

Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Name of Property

NPS Form 10-900

(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Other Name/Site Number: PU3068

**2. Location**

Street & Number: Arkansas Highway 161 at Bayou Meto

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Jacksonville

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Pulaski Code: AR119 Zip Code: 72076

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property: Private/Public-Local

Category of Property: Site

Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing    Noncontributing

___	<u>117</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	___	sites
___	<u>3</u>	structures
___	___	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>120</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Archeological Resources Associated with the Little Rock Campaign of 1863

---

#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

---

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*Cassie Matthews* 11/15/02

Signature of certifying official                      Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official                      Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

---

---

**5. National Park Service Certification**

---

---

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

*Edson H. Beall*

*12/31/02*

*for*  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

---

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

---

Historic: DEFENSE Sub: Battle Site

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current : GOVERNMENT Sub: fire station

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: outdoor recreation

Current : AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Sub: agricultural field

---

## 7. Description

---

Architectural Classification: NO STYLE

Materials: foundation NA roof  
walls \_\_\_\_\_ other

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

### Summary:

The Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield contains the core area of the August 27, 1863, battle in which Confederate troops under the field control of Brig. Gen. John Sappington Marmaduke fought Union soldiers under Brig. Gen. John Wynn Davidson to a standstill, halting for a time the Federal drive to capture Little Rock. The battlefield contains approximately 412 acres east and west of Highway 161, which follows the route of the original Military Road between Memphis and Little Rock, and north and south of Bayou Meto. Incompatible and non-historic intrusions, though found in considerable number, tend to be small in scale and clustered within 50 yards of Highway 161. The remainder of the battlefield is largely comprised of woodlots and fields similar to those that would have been at the site on August 27, 1863.

### Elaboration:

The site of the Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield covers ground east and west of Highway 161 and north and south of Bayou Meto. The core area of the battlefield includes the sites of the Union and Confederate artillery positions, which define the northernmost and southernmost boundaries, the Union and Confederate battle lines, which define the eastern and western boundaries, the Military Road (now Highway 161) on which the First Iowa Cavalry charged the burning Reed's Bridge, suffering heavy casualties, and Bayou Meto, along which troops from both sides formed their battle lines.

A modern concrete bridge crosses Bayou Meto at the same location as that occupied by Reed's Bridge during the battle. A road trace north of the bayou in the easternmost section of the battlefield leads to the place where Squadrons D and F of the First Iowa Cavalry threatened the Confederate right but were held back by one hundred men of Young's Battalion from Marmaduke's brigade. The overall landscape, with the exception of the intrusions noted below, is remarkably similar to that of August 27, 1863, especially east and west of the Highway 161 corridor.

None of the structures located within the core area date from the time of the battle, but the majority of the approximately 120 non-contributing resources (mainly small, single-story structures, outbuildings and mobile homes) are relatively small in scale and concentrated along Highway 161 for a distance of perhaps 50 yards on either side of the highway. An electrical substation is located northeast of the site of Reed's Bridge. A section of low, swampy land in the eastern end of the core area north of Bayou Meto was flooded to create a pond in the 1970s, but is located between the area of the Union flanking attempt and the next concentration of Federal troops. An elevated railroad track bisects part of the western end of the battlefield. The City of Jacksonville's



wastewater facility is located immediately south of the extreme Confederate left, but is not within the boundaries of the core area. The overall topography of the area, and the locations of perhaps the four most-important defining features of the battlefield – the Military Road, the location of Reed's Bridge, Bayou Meto and the ford where two squadrons of the First Iowa Cavalry attempted to turn the Confederate right – are intact and identifiable. The majority of the area where the troops of both sides maneuvered and the sites of the Union and Confederate artillery positions during the afternoon's artillery duel are included within the core area boundary. The extreme southeast and extreme northwest sections of the battlefield are particularly reflective of their 1863 appearance.

It should also be noted that the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, a local organization working to acquire much of the core area through purchase and easements, already has acquired approximately 30 acres (the City of Jacksonville owns an additional 27 acres) and is seeking to remove the noncontributing intrusions as land is acquired, which will continue to improve the visual integrity of the battle site. In any event, the majority of the core area of the Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield retains sufficient integrity that a soldier who fought there on August 27, 1863, would recognize it today. The Bayou Meto Battlefield remains the most intact and most important of the sites of the three battles that took place during the Little Rock Campaign of 1863.

---

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

---

---

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: MILITARY

Period(s) of Significance: 1863

Significant Dates: August 27, 1863

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: NA

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

**Summary:**

The Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with national significance by virtue of its status as the most intact of the three battlefields associated with the nationally significant Little Rock Campaign, and the battlefield that thus best represents that campaign. Is also is noteworthy as the battle that blunted the Union drive to capture the Arkansas capital and for its role as a catalyst leading to a duel a week later between two Confederate generals. Despite modern intrusions immediately adjacent to Highway 161, the majority of the core area of the battlefield is in remarkably good condition, approximating its appearance on August 27, 1863. Of the two major defining features of the battlefield, Highway 161 follows the roadbed of the old Military Road that Union forces followed and Bayou Meto remains a "steep-banked, miry stream."

