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STREET DIXON RICK
Architecture, PLC



SCOTT WILSON ARCHITECT, LLC
CLIENT

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE OF TENNESSEE

BATTLE OF FRANKLIN TRUST
CARTER HOUSE MANAGEMENT

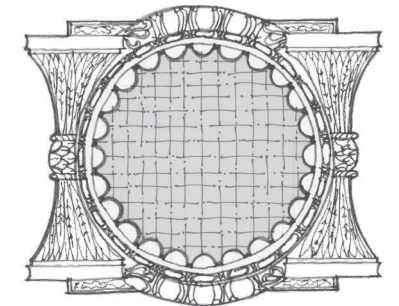
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING | KISER+VOGRIN DESIGN, LLC

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PRESERVATION
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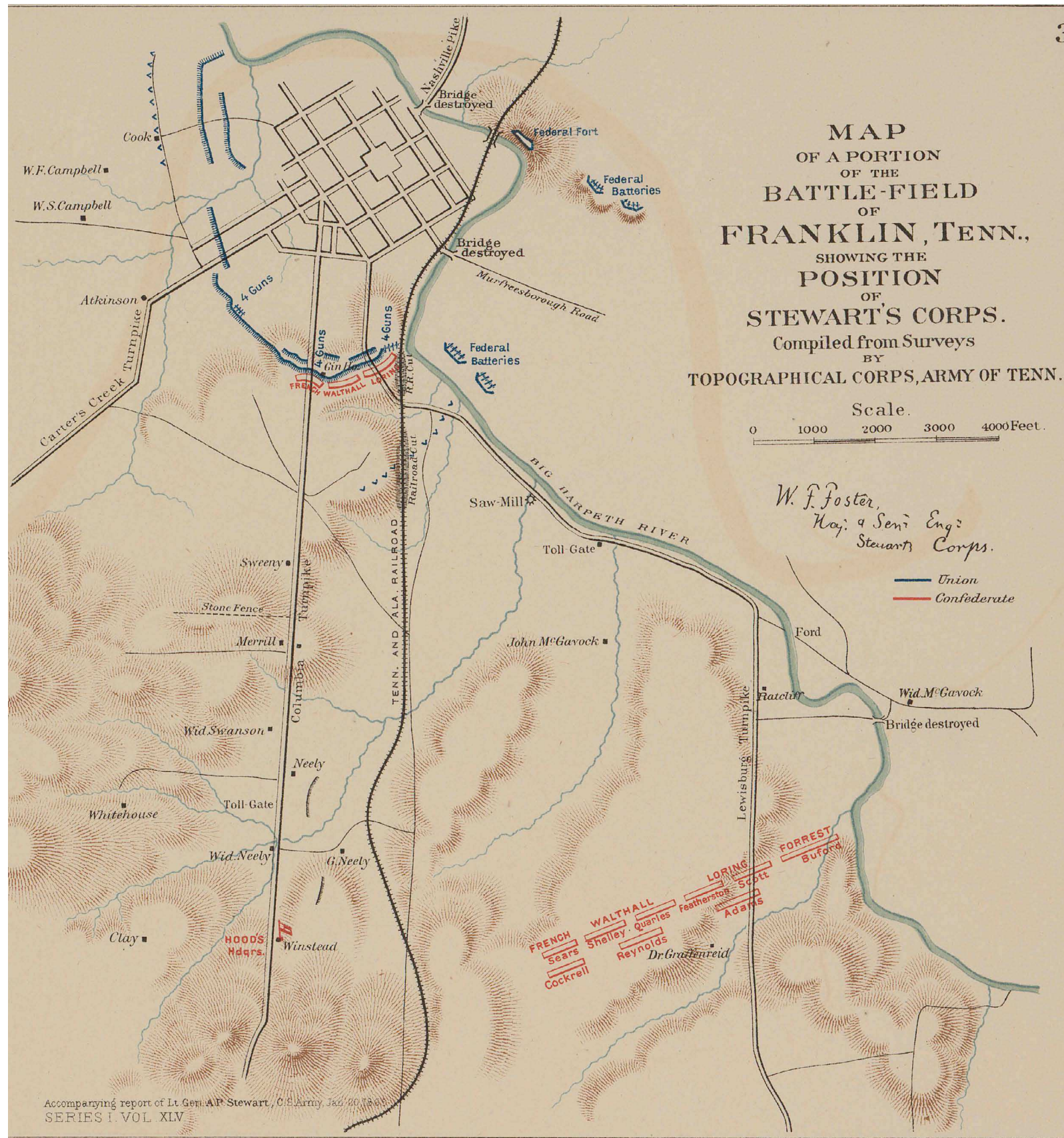
SCOTT WILSON ARCHITECT, LLC



