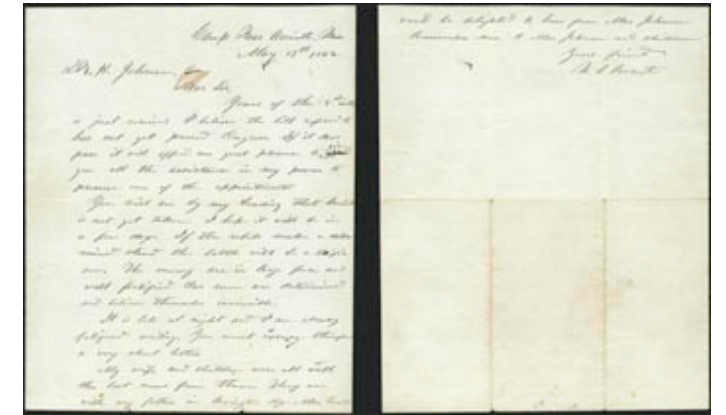
BATTLE MAP



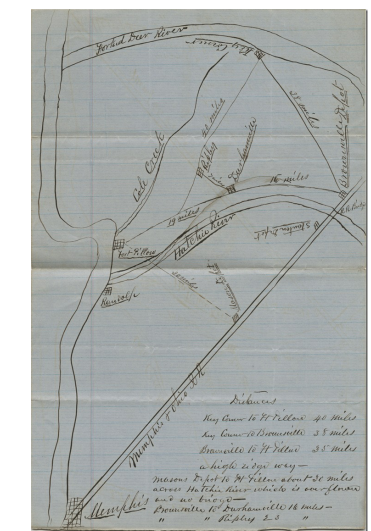
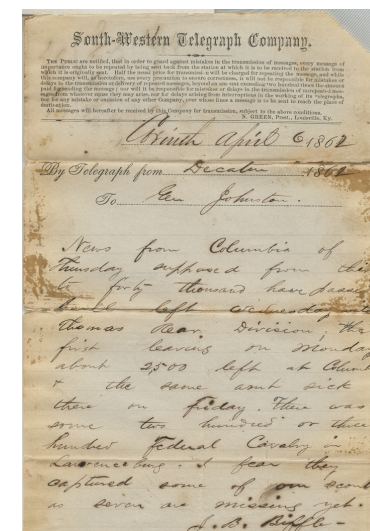
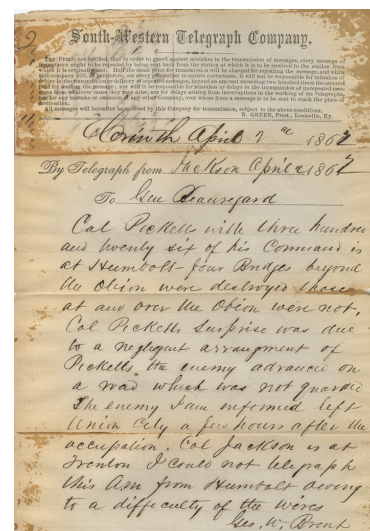
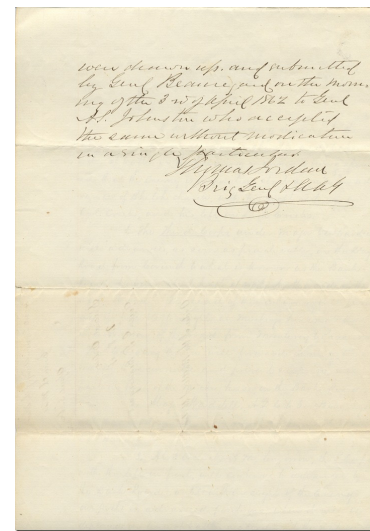
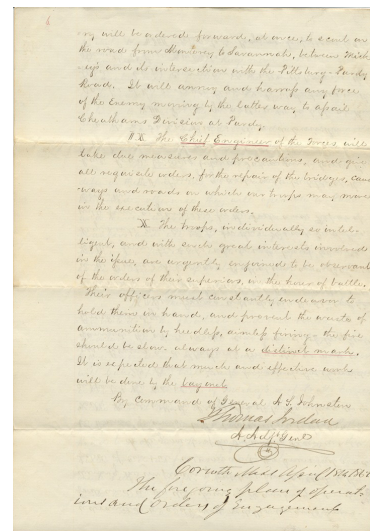
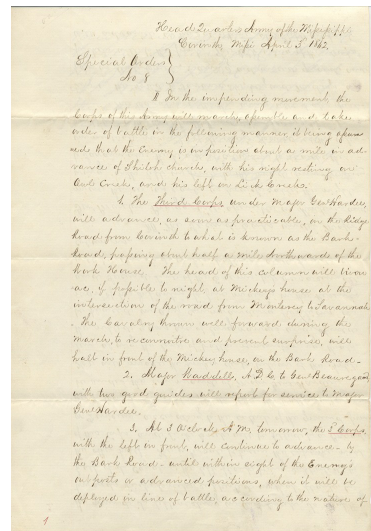
BATTLE MAP - HALLECK'S ADVANCE MAY 1862 (LOC)