**Elaboration:**

After fighting a running battle at Brownsville on August 25, a force of the First Iowa Cavalry and Third Missouri Cavalry (U.S.) and sections of Lovejoy's and Clarkson's batteries drove up the Little Rock Road to feel out the Rebel positions at Bayou Meto. "The enemy were found posted in force at a position about 9 miles beyond Brownsville, estimated by Colonel Glover, commanding, at 6,000 strong," Brig. Gen. John Wynn Davidson reported. Glover's advance skirmishers made first contact, locating Rebel pickets about six miles from Brownsville and driving them back some two miles to entrenched positions about two miles east of Bayou Meto. "After a considerable artillery duel, I ordered Lovejoy to advance his section, in doing of which he had one cannoneer pierced through with solid shot and killed instantly, so well did the enemy have the range of the road," Col. J.M. Glover reported. A swift reconnaissance by Glover led him to conclude that the Confederate position was more than he wanted to tackle with the force at hand, and the Yankees fell back to Brownsville. In addition to the hapless Yankee artilleryman, the engagement claimed the lives of three Confederates.<sup>1</sup>

On August 27, Davidson returned in force to confront the Confederate horsemen at Bayou Meto. John Edwards of Brig. Gen. Jo Shelby's command succinctly described the bayou and its importance: "The Bayou Metre [sic] was a low, sluggish stream, with a miry bed, abrupt banks, and its sides fringed with a heavy growth of timber. It was difficult to cross, and presented the only water at which a command could conveniently camp after leaving Bayou Two Prairie." It was here that Brig. Gen. Lucius M. Walker's horsemen would make a stand and here that Davidson's thirsty troops would face their first serious combat of the campaign.<sup>2</sup>

Glover's troops again had the advance, and with a battalion of the Tenth Illinois Cavalry leading as skirmishers they began to move forward on the road to the Bayou Meto bridge. They first encountered Marmaduke's horsemen some five miles east of the bridge, and after "a brisk fire" the Rebels fell back about two miles. The Tenth Illinois again hit the Confederate lines at this new position, losing a lieutenant to Southern marksmen. Davidson then ordered Glover's entire brigade into action.<sup>3</sup>

---

1 *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. 70 vols. In 128 books and index. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1890-1901. In *The Civil War CD-ROM*. Carmel, IN: Guild Press of Indiana, 1996 (hereafter referred to as OR) 484, 501; A.W.M. Petty, *A History of the Third Missouri Cavalry: From Its Organization at Palmyra, Missouri, 1861 up to November Sixth, 1864: With an Appendix and Recapitulation* (Little Rock: J. Wm. Demby, 1865) 36.

2 John N. Edwards, *Shelby and his Men: or, The War in the West*. (Cincinnati: Miami, 1867. Facsimile reprint, Waverly, MO: General Joseph Shelby Memorial Fund, 1993) 175.

3 OR, 501.

Glover placed his artillery in the center, on the road. Two battalions of the Third Missouri Cavalry (U.S.) climbed from their horses to the right of the road to fight as infantry; six squadrons of the Tenth Illinois covered their right flank. A third battalion of the Third Missouri, joined by foot soldiers of the Thirty-second Iowa infantry, comprised Glover's left. "In this order, with a heavy line of skirmishers in front, the brigade moved forward," the Union commander reported.<sup>4</sup>

Facing the approaching Yankee cavalry, Brig. Gen. John S. Marmaduke placed Shelby's Iron Brigade under B. Frank Gordon as his forward line of troops above Reed's Bridge north of Bayou Meto. Marmaduke's Brigade, under Col. William L. Jeffers, was formed below the bridge, along with Col. Archibald Dobbin's Arkansas regiment. The Confederates would contest the advancing Unionists above the bridge, but braced for a heated defense from behind the natural rampart of Bayou Meto.<sup>5</sup>

The Rebels' first line of defense consisted of some 125 dismounted troopers of Shelby's Brigade under Gordon, detailed to Marmaduke that morning to serve as skirmishers and accompanied by the "little teaser" prairie guns of Bell's battery. These troops watched the approaching Yankees as "they pushed forward their columns impetuously until, coming upon the main body of our skirmishers, a roar of musketry sent death crippling through their ranks, completely breaking up their lines for the time in dismay and confusion."<sup>6</sup>

The "dismay and confusion" did not last long as the advancing Yankees drove Marmaduke back to a fixed line of defenses above Bayou Meto, which Glover described as "a very strong and elevated position, covered by extended rifle-pits on the left, where he made a more obstinate stand."<sup>7</sup>

A charge by the dismounted Third Missouri troopers on Glover's right drove back the Rebels facing them and flanked the remaining Southerners out of their rifle pits, sending the entire force "in greatest disorder and confusion toward the Bayou Meto." Other Third Missouri troopers and infantry of the Thirty-second Iowa drove back the Confederates facing them on the Union left. Davidson assisted them with a subterfuge by ordering drums beaten to convince the Confederates that they were facing concentrations of Yankee infantry in addition to Federal cavalry. "The rebs made a charge on our battery and when this was done a regt. of Cav Stood ready with pistol and carbine," Francis Marion Emmons of the Seventh Missouri Cavalry (U.S.) wrote. "When they charged near enough these men with drums beat the charge and the rebs thought ten thousand infantry was on them when they turned and run our men firing volley after volley and the Artillery using grape and canister piling them in heaps After this the Genl Sat on his horse and laughed to see them run at the trick he played on them." The Union troops on the left were "then thrown forward to the bayou, where we remained about three hours, getting an occasional shot at the enemy concealed on the other side." The artillery was ordered up to shell the retreating Rebels, a bombardment that lasted around thirty minutes.<sup>8</sup>