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kiser + Vogrin Design and the consultant team would like to thank Patrick McIntyre and Martha Akins of the Tennessee Historical Commission and Doug Freeman of the State of Tennessee Real Estate Asset Management (STREAM) division for their thought and guidance throughout the Master Plan process. Additional thanks to Eric Jacobson of the Battle of Franklin Trust, for the use of the Carter House Visitors Center and for the consultant team tour of The Carter House and of Carter Hill. Eric's knowledge, vision, and passion were contagious and the consultant team hopes those characteristics have permeated this document. Finally, thanks to Scott Wilson who had the sometimes difficult task of coordinating consultant team and client team to make sure that all were in agreement and in unison.

CARTER HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE | HISTORIC CONTEXT



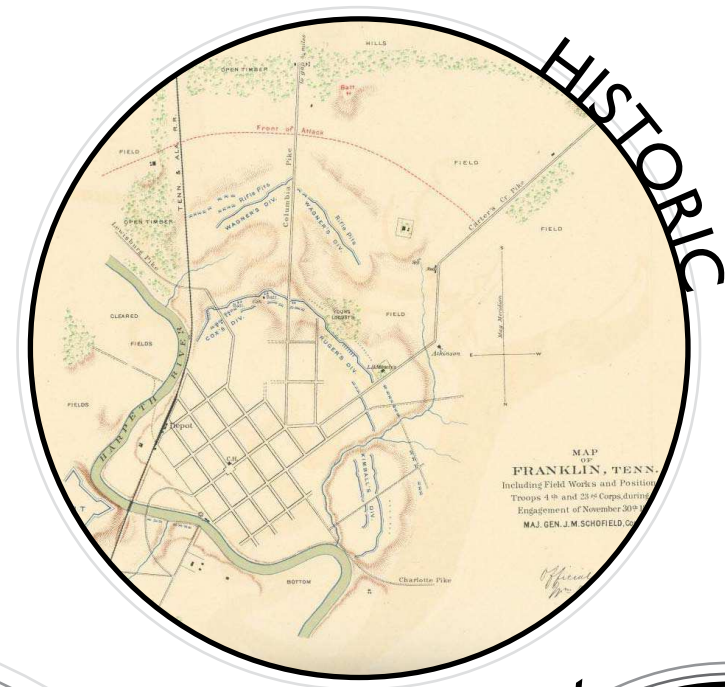
On November 30, 1864, under the command of General John Bell Hood, the Confederate Army of Tennessee attacked Union troops just south of the small town of Franklin, Tennessee. Union General John Schofield, having passed by the Confederate troops in the dark of night, was attempting to unite his forces with Union forces positioned in Nashville. The process of moving troops and supplies was slowed in Franklin due to the destruction of the county bridge over the Harpeth River. Recognizing this delay could give Confederate forces an opportunity to attack, Schofield directed his troops to dig earthworks and fortify a strong defensive position along a hill on the southern edge of Franklin. This hill was known as Carter Hill and at its apex was the Carter House.

Hood was disappointed that Union forces slipped away, but he recognized that the Union troops had no quick way to cross the Harpeth River. A full frontal assault was launched against the fortified Union position. The attack was sent forward despite Hood's troops (including the bulk of his artillery) not fully arriving on the field. The rebels charged and suffered horrific losses. Despite significant casualties, portions of the Union earthworks were taken near the Carter House. Confederate troops outnumbered Union troops and this break in the Union Lines was a strategic advantage that could have changed the outcome of the battle except for a counterattack from General Emerson Opdycke that pushed the Confederates back once more and decided the day.

