

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

WARNING

THE LOCATION OF THIS PROPERTY IS RESTRICTED INFORMATION. THIS DOCUMENTATION MAY BE REPRODUCED ONLY WITH THE CHIEF OF REGISTRATION'S PERMISSION.

* WHEN PHOTOCOPYING OR OTHERWISE REPRODUCING THIS DOCUMENT, BE CERTAIN TO COVER ALL LOCATION INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE ADDRESS BLOCKS, VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, UTM COORDINATES, MAPS OR ANY SECTIONS IN THE TEXT DESCRIBING LOCATION.

Property Name Short Hills Battlefield Historic District
State NEW JERSEY
County Middlesex
Reference Number 14000203

WARNING

This file may contain material **that must be withheld** because it is **restricted** under one or more Federal laws and regulations. All or some of those noted below may apply. Additionally, other federal laws and program requirements may limit public access to information in these files.

- 1) The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Section 304[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a), confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b), Access Determination; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c), Consultation with the Advisory Council];
- 2) The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended [Public Law 96-95; 16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm; with special attention to Section 9 subsections a and b in their entirety];
- 3) The National Parks Omnibus Act of 1988, Section 207 (1 and 2);
- 4) 36 CFR 800.6(5) and 36 CFR 800.11(c);
- 5) Department of the Interior Departmental Manual (519 DM 2);
- 6) National Park Service Management Policies 2006, Section 5.1.1;
- 7) Director's Order 28, Section 5a;

Information in these files that may be restricted can include, but is not limited to, such things as: locations of archeological sites; locations of features within archeological sites; types of artifacts and their recovered locations; the existence of and/or the locations of excavated and unexcavated human remains; photos, maps and text that includes sensitive archeological or cultural information; specific or general information of a sensitive cultural nature such as information about religious ceremonies; rock art or other cultural items; creation stories; or properties associated with such things.

Please note that Section 304 (c), [16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c)], 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) require consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on reaching determinations of withholding. Further, 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) specify including the views of the SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, related to the confidentiality concern in reaching determinations of withholding.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Short Hills Battlefield Historic District

Middlesex County, NJ

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

N/A

Section number Page

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

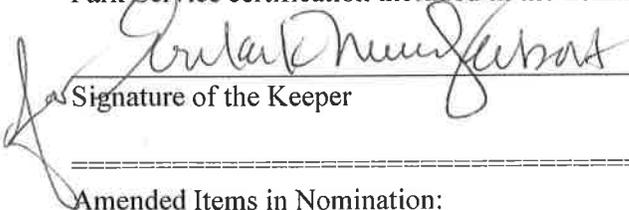
NRIS Reference Number: 14000203

Property Name: Short Hills Battlefield Historic District

County: Middlesex State: NJ

Multiple Name: N/A

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

 5/21/14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination is amended to change the number of non-contributing buildings to 1 and to add 1 under "Number of contributing resources perviously listed in the Naitonal Register". The Laing House was previously listed in the NR and should also be considered contributing to this district as well. It has excellent integrity and dates to the period of significance.

The nominaiton is amended to check the "not for publication box" at the request of the SHPO to redact sensitive information under Section 304.

The State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name _____
other names/site number The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District (including site 28MI261)

2. Location

street & number 

 not for publication
city or town Edison Township vicinity _____
state New Jersey code NJ county Middlesex code 023 zip code 08820

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District
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Middlesex, New Jersey
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	2	buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
2	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Defense = battle site

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture = outdoor (golf course)
Recreation and Culture = outdoor (township park)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A
 walls: N/A

 roof: N/A
 other: N/A

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District
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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District is located in Edison Township in Middlesex County, New Jersey, north of the town of Metuchen. The battlefield represents the scene of a strategic military encounter during the American Revolution on June 26, 1777. The opposing forces were British and Hessian (herein summarized as Crown) troops under the overall command of Sir William Howe and Continental troops from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia under the direct command of Lord Stirling. (The "Short Hills" are oriented roughly north-south and represent the terminal moraine of the maximum Pleistocene glacial advance in northern New Jersey.) Contemporary descriptions of the landscape indicate the presence of mixed woodlots and cultivated fields on farmsteads. Several modern roadways are located on or near the routes of eighteenth-century roads but none of these roads are included in the National Register nomination. The battlefield continued as agricultural land during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as suburban development expanded to the north, northwest and south. The northern portion of the property was converted to a golf course in the first quarter of the twentieth century and this location is still occupied by the Plainfield Country Club at present. The southern portion is currently undeveloped wooded land owned by Edison Township; one portion of these township lands is the Smith Farm that contains a residence constructed during the period 1950 to 1970 surrounded by open lawn or meadows. The nominated area includes 297.68 (approximately 298) acres. The historical significance of the Plainfield Country Club is not evaluated as part of this nomination.

Narrative Description

(see Continuation Sheet for Section 7)

¹ The Plainfield Country Club is not being evaluated for National Register significance at this time.

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Archeology Historic/Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

26 June 1777

Significant Dates

26 June 1777

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American (British, Germanic, American)

Architect/Builder

N/A

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is tightly defined as 26 June 1777, as the battle occurred on this day.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Battle of the Short Hills occurred on 26 June 1777, as Crown forces advanced westward from Perth Amboy in an attempt to engage and destroy separate elements of the Continental Army. The opposing forces encountered each other a few miles north of Metuchen Meeting House during the early morning hours. Numerous contemporary accounts by participants indicated that the American forces were positioned on a series of hills adjacent to a roadway or roadways along which the Crown forces were moving. The engagement lasted for a few hours, during which the Crown Forces of Sir William Howe and Lord Cornwallis drove American military formations under the command of Lord Stirling from the field, capturing at least three cannon and some Continental soldiers. Casualty figures vary but probably exceeded 100 on each side. Following the engagement, the Crown forces advanced northward toward Westfield and Rahway. While they gained a tactical victory, the Crown forces destroyed neither the brigades under the command of Lord Stirling nor the remainder of the Continental Army under the command of George Washington that was located to the southwest near Quibbletown. On the following day the Crown Forces marched back to Perth Amboy, pillaging and razing dwellings along the route. The acreage encompassed in this nomination includes landscape elements that are surprisingly intact given the generally urbanized nature of northeastern New Jersey.

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District is considered nationally significant under Criteria A as the location of a 1777 military confrontation in New Jersey during the American Revolutionary War. The engagement at Short Hills, though indecisive, was the denouement of the June campaigning in New Jersey, and marked the start of the summer Delaware Valley campaigning that saw the capture of Philadelphia in September 1777. The maneuvering at Short Hills was the final effort on the part of Sir William Howe, commander of the Crown Forces, to confront and defeat a portion of General George Washington's army.

The inability of Howe to force a decisive battle or outmaneuver Washington in New Jersey resulted in the movement by sea of the balance of Crown Forces from Staten Island and the subsequent Philadelphia Campaign, launched overland by Crown Forces from the Head of Elk in Maryland. Howe's maneuver away from New York City and the Hudson River valley contributed to the eventual halt and defeat of Sir John Burgoyne's army at Saratoga, since Howe's forces were in no position to support the former's advance.² Thus the affair at Short Hills constitutes the last effort to engage Washington's forces early in the summer of 1777, before the movement of both armies south to Philadelphia.

In addition, the Historic District acreage contains archeological deposits directly related to the battle as demonstrated during a limited metal detector survey of a small portion of the battlefield.³ The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District is thus also considered significant under Criteria D, as further archeological investigations, following scholarly research questions, can contribute significant new historical information not readily available in documents. Future archeological work on the battlefield would likely provide more detailed information regarding the positioning and placement of military formations. Indeed, it is likely that, could iron canister or grape shot be discovered on the field, the positions occupied by the American artillery could be discerned and several locations described in the contemporary accounts of the battle could be accurately pinpointed on the ground.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(see Continuation Sheet for Section 8)

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See appendix for first person accounts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

² Jeremy Black, *War for America: The Fight for Independence, 1775-1783*, pp. 122, 1991.

³ Brooke Blades and Wade P. Catts, "...The Musket Balls Flew Like A Shower of Hail Stones...": *The Short Hills Battlefield Study*. Prepared for the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society and the American Battlefield Protection Program. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., December 2011.

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District
Name of Property

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Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

(see Continuation Sheet for Section 9)

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

(see continuation sheet)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency (New Jersey State Museum)
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, P.O.

Name of repository: BBox 61, Metuchen, NJ 08840

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 298
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>552738</u> Easting	<u>4491983</u> Northing	3	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>552831</u> Easting	<u>4492008</u> Northing
2	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>552872</u> Easting	<u>4492034</u> Northing	4	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>552903</u> Easting	<u>4492015</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Short Hills Battlefield consists of lands owned by the Plainfield Country Club north and south of Old Raritan Road and west of Woodland Avenue (1591 Woodland Avenue) and contiguous lands to the south owned by Edison Township, including a parcel known as the Smith Farm. A separate parcel is also owned by Edison Township and has been developed as a small park north of Oak Tree Road at the junction of New Dover Road.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Plainfield Country Club and Edison Township lands combine important battlefield locations with limited development during the twentieth century. While the current landscape does not closely resemble the agricultural one of the later eighteenth century, the lack of development during the past century coupled with varying degrees of protection from relic collecting and metal detecting has likely preserved substantial archeological deposits relating to the battle on these lands.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wade Catts and Brooke Blades (in association with the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society)

organization John Milner Associates, Inc. date Revised March 2014

street & number 535 North Church Street telephone 610-436-9000

city or town West Chester state PA zip code 19380

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-800 OMB No. 1024-0018

(Ex

pires 5/31/2012)

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District
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e-mail wcatts@johnmilnerassociates.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County: State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of ____.

(see attached)

Property Owner:

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

name Edison Township and Plainfield Country Club

street & number 100 Municipal Boulevard; 1591 Woodland Avenue telephone 732-248-7298; 908-757-1800

city or town Edison (PCC zip: 08820) state NJ zip code 08817

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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Description (continued)

The Short Hills Battlefield as defined in this nomination is located on three land parcels in northwestern Edison Township, New Jersey (Figures 1, 2 and 3). Parcel One, the Plainfield Country Club (1591 Woodland Avenue), is located north and south of Old Raritan Road and Inman Avenue and is the projected location of the eastern half of the main line of resistance of the Continental forces under Lord Stirling. The club was founded as the Hillside Tennis Club in 1890 and assumed its present name in 1904. The club house was standing by 1910 but is considered a non-contributing resource for the purpose of this nomination. Donald Ross designed the current golf course in 1916. Byron Miller, the present manager of the country club, indicated that Ross generally strove to modify the existing landscape to a minimal extent and such was the case at Plainfield. In addition, Mr. Miller emphasized that the highest spot in Edison Township is located within the grounds of the country club. This hilltop shows clearly on the 1905 USGS *Plainfield* Quadrangle at an elevation of 185 feet. The current landscape of the golf course combines a mixture of long open fairways with intervening stands of trees. The open fairways provide sweeping vistas across the landscape similar to those possible between the later eighteenth-century farms in the areas. The creation of the golf course in the early twentieth century had an unintended consequence from the standpoint of battlefield preservation: relic collecting and metal detecting have been prohibited on the grounds, thus enhancing the preservation of the battlefield archeological record (Photograph 1).

Parcel Two, the Edison Township parcel, consists of lands to the south of the Plainfield Country Club. The township lands consist of various tracts, including the Smith Farm tract that includes a modern house (a non-contributing resource) and associated lawn or field (elevation ca. 120 feet) [REDACTED] (Photograph 2). For the most part, however, the township lands are covered by trees that appear to have grown once farming ceased in the later nineteenth or early twentieth century. Hiking, horseback riding and other forms of light recreation currently occur on these lands. The eastern edge of the township lands slopes downward toward a wetland associated with a tributary of Robinson Branch, which in turn flows into the Rahway River. The eastern boundary is also formed by a railroad right-of-way that was created between 1884 and 1905. The rail line appeared on the 1905 USGS *Plainfield* Quadrangle as the Lehigh Valley Railroad; the rail line continues to be a major route for containers leaving the docks at Secaucus. The township lands rise onto the "Short Hills" to the west where they adjoin the properties of privately-owned residences that are not included in this nomination. The Edison Township land is bordered on the south by a water tower company that occupies one of the southern "Short Hills" at an elevation between 168 and 180 feet. Several water towers stand on the hill, which is not included in the boundaries of this nomination. Historical sources suggest Continental riflemen serving as pickets or skirmishers may have occupied this hill in advance of the main Continental line of resistance south of Old Raritan Road.