Having foreseen the probability of falling back across Bayou Meto, Capt. John Mhoon, a Rebel engineer, had given Reed's Bridge "a thorough coating of tar and other inflammable material," John Edwards remembered, "and as the last of the rear-guard crossed it, the torch was applied."<sup>9</sup>

The Union horsemen suddenly noticed the smoke in the distance and realized that the Rebels were burning the only crossing of the steep-banked stream. Davidson ordered Lt. Col. Daniel Anderson and the First Iowa Cavalry, comprising Glover's reserve, to charge "in the face of a terrible fire of artillery and small-arms." Confederate Colonel Gordon watched as the Iowans, "perhaps thinking the 'frightened rebels in terror fled,' charged down the road in splendid

---

4 Ibid., 501-2.

5 Ibid., 527.

6 Ibid., 530.

7 Ibid., 502.

8 Ibid., 502, 513, 530; Emmons to "To All at Home," September 16, 1863. Francis Marion Emmons Papers. University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscript Collection—Columbia.

9 Edwards, 176.

style, as if to save the bridge; but it were better had many of them never been born. The dense cloud of smoke from the crackling, burning bridge, like sorrow's veil, hung between them and Bledsoe's battery, and when the head of their long lines had nearly reached the bridge, these noble old guns sent shell and shot, winged with fury, screaming and hissing up their lines, scattering the mangled fragments of men and horses like chaff before the wind."<sup>10</sup>

"In making this charge, the regiment was exposed to a terrible fire from the enemy's artillery and sharpshooters," Lieutenant Colonel Anderson of the First Iowa, whose horse was shot from under him during the charge, wrote in his official report. "We reached the bridge, but not in time to save it; it was already enveloped in flames. . . . I then dismounted the command and went forward on foot. Never have I seen a greater coolness of courage displayed. Not a man flinched from performing his whole duty as a brave and loyal soldier. When I had ascertained the position of the enemy by severe skirmishing half an hour, I withdrew under cover of the hill and out of range of their guns."<sup>11</sup>

Glover's men would attempt several more advances against the entrenched Rebels at Bayou Meto, most likely in an effort to recover the dozens of wounded Iowa horsemen of Anderson's regiment, but the remainder of the day's fighting would be done primarily by the artillery. Glover selected a position from which his artillery could relieve the now-dismounted First Iowa. "They opened with twelve or sixteen guns," according to John Edwards. "Marmaduke's artillery, though inferior in strength, replied as promptly and as vigorously. For nearly an hour the ring of musketry along the line was incessant, and the deep-toned artillery lent its voice to swell the diapason of harmonious discord." The Yankee "shot and shell ripped and roared through the forest, tearing the trees around the battery into fragments, and plowing up the earth in the most approved demoniac style but all without avail," Gordon wrote. "The long, rakish-looking pirate rifles [of Bledsoe's Battery] seemed to shout in proud defiance, as with great precision they sent tearing through their ranks their iron missiles, driving them from position to position."<sup>12</sup>

Marmaduke ordered Lt. Charlie Bell's small battery of prairie guns to a position near the bridge, "in open view of the enemy, and in point-blank range of their guns." The Union artillery did not miss the opportunity, shattering Bell's battery, killing Bell and seriously wounding one of Marmaduke's aides before the battery was withdrawn to safety.<sup>13</sup>

In retaliation, Marmaduke determined to punish the Yankee artillery "and for that purpose massed his six guns in a commanding position and opened a vigorous fire upon them." Lt. R.A. Collins, who commanded an artillery battery in Shelby's brigade, had "crossed the bayou and worked his way from point to point, despite the fire of their sharpshooters, until he had thoroughly reconnoitered their position." An artillery duel ensued, and "by a natural impulse the men along the entire line on both sides, in a great measure, ceased operations, and employed themselves in watching the progress and results of the duel." The Rebel artillery used Collins' reconnaissance to deadly effect, firing with precision on the more numerous Union guns. As the disconcerted Yankee cannoneers took accurate fire from the batteries of Collins and Bledsoe "they entirely lost their coolness and precision, and sent their shells recklessly through the tops of the trees, destroying much foliage and frightening the wild birds terribly."<sup>14</sup>

Perhaps the best hope for a Union victory was on their left, where one hundred men of Young's Battalion of Marmaduke's brigade held the extreme right of the Confederate line, covering a crossing of Bayou Meto that "entirely turned the position." These men, under a Major Bennett, resisted repeated attempts by Squadrons D and F of the First Iowa Cavalry to affect a crossing. Bennett "informed Marmaduke . . . that he was heavily pressed, and feared he could not hold his ground," John Edwards recalled. "Marmaduke replied that he could spare him no men, and that he must beat back the enemy and make good his position. Bennett replied that he would do it, and did do it." Had Davidson or Glover

---

<sup>10</sup> *OR*, 502, 531.