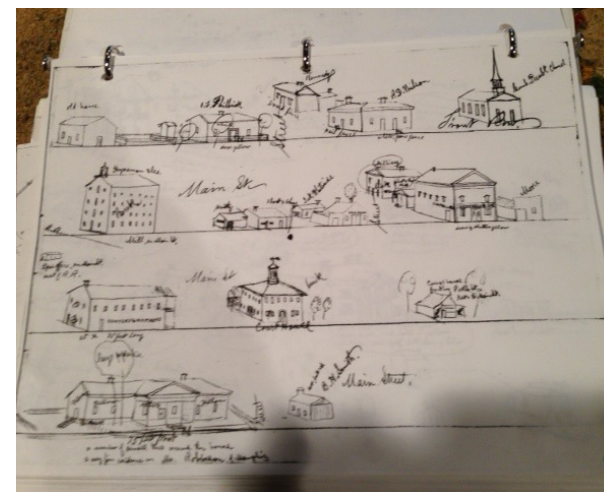
SPEECH - GENL. BRAXTON BRAGG TO SOLDIERS MAY 3, 1862 (LOC)



LETTER-DATED "CAMP NEAR CORINTH MISS MAY 19, 1862" WRITTEN DURING SIEGE OF CORINTH



TELEGRAMS & LETTERS & MAP PRIOR TO BATTLE OF SHILOH - APRIL 2 - 9, 1862 (ROSENBACH COLLECTION - <http://rosenbach.org/civilwar/?m=201204&paged=3>) Collection includes 7-page letter dated April 3, 1862 with Confederate "Special Orders No 8" to attack at Shiloh under command of General Johnston, Headquarters of the Army of the Mississippi



MATTHEW MILLER SKETCHES OF BUILDINGS IN CORINTH (INCL. VERANDAH HOUSE) (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)

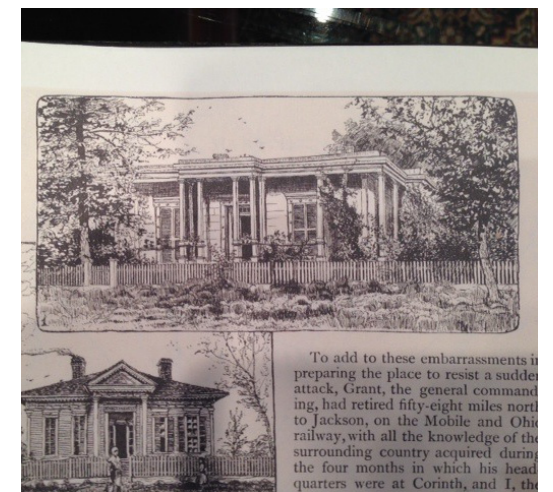
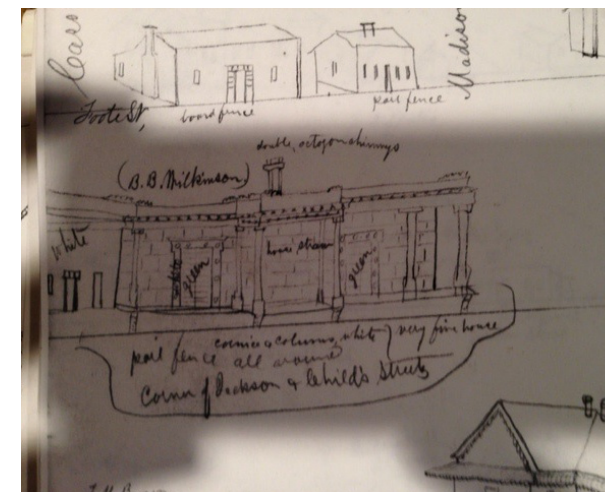
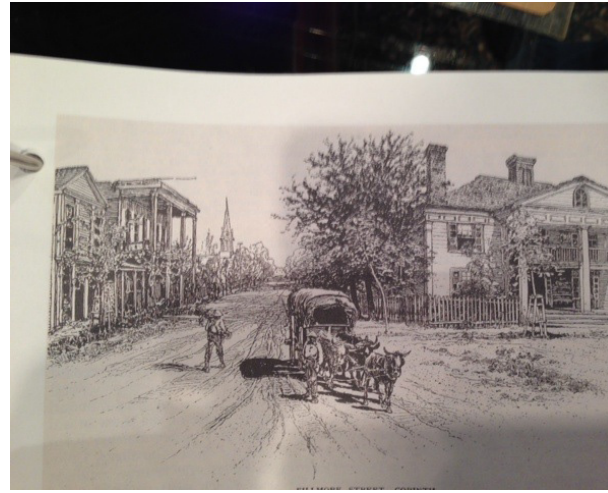