Parcel Three is the Edison Township tract along Oak Tree Road near the junction of Plainfield Road. This parcel is discontinuous from the other two (Photograph 3). The location at an elevation of 150 to 160 feet is open except for some recent landscaping, a visitor path and signs placed to interpret aspects of the Short Hills battle and other aspects of local history.

The nominated portion of the battlefield is enclosed by Oak Tree Road to the south, Woodland Avenue to the west, Old Raritan Road and Inman Avenue to the north and Tingley Lane for most of the eastern boundary. These names were all designated after the battle. Overlays of historic maps on USGS topographic quadrangles from the later nineteenth century onward have aided in correlating eighteenth-century and modern roadways.

Current conditions within the nominated area consist of principally woodland on the Township lands and open space (greens and fairways) interspersed with copses of trees on the Plainfield Country Club lands.

Historical accounts indicate the landscape north of Metuchen Meeting House in the 1770s was covered by farms

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with dwellings and associated barns, open fields, and pastures that were interspersed with woodlots. The layout of this landscape has changed dramatically in the intervening 233 years. However, most of the property encompassed by the Short Hills Battlefield Historic District nomination has remained undeveloped, in stark contrast to much of the remaining lands in Edison Township.

The major defining features of the Short Hills Battlefield landscape are 1) a series of low topographic rises (the "Short Hills") that geologically reflect the maximum advance of the Pleistocene glaciation in northern New Jersey, and 2) roadways that are located on or close to the original roadbeds.

The Short Hills: The hills north and west of the junction of Oak Tree Road and Plainfield Road are considered to be the heights on which the Continental advance guard was posted. The elevations of these hills range from 168 to 180 feet. The position was labeled "*Avant Grans des Rilemens d'Ottendorf*" (advance or front guard including riflemen of Ottendorf) on the von Wangenheim map (Figure 4). The topography of the Short Hills consists of low and somewhat irregular hills at times separated by depressions or ravines. A major ravine oriented roughly east-west lies on township land along the southern edge of the Plainfield Country Club property.

Today, the ridge along the southern edge of the Plainfield Country Club offers a commanding view across the surrounding landscape. The long open vistas separated by wooded areas replicate the overall dichotomous appearance of the eighteenth-century agricultural landscape while not reproducing the locations of specific fields, fence lines and woodlots. Since the highest elevation (185 feet) in Edison Township occurs on the country club grounds, it seems likely that this portion of the Short Hills was occupied by the Continental main line under the command of Stirling. This interpretation has been offered by others and is supported by the GIS overlay of the von Wangenheim map.¹

The commanding view of the first Watchung Mountain to the northwest is reflected in a photograph from the country club grounds (Photograph 4).

Historical descriptions and maps indicate that the principal roads over which troops advanced and retreated are largely intact, for the most part following their earlier traces (NOTE: these roads are not included in the nomination and are considered *non-contributing* resources):

Oak Tree Road: Advance of Crown (Cornwallis') northern column east from Woodbridge. The route that Cornwallis' column followed westward from Woodbridge is not immediately apparent from historical sources. Various researchers have concluded the Crown forces advanced along Oak Tree Road.² This position is supported by damage claims filed by property owners along the road and by the extensive GIS mapping developed for the American Battlefield Protection Program grant.³

Main Street (Road 531) and Plainfield Road: Advance of Crown (Vaughan's) southern column north from

¹ Frederic C. Detweiler, *War In the Countryside: The Battle and Plunder of the Short Hills, New Jersey, June, 1777, 1977*; George Stillman, *The Battle of the Short Hills*, Appendix A in manuscript by Stochel and Walker (see below) on file with State Historic Preservation Office, Trenton.

² Stillman, op cit.; Walter Stochel, Jr. and N. Ann Walker, *Report on the History of the Oak Tree Pond Site and the Battle of Oak Tree, A part of the Battle of Short Hills June 26, 1777*. Manuscript prepared by the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society and on file with State Historic Preservation Office, Trenton.

³ Brooke Blades and Wade P. Catts, "...The Muskel Balls Flew Like A Shower of Hail Stones...": *The Short Hills Battlefield Study*. Prepared for the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society and the American Battlefield Protection Program. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., December 2011.

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Metuchen. The Crown southern column turned northward on modern Main Street at Metuchen Meeting House and a few neighboring dwellings on route to linking with the northern column. The road is indicated on the von Wangenheim map and is shown as a dotted line on the André map⁴ (Figure 4). The modern road is called Plainfield Road north of the center of Metuchen.

Woodland Avenue: Northward advance of Cornwallis' troops against Continental (Stirling's) line. The modern Woodland Avenue is considered the route followed by the Crown forces as they continued their northward advance following the brief engagement with the Continental advance guard. This route was the road from which the Hessian Minnigerode Battalion and the light infantry of the British Guards deployed to move to the right around the Continental flank. The road extends northward to a junction with Old Raritan Road at the Plainfield Country Club. The road continues north of Old Raritan Road. The route appears on the von Wangenheim map as the unlabelled road that passes northward through both the Continental advance and main lines (Figure 4). The route is shown as crossing a northeast-southwest road interpreted as Old Raritan Road. The interpretation of this road junction is supported by the GIS overlay developed for the ABPP battlefield study.

Old Raritan Road: This road was located to the rear of Continental battle line and served as an avenue of Continental retreat. It also served as an avenue of advance for Howe's Crown forces moving toward Westfield and Rahway following the battle. This road was labeled "*Route de Brunswick à Raway et Westfield*" on the von Wangenheim map since it extended from Raritan Landing at New Brunswick to Rahway and points beyond (Figure 4). The road was also depicted on the John A. André map. Old Raritan Road is designated Maple Avenue west of its junction with Woodland Avenue. Conway's Brigade retreated westward along the road following the battle, while Stirling and Maxwell's Brigade retreated northward along the extension of Woodland Avenue. The Crown forces continued their advance toward Westfield and Rahway on the afternoon of 26 June. Damage claims were also filed for properties along the road.⁵

Inman Avenue: This road served as an avenue of advance for the Crown Forces northern column. Houses and farms along this road were damaged during and/or following the battle. The modern Inman Avenue is parallel to and north of Oak Tree Road and ends at Old Raritan Road just to the east of the junction of the latter with Woodland Avenue. As such, Inman Avenue forms a portion of the northern boundary of the Plainfield Country Club. The road does not appear on the von Wangenheim map; a road extending from north of Woodbridge to Old Raritan Road on the André map (1777) would appear to be Inman Avenue.⁶ Since the road lay in the rear of the Continental line, it may have been used as a route of approach or retreat following the Hessian and British attack on the left flank. Numerous damage claims were filed for dwellings and farms along the road.⁷ The John Whitehead family filed a damage claim for their barn following the battle; their farm was located to the west of Inman Avenue on the public portion of the Plainfield Country Club, the West 9 course. Several musket or rifle balls have been recovered by collectors and/or residents along Inman Avenue.

⁴ Henry Cabot Lodge, editor, *Journal of Major John André*; Boston, 1903

⁵ Detwiler, *op cit.*, pg. 20.

⁶ André *op cit.*

⁷ *Ibid.*, pgs. 19-20.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The engagement at the Short Hills was one of the last acts in a complicated series of maneuvers by King George's military land forces in the early summer of 1777 marking the start of the nationally significant Philadelphia campaign, which culminated in the capture of America's capital city, but also in the military loss of a large Crown Forces army at Saratoga.

At this point in the American Revolution, the forces under the command of Sir William Howe were composed of British regulars and soldiers from various Germanic states generally called Hessians (the term Crown will serve herein to describe the collective British and Germanic troops). Following the twin defeats at Trenton (26 December 1776) and Princeton (3 January 1777), Sir William Howe's forces had abandoned much of New Jersey and chose to establish sizeable garrisons in the towns of New Brunswick and Perth Amboy while the main body of the army occupied New York City. The American forces, under the command of General George Washington, wintered at Morristown, New Jersey. During the winter months, American forces harassed the Crown Forces garrisons, making the latter's foraging and supply operations difficult and costly affairs. No large-scale military actions occurred during the winter months.

In May, Washington moved his army, composed of both Continental troops and state militia, into a well-protected position at Middlebrook, on the left bank of the Raritan River, and near the passes into the first Watchung Mountain. This position placed the American army within seven miles of the Crown Forces at New Brunswick. The Middlebrook position also provided easy access to the mountains in the event of a defeat, and placed the American forces on the right flank and rear of Howe's Army, if and when Howe attempted an overland advance on Philadelphia, the principal Crown Forces objective in 1777. The movement of Washington's forces to Middlebrook offered the opportunity to General Howe to gain a decisive battlefield victory over his opponent, something that, had he "secured one [a victory] and defeated the Americans in the spring the fate of the entire campaign of 1777 would have been very different."⁴ Thus the failure of Howe to defeat Washington's Army and the ability of Washington to extricate his forces from Howe's maneuvering on 26 June at the battle of Short Hills take on strategic significance.

The three June maneuvers of Howe's army were intended to lure Washington's forces out of their strong defensive positions, gain an advantage of position, and potentially force a major battle that would result in an American defeat. About 12 June, in his first maneuver, Howe marched his forces (approximately 18,000 strong) west from New Brunswick to form a nine-mile front between Somerset Courthouse (Millstone) and New Brunswick.⁵ Howe's forces stopped for five days (14 June to 19 June) in the vicinity of Somerset and Middlebush, where they erected field fortifications and plundered the surrounding area.⁶ Washington, however, was not compelled to venture out of his positions. Instead, smaller, mobile militia formations clung to the flanks of the Crown Forces positions, harassing the British and Hessians, but not coming out to fight. Howe, unable to get Washington to commit to battle, found himself in an "embarrassing situation" and, in his second summer maneuver, rapidly withdrew his forces to New Brunswick and then to Perth Amboy.⁷ Washington's army followed and elements clashed with the withdrawing Crown Forces, but not enough to bring on a general engagement.

By 22 June Howe's army was back at Perth Amboy. Crown Forces regiments began embarking on the British fleet, and then disembarking and reembarking, in an apparent display of dissolution and confusion. In late June

4 Jeremy Black, *War for America: The Flight for Independence, 1775-1783*, pg. 122, 1991.

5 Boalner, p. 857, Frances Vivian, "A Defence of Sir William Howe with a new Interpretation of his Actions in New Jersey, June, 1777," *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* XLVI (178), June 1966, pgs. 78-80.

6 McGulre, pgs.40-43.

7 Boalner, p.857, Taaffe, pgs. 36-41.

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Howe saw a chance to engage the Continental Army, as Washington, observing the apparent Crown Forces confusion, began moving elements of his army out of the Watchung Mountains and down to the vicinity of Quibbletown. It was this movement that Howe reacted to in the evening of 25 June, as it offered an opportunity for Howe to attack and defeat Washington's detached divisions (*defeat in detail* in military parlance) and thereby increase the likelihood that the two smaller portions of the American army could be destroyed. Thus, the ultimate goal of the third of Howe's three June maneuvers was the destruction through capture or dispersal of a large detachment of Continental Army that occupied the hills of northern New Jersey opposite New York and Staten Island.⁸

The Crown forces crossed the Arthur Kill from Staten Island to Perth Amboy late on 25 June and began to march westward before dawn on 26 June. Numerous contemporary accounts may be combined to provide a fairly clear image of the Short Hills battle and its associated geographic features, if not the precise location of those features (see Appendix for first-person accounts). The Crown forces marched from Perth Amboy in two columns: a northern one under the command of Lord Cornwallis and a southern one commanded by General Vaughan and accompanied by Howe. The Crown order of battle is provided in several accounts, such as those by Johann Ewald of the Hessian Field Jaeger Corps and in the journal of Thomas Sullivan.⁹ (Tables 1 and 2 contain the opposing forces orders of battle).

