

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY-NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
 RECEIVED
 DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Okeechobee Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4 miles Southwest on U.S. Highway 441

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Okeechobee

VICINITY OF

10

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Okeechobee

CODE

93

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
 See Continuation Sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Okeechobee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Okeechobee

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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1

Item number

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Mr. Harry Douglas
Box 138
Okeechobee, Florida

Mrs. Ray Rowland
c/o Conley and Conley
207 N.W. 2nd Street
Okeechobee, Florida

Mr. Gillis Boggs
647 Hwy. 441 South
Okeechobee, Florida

Paul Mims
811 SE 9th Street
Okeechobee, Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The battlefield is located between U.S. 441 and Florida 710, south and east of the town of Okeechobee. The marker is located on the right of way at U.S. 441 about 4 miles south of town. Commercial development along U.S. 441 encroaches on the site of the marker. The battle field property owned by Mr. Harry Douglas is reached off Florida 710 and is used for grazing cattle. A drainage canal contracted adjacent to the Douglas property has interfered with the normal flow of water making the property much drier than it had been before the canal came into existence.

Mr. Douglas has bulldozed and plowed most of his land in an effort to make it more usable as grazing land and to eliminate several "dug outs" which were a haven for mosquitos.

Generally, the area is largely unimproved, except for the construction of a highway, and is devoted to agriculture.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1837

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On the northern shore of Lake Okeechobee, on Christmas Day of 1837, American forces under Zachary Taylor won a decisive victory over a small band of Seminole and Mikasauki warriors. One of the most spectacular battles of the Second Seminole War, it was a turning point in the struggle. Never again during the war did the Indians engage in a pitched battle, and their desultory hit-and-run attacks gradually died away.

When Taylor arrived in Florida in November 1837, the war had been going on for nearly two years and a new phase of hostilities was just beginning. After several months of fruitless negotiations with the Seminoles, General Jesup had had Osceola and several other chiefs seized under a flag of truce, thus inspiring the Indians to further resistance.

Taylor left Tampa Bay on November 27, with the 1st United States Infantry, marching east toward the Kissimmee River. With his force augmented by the 4th and 6th United States Infantry, the 4th United States Artillery, a regiment of mounted Missouri Volunteers under Col. Richard Gentry, and assorted small detachments, Taylor reached the Kissimmee on December 3 and constructed Fort Gardiner. There Taylor's force was held for two weeks by orders from Jesup, who anticipated an end to hostilities. Taylor resumed the advance on December 19-20, moving down the west bank of the river.

By Monday morning, December 25, the Americans were nearing the northern shore of Lake Okeechobee, having been alerted by numerous Indian signs since leaving their advance base, Fort Basinger, two days before. Crossing a swamp onto a broad prairie, the troops captured a young Indian who told them an Indian force was awaiting battle in a dense hammock about a mile to their right, near the lake shore.

Taylor formed his line of battle, with the volunteers in front, the 4th and 6th Infantry behind them, and the 1st Infantry in reserve. About noon, the advance began.

In order to reach the Indian position the attackers had to cross a swamp about three-quarters of a mile wide. The Indians, numbering about 340, allowed them to advance within 20 yards, then fired a volley which mortally wounded Colonel Gentry and caused his regiment to break for the rear. The regulars advanced through a galling fire which fell most heavily on the 6th Infantry on the right. The regimental commander, Lt. Col. Alexander R. Thompson, was mortally wounded, and every other officer except one in the 6th was hit. The 4th Infantry, on the left, gained the hammock and, reinforced by the 1st Infantry, soon drove the Indians from their position. The battle, lasting less than three hours, resulted in American casualties of 26 killed and 112 wounded, and Taylor estimated the Indian losses to have been equally heavy.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sprague, John T. The Origin, Progress and Conclusion of the Florida War (New York, 1848)
 Hanna, Kathryn Lake Okeechobee
 Hamilton, Holman, Zachary Taylor, Soldier of the Republic

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 640

UTM REFERENCES

E 1 7	5 2 2 6 0 0	3 0 0 8 4 8 0	F 1 7	5 2 0 1 4 0	3 0 0 9 6 0 0
A <u>1,7</u>	<u>5,2,0,1,6,0</u>	<u>3,0,1,1,6,4,0</u>	B <u>1,7</u>	<u>5,2,0,5,0,0</u>	<u>3,0,1,1,6,4,0</u>
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C <u>1,7</u>	<u>5,2,3,7,6,0</u>	<u>3,0,0,9,0,8,0</u>	D <u>1,7</u>	<u>5,2,3,7,6,0</u>	<u>3,0,0,8,4,8,0</u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior
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Beginning at the eastern terminus of the southern section line of Section 31, proceed west along said section line to Highway 441; thence, northwest 4000; more or less, to a point, thence north 1000; more or less, to a point, thence west 4000; more or less, to the west section line of Section 36, thence due north to the northern section line of Section 25, thence east along said section line 1000; more or less, to a point, thence south easterly 2 1/2 miles, more or less, to the eastern section line of Section 31, thence south along said section line to the point of origin.

