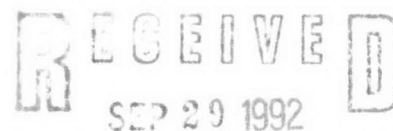


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Prairie Grove Battlefield (Boundary Increase)

other name/site number: Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: N. of U.S. Hwy. 62; e. of city limits.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Prairie Grove

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Washington

code: AR 143

zip code: 72753

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public-State

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====
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.

Carlyne A. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

9-24-92
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

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X 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): _____

Mel M. Wynn 11/9/92

for Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: Defense Sub: battle site

Current : Landscape Sub: park

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

N/A

Other Description: N/A_____

Materials: foundation N/A_____ roof N/A_____
 walls N/A_____ other N/A_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====

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): N/A_____

Areas of Significance: Military_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1862_____

Significant Dates: 1862_____

Significant Person(s): N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Architect/Builder: N/A_____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The boundary increase to the Prairie Grove Battlefield nomination includes 66 acres added to the north, northeast, and east of the original 1970 National Register listing. With open prairie to the north, a wooded ridge running east-west that roughly bisects the park addition, and largely open, slightly rolling hills to the south and southeast of the ridge, the landscape closely approximates the appearance of the area in December, 1862 at the time of the battle. There are three buildings extant on the property: the 1870 Borden House, individually listed on the National Register; and a modern residence and garage that are noncontributing.

Elaboration

Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, to the north of U.S. Highway 62 on the eastern outskirts of the town of Prairie Grove, consists of approximately 130 acres, 66 of which have been added to the battlefield park since the original National Register nomination in 1970. The 1970 National Register listing includes a number of resources that, although unrelated and perhaps inappropriate to the interpretation of the events of December 7, 1862, are reflective of the commemorative and memorial focus of battlefield preservation efforts in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.¹

By comparison, the acreage added to the battlefield state park since the original National Register listing more closely approximates the appearance of the area at the time of the battle in 1862, with a minimum of inappropriate additions and infill to detract from the historic landscape. This National Register boundary increase encompasses the current boundaries of the state park and corresponds roughly to the Borden farm as it existed at the time of the battle: the Borden House itself, a cornfield, and an orchard. The Borden House, listed individually on the National Register on March 17, 1977, is the only historic structure within the park boundaries located on its original site.² The historic Borden wheatfield,

¹For example, the relocation of the Rhea's Mill chimney monument, the relocated and reconstructed Ozark village, and the placement of the Hindman Hall interpretive center, probably tell us more about the activities of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in northwest Arkansas in the 1910's and the early development of Arkansas's state park system than they do about the actual battle of Prairie Grove.

²The existing Borden House was built in 1870 on the ruins of the original Borden House, which burned shortly after the Battle of Prairie Grove. Because the current structure is historic in its' own right and so closely approximates

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

to the east of the Borden House, is the only major component of the original Borden farm outside of the current state park boundaries.

The boundary increase to the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park is bisected by a wooded ridge running along an east-west axis, with an open plain descending into the Illinois River valley corridor to the north and slightly rolling hills, largely unforested, extending to the south and southeast of the ridge. This ridge provided an ideal defensive position for the Confederate army as it prepared to meet the advancing Union troops under Francis Herron. From these heights, the Confederate artillery could command the open plain and river crossing below. The Union positions at the foot of the ridge, well-preserved and accessed by a walking trail, reveal the difficulties the federals faced in assaulting the Confederate positions above.

The current park is attractive and well-maintained, with a number of trees, well-kept lawns, gravel roads and footpaths, picnic and group meeting facilities, a museum-visitors center, a playground, and a recreated Ozark village; most of these modern facilities are located in the western, original portion of the park, while the portion being amended to the original National Register listing includes the 1870 Borden House (not counted in the number of resources section as it is already on the National Register), a recreated orchard located to the south of the Borden House, and surrounding farmland. There are only two noncontributing resources, a modern residence which serves as the park superintendent's office and an associated garage. The two structures are located near Hwy. 62, to the southeast of the Borden House, and are relatively unobtrusive when considering the vast amount of acreage that has survived unspoiled since 1862.

The town of Prairie Grove, established in the late 19th Century, has encompassed most of the southern and southwestern portions of the battlefield. The town is located in the high-growth corridor of northwest Arkansas and is expected to continue its expansion. Consequently, the Prairie Grove Battlefield has been identified as a priority site under the criteria of the Secretary of the Interior's American Battlefield Protection Program.