The northern (right flank) column under Cornwallis moved westward past Woodbridge; the southern (left flank) column moved westward from Perth Amboy then northward at Metuchen Meeting House to join the northern column. Damage claims for the members of the Metuchen meeting confirm that the route of march passed this building.¹⁰ The Cornwallis force encountered and scattered a Continental picket fairly early in the march. They then met a larger body—a corps of 600 to 700 men under the command of Brigadier General Thomas Conway with three cannon—posted on “a hill before a woods.”¹¹ The von Wangenheim map—the most detailed contemporary map of the engagement—suggests this advance corps included riflemen posted on a hill in advance of the main battle line of Stirling.

The northern column of Crown forces was advancing westward past Woodbridge, while the southern column moved westward along Woodbridge Avenue then turned northward at Metuchen Meeting to join the rear of the northern column. The northward movement of the southern column occurred along modern Plainfield Road (Figure 2).

Various contemporary maps¹² indicate a road extending northward from Metuchen Meeting that intersects with two parallel east-west roads extending westward from the Woodbridge/Rahway area. Knox mentioned two main roads with the British advancing on a wide road between them. It seems most likely that the northern column moved westward from Woodbridge on the road known today as Oak Tree Road. This road intersects with modern Plainfield Road—the apparent route of the southern column—north of Metuchen Meeting.

The von Wangenheim plan and the Knox letter both indicate the Crown route of advance passed through the line of the Continental troops, with portions of the line lying on either side of the road (Figure 4). The Continental forces are shown in two successive hilltop positions on the von Wangenheim map:

⁸ Vivian, pgs. 81-83.

⁹ Joseph Tustlin, *Hessian Journal [of] Captain Johann Ewald*, p. 69; Joseph Lee Boyle, *Thomas Sullivan Journal*, p. 121.

¹⁰ A Book of Register & Copy of Inventories of the Damages done by the Enemy and their adherents to the Inhabitants of the County of Middlesex. 1782., The Congregation of Metuchen, pg. 60. New Jersey State Archives. We are indebted to the work of Walter Stochel and the Metuchen-Edison Township Historical Society for providing copies of the original damage claims and for identifying the locations of the owners' properties.

¹¹ Ernst Klipping and Samuel Smith, *At General Howe's Side*, p. 19; Boyle, p. 121.

¹² Henry Cabot Lodge, *Journal of Major John André*, "Operations in America. No. 2", Library of Congress.

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- "Avant Grans. des Riflemens d'Ottendorf" (advance group including riflemen)
- "Corps de Genl. Sterling" (main line of resistance)

The intersection at Oak Tree (Photograph 3) is the approximate location where Cornwallis' northern column encountered the Continental forces, and was also the point at which the southern Crown Forces column joined the rear of the northern column later in the morning of 26 June.¹³ The engagement at Oak Tree started around 6am, and lasted a short time. According to von Muenchhausen, "Cornwallis' column, marching to the right of Vaughan's, put a part of the Short-hills between the two columns. On his march, before the two columns could join, Cornwallis' column came upon a picket of Lord Stirling's force at six o'clock in the morning. Stirling was in that part of the Short-hills, which we had managed to place between the two columns. Stirling's picket ran off after a few shots."¹⁴ Previous metal detector investigations have occurred near the junction of Oak Tree Road and Plainfield Road in the vicinity where the Crown forces first engaged the Continental advance line.¹⁵ No artifacts clearly related to the battle were encountered but the first-person accounts, damage claims, and general topography support the conclusion that an important part of the Battle of Short Hills occurred at the Oak Tree intersection.

Several landowners whose farms were in the immediate vicinity of the Oak Tree intersection filed damage claims for lost property taken or destroyed by the Crown Forces, clearly indicating that battle actions occurred at this location. A short distance east along Oak Tree Road, near its intersection with Grove Road, Benjamin Soper reported the loss of 11 sheep, six loads of "good" salt hay, a greatcoat, sole and uppers leather, a knife and a razor. Moving towards the Oak Tree intersection, Soper's neighbor to the west, George Morris, claimed the loss of a saddle, pillow case and clothing, a table cloth, calves and turkeys, as well as bushels of corn and oats, and six tons of salt hay, while his neighbor to James Mundy reported the loss of a horse, a mare, a yoke of oxen, and several other livestock. At the intersection, David Crow claimed the loss of "8 tons of salt hay in the meadow" and a beehive, both clear indications of troop movements on the ground, not bushels or tons that were already harvested and in storage. He also lost shoes, an iron pot, and "one negro man, 30 years old, good for all sorts of work." Alexander Cotheal, whose property was located on the south side of Oak Tree Road, between Plainfield Road and Woodland Avenue, near present-day Harding Avenue, reported significant damages, including a 24x20 ft. dwelling house, a 30x20 ft. barn (both destroyed by fire), cattle, hogs, sheep, beds and bedding, household furniture, bushels of corn and oats, pewter plates, iron pots, and "three tons of salt hay," again suggesting troop movement damages. Other neighbors at the Oak Tree intersection with significant damages included Rune Runyon, who claimed the loss of cattle and household goods, and ten tons of salt hay; Rueben Ayres, who, like Cotheal nearby, had a 18x30 ft. barn destroyed, cattle, sheep, and horses taken, eight beehives damaged, household items taken, and seven "loads of salt hay in the meadow" damaged. Finally, Samuel Mundy, whose farm was along the New Dover Road just east of Reuben Ayres' land, reported among other items, the loss of thirteen tons of salt hay, bridles, a cart, four beehives, windows (presumably in his home), and the "doors of a cupboard destroyed."¹⁶

¹³ Walter Stochel, Jr. and Ann Walker, *Report on...the Battle of Oak Tree*.

¹⁴ Von Mueunchhausen, pg. 19.

¹⁵ Daniel Sivilich, *Phase I Archaeological Survey Conducted at Oak Tree Pond Property, Oak Tree Road and New Dover Road, Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey*. Report prepared for Edison Township by Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization (BRAVO), and Sivilich, *Phase I Archaeological Survey Conducted at Main Street Realty, Inc., 2007 Oak Tree Road, Edison, Middlesex County, New Jersey*. Report prepared for Edison Township by Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization (BRAVO).

¹⁶ A Book of Register & Copy of Inventories of the Damages done by the Enemy and their adherents to the Inhabitants of the County of Middlesex. 1782., Benjamin Soper, pg. 313; estate of George Morris, pg. 68; estate of James Mundy, pg. 74; David Crow, pg. 41; Alexander Cotheal, pg. 60; Rune Runyon, pg. 59; Rueben Ayres, pg 305; Samuel Mundy, p. 205. New Jersey State Archives. We are indebted to the work of Walter Stochel and the Metuchen-Edison Township Historical Society for providing copies of the original damage claims and for identifying the locations of the owners' properties..

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By this time the heavy skirmishing and fight of the advanced corps had the effect of notifying Washington and his subordinates of the Crown Forces advance. Alarm guns were fired, and the American forces reacted by retreating quickly back towards the Watchung mountain passes, since it was clear that the Crown Forces northern or right flank column was attempting to turn the American left flank and cut off their retreat to the mountains. The American response was clearly observed by several Crown Forces officers, who commented on seeing the American wagons "ascending the mountains" and they could "judge the steepness of the ascent by the frequent halts they made."¹⁷ Washington also responded by deploying his brigades and divisions to cover the mountain passes and to delay the Crown Forces advance. He ordered Lord Stirling's division to move to cover the Westfield Gap, observe the enemy, and if they moved further north (or left), to parallel their motion. He ordered the brigades of generals Parsons and Varnum to take position near the Scotch Plains Gap and the Brown Town Gap, General Lincoln's division to take post at the gaps leading from Quibbletown. The brigades of Stephens and Woodford were to protect the right flank of the American army, extending south from Quibbletown as far as Steel's Gap. General Sullivan's division, "as they are the farthest advanced," was ordered to take a position to the rear of Lord Stirling's division and Parson's brigade, while General Greene's division took a position to the rear of General Lincoln's command. The potential Crown Forces turning movement to the American left was of concern, as Washington ordered each of his commanders to be prepared to shift to the left, should circumstances warrant it.¹⁸

After Cornwallis' right flank column dispersed the American advance corps,¹⁹ they moved forward and then encountered the main battle line of Maxwell's New Jersey and Conway's Pennsylvania Brigades under the command of Lord Stirling (Table 1). This encounter happened "about five miles from Westfield and about the same distance from Scotch Plains."²⁰ The first-person accounts suggest that this was something of an unexpected encounter, perhaps for both antagonists. British General Grant wrote that "we fell in [with the enemy] near the Quaker Meeting house...they did not expect us & we knew nothing of them [...] A cannon shot upon our right flank was the first notice we had of them...."²¹ Grant further indicates that the Crown Forces column "made our flank our front" and advance toward high ground that the Americans were also moving towards (Figure 5). The surprise nature of this part of the battle is further supported by the account of Friedrich von Muenchhausen "On a bare hill before some woods, we came upon approximately 2,500 men with six cannon," wrote von Muenchhausen. "They started cannon fire early, at a distance of 1,000 paces, and then began with small arms fire. We took two 12-pounders and several 6-pounders to our left flank, where we had some rising ground. From our right flank the Hessian grenadier battalion von Minnigerode ascending the slope in deployed formation, attacked their left flank. *Our battalion had to move considerably to the right in order to outflank their left flank* (emphasis added). The rebels continued a strong but not very effective fire upon us. They finally fired grape-shot at von Minnigerode's battalion, but after that, they ran away into the woods." The commanding officer of the von Minnigerode Battalion reported that "...we heard shots fired shortly one after the other, which caused the dragoons to come back; the troops had forthwith to *wheel off to the right* from the road and march up the height (emphasis added). The Minnigerode Battalion which was first in order of march guarded the right wing of the first

¹⁷ André, pgs. 42-48.

¹⁸ Frederic C. Detweiler, *War in the Countryside: The Battle and Plunder of the Short Hills, New Jersey, June, 1777*, pg.15.

¹⁹ John Chilton, *Tyler's Quarterly Magazine* 12: 118-120; Klipping and Smith, p. 19; Boyle, pp. 121-122, Von Heister, Lieutenant-General. Journal of the Campaign in America, Volume II 1776-1779. Short Description of the Journey of the Honourable Hessian troops from Bremerfehe to America, pp. FZs72-FZa75, Fiche #45, Lidgenwood Collection, Morristown National Historic Park.

²⁰ James Grant to General Harvey, 10 July 1777. James Grant Papers of Ballindalloch Castle, Scotland; Library of Congress microcopy, reel 28, container/box 29 MF1P/GD494/1/box 29, Letter Book No. 4, folios 17-18 (transcribed by Todd Braisted)

²¹ Ibid.

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Division, the other two Grenadier Battalions the reserve."²²

The northern road that passed through the Continental positions is interpreted as modern Woodland Avenue; the road parallel to and behind the Continental main line is Old Raritan Road. Stillman²³ argues the Crown column had reoriented to face northward up Woodland Avenue. The advance group of riflemen would have been positioned to the south on a hilltop (elevation 168 to 180 feet) currently occupied by water towers. The Continental main line stood to the north on the hills (maximum elevation 185 feet) roughly parallel with Old Raritan Road. Maxwell's Brigade would have been located east of Woodland Avenue on land owned since the early twentieth century by the Plainfield Country Club. Conway's Brigade would have been positioned to the west along this main line.