<sup>11</sup> *OR*, 508.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 502, 531; Edwards, 176.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 178.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*



ordered some of the Iowans or Missourians idly pot-shotting at Rebels across the bayou on the Union left to join in a concerted attack against Young's troops, they may have been able to turn Marmaduke's flank and drive the Rebels from the field. However, this was not to be and the best opportunity that day for a Union victory passed them by.<sup>15</sup>

As the combatant artillerists hammered away at each other, Glover discovered "a strong force of the enemy on this side of the bayou, on the right of our line." The Tenth Illinois was given the task of forcing this rump remnant of Marmaduke's force--inadvertently cut off when the rest of the Rebels fell back across Reed's Bridge--from their position, which they did, "putting them across the bayou after a very hot contest." After skirmishing until late in the evening, Glover's exhausted troops were ordered back to Brownsville, "getting into camp at midnight." "The sun went down smoke-begrimed, red-faced, and furious," Gordon concluded. Despite their tactical victory at Bayou Meto, the Confederates were ordered that night to retreat to within five miles of Little Rock, giving up the last substantial line of defenses east of the considerable works built northeast of the capital.<sup>16</sup>

Federal casualties totaled seven killed and thirty-eight wounded, most from the ill-fated charge of the First Iowa Cavalry. Confederate losses were undisclosed, but at least two officers were killed and numerous soldiers wounded.

### **Aftermath**

The battle of Bayou Meto marked the last serious Confederate opposition to the Union advance on Little Rock and blunted Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele's seemingly unstoppable drive toward the capital. Following this battle, Yankee forces fell back to Brownsville as Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele sent out probes to determine the best route to flank Sterling Price's Confederate infantry out of its strong works on the north side of the Arkansas River. He ultimately decided to strike via the Shallow Ford Road, driving Rebel troops from their camps at Ashley's Mills near present-day Scott. On September 10, Union engineers built a pontoon bridge across the Arkansas River at which a bend enabled superior Yankee artillery to pour converging fire on Confederate defenders on the south side of the river. Federal cavalry poured across and, after confused fighting at Bayou Fourche near the present-day Little Rock airport, approached the capital. Price pulled his men from their entrenchments north of the river and retreated to southwest Arkansas, where most concentrations of Confederate troops would remain bottled up for most of the rest of the war.

Bayou Meto also proved to be the final straw in continuing tensions between two of the Confederate commanders. Generals Lucius M. Walker and John Sappington Marmaduke had been at odds since the July 4, 1863, battle of Helena, when Marmaduke maintained that Walker had failed to protect his left flank adequately as the Missourian's troops attacked Union positions around Battery A. Marmaduke was again angered when Walker, now as senior officer in command of all Confederate cavalry, did not follow through on an opportunity to ambush attacking Union troops at Brownsville. The Missourian lost all patience after Walker declined several requests to come to the firing line from his headquarters in the rear during the fighting at Bayou Meto. After Bayou Meto, Marmaduke asked to be removed from under Walker's command, or that his resignation be accepted. Price approved the transfer.<sup>1</sup>

Walker took offense with Marmaduke's actions and sent a letter to his former subordinate on September 2 asking if he had accused him of cowardice. An escalating war of words through a series of letters led to Walker's aide Col. R.H. Crockett to "demand in his behalf of Gen. Marmaduke the satisfaction due to a gentleman." Marmaduke's aide Capt. John C. Moore replied that Crockett's note "affords me the pleasure, as the friend of Gen. Marmaduke, to accord to the demand

---

<sup>15</sup> OR, 533; Edwards, 177.

<sup>16</sup> OR, 502, 527, 532; Petty, 37.

<sup>17</sup> Mark K. Christ, "Here in the Wilds of Arkansas": Interpreting the 1863 Little Rock Campaign," MLS thesis, University of Oklahoma, 2000, p. 48; Larry LeMasters, "Only One Man Walked Away," *Civil War Times*, Vol. XLI, No. 5, October 2002, p. 50.

<sup>18</sup> Christ, "Here in the Wilds of Arkansas," p.48-50.

of satisfaction made therein." Despite being ordered by Price to remain at their headquarters, two West Pointers met at dawn on September 6 at the Godfrey Lefevre plantation on the north side of the Arkansas River. Both generals fired once, missing. Marmaduke then fired his 1851 Navy Colt once more, hitting Walker with a shot that sliced through his right kidney and lodged in his spine. The Tennessean died the next day, requesting on his deathbed that his friends "neither prosecute, nor persecute" Marmaduke. He was buried September 8 in Little Rock's Mount Holly Cemetery, the victim of the last duel fought in Arkansas.<sup>2</sup>

The Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with national significance by virtue of its status as the most intact of the three battlefields associated with the nationally significant Little Rock Campaign, and that thus best represents the campaign. It is also noteworthy as the battle that blunted the Union drive to capture the Arkansas capital and for its role as a catalyst leading to a duel a week later between two Confederate generals. Despite modern intrusions immediately adjacent to Highway 161, the majority of the core area of the battlefield is in remarkably good condition, approximating its appearance on August 27, 1863. Of the two major defining features of the battlefield, Highway 161 follows the roadbed of the old Military Road that Union forces followed and Bayou Meto remains a "steep-banked, miry stream."