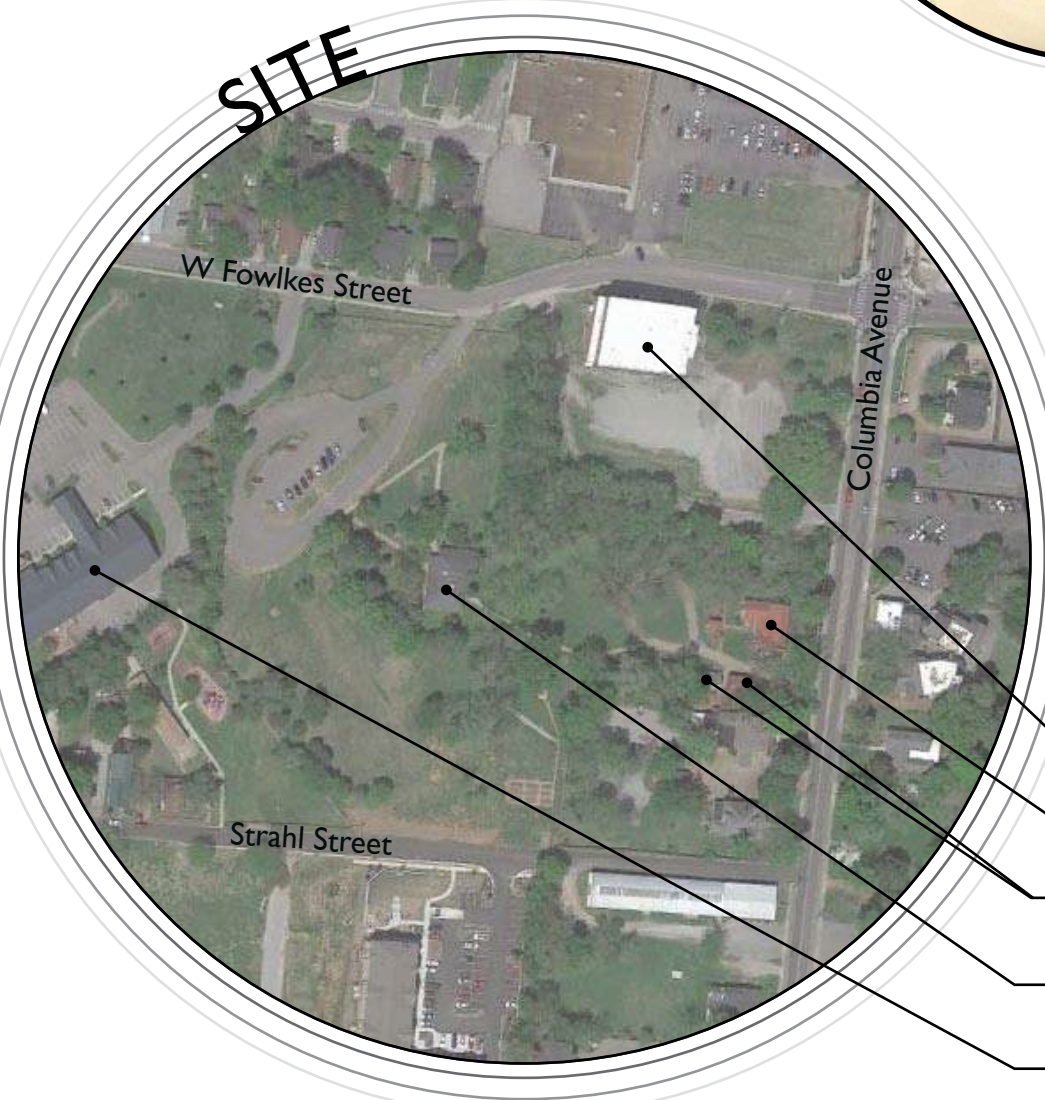
In only five hours, some 1,750 Confederate soldiers and another 200 Union soldiers were killed. There were a total of nearly 9,000 casualties including those killed, wounded or captured, which earned the Battle of Franklin the distinction of the bloodiest five hours of the Civil War. The costs for the Confederate Army were felt beyond just the loss of soldiers. Six confederate generals were killed, another five were wounded, and one was captured. This loss of leadership was pivotal in the sound defeat of the Confederate Army at the Battle of Nashville some two weeks later and effectively ended the western theater of the Civil War.