The von Wangenheim map suggests the Continental line was deployed along the heights east and west of the road along which Cornwallis was advancing northward (Figure 4). Henry Knox²⁴ stated "Maxwell's and Conway's Brigades...were posted on two 'main' roads leading from Amboy to the heights. The enemy came on a large road between the two roads and effectively separated the two brigades...."²⁵

Georgian Raymond Demere, an aide-de-camp to Lord Stirling, was present at the battle.²⁶ He recorded in his journal that Stirling's forces initially deployed "to a wheat field and formed around the skirt of a thick wood" before retiring to "rising ground four hundred yards off." Ewald described the American position as located on "steep brush-covered heights" with the right protected by "deep ravines" and the left by "a thick wood."²⁷ A major ravine oriented roughly east-west lies on township land along the southern edge of the Plainfield Country Club property. This landscape feature is interpreted as the possible ravine that Ewald contended the Hessian jaegers used as cover in their attempted advance on the rear of the Continental line. It may also have been the "valley" in front of the Continental main line referred to in the account of the attack of the Hessian Minnigerode Battalion and British Guards on the Continental left flank.²⁸ Limited metal detector survey also occurred in the ravine and along the slope south of the Country Club in June 2010, but no definitive eighteenth-century artifacts were recovered.

The firing sequence from the American main line as recorded by von Muenchhausen is important as it has implications for the distribution of ammunition that may be archeologically recoverable and still present in the nomination area:

- "cannon fire early, at a distance of 1,000 paces" (solid shot and shell fired over a distance of perhaps 800 to 900 yards)
- "then began with small arms fire" (effective range of muskets 100 to 150 yards, somewhat greater for rifles, although the balls would have carried farther)
- "rebels continued a strong but not very effective fire upon us"
- "they finally fired grape-shot at von Minnigerode's battalion" (the Hessian grenadiers on the right; the

²² Journal of the Honourable Hessian Grenadier Battalion at one time von Minnigerode later von Löwenstein, from January 20th 1776 to May 17th 1784. Ligderwood Collection, Fiche 232, Letter K. Morristown National Historical Park.

²³ George Stillman, *The Battle of the Short Hills*.

²⁴ Henry Knox, Letter to "My dear Lucy" dated 29th June 1777, Henry Knox Papers.

²⁵ Henry Knox, Letter to Lucy Knox, Camp at Middlebrook, 29 June 1777. Papers of Henry Knox. Knox, although artillery commander of the Continental Army, was not present at the battle and is thus not an actual participant.

²⁶ Alexander Lawrence, editor. Journal of Major Raymond Demere. *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 52: 337-347.

²⁷ Tustln, p. 69.

²⁸ Minnigerode Journal, op. cit

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grape shot would have been most effective over a distance of 40 to 80 yards)²⁹

The American lines were for the most part located in wooded areas but were probably near the edges of woods.³⁰ Colonel Israel Shreve of the New Jersey Continentals described American positions moving among woods and a series of small hills. Major Demere mentioned the "artillery was very much exposed." Damage claims filed by landowners on the portion of the battlefield near the intersection of Inman Avenue and Old Raritan Road are indicative of the ground over which the battle was fought and seem to confirm the first-person descriptions. Demere noted that the American troops initially deployed in a wheat field, and landowner Richard Whitehead noted in his damage claim that on 26 June he had 12 ½ acres of crops destroyed, including 8 acres of rye, 4 acres of wheat, and a ½ acre of flax.³¹ Whitehead's land was near the intersection of Inman Avenue and Old Raritan Road, suggesting that the wheat field Demere mentions in his report belonged to Whitehead. Other damage claims that indicate destruction of crops or woodlands include the claim of Benjamin Shotwell, who resided at the corner of Inman Avenue and Rahway Road, and claimed the loss of two acres of corn "two months after it was planted," Enoch Potter who lived opposite to Shotwell, claimed three acres of wheat and one acre of rye, James Bishop, a neighbor of Potters, who claimed an acre of rye, and Jonathan Thorp, a resident in the vicinity of Ash Swamp, who claimed the loss of one acre of rye.³² All of the landowners mentioned above sustained the loss of material goods as well as loss of crops in the field, such as clothing, pewter, and livestock.

The Hessians and the British were most likely advancing across the planted wheat, corn, and rye fields, and the meadow lands at the bottom and lower slopes of the hills on which the Continental troops were posted. Most accounts indicate the attack of the Hessians and the British on the left of the Continental line (probably Maxwell's Brigade) compelled the collapse of at least that portion of the line. Ultimately the right side of the line—apparently Conway's Brigade—also abandoned the field. Stirling and Maxwell's Brigade retired north and east along Old Raritan Road toward Westfield, while Conway's troops moved westward along Old Raritan Road to join the remainder of Washington's troops near Quibbletown (modern New Market).

The general area of the battlefield has been established by historical research; to support this National Register nomination, a small portion of the field was investigated by a metal detector survey funded by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program and supervised by professional archeologists in June 2010.³³ The survey

²⁹ von Muenchhausen, p. 19.

³⁰ Three detailed letters from Colonel Israel Shreve provide remarkable information regarding the American battle lines. See Israel Shreve to Dr. Bodo Otto, 29 June 1777. Israel Shreve Papers, Buxton Collection, Prescott Memorial Library, Louisiana Tech University. Transcribed by John U. Rees; Israel Shreve to John Stillely, 29 June 1777. Israel Shreve Papers, Buxton Collection, Prescott Memorial Library, Louisiana Tech University. Transcribed by John U. Rees; Journal of Israel Shreve, 23 November 1777 to 14 August 1777. Israel Shreve Papers, Buxton Collection, Prescott Memorial Library, Louisiana Tech University. edited by John U. Rees.

³¹ Detwiler, pg. 19.

³² Ibid., pg. 19. A Book of Register & Copy of Inventories of the Damages done by the Enemy and their adherents to the Inhabitants of the County of Middlesex. 1782., estate of James Bishop, pg. 49; Benjamin Shotwell, pg. 80; Jonathan Thorp, pg. 100; estate of Richard Whitehead, pg. 222; Enoch Potter, pg. 226. New Jersey State Archives. We are indebted to the work of Walter Stochel and the Metuchen-Edison Township Historical Society for providing copies of the original damage claims and for identifying the locations of the owners' properties.

³³ Brooke Blades and Wade P. Catts, "...The Musket Balls Flew Like A Shower of Hail Stones...": *The Short Hills Battlefield Study*. Prepared for the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society and the American Battlefield Protection Program. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., December 2011.

³³ Henry Cabot Lodge, *Journal of Major John André*; "Operations in America. No. 2". Library of Congress.

³³ Walter Stochel, Jr. and Ann Walker, *Report on...the Battle of Oak Tree*.

³³ George Stillman, *The Battle of the Short Hills*.

³³ Blades and Catts, pp. 27-34.

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was conducted on the Smith Farm portion of the Edison Township land [REDACTED]. The archeological study of battlefields is proving that the physical evidence of such fields of conflict is often remarkably resilient, still present beneath the ground, and often recovered from near surface contexts.³⁵ Archeologists attempt to identify patterns of human behavior through the material remains that survive. Of all the types of organizations or groups of people that can be studied, perhaps no group is more organized or more patterned than military organizations. Military formations of any size, from armies to companies, can be studied as social units operating in a closed cultural system created with strict rules. The ways that various formations were organized for battle or for camp were highly structured and patterned, and may be observable in the archeological record.³⁶

[REDACTED] The results of the archeological survey lead to the designation of this location as site 28M1261. Military artifacts recovered included a 0.54" diameter lead rifle ball and a brass scabbard tip enclosing the tip of an iron/steel sword; a possible Hessian plain "Tombac" (alloy of copper, tin, nickel and zinc) button was also recovered.³⁷ Other eighteenth-century artifacts present included a British (George I) halfpenny dated 1717, a pewter spoon bowl with copper staining, and brass shoe buckle fragments. The presence of these artifacts indicates that battle-related debris may be found on the battlefield and further that these archeological deposits may be used to more precisely define the location of specific locations on the battlefield (Photograph 5).

The National Register-listed Laing House (non-contributing to this nomination) is an eighteenth-century farmstead, located to the west of the Short Hills Battlefield Historic District nomination boundary, along modern Woodland Avenue. It is conceivable that some of the recovered artifacts may have been associated with the domestic and agricultural occupation of that farm. However, the lead ball and particularly the scabbard tip clearly represent deposition during the battle and it is likely that the other eighteenth-century artifacts may have been dropped during the engagement. Several brass shoe buckle frames were also recovered on the ridge; these objects may have been discarded or lost by soldiers. In sum, the evidence recovered indicates that the Smith Farm is located on a portion of the battlefield at Short Hills.

The brass scabbard tip is 4.8 inches in length and 1.32 inches wide (Photograph 6). The tip is unadorned with three holes for securing the tip to the leather scabbard. Based on its dimensions it is likely to be the tip for a military hanger or hunting/short sword, not a saber, cutlass, or small sword.³⁸ The flat shape of the blade further indicates that the weapon was not a bayonet, which by the time of the American Revolution generally had a triangular cross-section.³⁹ The lack of adornment to the scabbard tip and its somewhat rough technique of construction may indicate that the artifact is a portion of an American military hanger.

The lead shot is likely a rifle ball (Photograph 5). The historical documentation of the battle reveals that rifle-armed soldiers were part of the orders of battle on 26 June in both the American and Crown forces (Tables 1 and 2). Elements of the Hessian Field Jaeger Corps were present with both Crown Forces columns and were involved in the skirmishing that occurred throughout the day. Jaegers were armed with German manufactured short-

³⁴ Blades and Catts, pp. 27-34.

³⁵ Douglas D. Scott and Andrew P. McFeaters, "The Archaeology of Historic Battlefields: A History and Theoretical Development in Conflict Archaeology," *Journal of Archaeological Research* 19, pgs. 103-132, 2011

³⁶ Steven D. Smith, "Archaeological Perspectives on the Civil War: The Challenge to Achieve Relevance," in *Look to the Earth: Historical Archaeology and the American Civil War* (Knoxville), pg. 15, 1994.

³⁷ John Powell, *Military Collector and Historian* XLVIII: pp. 121-123.

³⁸ George Neuman, *Swords and Blades of the American Revolution*, pgs. 53-61, 1972.

³⁹ Eric Goldstein, *The Socket Bayonet in the British Army, 1687-1783*, pgs. 25-29, 2000

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barreled rifles (28 or 29 inches) with a .65-caliber bore.⁴⁰ In his thorough study of flintlock rifles used by the Crown Forces, DeWitt Bailey notes that, with a .65-caliber bore, the Hessian Field Jaeger Corps' rifles would accept the standard British carbine-bore ball of 0.615", which British rifles also accepted, thus simplifying ammunition supply for the German troops.⁴¹

In addition to the Hessian jaegers, Bailey's research indicates that there is "inferential documentation" that rifles were carried by the dismounted dragoons, some of members of the British Light Infantry companies, and also some of the soldiers in the Guards Light Infantry Companies.⁴² The presence of the Guards Light Company, under Captain John Finch, in the battle is well-documented. Finch came to North America with the Brigade of Guards as brigade adjutant in May 1776 and was posted to the command of the Guards Light Infantry in December 1776. He was slated to return to England on leave in June 1777 but stayed on assignment to the command of the light company.⁴³ According to a Light Infantry officer at the time of the battle of Short Hills the Guards light company had recently been assigned to one of the light infantry battalions, and the unfortunate fate of Captain Finch is mentioned in several of the contemporary accounts from both sides.⁴⁴

The small caliber, 0.544" diameter, of the recovered lead ball diameter (in comparison to that of a jaeger rifle of 0.615") suggests that the ball was discharged from an American rifle. American riflemen in Morgan's Rifle Corps opened the battle early in the morning on the outskirts of Woodbridge. In contrast to the standardization seen with the jaeger rifle, the bore for American rifles ranged from .40 to .60 caliber and length of the barrel averaged 40 inches.⁴⁵ While this formation was dispersed by the advancing column under Cornwallis, whether its men continued to harass, skirmish, or snipe at the Crown Forces, or whether Morgan's riflemen joined with Stirling's Division later in the morning is currently not known. A second, rifle-armed American formation that was engaged on Short Hills was the independent command under Major Ottendorf. Several contemporary accounts of members of this volunteer corps note that the soldiers were armed with rifles.⁴⁶ Ottendorf's command is identified by name on the von Wangenheim map, and the accounts indicate that the corps was in the thick of the fighting on 26 June.