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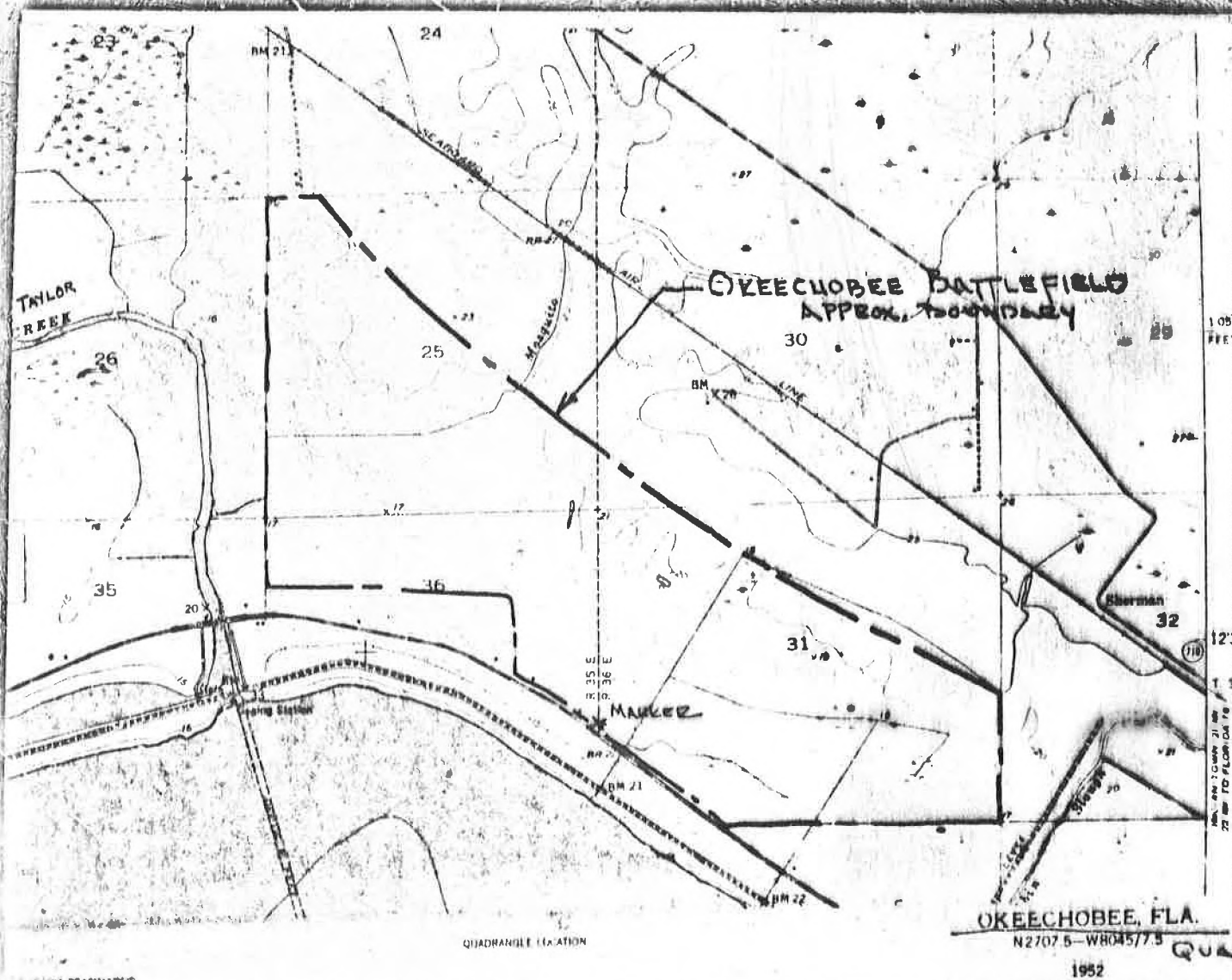
Page 2

Okeechobee Battlefield--boundary justification

The boundary for Okeechobee Battlefield was drawn to coincide with the general location of the battle. Considerable archeological study would be necessary to establish the exact battle lines. The battle took place in an open area between the marsh and sand ridge, an area larger than the acreage listed on the nomination form. The dike built around Lake Okeechobee removes the battlefield from inside the high water mark of the lake. The drainage of swamp areas and their conversion to agricultural use further reduced the original battlefield area. Therefore, the area identified in the verbal boundary description represents the clearly defined portion of the battlefield that retains integrity.

242-6928

242-2611



Handwritten note: See Map 1, 2, 3