From the Borden House on the ridge, one can view a landscape remarkably similar to that present at the time of the battle. All of the battlefield visible from this vantage point, other than the forested ridge to the east and west, is in agricultural use of some type, although corn was the predominant crop in 1862.

the original building both physically and temporally, it is not considered an inappropriate addition. An Arkansas black apple orchard, presumably the same type extant in 1862, has been reintroduced in an attempt to recreate the historic orchard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Some modern intrusions such as commercial chicken houses, barns, outbuildings, and residences are visible beyond the park boundaries; however, the visual integrity of the battlefield has not been substantially or irrevocably damaged by these intrusions.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Prairie Grove Battlefield boundary increase is being nominated under Criterion A with national significance for its association with the heaviest, most severe fighting of the Battle of Prairie Grove, the last major Civil War engagement in Northwest Arkansas. Although General Hindman's Confederates held the field at the end of fighting, their subsequent retreat enabled the Union occupation of Northwest Arkansas. In effect, the battle represents a major blow to the Confederate war effort in the Trans-Mississippi department.

Elaboration

The Battle of Prairie Grove, although short, was one of the fiercest Civil War battles fought west of the Mississippi River. On December 7, 1862, the Confederate Army of Major General Thomas C. Hindman (11,000 men) engaged the Union divisions of Brigadier Generals Francis J. Herron (5,000 men) and James G. Blunt (3,500 men) near the Prairie Grove Church, about twelve miles southwest of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Hindman's original plans had been to strike Blunt, whose forces were isolated at Cane Hill a few miles west of the Prairie Grove Church. However, General Herron's forced march from Springfield, Missouri into Northwest Arkansas forced a reassessment of Hindman's strategy. Upon learning that Herron's men were at Fayetteville, Hindman devised a new objective, to place his numerically superior army between the two Union columns and prevent their joining. Hindman planned to first destroy Herron's column, then turn west to confront Blunt's forces. Leaving campfires burning to deceive Blunt's Federals, Hindman's army bypassed Blunt at Cane Hill and moved north to attack Herron's footsore soldiers.

Combat was initiated with the rout of Herron's cavalry by the advancing Confederate horsemen. After crossing the Illinois River in pursuit of the retreating Union cavalry, Hindman's horsemen confronted Herron's infantry and were forced to fall back. Meanwhile, the rest of the Confederate army took up a defensive position on the wooded high ground northeast of the Prairie Grove Church, which dominated the Illinois River valley below. Crossing the Illinois River under fire from Confederate artillery, Herron unlimbered his artillery and began to exchange fire with the Confederate batteries on the high ground around the Borden House. However, with a large number of his cavalry in the rear guarding his 400 supply wagons, Herron's effective offensive force amounted to less than 4,000 troops.

The Confederate right flank, consisting of Fagan's Infantry Brigade, Shelby's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Cavalry Brigade, and MacDonald's Independent Regiment,¹ was anchored on the Borden farm and orchard, on a ridge overlooking the Illinois River Valley and General Francis J. Herron's artillery below.² Civil War historian Shelby Foote lauds Hindman's "admirable judgement" in assembling his forces on this ridge, "a strong defensive position upon the brow of a densely wooded hill commanding the Cane Hill and Fayetteville Road and within artillery range of the ford of Illinois Creek,"³ while Arkansas History Commission historian John L. Ferguson notes that "[t]he most severe fighting of the battle took place about the Borden House and orchard,"⁴ and General Herron reported seeing more than 300 dead in the vicinity of the residence.⁵

The battle began as an artillery duel. Herron's forces held a distinct advantage in the number and range of artillery pieces they were able to bring to bear, and proceeded to pummel the Confederate positions flanking the Borden House. Following this uneven artillery duel, Union troops mounted two bloody infantry attacks on the Borden House hill; both were repulsed by the stalwart Confederate defenders. Confederate counterattacks likewise failed due to withering canister fire from the massed Union artillery batteries. Early in the afternoon, an attack by Confederate infantry threatened to finish off Herron's exhausted and beleaguered troops, but the balance of power shifted with the arrival of General Blunt's division on the Confederate left flank at about 2:30 p.m.