The story of the Battle of Franklin is both horrible and fascinating. But it has not been without significant preservation efforts that the Carter House and the Franklin Battlefield have been saved from the pressures of adjacent development. More recently, significant sites have even been purchased and structures have been removed to restore the battlefield. The charge of this master plan is to continue these efforts, to direct future reclamation of the Battlefield from development pressures, and to create a plan to tell the stories of the battle that occurred at Carter Hill and of the people that lived in the simple home that became a crucial Civil War battlefield.

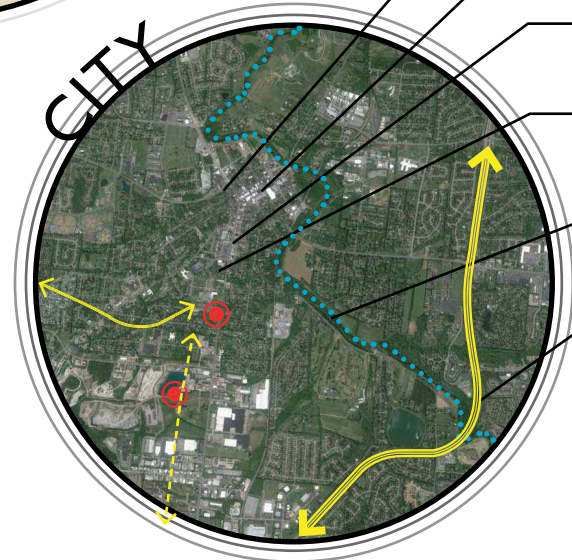
CARTER HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE | SITE CONTEXT



HISTORIC



SITE



CITY

- Hwy 96
- Downtown Franklin, TN
- Columbia Ave.
- Carter Hill**
- Harpeth River
- I-65
- Existing Gymnasium
- Carter House**
- Existing Out-Buildings
- Existing Visitor Center
- Existing Boys and Girls Club

Located on Columbia Pike, or Columbia Avenue as it is now known, and just south of Downtown Franklin, the Carter House could be easily missed by the casual passer-by. The Carter Home is a simple home with a few outbuildings typical of a working farm and business in the mid-1800s, but its simplicity belies its significance. This is appropriate, in a way. In its time, the Carter House was a typical homestead. Had it not been for the events that took place in and around the Carter House and for the preservation efforts of many in the following years, the home would have been swallowed by surrounding development and would have disappeared long ago as has the rest of the Columbia Pike corridor. The magnitude of the events of November 30, 1864, however, cemented the Carter House's place in history and changed its future.

Today, visitors can walk the grounds of Carter Hill which includes the Carter House and few outbuildings marred, to this day, by hundreds of bullet holes from the 1864 battle. A small garden plot has been constructed near the house and is representative of a once larger garden. A visitors center with the ramps and paths necessary to access both the visitors center and the Carter House have also been constructed. Recent fence construction and signage improvements have significantly helped improve the visibility and recognition of the site.

Around the Carter House, things have changed dramatically. Residential development, commercial buildings, a Boys and Girls Club and the Williamson County Library have all developed nearby. A school, since burned down except for the gymnasium, was also built just north of the Carter House. The gym still stands, but funding for the demolition of the gym has recently been appropriated by the State of Tennessee. Trees and underbrush have grown all around the Carter House site. Even the land has been changed as portions of the battlefield have been shaped including an area adjacent to the house graded to form an arena now out of use for decades. All of this has made the Carter House seem very small and confined and likely looks and feels very different than it would have in the 1860s. It is for that reason that the Carter House State Historic Site Master Plan was conceived. With the help of a team of historians, planners, landscape architects, architects, engineers and other stakeholders, the Carter House is getting a new look. Or, more correctly, the Carter House is reestablishing an old look.