ILLUSTRATION OF HOUSE (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)

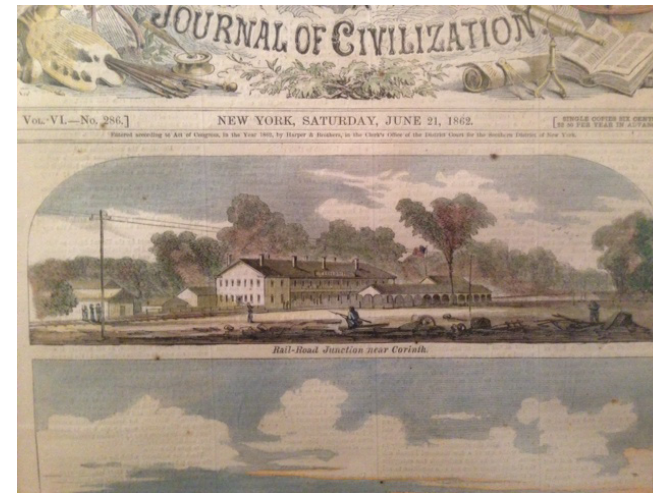
HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS (CURLEE COLLECTION)
VERANDAH CURLEE HOUSE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



ILLUSTRATION: ABANDONMENT OF CORINTH BY CONFEDERATES (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)



CORINTH SCENE (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)



CORINTH SCENE IN COLOR (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)



PRINT: CAMP SCENE (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)

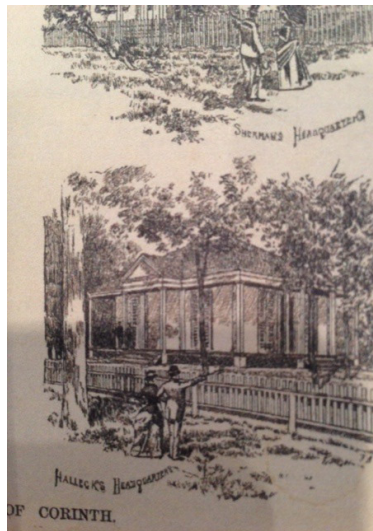


ILLUSTRATION: HALLECK'S HEADQUARTERS (VAN HEDGES)



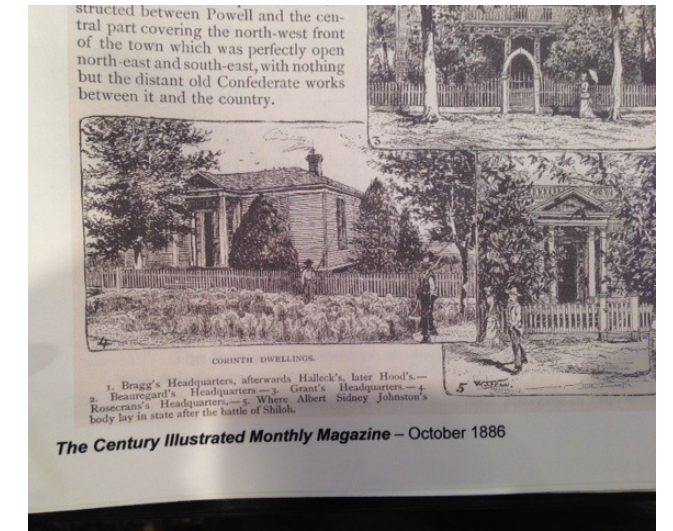
ILLUSTRATION: SHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS (VAN HEDGES)



ILLUSTRATION: CORINTH (VAN HEDGES)