---

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

---

Christ, Mark K. "Here in the Wilds of Arkansas": Interpreting the 1863 Little Rock Campaign," MLS thesis, University of Oklahoma, 2000

Edwards, John N. *Shelby and his Men: or, The War in the West*. (Cincinnati: Miami, 1867. Facsimile reprint, Waverly, MO: General Joseph Shelby Memorial Fund, 1993) 175.

Emmons, Francis Marion, Papers. University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscript Collection—Columbia.

LeMasters, Larry. "Only One Man Walked Away," *Civil War Times*, Vol. XLI, No. 5, October 2002

Petty, A.W.M. *A History of the Third Missouri Cavalry: From Its Organization at Palmyra, Missouri, 1861 up to November Sixth, 1864: With an Appendix and Recapitulation* (Little Rock: J. Wm. Demby, 1865)

*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. 70 vols. In 128 books and index. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1890-1901. In *The Civil War CD-ROM*. Carmel, IN: Guild Press of Indiana, 1996.

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 #

Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office  
☐ Other state agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

---

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

---

Acreage of Property: 412

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>579550</u>	<u>3856827</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>579874</u>	<u>3856817</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>579907</u>	<u>3856848</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>580529</u>	<u>3856840</u>
E	<u>15</u>	<u>580522</u>	<u>3856374</u>	F	<u>15</u>	<u>580665</u>	<u>3856367</u>
G	<u>15</u>	<u>580745</u>	<u>3856452</u>	H	<u>15</u>	<u>581018</u>	<u>3856318</u>
I	<u>15</u>	<u>581700</u>	<u>3856320</u>	J	<u>15</u>	<u>581697</u>	<u>3855725</u>
K	<u>15</u>	<u>580000</u>	<u>3855592</u>	L	<u>15</u>	<u>579827</u>	<u>3855729</u>
M	<u>15</u>	<u>579973</u>	<u>3855902</u>	N	<u>15</u>	<u>579986</u>	<u>3856275</u>
O	<u>15</u>	<u>579965</u>	<u>3856339</u>	P	<u>15</u>	<u>579878</u>	<u>3856401</u>
Q	<u>15</u>	<u>579550</u>	<u>3856397</u>				

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A 15 579550 3856827, B 15 579874 3856817, C 15 579907 3856848, D 15 580529 3856840, E 15 580522 3856374, F 15 580665 3856367, G 15 580745 3856452, H 15 581018 3856318, I 15 581700 3856320, J 15 581697 3855725, K 15 580000 3855592, L 15 579827 3855729, M 15 579973 3855902, N 15 579986 3856275, O 15 579965 3856339, P 15 579878 3856401, Q 15 579550 3856397.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property upon which the associated Union and Confederate forces engaged during the majority of the Bayou Meto battle, as documented through the official records and other primary sources. This boundary contains sufficient area to either side of the principal historic roadway to encompass not only the troop positions during the main part of the battle but also the areas through which troop movements and skirmishing occurred.



Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

---

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

---

Name/Title: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: November 13, 2002