The Carter House State Historic Site Master Plan is intended as a guide to restore the Carter House site to conditions resembling the days just before the Battle of Franklin. The Master Plan seeks to develop the site so as to take advantage of interpretive opportunities to educate visitors about the Carter Family, about life in the 1860s, about the Carter House's place in Franklin, about the events of the Battle of Franklin, and about the Battle of Franklin's context in the Civil War.

CARTER HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE | SITE ANALYSIS + MASTER PLAN PROCESS



Kiser Vogrin Design leads a project team design charette

The consultant team (comprised of Kiser + Vogrin Design [lead consultant, landscape architecture, and planning], Street Dixon Ricks [architecture], Civil and Environmental Consultants [civil engineering], Ashworth Environmental Design [environmental graphics], and Firefly Preservation Consulting [preservation consulting]) met with the client team (including representatives of the Tennessee Historical Commission, the State of Tennessee Real Estate Management (STREAM) division, the Battle of Franklin Trust and Scott Wilson Architects) over the course of 8 months to formulate a complete and cohesive master plan for the future development of the Carter House State Historic Site.

In the first weeks of the process, the team toured the site to become intimately familiar with the existing conditions and held a team kick-off meeting to establish the goals of the project and to create an inventory of the stories the site should convey to visitors. The primary goal that emerged from these conversations was for the plan to restore the site and create a sense of open space authentic to the time just prior to the Battle of Franklin. Other goals were to create a sense of impact for Carter House visitors, to engage visitors' emotions, to emphasize physical and visual connections to the surrounding area and to surrounding historic sites, to provide opportunities for reflection, education, and interaction, and to be reverent and respectful of the history of the site.

These goals were to be accomplished while telling a myriad of stories that are essential to understanding the Carter House and its history. These stories fall into two primary categories. The first, and the reason that the Carter House has been preserved, is the story of the Battle of Franklin including its context in the war, the significance of the battle, the key players and events of the day, and the impact on the Civil War. Second, though, is this unique story of the Carter Family. In many ways the Carter Family was a typical 1860 family, but they were caught in the Civil War while running a family farm and a business. They were a family who owned but had also freed slaves. They were neighbors to the Lotz family and the McGavock family whose properties are also historic sites (the Lotz House, Carton Plantation, and Eastern Flank Battlefield Park). Then, of course, there is one story that spans the stories of both the battle and the Carter family. The story of Tod Carter who, fighting with the Confederate Army of Tennessee, finally returned to the land on which he was raised only to be mortally wounded on his family property.



Eric Jacobson (Battle of Franklin Trust) guides a project team site visit to the Carter House State Historic Site.

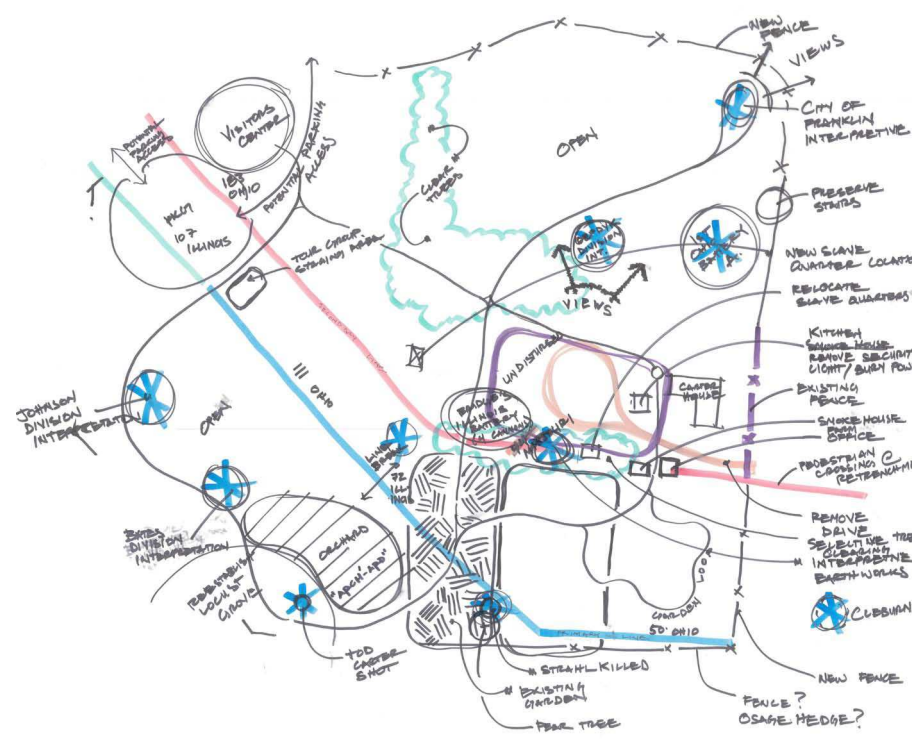
Precedent images used as a guide in the design process of the Carter House State Historic Site