ILLUSTRATION: CONTRABANDS ENLISTING (VAN HEDGES)



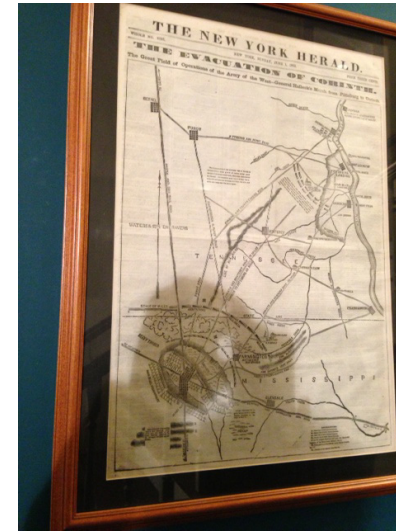
ILLUSTRATIONS: HOUSES IN CORINTH (VAN HEDGES)



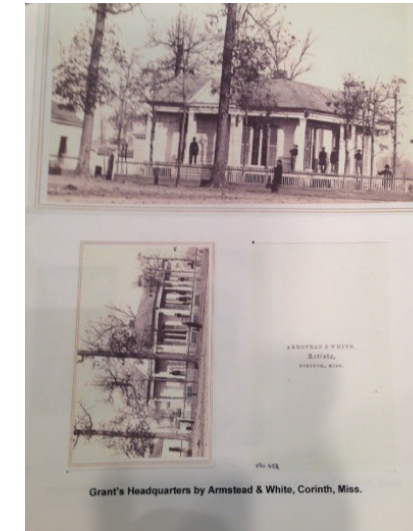
ILLUSTRATION: 50TH ILL. VOL. INF. IN CORINTH (VAN HEDGES)



PRINT: CAMP IN CORINTH (VAN HEDGES)



NEWSPAPER: EVACUATION OF CORINTH (VAN HEDGES)



PHOTOS IN BOOK: GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS (VAN HEDGES)

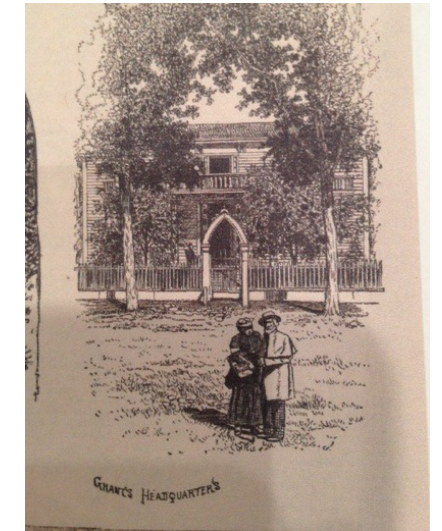


ILLUSTRATION: GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS (VAN HEDGES)



NEWSPAPER: RETREAT OF THE REBEL ARMY (VAN HEDGES)



PHOTO AND AUTOGRAPH OF GRANT (VAN HEDGES)



PHOTO AND AUTOGRAPH OF GRENVILLE DODGE (VAN HEDGES)



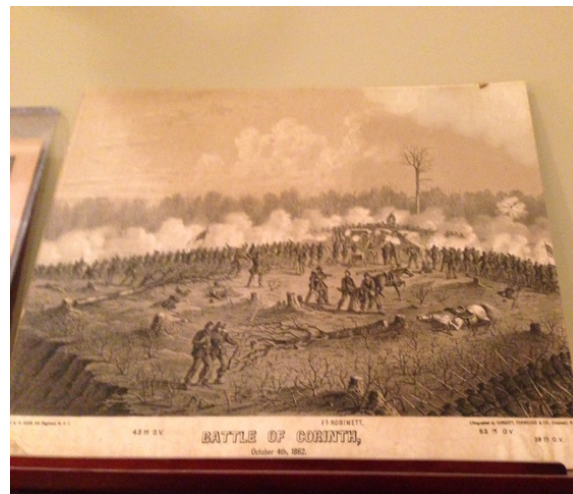
PHOTO AND AUTOGRAPH OF SHERMAN (VAN HEDGES)



PHOTO AND AUTOGRAPH OF BUELL (VAN HEDGES)