The brass domed button is tentatively interpreted as a "Hessian" button, or more accurately, a button from one of the several German states that supplied conscripted soldiers to the Crown (Photograph 7). Buttons associated with these military formations were invariably plain and lack unit designations.⁴⁷ The button recovered during the archeological survey at the Smith property measures 1.2" diameter and is cast of "Tombac" (an alloy consisting of various ratios of tin, nickel, copper and zinc). It appears to be of one-piece construction with a well-defined rim, a sharply defined, bulbous boss at the center.

While not found during the present survey of the Smith Property, several metal-detected artifacts have been recovered by a local collector in locations along Inman Avenue and at the water storage towers south of the Smith Property. Among these are large caliber lead balls (likely 0.60" to 0.70" balls associated with "Brown Bess

40 George Neuman, *The History of Weapons of the American Revolution*, pg. 134, 1967; Don Trolani, Earl J. Coates, and James L. Kochan, *Don Troiani's Soldiers in America, 1754-1865*, pg. 48, 1998.

41 Dewitt Bailey, *British Military Flintlock Rifles, 1740-1840*, pgs. 67-68, 2002.

42 Ibid, pg. 33.

43 Linnea Bass personal communication 17 November 2010

44 Martin Hunter, *Martin Hunter's Journal: America 1774-1778. The Valley Forge Journal*, volume 4, no. 1 (1988), pg. 22; Grant to Harvey, op. cit.,

45 Neuman 1967, pg. 138.

46 Filipski and Collward n.d.

47 Powell 1996, pg. 122, Troiani 2001, pg. 76

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muskets), and an eighteenth-century shoe buckle.⁴⁸ While few in number, these artifacts provide additional archeological information that supports the boundaries for the Short Hills Study and Core areas. A number of local informants and collectors who have either undertaken personal investigations using a metal detector or recovered incidental artifacts on their properties indicate several locations that have yielded military or at least eighteenth-century artifacts⁴⁹:

- British copper coin found on public course associated with Plainfield Country Club
- musket ball found on grounds of nursing home
- two musket balls found near Hackett Drive and Inman Avenue
- cannon ball traditionally found (and later lost) near junction of Rahway Road and Old Raritan Road (informant told story by land owner at 1141 Old Raritan Road)
- buckle found on hill with water towers
- four to six musket balls recovered in 1991 by Joe Illuzzi by metal detection along Inman Avenue at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School. The balls are both dropped and fired and include both .69 and .75 caliber balls. They were donated to the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society by Mr. Illuzzi.
- report of artifacts associated with Hessian soldiers recovered on the grounds between the Marriot Brighton Gardens assisted living facility and Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County. These artifacts were reportedly donated to the New Jersey Historical Association by the former landowner, Mr. Thomas Limoli.

The presence of these artifacts, while not definitive, is suggestive battle-related activity along Oak Tree Road and Inman Avenue. These artifacts are potentially associated with the line of advance of Cornwallis' northern column, or alternatively suggest the movement of the Hessian grenadiers and British Guards light infantry around the Continental left flank. The dropping or loss of military artifacts during the heat of battle or military maneuvering is common, and battlefields often contain numerous dropped or lost items that mark the field's location, and in some cases serve to define the locations or positions of particular military formations. In this case, these artifacts are indicative of troop movements and the battle action of June 1777. The information derived from local artifact collectors and from documentary sources can be combined to infer areas of battle activity. Detwiller⁵⁰ documents numerous civilian damage claims filed after the June 1777 action in the Short Hills area. Many of the claims were located along modern Inman Avenue east of Old Raritan Road and northeastward along Old Raritan Road. The latter damages clearly reflect the advance of the Crown forces toward Westfield following the Short Hills battle. In addition, the damages along modern Inman Avenue may also have resulted from post-battle movement of Crown forces.

Given the historical trajectory of urban and suburban development in Edison Township in the last century, the Short Hills Battlefield Historical District is relatively and fortuitously undeveloped. The projected location of the eastern portion of the Continental main line—Maxwell's Brigade—falls within the Plainfield Country Club. Donald Ross created the current course in 1916 and, according to the country club manager Byron Miller, did so with minimal alternation to the existing landscape. This limited alteration has most likely preserved substantial archeological evidence related to the battle. Since the country club was created early in the twentieth century, cultivation ceased at that time and the land has been unavailable to collectors who would either walk fields or use metal detectors. Finally, the open fairways provide vistas that mirror the overall open appearance of the

⁴⁸ Robert Hall, personal communication, 27 June 2010.

⁴⁹ Blades and Catts, pp. 24-26.

⁵⁰ Detwiller, pgs. 18-20; A Book of Register & Copy of Inventories of the Damages done by the Enemy and their adherents to the Inhabitants of the County of Middlesex, 1782., New Jersey State Archives. We are indebted to the work of Walter Stochel and the Edison Township Historical Society for providing copies of the original damage claims and for identifying the locations of the owners' properties..

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agricultural landscape in the 1770s.

The Edison Township lands south of the Plainfield Country Club are for the most part covered with woods, except for the portion of the Smith Farm examined in the metal detector survey. (Some metal detector survey did occur in June 2010 on wooded township land immediately south of the country club property; no military artifacts were encountered.) The extent to which these lands have been and may continue to be subject to private metal detector investigations remains unclear. However, the investigations in the yard on the Smith Farm tract reveal that important archeological artifact distributions remain to be discovered on the township lands. These artifacts hold great potential to answer specific questions related to troop positions and movements during the Battle of the Short Hills. Indeed, they are the only remaining evidence available to address some of these questions.

The Battle of the Short Hills was a tactical victory for the Crown forces under Howe but once again the Continental forces had escaped destruction as they had done the previous August on Long Island. The Crown troops occupied a position near Woodbridge on June 27 in the hopes that Washington would order a general assault on their lines. When the Continental forces showed no inclination to do so, Howe ordered the forces to return to Perth Amboy. They ultimately resumed their former positions on Staten Island. The Battle of the Short Hills marked the end of the New Jersey Campaign in 1777. By September the Crown forces had sailed into the Chesapeake Bay, disembarked at Head of Elk and marched northward toward Philadelphia.

Assessment of Integrity

The study of historical battlefields requires a unique combination of military history, archeology, and terrain or landscape analysis.⁵¹ Not only is it important to know the who, what, where, when, and how of the specifics of the battle, but knowledge of the historical development of the place the battle occurred is critical in order to understand the event and the subsequent changes that may have taken place. The Short Hills Battlefield nomination successfully combines these elements, and despite modern changes since 1777, can convey what occurred on this site over two centuries ago and also has the potential to contain additional archeological evidence.

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District retains three of the seven aspects or qualities of integrity necessary for National Register listing.⁵² *Location* is defined as the place where the historical event occurred, and the Short Hills district retains location. The Short Hills, in relation to the road system and the ground cover, are clearly distinctive and identify the battlefield. Their presence defines why the battle was fought in this location. The portion of the battlefield included in the nomination has demonstrated that physical evidence – archeologically recovered military artifacts – have been found there, and the historical record indicates that battle activities occurred on this land.

Setting is the physical environment of a historical property or site. While the setting has been altered considerably over the last two centuries of urban and suburban development in this portion of New Jersey, the nominated portion of the battlefield still retains a remarkable integrity of setting. The eighteenth-century road network, particularly in the vicinity of the nominated portion of the battlefield, is still intact. Further, the battlefield topography is still readily apparent. The hills forming the Short Hills that were prominent in the engagement are imposing features of the landscape. The wooded character of the landscape also contributes to the integrity of setting. While the landscape may have been more open at the time of the battle, with a combination of woodlots and agricultural fields, contemporary descriptions clearly indicate that the battleground was hilly, broken up by fences and woods, with limited visibility and maneuverability. In the first-person descriptions there is mention of a

⁵¹ Glen Foard, *Battlefield Archaeology of the English Civil War*, Oxford, UK, 2012; Foard and Richard Morris, *The Archaeology of English Battlefields: Conflicts in the Pre-Industrial Landscape*, York, UK, 2012.

⁵² Jan E. Townsend, *Archaeology and the National Register*, CRM 18(6) Supplement, 1995.

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ravine used to outflank the American battle line, and it is conceivable that the ravine immediately south of the Plainfield Country Club property line is that ravine. Additional archeological investigations into the portion of the District may be warranted to confirm or refute this hypothesis.

Approximately five miles to the west of the Plainfield Country Club is the location of Washington Rock State Park in the first Watchung Mountains (Figure 3). The State Park is visible from the parking area of the Country Club, and conversely the Country Club is visible from the State Park (Photographs 4 and 8). This extant view shed thus emphasizes the 1777 observation point that Washington used to watch the battle develop, and further links the battlefield with the larger strategic military situation. The movement of Crown Forces columns, as they attempted to outflank Lord Stirling's brigades, was clearly visible from the vantage point of Washington Rock, as were the plumes of smoke rising from razed and pillaged farmsteads marking the route of the Crown Forces movements. The view to and from Washington Rock and the Plainfield Country Club underscores the importance of the Short Hills as significant tactical key terrain feature for the American forces, physically conveys the distances involved, and Washington's concerns for Lord Stirling's isolated command.

To a lesser extent the aspect of *feeling* of the battlefield is also still intact, especially within the nominated portion of the battlefield. The hills, swales, ravines, and woods, all mentioned in contemporary descriptions of the battle, are still present on the field and are evocative of the June 26 event. The portion of the field within Plainfield Country Club is reminiscent of the agricultural landscape of the period, with its patchwork of woods and open ground (fairways and greens) and the historical record indicates that the development of the golf course was sympathetic to the existing topography.

Integrity of *association* is also apparent for the Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. In particular, the association of George Washington with Washington Rock State Park is significant. On 26 June 1777, Washington observed the progress of the battle from the rock outcrop which provides a 30-mile panoramic view of eastern New Jersey (Figure 3). Washington's use of the rock as a lookout post was documented on the day of the battle by Charles Willson Peale (Figure 6) and previously described above under setting. Washington Rock is the actual place from which Washington watched the battle and maneuvers below. This location provides a number of linkages to the battlefield, and can be directly associated with the Commander-in-Chief of the American forces. Its significance was recognized formally in 1912 when it was designated as a park, and Washington Rock is among the earliest state parks established in New Jersey.

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Table 1. American Order of Battle, 26 June 1777

CONTINENTAL FORCES, COMMANDED BY ALEXANDER, LORD STIRLING

Lord Stirling's Infantry Division	Strength	(20 May 1777)
Conway's Brigade	Brigadier Thomas Conway	
3 rd Pennsylvania Regiment	Colonel Wood	150
6 th Pennsylvania Regiment	Colonel Magaw	---
9 th Pennsylvania Regiment	Colonel Morris	193
12 th Pennsylvania Regiment	Colonel William Cooke	231
Spencer's Additional Regt.	Colonel Oliver Spencer	186 (New Jersey)
Brigade	Total	760+
Maxwell's Brigade	Brigadier William Maxwell	
1 st New Jersey Regiment	Colonel Mathias Ogden	184
2 nd New Jersey Regiment	Colonel Israel Shreve	247
3 rd New Jersey Regiment	Colonel Elias Dayton	300
4 th New Jersey Regiment	Colonel Ephraim Martin	307
Brigade	Total	1098
Independent Corps	Colonel Charles Armand (formerly Major Ottendorf)	
Morgan's Independent Rifle Corps	Colonel Daniel Morgan	
11 th Virginia Regiment (elements)	Col. Daniel Morgan	377 (regiment)
8 th Virginia Regiment (company)	Capt. William Darke	---
12 th Virginia Regiment (elements)	----	---
Artillery		
Company of Lamb's 2 nd Continental	Captain Edward Archibald	
Huggs Company of Lamb's 2 nd Continental	Lieutenant Eli Elmer (West Jersey Artillery Co.)	
Company of Crane's 3 rd Continental	Captain Benjamin Eustis	
Pennsylvania Independent Company	Captain Gibbs Jones	
Clark's Artillery Company	Captain Thomas Clark (East Jersey Artillery Co.)	
Cavalry		
2 nd Continental Light Dragoons	Colonel Sheldon	