With the core goals for the master plan established, the Consultant Team and the Client Team met for a design charrette to begin to relate these goals and stories to the site. The result of this charrette was a vision of just how to accomplish the primary goal (restore the existing site to a condition like that of the land just days before the Battle of Franklin) while telling the stories of the Carter Family and the Battle of Franklin.

In the following months, the vision evolved into a number of sketches and concept plans. The first drafts explored high intensity and low intensity interpretive development of the site. Plans addressed pedestrian and vehicular circulation, restoration of historic elements, interpretive opportunities, connections to adjacent sites, and a number of other site design elements. Other elements including fallen soldier markers and monuments were considered and discarded. The team also debated architectural character of a proposed visitors center and weighed the impact of contemporary versus traditional architectural concepts and how those same concepts would filter through the site into way-finding and interpretive signage.

As these ideas were explored, the more aggressive approaches were discarded in favor of keeping the Master Plan authentic to the site conditions just before the Battle while still telling the stories that the Carter House site should tell. At this stage the costs of development were also explored. Finally, with the plan stripped to only those ideas that further the goals of the project and tell the stories important to understanding the site and the site's history, the final Master Plan was ready to be finalized.



Team design charrette notes and sketches



Schematic concept plan



Detailed concept plan sketches

CARTER HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE | MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

