



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Communications  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-6843 phone  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

---

## National Park Service News Release

### National Park Service Awards \$109,806 to protect 58 acres at a Mississippi battlefield

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service today announced \$109,806 in grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) to help protect 58 acres of America’s battlefields in Mississippi threatened with damage or destruction by urban and suburban development. These grants will be used to acquire a portion of the Champion Hill Battlefield, a significant Civil War Battlefield.

“Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants allow for the permanent protection of lands associated with historic battles in our country’s history,” National Park Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith said. “The grants enable communities to partner with public, private, and non-profit organizations to preserve and provide access to meaningful places that connect us to our past.”

The Battle of Champion Hill was fought on August 16, 1863, as part of Major General Ulysses S. Grant’s operations against Vicksburg. At the start of the battle, Confederate Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton’s force drew up into a defensive line along a crest of a ridge overlooking Jackson Creek. For protection, Pemberton posted Brigadier General Stephen D. Lee’s men atop Champion Hill where they could watch for the reported Union column moving to the crossroads. When Grant arrived at Champion Hill, around 10 a.m., he ordered the attack to begin. By 11:30 a.m., Union forces had reached the Confederate main line and by 1 p.m. took the crest, sweeping forward to capture the crossroads and closing the Jackson Road escape route. Fighting for the hill continued until the Confederates retreated towards Vicksburg.

The American Battlefield Protection Program’s Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant program provides up to 50% in matching funds for state and local governments to acquire and preserve threatened Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War Battlefield land through the purchase of land in fee simple and permanent, protective interests in land. Eligible battlefields are listed in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission’s 1993 “Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields” and the 2007 “Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States.”

-More-

For more information about ABPP, including these grants, please visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/index.htm>

State	Grantee	Amount
Mississippi	Mississippi Department of Archives and History Champion Hill Battlefield, Cal-Maine Foods Tract, 58 acres (Fee Simple) Project Partner: American Battlefield Trust	<b>\$109,806</b>
	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$109,806</b>

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice), Twitter [www.twitter.com/natlparkservice](http://www.twitter.com/natlparkservice), and YouTube [www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice).*