Elements of DeBorre's Brigade (General Prudhomme DeBorre) of Sullivan's Division present

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Table 2. Crown Forces Order of Battle, 26 June 1777

CROWN FORCES, COMMANDED BY SIR WILLIAM HOWE

Lord Cornwallis' Division (Right or Northern Column)		Strength	
Matthew's Brigade	Brigadier	Edward Matthew	
1 st Guards Battalion		Lt. Col. Henry Trelawny	887 (both)
2 nd Guards Battalion		Lt. Col. James Ogilvie	(with 1 st)
Light Infantry Battalion (1 st or 2 nd)		Lt. Col. Abercromby/Maitland	565 (estimate)
Grenadier Battalion (1 st or 2 nd)		Lt. Col. Meadows/Monckton	540 (estimate)
Brigade		Total (estimate)	1992
2nd Brigade	Major	General James Grant	
10 th Regiment		Major John Vataass	312
27 th Regiment (Inniskilling)		Lt. Col. John Maxwell	324
40 th Regiment		Lt. Col. Thomas Musgrave	300
52 nd Regiment		Colonel John Clavering	253
Brigade		Total	1189
5th Brigade	Brigadier	Alexander Leslie	
71 st Regiment		Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell	992
Hessian Brigade	Colonel	von Donop	
Kohler Grenadier Battalion (not present)			
Lengerke Grenadier Battalion		Lt. Col. George Emanuel Lengerke	440
Linsing Grenadier Battalion		Lt. Col. Christian von Linsing	437
Minnigerode Grenadier Battalion		Lt. Col. Friedrich Ludwig von Minnigerode	430
Jaeger Rifle Corps		Lt. Col. Ludwig Johann Adolph von Wurmb	293
Brigade		Total	1600
Division of General Vaughan with General Howe (Left or Southern Column)			
1st Brigade	Major	General John Vaughan	
4 th Regiment (The King's Own)		Lt. Col. James Ogilvie	356
23 rd Regiment (Royal Welsh Fusiliers)		Lt. Colonel Benjamin Bernard	353
38 th Regiment		Lt. Col. William Butler	314
49 th Regiment		Lt. Col. Henry Calder	335
Brigade		Total	1358
3rd Brigade	Major	General Charles Grey	
15 th Regiment		Lt. Col. John Bird	367
33 rd Regiment		Lt. Col. James Webster	368
44 th Regiment		Lt. Col. Henry Hope?	312
55 th Regiment		Lt. Col. William Meadows	261
Brigade		Total	1308
4th Brigade	Brigadier	James Agnew	
17 th Regiment		Lt. Col. Charles Mawhood	233
37 th Regiment		Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby	308
46 th Regiment		Lt. Col. Enoch Markham	312
64 th Regiment			395
Brigade		Total	1248

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Hessian Brigade	Major General Johann Daniel Stirn		
Ewald's Jaeger Company	Captain Johann Ewald	---	218
Anspach (Hessian) Jaegers	---		598
Leib Infantry	Lt. Col. Otto von Linsing		553
Mirbach Fuzileer	Lt. Col. Justus Henrich von Schieck		544
Donop Infantry	Lt. Col. Carl Philip Heymell		---
Combined regiment (Woellwarth) Brigade	Captain Wilhelm von Wilmowsky		1913+
	Total		
British Cavalry			
16 th Light Dragoons	Lt. Col. William Harcourt		353
17 th Light Dragoons	Lt. Col. Samuel Birch		398
Queen's American Rangers Cavalry	Major John Simcoe		1135
	Total		
Artillery			
4 th Battalion, Royal Artillery	Brigadier Samuel Cleaveland	597	
Hessian Artillery Corps Artillery	---		655
	Total	1252	

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All references are in Zone 18

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552744	4491861
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551567	4494271
551659	4494326
551674	4494317
551685	4494167
551738	4494285
551957	4494184
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552455	4493638
552465	4493633
552635	4493661

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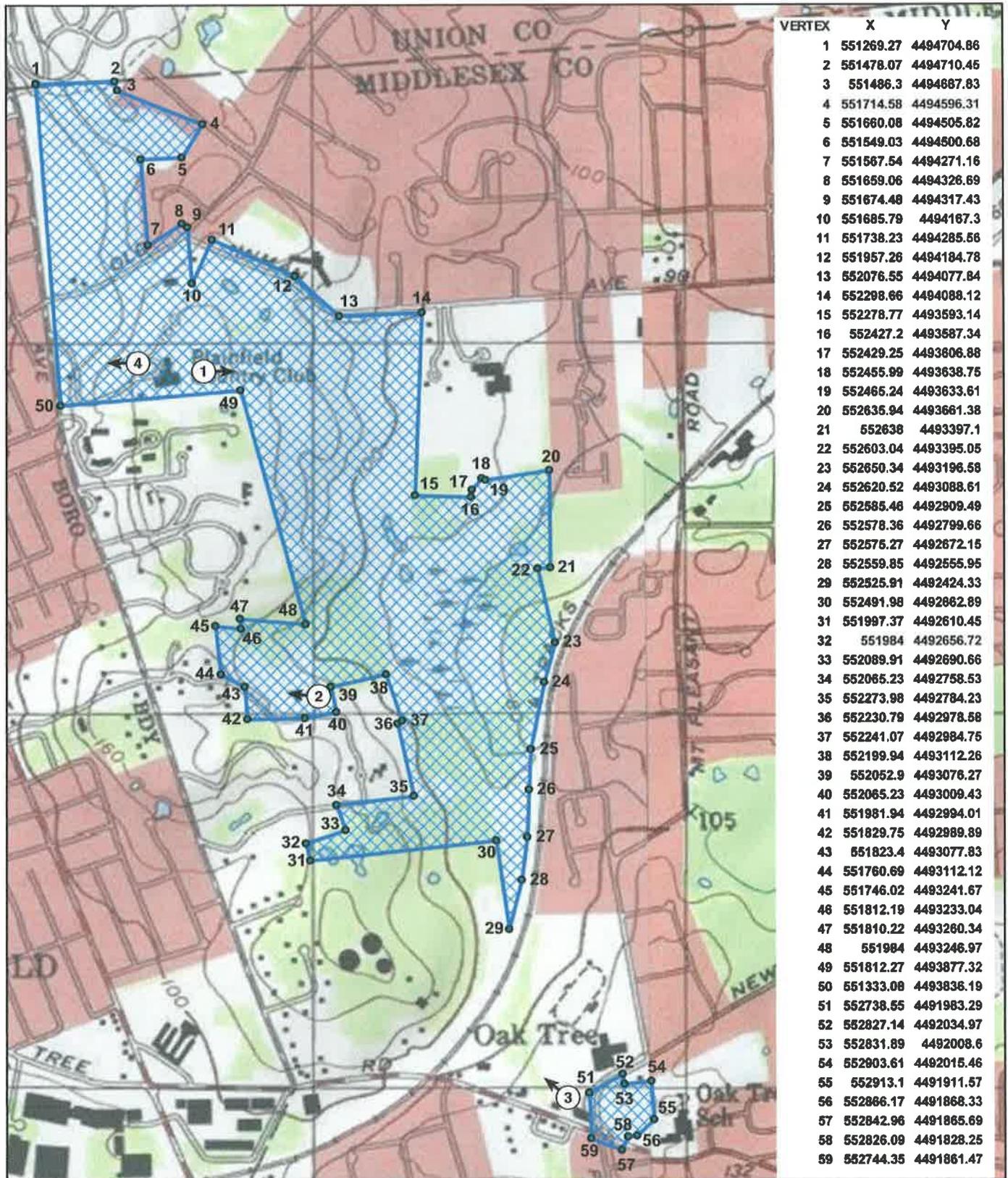
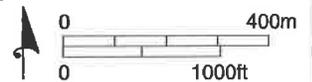


Figure 1. Proposed Short Hills Battlefield Historic District National Register boundary with Photograph Locations and UTM coordinate pairs. Sources: *Plainfield NJ* (1955; photorevised 1981) and *Perth Amboy NJ-NY* (1956; photorevised 1981) 7.5-minute USGS quadrangles. Datum: NAADD 83 UTM zone 18N, metric.

- ① → Photograph locations
- JMA NR Vertices
- ▨ Proposed National Register Boundary



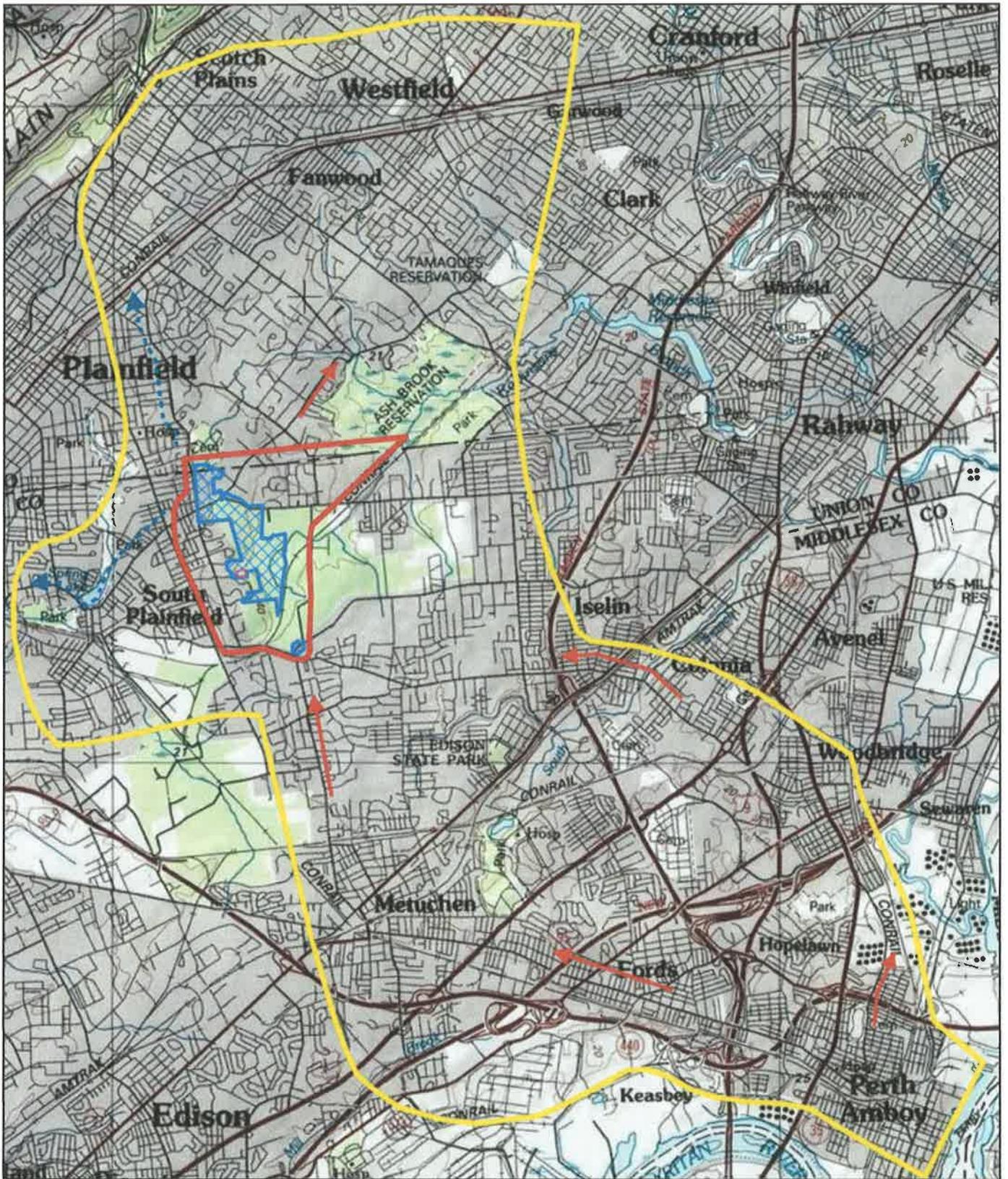


Figure 2. Modern map with outlines of overall campaign (Study Area), proposed location of battlefield (Core Area), and proposed Short Hills Battlefield Historic District National Register boundary. Source: National Geographic Maps, USA Topo Maps, 2013. Datum: NAADD 83 UTM zone 18N, metric.