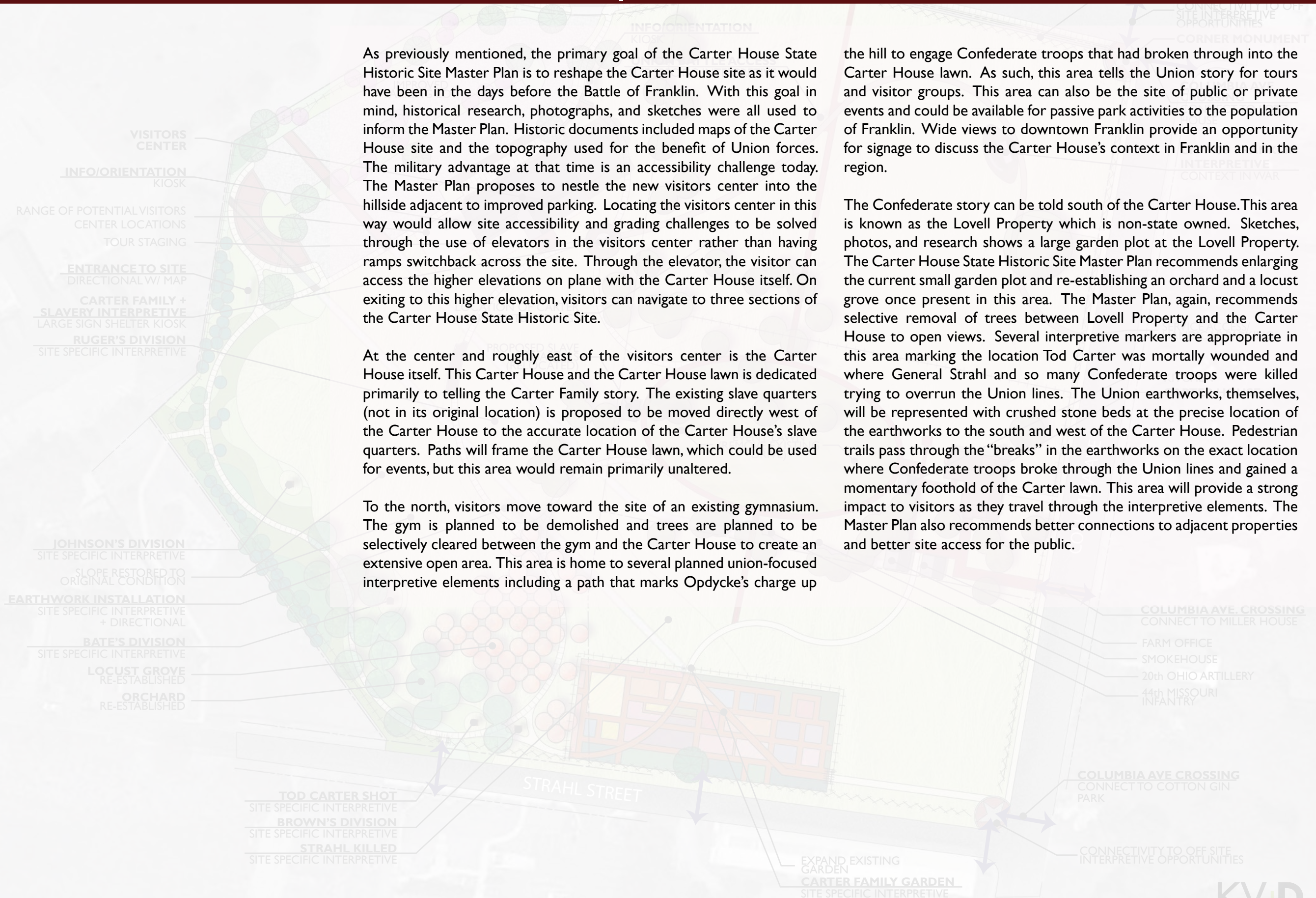
As previously mentioned, the primary goal of the Carter House State Historic Site Master Plan is to reshape the Carter House site as it would have been in the days before the Battle of Franklin. With this goal in mind, historical research, photographs, and sketches were all used to inform the Master Plan. Historic documents included maps of the Carter House site and the topography used for the benefit of Union forces. The military advantage at that time is an accessibility challenge today. The Master Plan proposes to nestle the new visitors center into the hillside adjacent to improved parking. Locating the visitors center in this way would allow site accessibility and grading challenges to be solved through the use of elevators in the visitors center rather than having ramps switchback across the site. Through the elevator, the visitor can access the higher elevations on plane with the Carter House itself. On exiting to this higher elevation, visitors can navigate to three sections of the Carter House State Historic Site.

At the center and roughly east of the visitors center is the Carter House itself. This Carter House and the Carter House lawn is dedicated primarily to telling the Carter Family story. The existing slave quarters (not in its original location) is proposed to be moved directly west of the Carter House to the accurate location of the Carter House's slave quarters. Paths will frame the Carter House lawn, which could be used for events, but this area would remain primarily unaltered.

To the north, visitors move toward the site of an existing gymnasium. The gym is planned to be demolished and trees are planned to be selectively cleared between the gym and the Carter House to create an extensive open area. This area is home to several planned union-focused interpretive elements including a path that marks Opdycke's charge up

the hill to engage Confederate troops that had broken through into the Carter House lawn. As such, this area tells the Union story for tours and visitor groups. This area can also be the site of public or private events and could be available for passive park activities to the population of Franklin. Wide views to downtown Franklin provide an opportunity for signage to discuss the Carter House's context in Franklin and in the region.

The Confederate story can be told south of the Carter House. This area is known as the Lovell Property which is non-state owned. Sketches, photos, and research shows a large garden plot at the Lovell Property. The Carter House State Historic Site Master Plan recommends enlarging the current small garden plot and re-establishing an orchard and a locust grove once present in this area. The Master Plan, again, recommends selective removal of trees between Lovell Property and the Carter House to open views. Several interpretive markers are appropriate in this area marking the location Tod Carter was mortally wounded and where General Strahl and so many Confederate troops were killed trying to overrun the Union lines. The Union earthworks, themselves, will be represented with crushed stone beds at the precise location of the earthworks to the south and west of the Carter House. Pedestrian trails pass through the "breaks" in the earthworks on the exact location where Confederate troops broke through the Union lines and gained a momentary foothold of the Carter lawn. This area will provide a strong impact to visitors as they travel through the interpretive elements. The Master Plan also recommends better connections to adjacent properties and better site access for the public.