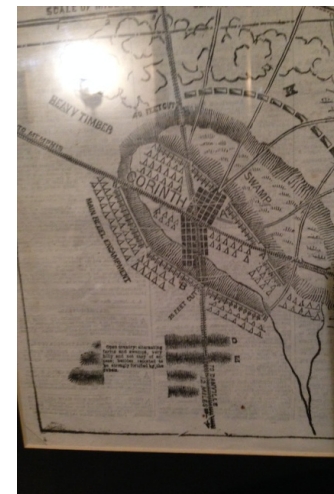
PHOTO AND AUTOGRAPH OF HALLECK (VAN HEDGES)



BATTLE OF CORINTH PRINT (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)



BATTLE OF CORINTH PRINT (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)



MAP OF CORINTH (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)



ILLUSTRATION: MARCHING TO CORINTH (VAN HEDGES COLLECTION)



ILLUSTRATION: CUTTING ROAD TO CORINTH (VAN HEDGES)

Multimedia:

A film on the history of the Verandah-Curlee House from its construction through the Civil War and the Curlee Family occupation was shown within the house prior to its closing for renovation work. The film — which is available on DVD — is well-done, with a professional narrator, but is somewhat long and spends too much time on the Curlee family's period of occupancy.

The other multimedia presentation which features the house is the "Corinth Crossroads" film by Argentine Productions shown in the theater at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center. This 2013 film includes segments of historic re-enactors within the house and shows the wounded from the Battle of Shiloh being treated within the house.



SCENES FROM ARGENTINE PRODUCTIONS FILM "CORINTH CROSSROADS"

Quotes:

“These roads constitute the vertebrae of the Confederacy.”
- Former Confederate Sec. of War Leroy Pope Walker (Allen, 19)

“If we obtained possession of Corinth the enemy would have no railroad for the transportation of armies or supplies until that running east from Vicksburg was reached. It was the greatest strategic position in the West between the Tennessee and the Mississippi rivers and between Nashville and Vicksburg.” - Ulysses S. Grant’s memoirs (Allen, 19)

“We are at the Tishomingo Hotel, which, like every other large building, has been taken for a hospital. The yellow flag is flying from the top of each. Mrs. Ogden tried to prepare me for the scenes which I should witness upon entering the wards. But alas! Nothing that I had ever heard or read had given me the faintest idea of the horrors witnessed here. I do not think that words are in our vocabulary expressive enough to present to the mind the realities of that sad scene. Certainly, none of the glories of the war were presented here.

Gray-haired men—men in the pride of manhood—beardless boys—Federals and all, mutilated in every imaginable way, lying on the floor, just as they were taken from the battle-field; so close together that it was almost impossible to walk without stepping on them. I could not command my feelings enough to speak, but thoughts crowded upon me. O, if the authors of this cruel and unnatural war could but see what I saw there, they would try to put a stop to it! To think, that it is man who is working all this woe upon his fellowman.”

I sat up all night, bathing the men’s wounds, and giving them water. Every one attending to them is completely worn out. Some of the doctors told me that they had scarcely slept since the battle. As far as I have seen, the surgeons are very kind to the wounded, and nurse as well as doctor them.”

The men are lying all over [the hotel] on their blankets, just as they were brought from the battle-field. They are in the hall, on the gallery, and crowded into very small rooms. The foul air from this mass of human beings at first made me giddy and sick, but I soon got over it. We have to walk, and when we give the men any thing kneel, in blood and water; but we think nothing of it at all.”
- Kate Cumming, volunteer nurse who arrived in Corinth from Mobile, April 27, 1862 (Allen, 20-21. Used in NPS film)

“If defeated here we lose the Mississippi Valley and probably our cause.”
- General P.G. T. Beauregard to Inspector General Samuel Cooper, Confederate War Department, Richmond (Allen, 21)

“You will see by my heading that Corinth is not yet taken. I hope it will be in a few days. If the rebels make a determined stand the battle will be a terrific one. The enemy are in large force and well fortified. Our men are determined and believe themselves invincible. It is late at night and I am already fatigued writing.” - Ulysses S. Grant letter signed “U.S. Grant” datelined “Camp Near Corinth Miss., May 19th 1862”, addressed to Dr. H. Johnson.

“In the impending movement, the Corps of this Army will march, assemble and take order of battle in the following manner, it being assumed that the enemy is in position about a mile in advance of Shiloh church, with his right resting on Owl Creek, and his left on Lick Creek...”
- first line of 7-page letter from General Johnston to the Headquarters of the Army of the Mississippi in Corinth, April 3, 1862, with Confederate “Special Orders No 8” to attack at Shiloh

Subject Matter Experts:

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Van Hedges
Owns collection of papers, letters, newspapers and photos.
Copies of some items in his collection are available at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center.
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