NATION, MOVEMENT

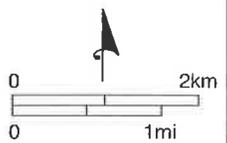
- - -> Colonial, Retreat

 Crown, Advance

 Study Area

 Core Area

 Proposed National Register Area



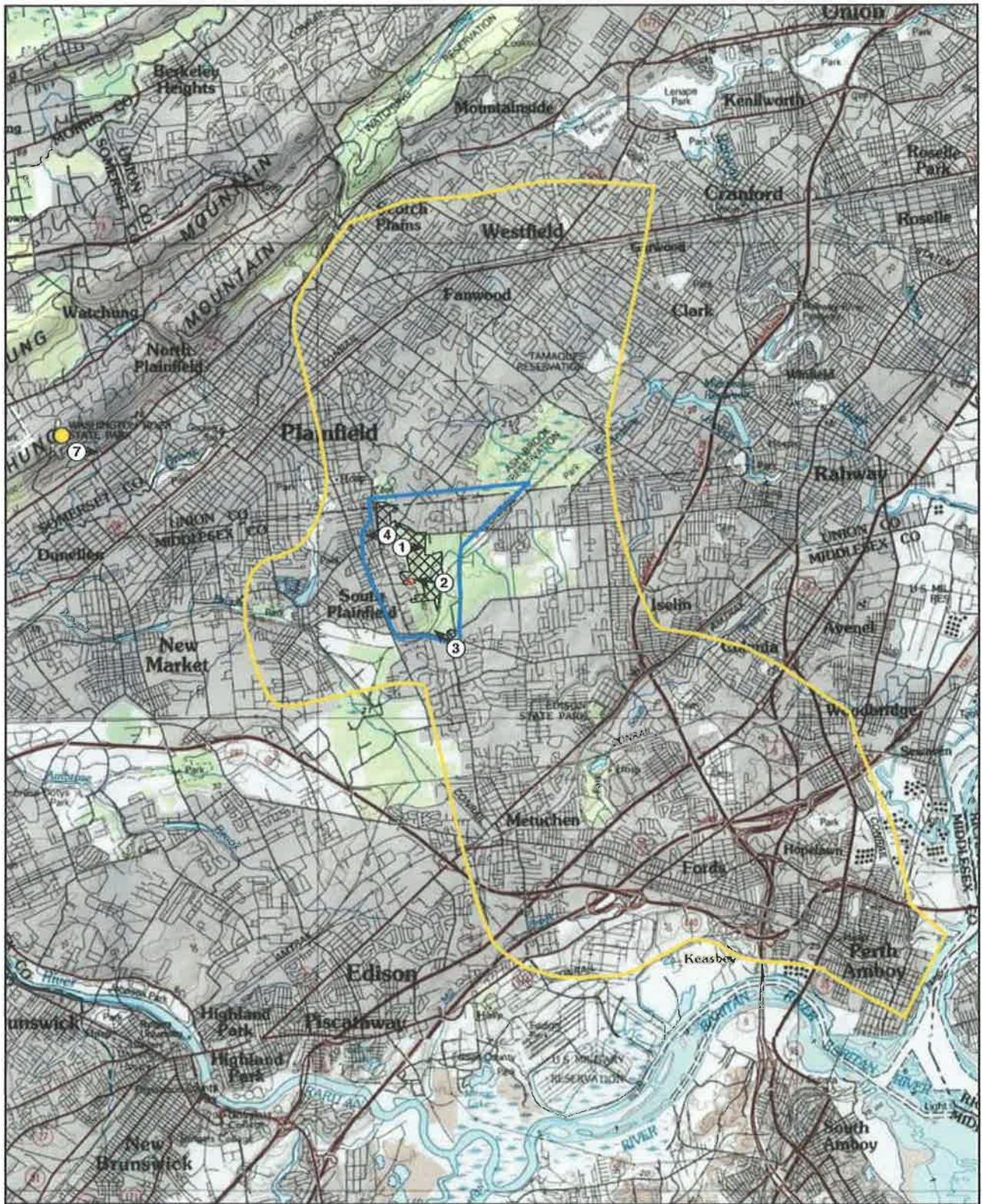
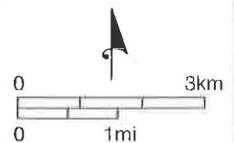


Figure 3. Modern map with outlines of overall campaign (Study Area), proposed location of battlefield (Core Area), and proposed Short Hills Battlefield Historic District National Register boundary. Map covers a series of USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles (*Chatham NJ, Roselle, NJ, Plainfield NJ, Perth Amboy NJ-NY, South Amboy NJ*). Source: National Geographic Maps, USA Topo Maps, 2013. Datum: NAADD 83 UTM zone 18N, metric.

- ① Photograph locations
- Study Area
- Core Area
- Proposed National Register Area



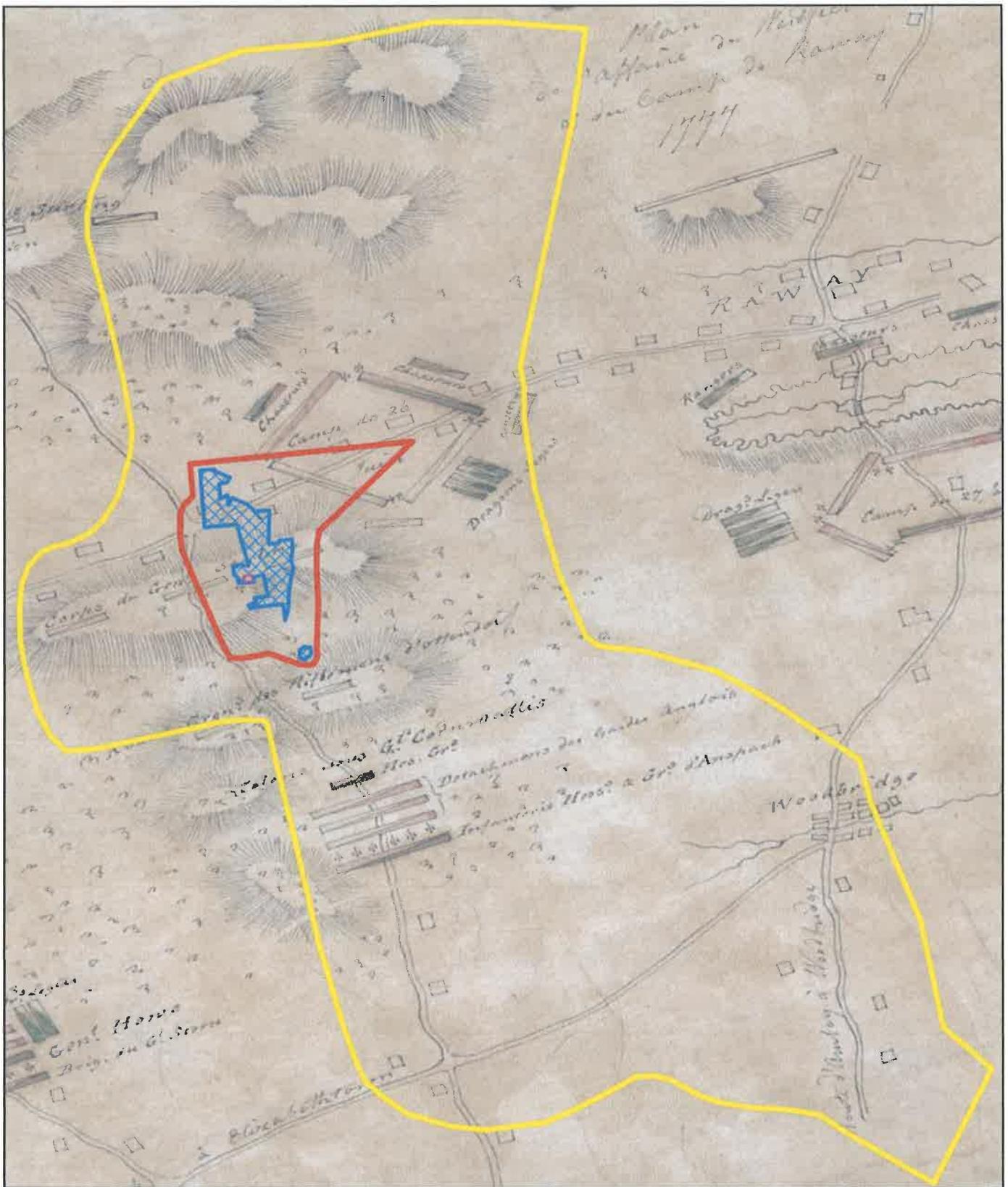
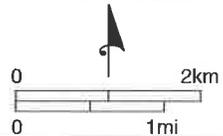
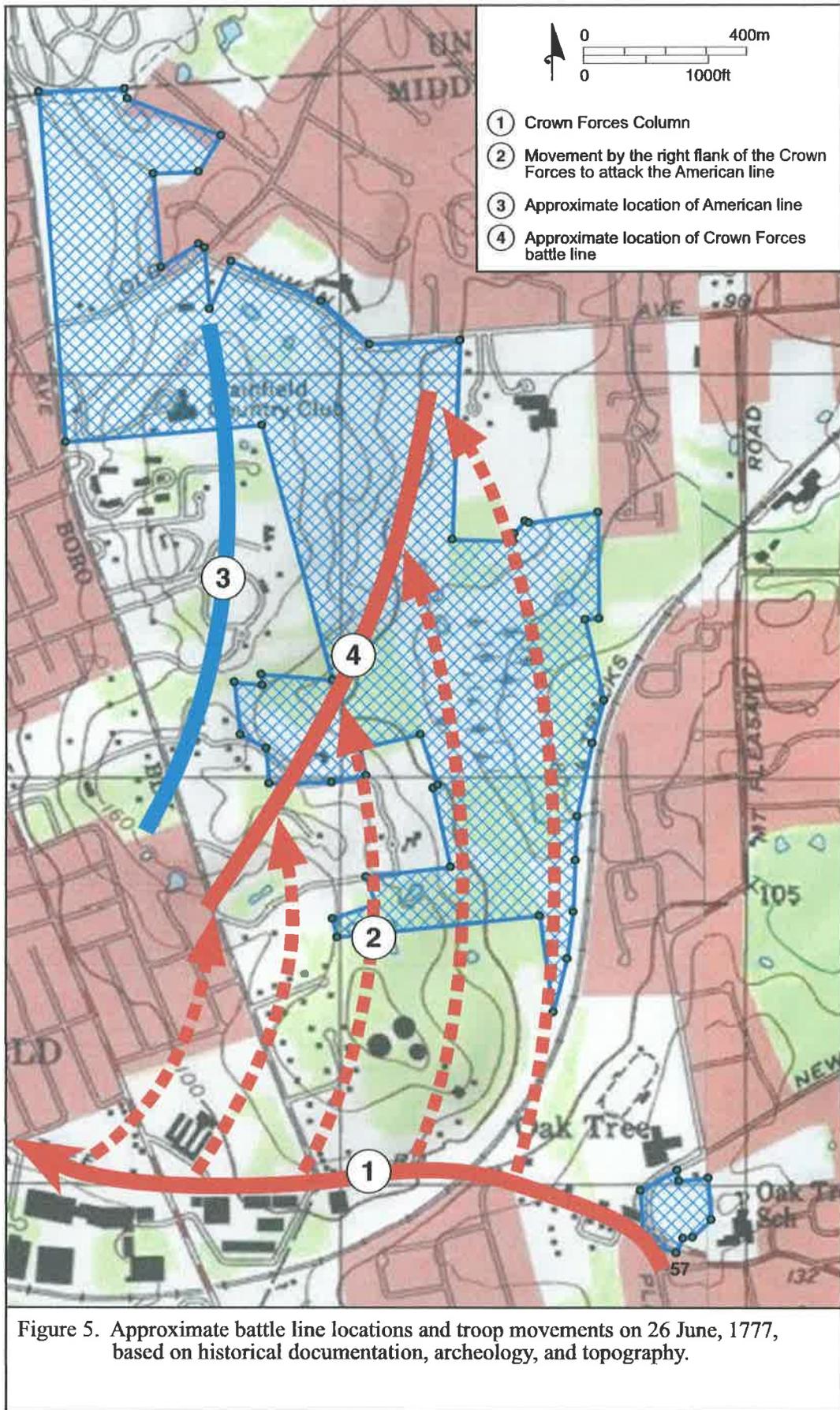