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

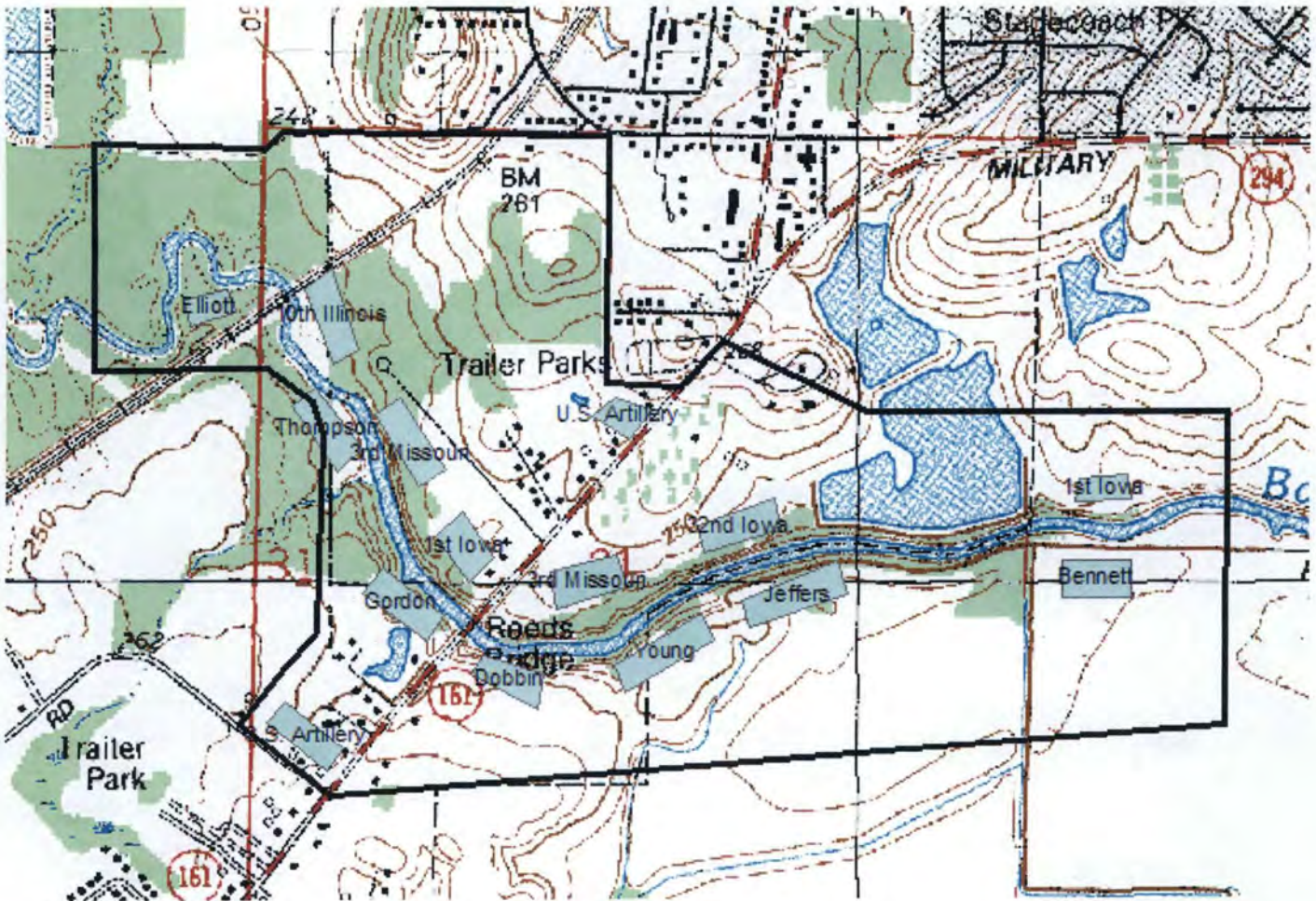
---

<sup>1</sup> Mark K. Christ, "Here in the Wilds of Arkansas": Interpreting the 1863 Little Rock Campaign," MLS thesis, University of Oklahoma, 2002, p. 48; Larry LeMasters, "Only One Man Walked Away," *Civil War Times*, Vol. XLI, No. 5, p. 50.

<sup>2</sup> Christ, "Here in the Wilds of Arkansas," p.48-50.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



USGS Quad Map Graphic showing general troop positions during Battle of Bayou Meto  
Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Little Rock Campaign of 1863 MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/23/02  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/08/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/03/03  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001627

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/31/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR  
Photo by M. Christ

October 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from south showing road trace near Ford area





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by Mr. Christ

October 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View of Bayou Meto and Ford from east





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by M. Christ

October 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from east of area behind Confederate right flank





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by M. Christ

October 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from west of area behind Confederate right Flank





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battleground

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by M. Christ

October 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from south across Bayou Meto to ponds at Union left flank







Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battle field

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from north of northwest area of battle field





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battleground

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from west along road forming north boundary of core area





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Polaski Co., AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from northeast near northern boundary of core area





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR  
Photo by Z. Cothren  
March 2002  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from north from center of northwest boundary  
of core area





Bayou Meto Battleground  
Jacksonville, Polaski Co., AR  
Photo by M. Christ  
October 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from southwest of area southeast of Bridge





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by M. Christ

October 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

~~View from east just south of Bayou Meto across  
Highway 161~~

View from southwest of power station





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by M. Christ

October 2002

Negative on Eikmat AHPP

View from east across Highway 161 just ~~north~~ south  
of bayou





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battle Field

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by Mr. Christ

October 2002

Negative on file at AHPE

View from east of Bayou Meto passing beneath  
modern bridge on site of Reed's Bridge





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battle Field  
Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR  
Photo by M. Christ  
October 2002  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View of bridge from southeast





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Jacksonville, AR, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from southeast toward northwest of bridge





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from northwest of gates to park southeast of bridge





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from north of west end of park





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at A HPP

View from southwest west of Highway 161 behind Union right center





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battleground

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co., AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from west behind Union right center





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from north, Union right center





Bayou Meto (Battlefield)  
Jacksonville, Polaski Co, AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from east at Union artillery position





Bayou Meto Battlefield  
Jacksonville, Polaski Co., AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPE

View from west at Union artillery position





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Polaski Co., AR

Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from northwest west of Union artillery position





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from north along Highway 161 toward bridge.





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Polaski Co, AR

Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from south across bayou from Confederate left





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Butterfield  
Jacksonville, Pulaski County, AR  
Photo by A. Bennett  
March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from southeast from Confederate artillery position





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield  
Jacksonville, Polaski Co, AR  
Photo by A. Bennett  
March 2002  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from south from Confederate Artillery Position





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by Z. Cothren

March 2002

Negative on file at AHP

View from south from Confederate artillery position





Bayou Meto (Reeds Bridge) Battlefield  
Jacksonville, Polaski County, AR  
Photo by A. Bennett  
March 2002  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from south, just west of Confederate artillery position.





Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) Battlefield

Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, AR

Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

View from south behind Confederate left





Bayou Meto (Leeds Bridge) Battle field

Jacksonville, Polaski Co, AR

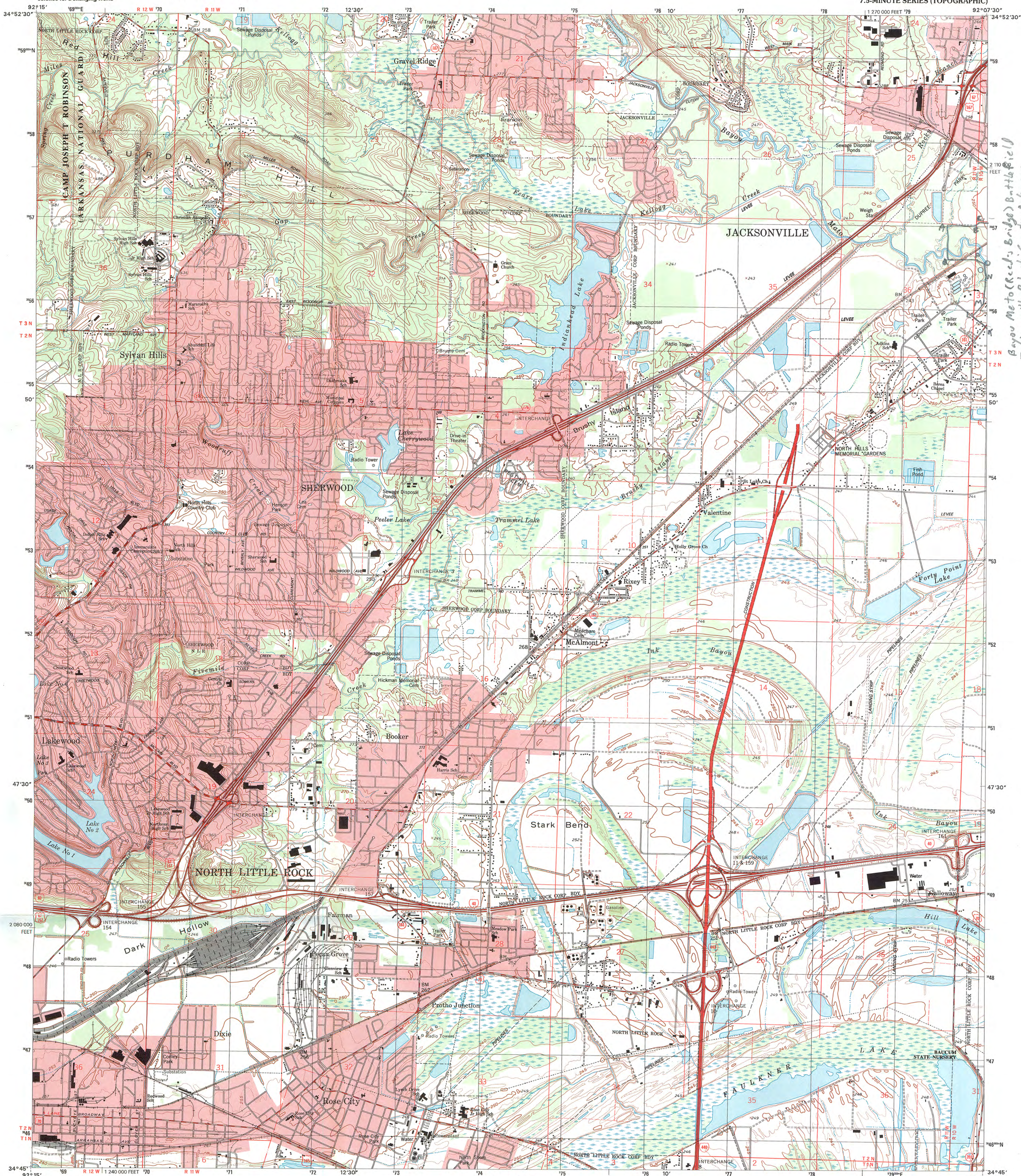
Photo by A. Bennett

March 2002

Negative on file at AHPP

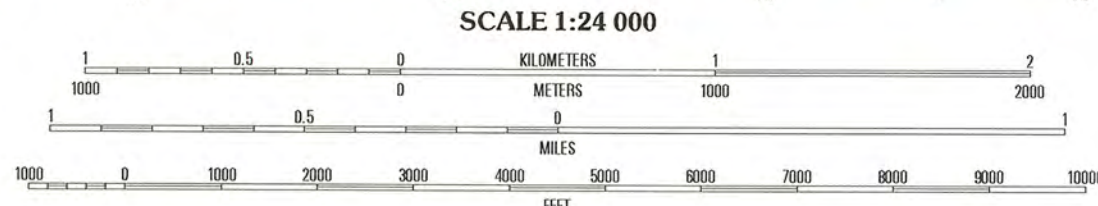
View from east behind Confederate left





Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1960. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1994 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1985.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15 10 000-foot ticks: Arkansas Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone).  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.  
Landmark buildings verified 1985.

UTM GRID AND 2000 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODEIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



1	2	3	1 Cato
4	5	4 North Little Rock	5 Jacksonville
6	7	7 Sweet Home	8 Scott

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway hard surface ..... Light-duty road, hard or improved surface .....  
Secondary highway hard surface ..... Unimproved road .....  
Interstate Route ..... U.S. Route ..... State Route .....

