

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Allegheny, Camp Baldwin, Camp Johnson, Camp Yeager, Top of Allegheny, Tip Top  
other names/site number Allegheny Battlefield Site Number 46PH1

### 2. Location

street & number Monongahela National Forest  not for publication  
city, town                       vicinity  
state West Virginia code WV county Pocahontas code 075 zip code 24920

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____	_____ Total

a of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/26/90

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

- DEFENSE military facility
- DEFENSE fortification
- DEFENSE battle site
- DEFENSE cemetery
- DOMESTIC single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

- WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

- foundation
- walls
- roof
- other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Camp Allegheny is a Civil War encampment and battlefield located in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. It is located on the Allegheny Mountain, on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike, [redacted]. The most common historical name for the site is Camp Allegheny, although it was also called Camp Baldwin, Camp Johnson, Camp Yeager, or Tip Top. It is [redacted] West Virginia, and about [redacted] the West Virginia and Virginia border. The old Staunton-Parkersburg Pike route is presently still in use, as a well-maintained dirt and gravel road. The camp was used briefly in the summer of 1861 by Confederate soldiers, as part of Robert E. Lee's efforts to secure this part of Virginia (Hill 1861). However, the major encampment began in the fall of 1861, when forces who were previously encamped 9 miles south, at Camp Bartow, left that position for the more defensible height [redacted] of Allegheny. Troops occupied Camp Allegheny from the fall of 1861 through early April 1862, under the command of Col. Edward Johnson of the 12th Georgia. There were at times up to 1,200 Confederate soldiers encamped at the site (Lesser and Brashler n.d.). Besides the 12th Georgia, there were also men from the 31st Virginia, the 25th Virginia, the 52nd Virginia, and for briefer periods, the 44th Virginia, the 2nd Rockbridge Light Artillery, Lee's Battery, and Dabney's Pittsylvania Cavalry encamped at the site.

The site is situated at an elevation ranging from [redacted]. It is presently covered with grass, blueberries, strawberries, occasional thistles, and other low growing plants. It has been used as sheep pasture for many years. Much of the camp site was a maple sugar orchard before the Civil War, but the Confederate soldiers cut down these trees (Jessie Beard Powell, personal communication 1989), and there is no indication that the site was ever reforested. Areas outside the boundaries of the site are generally forested. There is considerable relief across the site, which is transected by a small stream, called [redacted] (Figure 1, Topographic Quadrangle). This is the closest water source. The higher elevations are generally the locale of the earthworks or embankments. That portion of the site [redacted] of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike is currently owned by the Monongahela National Forest, while that portion [redacted] of the turnpike is privately owned.

The site has attracted the attention of various archaeologists and historians over the years. Mapping of the site has been conducted by several groups, with some collection of artifacts from around cabins (Lewis 1963; Cohen 1966) (Figures 3, 4, 6). The artifacts collected included bottle glass, plaster, a pewter spoon, ceramic fragments, a variety of nails, a curry comb, horseshoes, hinges, a coffee-pot top, and many pieces of bone (Lewis 1963) (Figure 12). These collections suggest that the site has much potential for studying camp life. The most recent archaeological research on the site has been the

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historical research and planning conducted by Lesser and Brashler (n.d.) and the mapping (Figure 6) and bibliographical research conducted by McBride and McBride, the results of which are submitted with this nomination. The number of articles cited in this bibliography suggest that interest in the site has always been high.

Camp Allegheny is composed of six resources. The five contributing resources are 1) the earthworks (structure); 2) the huts and campground (site); 3) the cemetery (site); 4) the church site (site); and 5) the Yeager farmstead (site). The non-contributing element is the site of a late nineteenth century school (site). The entire campground and earthwork area is also the site of the Battle of Allegheny, the purpose of which was to attack the camp

1) Earthworks. Most of the defensive earthworks are located in [redacted] portion of the site, along the [redacted], and are constructed of earth and stone. One enclosed parapet area is sometimes referred to as the "command post." Several semi-circular "batteries" are also located in this area (Figures 3, 4, 5, and 7). A long linear trench, usually about two feet deep, is located on the [redacted] Staunton-Parkersbrug Turnpike, [redacted] (Figure 3, 8). Historical research suggests that this trench may have been completed in response to the December 13, 1861 attack (Lesser and Brashler n.d.; Lewis 1963). Several linear pits were also located [redacted] and are usually one to three feet in depth and four to seven feet long. They are likely rifle pits.