Figure 4. "Plan de l'Affaire de Westfield & du Camp de Raway 1777" Friedrich Adam Julius von Wangenheim (Library of Congress) g3813e ar127800 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3813e.ar127800>

-  Study Area
-  Core Area
-  Proposed National Register Area





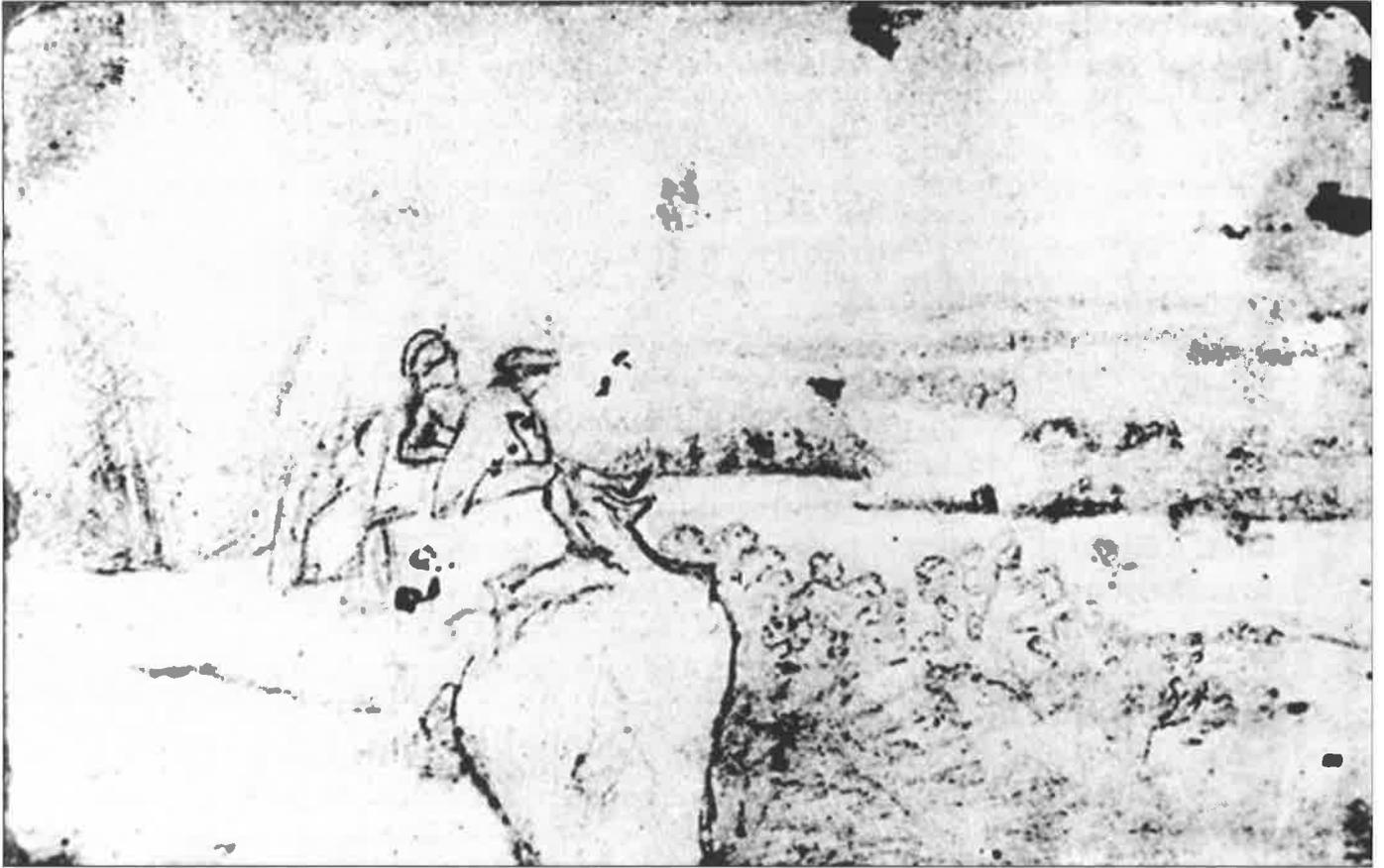


Figure 6. Charles Willson Peale's sketch of Washington at today's Washington Rock State Park, viewing the battle of Short Hills, 26 June 1777.

Photographic Log

National Register Nomination

The Short Hills Battlefield, Middlesex County, New Jersey

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0001

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Wade Catts, 26 June 2010. Photograph 1: View facing east down 4th fairway from ridge on Plainfield Country Club, 1 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0002

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Wade Catts, 26 June 2010. Photograph 2: Laing (Smith) Farm facing west showing field where battle-related artifacts were recovered, 2 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0003

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Wade Catts, March 2010. Photograph 3: View Oak Tree Road parcel facing northwest toward presumed Continental advance position on one of the "Short Hills", 3 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0004

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Wade Catts, 26 June 2010. Photograph 4: View toward the first Watchung Mountain, facing west from the Plainfield Country Club, 4 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0005

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Juliette Gerhardt, July 2010. Photograph 5: Military and eighteenth-century artifacts from Smith Farm: (left to right top) 1717 George halfpenny, brass flat button, .54 inch diameter rifle ball (left to right bottom) tea spoon bowl, possible Hessian button, brass shoe buckle tines (far right) brass sword scabbard tip, fold seam on reverse, 5 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0006

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Juliette Gerhardt, July 2010. Photograph 6: Brass sword scabbard tip with hole for securing to leather scabbard at top (on left), 6 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0007

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Juliette Gerhardt, July 2010. Photograph 7: Reverse face of possible Hessian button, 7 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0008

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Photographed by Wade Catts, 27 June 2010. Photograph 8: View facing east from Washington Rock State Park (Green Brook Township, Somerset County, New Jersey) with Plainfield Country Club marked, 8 of 14.

Figures Log

National Register Nomination

The Short Hills Battlefield, Middlesex County, New Jersey

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0009

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Figure 1: Proposed Short Hills Battlefield Historic district National Register boundary with Photographic Locations and UTM coordinate pairs. Sources : *Plainfield NJ* (1955; photorevised 1981) and *Perth Amboy NJ-NY* (1959; photorevised 1981) 7.5-minute USGS quadrangles. Datum: NAADD 83 UTM zone 18N. metric. 9 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0010

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Figure 2: Modern map with outlines of overall campaign (Study Area), proposed location of battlefield (Core Area), and proposed Short Hills Battlefield Historic District National Register boundary. Source: National Geographic Maps, USA Topo Maps, 2013. Datum: NAADD 83 UTM zone 18N, metric. 10 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0011

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Figure 3: Modern map with outlines of overall campaign (Study Area), proposed location of battlefield (Core Area), and proposed Short Hills Battlefield Historic District National Register boundary. Map covers a series of USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles (*Chatham NJ, Roselle NJ, Plainfield NJ, Perth Amboy NJ-NY, South Amboy NJ*). Source: National Geographic Maps, USA Topo Maps, 2013. Datum: NAADD 83 UTM zone 18N, metric. 11 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0012

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Figure 4: "Plan de l'Affaire de Westfield & du Camp de Raway 1777" Friedrich Adam Julius von Wangenheim (Library of Congress) g3813e ar127800 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3813e.ar127800> 12 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0013

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Figure 5: Approximate battle line locations and troop movements on 26 June, 1777, based on historical documentation, archeology, and topography. 13 of 14.

NJ_MiddlesexCounty_ShortHillsBattlefield_0014

The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Figure 6: Charles Wilson Peale's sketch of Washington at today's Washington Rock State Park, viewing the battle of Short Hills, 26 June 1777. 14 of 14.



The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Photographed by Wade Catts, 26 June 2010. Photograph 1: View facing east down 4th fairway from ridge on Plainfield Country Club, 1 of 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

A ~~map~~ has been redacted from this property file.

photograph 2



The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Photographed by Wade Catts, March 2010. Photograph 3: Oak Tree Road parcel facing northwest toward presumed Continental advance position on one of the “Short Hills”, 3 of 8.



The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Photographed by Wade Catts 26 June 2010. Photograph 4: View toward the first Watchung Mountain, facing west from the Plainfield Country Club, 4 of 8.



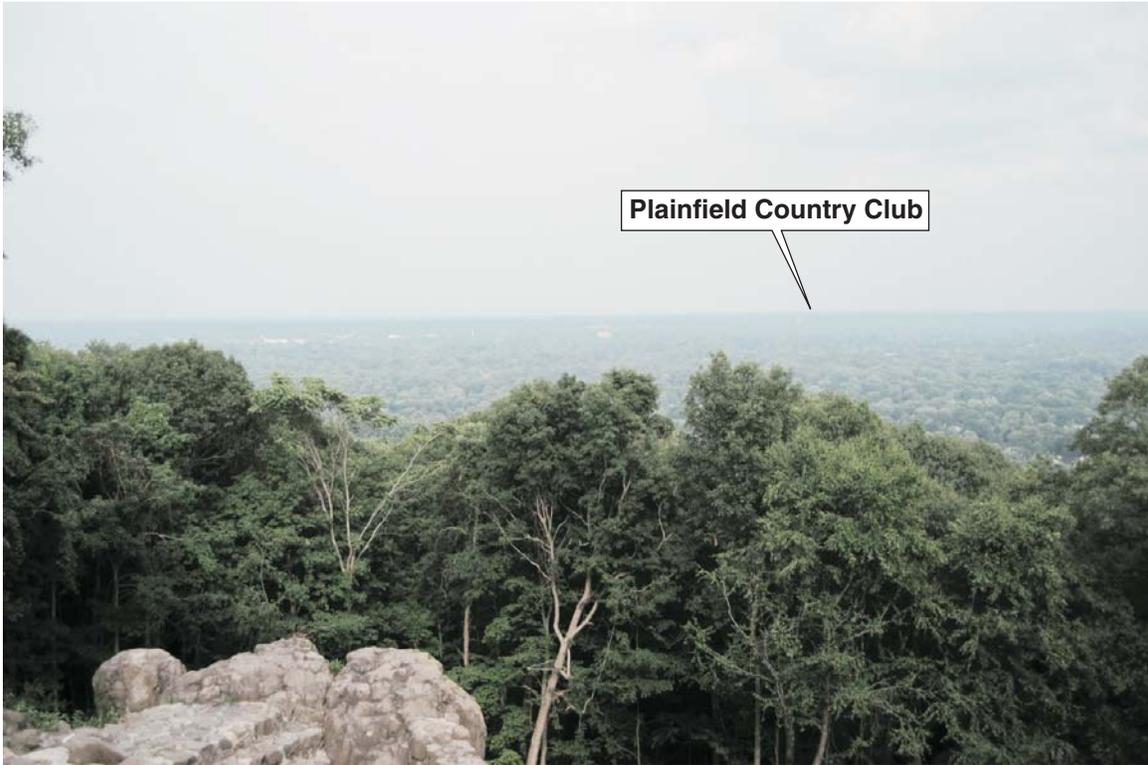
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The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Photographed by Juliette Gerhardt, July 2010. Photograph 6: Brass sword scabbard tip with hole for securing to leather scabbard at top (on left), 6 of 8.



The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Photographed by Juliette Gerhardt, July 2010. Photograph 7: Reverse face of possible Hessian button, 7 of 8.



The Short Hills Battlefield Historic District. Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Photographed by Wade Catts 27 June 2010. Photograph 8: View facing east from Washington Rock State Park (Green Brook Township, Somerset County, New Jersey) with Plainfield Country Club marked, 8 of 8.