MC ALMONT, AR  
1994  
NIMA 7553 I SW-SERIES V884

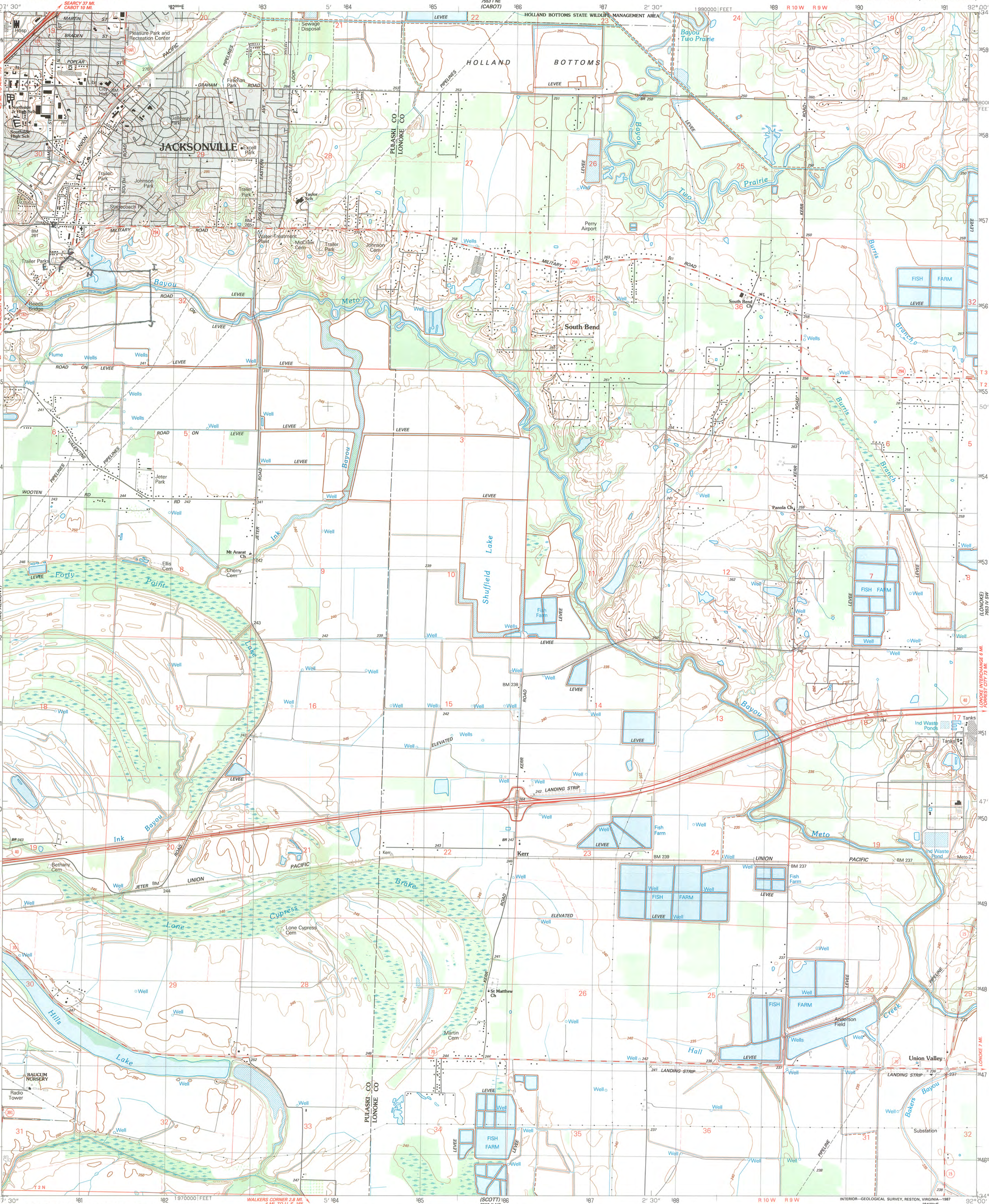


Bayou Meto (Reddy Bridge) Battlefield  
Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas  
A15/579550/3856827 C15/579907/3856848 L15/579827/3855729 O15/579465/3856339  
B15/579974/3856817 K15/580000/3855592 M15/579972/3855902 Q15/579550/3856397



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

JACKSONVILLE QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1984. Field checked 1985. Map edited 1987

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15

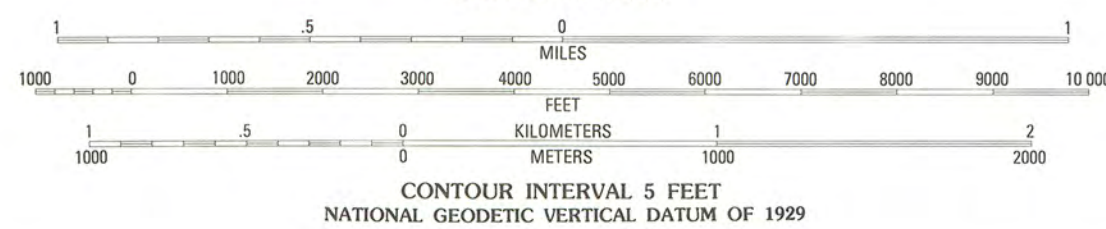
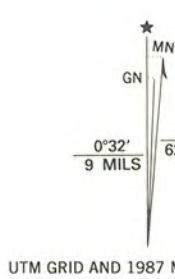
1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 7 meters south and 13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

JACKSONVILLE, ARK.

34092-G1-TF-024

1987

DMA 7553 1 SE-SERIES V884