2) Cabins and campsite. Cabins and tent sites were undoubtedly located throughout the entire boundaries of the site. Some are within the earthworks and others were less protected. The larger groupings of cabin sites include those located within and near the command post earthworks, as illustrated in Figure 5. Many more are likely present. Another group of cabins was located further east of the command area, and [redacted] of the turnpike, and may have been occupied by the 12th Georgia regiment (Figure 5). These cabins are hard to delineate from surface indications. There are large stone piles in this area that likely represent deliberate field clearing. A third concentration of cabins is located [redacted] of the turnpike. Historical research suggests that these cabins were occupied by the 31st Virginia Infantry (Ashcraft 1988; Osborn 1862; Snider 1861). These cabins, of which there are at least 90, have been mapped (Figure 6, 7) and photographed (Figure 10, 11). These remains suggest that the cabins were constructed as two separate rooms which shared a central chimney. In some instances, the remains of stone walls surrounded by low ditches can still be seen. Large holes are consistently located near these cabins, and are likely the remains of storage pits, cooking pits, or small rifle pits. These holes are generally two to four feet in diameter and one to three feet deep (Figure 9). The attack on Camp Allegheny was initially in this area, and fighting occasionally took place inside these cabins. The regularity of these holes, especially in their spacing, suggests that they are not just the results of artifact collecting.

3) Cemetery. A cemetery is located in the northeastern portion of the Camp Allegheny site (Figure 1). This cemetery contains, along with the graves of local persons, soldiers who died during the Battle of Allegheny, or while encamped at the site. Because of this association, the cemetery is an important contributing element to this Civil War site.

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- 4) The cemetery was associated with Mt. Hebron Church, which was dedicated in 1850 (Pocahontas Historical Society 1981), and was located near the middle of the site, [REDACTED] of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike (Figure 5 is schematic but shows the church). The church was used by soldiers encamped at the site for services (Osborn 1862), and also at times as a storehouse and commissary (Brown 1935). The Battle of Allegheny was sometimes referred to by local persons as the Battle of Church Hill (Beard 1926). The church, no longer extant, is illustrated in Figures 13 and 14 (bottom), around the turn of the twentieth century.
- 5) Yeager farmstead. The property on which Camp Allegheny was located was owned during the Civil War by the John Yeager family. Preceding generations of the Yeager family were living at the Top of Allegheny by the 1820s, very likely near this same site (Pocahontas County Historical Society 1981). The Yeager family remained in the house during the war, and provided some services to the camp. For example, members of the family sold and gave goods to soldiers, and the upstairs of the house was used as a hospital after the battle (Beard 1926, 1969). When the Confederates abandoned Camp Allegheny, several members of the Yeager family joined up with regiments which had been stationed there. The house and farm was occupied by the Yeagers and others into the mid-twentieth century, although the farm never completely recovered from the effects of the war, especially the loss of the maple trees (Jesse Beard Powell, personal communication 1989). A portion of the Yeager house can be seen in Figure 13. Today, the only evidence of this site is the foundation of a small root cellar near [REDACTED]
- 6) School. A frame school was also located on the Camp Allegheny site, near the intersection of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike and the road leading down to Arbovale. This school is illustrated in Figures 13 and 14 (top), around the turn of the twentieth century. Children attending the school used to play around the remains of cabins and earthworks, and would occasionally see artifacts (Goldie Rader, personal communication 1989). Since it is of a later period, the school (no longer extant) is not included as a contributing resource. There is no indication that it has compromised the integrity of the Civil War site in any manner.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Military  
Architecture  
Landscape Architecture  
Archaeology-Historic-non-aboriginal

Period of Significance

1861-1862

Significant Dates

1861

Cultural Affiliation

Confederate (as opposed to Union)

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Camp Allegheny is a significant property under several criteria. It is significant in relation to Criterion A under the area of Military, because of its role in the Civil War, and more specifically the campaign for Western Virginia. This campaign had a bearing not only on the outcome of the war, but also the issue of statehood for West Virginia. Locally, this camp was important in guarding the Staunton and Parkersburg turnpike, and in providing a position from which to monitor the Federals on Cheat Mountain, and block their movement further east. When Camp Allegheny was abandoned by the Confederate forces in early April 1862, the Federals did move through this area. The site is also significant as the locale of the Battle of Allegheny, fought on December 13, 1861, when Federal forces under Col. Milroy attacked on the northern side of the camp, and Federal forces under Col. Moody attacked from the southwest. The attack resulted in the Battle of Allegheny, in which the Confederates, under Johnson, held off the Federal forces, who retreated back to Cheat Summit. The battle raged among the cabin area, especially the area occupied by the 31st Virginia. This battle was significant in that it allowed the Confederates to remain in this vicinity over the winter, and to move out at their own discretion and to join forces with Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign and Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Camp Allegheny is also significant in relation to Criterion C, under the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. It is significant in relation to Landscape Architecture because of its extreme elevation, being the highest military encampment of the entire Civil War. It was chosen as a defensible position because of its elevation, its view of the Federal Camp on Cheat Mountain, and its natural defensive characteristics. The camp's natural defenses were strengthened by the strategic placement of a sprawling network of earthworks. It is significant in the area of architecture because it represents an example of exceptionally well-preserved foundations of a number of winter cabins, built by soldiers from various Confederate regiments. Historic records (see accompanying bibliography) provide information on the construction of these cabins, and on the problems of providing shelter at this high elevation.