SITE MASTER PLAN



VISITORS CENTER

INFO/ORIENTATION KIOSK

RANGE OF POTENTIAL VISITORS CENTER LOCATIONS

TOUR STAGING

ENTRANCE TO SITE
DIRECTIONAL W/ MAP

CARTER FAMILY + SLAVERY INTERPRETIVE
LARGE SIGN SHELTER KIOSK

RUGER'S DIVISION
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

JOHNSON'S DIVISION
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

SLOPE RESTORED TO ORIGINAL CONDITION

EARTHWORK INSTALLATION
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE + DIRECTIONAL

BATE'S DIVISION
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

LOCUST GROVE
RE-ESTABLISHED

ORCHARD
RE-ESTABLISHED

TOD CARTER SHOT
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

BROWN'S DIVISION
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

STRAHL KILLED
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

INFO/ORIENTATION KIOSK

UNION BATTLE ACCESS
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

LOCATION OF CARTER HOUSE OUTBUILDINGS

PROPOSED SLAVE QUARTERS (RELOCATED)

EVENT LAWN (REMOVE EXISTING DRIVE)

EXPAND EXISTING GARDEN

CARTER FAMILY GARDEN
SITE SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE

FUTURE INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECTIVITY TO OFF SITE INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

ENTRY WALL
MAIN IDENTITY SIGN AT CORNER OF COLUMBIA + W. FOWLKES

CONNECTIVITY TO OFF SITE INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CORNER MONUMENT

COLUMBIA AVE CROSSING
CONNECT TO LOTZ HOUSE

CITY OF FRANKLIN INTERPRETIVE
CONTEXT IN WAR

SERVICE ACCESS/
HANDICAP PARKING

KITCHEN
CARTER HOUSE

COLUMBIA AVE. CROSSING
CONNECT TO MILLER HOUSE

FARM OFFICE

SMOKEHOUSE

20th OHIO ARTILLERY

44th MISSOURI INFANTRY

COLUMBIA AVE

COLUMBIA AVE CROSSING
CONNECT TO COTTON GIN PARK

CONNECTIVITY TO OFF SITE INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

SITEMASTERPLAN

STANDING SEAM
METAL ROOF

SHED DORMER
CLERESTORY WINDOW

CARTER HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE | ARCHITECTURE

The proposed Carter House visitors center will provide an essential place to start the story-telling of events that occurred before, during, and after the Battle of Franklin. At approximately 4,000 square feet, the building will house a museum, gift shop, offices, meeting room, and public restrooms.

The visitors center design is inspired by the concept of a bank barn, a style of barn built into the side of a hill. Bank barns were common in rural areas that needed accessibility on two separate levels. The building utilizes and is integrated into the hillside. The entrance welcomes visitors from the improved parking lot and leads through the building where an elevator provides accessibility to the upper level and the second level tour gathering spaces. The building is located near the existing parking lot and in an area which is believed to have been where the Carter family housed farm animals and maintained a barn. The building is embedded into the site adjacent to the parking area. This location allows the Carter House and the most significant areas around it to be connected to each other, but separated from the visitors center so the story of the Battle of Franklin remains the focus of the visitor's experience. The visitors center building is a story and a half from the parking area, but is low and respectful with only one story visible from the Carter House.

The visitors center design respects the historic buildings and events on site by using a simple barn form but also incorporates contemporary materials. The building facade is made of board-formed concrete. This sophisticated design solution provides a durable exterior, but the grain and scale of the wooden boards used to form the wall provide familiar warmth. The entrance is open and inviting and is emphasized with contemporary sliding metal barn doors. The standing seam metal roof is a nod to the tin roofs typical of older barns. A shed dormer clerestory window is integral to the design and provides volume, daylight, and views for the upper level. The visitors center's location, simple aesthetic form, and clean modern materials were selected to enhance the visitor's experience to the Carter House site.

VISITORSCENTER



METAL BARN DOORS



BOARD-FORMED
CONCRETE