Although Camp Allegheny is significant under Criterion A and C as it stands, it is also significant under Criterion D because of what it holds for future research in the areas of Military, Architecture, and Archaeology-Historic-non-aboriginal. The attached bibliography suggests that there is a wealth of documentation on the site and on the

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military events associated with it, which can be applied toward obtaining a better understanding of this portion of the Civil War, camp life early in the Civil War, and the construction of temporary quarters under harsh conditions. Camp Allegheny is especially significant under Criterion D in the area of Archaeology-Historic-non-aboriginal. The cabins, earthworks, and battlefields are virtually undisturbed, except for minor artifact collection, sheep grazing, and above-surface cabin clearing in the southern portion of the site. The well-preserved character of the site presents a fine opportunity to apply archaeological data to the study of Civil War camp life, and to address research issues like the level of standardization in living quarters and supplies, differences in material goods and living conditions by rank, internal layout and camp organization, degree of hunting and other use of local foods, and sanitation and disease. The site's short occupation span, from fall 1861 to early spring 1862 means that the site has much temporal clarity.

Camp Allegheny presents a perfect opportunity to compare and contrast a Confederate encampment with a contemporaneous Federal site of the same type in the same area, namely Cheat Summit Fort, located on Cheat Mountain. Comparisons are also possible between different Confederate regiments encamped at Allegheny. For example, many of the 31st and 52nd Virginia troops were from nearby areas, with other occupants from Georgia. This presents an opportunity to investigate the effects of occupying essentially home ground. Figure 5 illustrates the location of the cabins occupied by the 12th Georgia, and other records suggest that the 31st Virginia lived in those cabins north of the turnpike (Osborn 1862; Snider 1861-2).

The fact that a battle also took place on the site presents the additional opportunity to contrast the arms and ammunition of the various regiments and forces.

The abundance of historic documentation available for the site increases the potential for understanding the archaeological remains and for their effective interpretation and presentation. Also, a high level of public interest has already been demonstrated, despite the lack of any official interpretive program. This interest is reflected by scholarly publications (Cohen 1966; Lesser and Brashler n.d.; Lewis 1863; see articles under Newspapers, The Pocahontas Times, in bibliography; or the listing of individuals in the same bibliography), and argues for the public significance of the site.

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Note: Only references cited in nomination are listed in this section. See accompanying bibliography by McBride and McBride for a more complete list.

Ashcraft, John M.

1988 31st Virginia Infantry. H. E. Howard, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Brown, R. W.

1935 Greenbank Community History. The Pocahontas Times, 18 July 1935.

Cohen, Stan

1982 The Civil War in West Virginia. Pictorial Histories Publishing, Charleston, West Virginia.

1966-7 Top of Allegheny. West Virginia Historical Quarterly 28:318-323.

Hill, John Lyon

1861 Diary. In Collection No. Mss5:1, H5533:1, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

Lesser, W. Hunter and Janet G. Brashler

in press 'An Historical and Archaeological Overview of Two Civil War Period Fortifications Recently Acquired by the USDA Forest Service in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties, West Virginia. Proceeding of the Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historical Archaeology 6. Archaeology Program, Department of Anthropology, University of Louisville.

Lewis, M. Clifford

1963 Camp Allegheny: A survey of A Confederate Winter Quarters. The West Virginia Archeologist 16:33-45.

Osborn, Wilson

1862 Diary. In Collection Miscellaneous Microfilm Reel 14, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

Pocahontas Historical Society

1981 History of Pocahontas County. Pocahontas County Historical Society, Marlinton, West Virginia.

Snider, Joseph

1861-2 Diary. In Collection No. 1504, West Virginia Regional Historical Collection.

Yeager, Evelyn Beard

1926 War Recollections. The Pocahontas Times, 25 November 1926.

1969 Reminiscences of the Civil War. Magazine of History and Biography 11:32-35.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 105 acres

UTM References

A | \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 C | \_\_\_\_\_

B | \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 D | \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the area of earthworks, intensive encampment and major fighting, as well as the cemetery in which associated soldiers are buried, and the Yeager housesite. Temporary Confederate pickets were encamped outside of this area to watch for attacks, and some of the earliest fighting from the December 13, 1861 battle may have begun \_\_\_\_\_ of these boundaries. However, the exact location of these activities is uncertain and the drawn boundaries only include the permanent encampment, and major battle field.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kim A. McBride

organization PCRA, University of Kentucky date November 29, 1989

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