The sounds of battle at Prairie Grove were clearly audible to General Blunt's forces stationed at Cane Hill. Certain that Herron had been engaged by the Confederates, Blunt put his troops in motion to supply support and relief to his counterpart. Marching northwest by way of Rhea's Mill, Blunt's contingent entered the field of battle and assumed a position in front of the Morton House

¹Fagan's Brigade included the 34th Arkansas Infantry, the 22nd Arkansas Infantry, the 29th Arkansas Infantry and Hawthorne's Infantry. Gordon's Cavalry, Coffee's Cavalry, and Jeans's Cavalry made up Shelby's Brigade.

²Herron's contingent on the Confederate right flank included the 20th Wisconsin, the 19th Iowa, the 26th Indiana, and the 94th Illinois.

³Shelby Foote, The Civil War: A Narrative History (New York: Random House, 1986).

⁴John L. Ferguson, Arkansas and the Civil War (Little Rock, Arkansas: Pioneer Press, 1964).

⁵Herron most likely overestimated, since the Official Records note only 339 deaths in all.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

and the fighting spread westward along the ridge with savage attacks and counterattacks that continued until night fell. Blunt's assaults on the Confederate placements were turned back however, and nightfall brought a respite in the savage fighting with neither side gaining an advantage over the other.

Assessing his losses and determining that further combat would be fruitless, General Hindman retreated from the battlefield under cover of darkness and returned to Van Buren on the Arkansas River. In reporting on the battle and the rationale for the Confederate retreat, Hindman cited lack of food and insufficient ammunition for his decision not to engage the Union forces the next day. Total Union losses at Prairie Grove included 175 killed, 813 wounded, and 263 missing. Confederate losses were similar, with 164 killed, 817 wounded, and 336 missing; General John S. Marmaduke's cavalry division probably sustained the heaviest losses. A number of Union dead were buried in trenches around the Borden House and farm; however, these burials were later removed.

Prairie Grove was the last major Civil War engagement in Northwest Arkansas, and the Confederates never again tried to use the region as an avenue to invade Missouri. Although Prairie Grove may have technically been a draw⁸, Hindman's retreat subsequently paved the way for the Union occupation of Northwest Arkansas; in effect, Prairie Grove represented a defeat for the Confederacy in the Trans-Mississippi West. Hindman's Cane Hill-Prairie Grove campaign to drive the enemy from Arkansas was an abject failure, and over the next year Van Buren, Fort Smith, and ultimately Little Rock were to fall as a result of the Confederate "victory" at Prairie Grove.

The additional acreage acquired by the state park since the 1970 National Register listing is significant because it incorporates the heaviest, most severe fighting of the Battle of Prairie Grove, and because its appearance closely approximates that of December 7, 1862. For these reasons, the battlefield site is being nominated under Criterion A with national significance.

⁸Despite his nocturnal retreat, Hindman's forces still held the field at the end of the day and may have technically been the victors, but neither side was annihilated and both sustained roughly the same number of casualties.

⁹William D. Baker, in Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park Protection Study (Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 1992).

Jack E. Porter, "Prairie Grove Battlefield Park National Register Nomination" (Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1969).

Patrick Horan and Stephen E. Courtney, "Borden House National Register Nomination" (Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1976).

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

X See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

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: 65.83

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	___	_____	_____	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 8 and part of the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 17 all in Township 15N, Range 31W, Washington County containing approximately 65.83 acres.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary is defined by the current boundary of the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park with the exception of the original 64-acre park boundary reflected in the 1970 National Register listing. This additional acreage closely approximates the 1862 appearance of the historic Borden farm, which was the site of the heaviest, most severe fighting of the Battle of Prairie Grove. This boundary increase does not include the historic Borden wheatfield because it lies outside of the present park boundary and has been substantially developed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Baker, William D. in *Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park Protection Study*. Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 1992.

Ferguson, John L. *Arkansas and the Civil War*. Little Rock, Arkansas: Pioneer Press, 1964.

Foote, Shelby. *The Civil War: A Narrative History*. New York: Random House, 1986.

Horan, Patrick, and Courtney, Stephen E. "Borden House" National Register Nomination. Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1976.

Porter, Jack E. "Prairie Grove Battlefield Park" National Register Nomination. Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1969.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, 1880-1901. Series 1, Vol. XXXIV, pt. 1.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References:

Zone/Easting/Northing

- 1) 15/382450/3983380
- 2) 15/382850/3983370
- 3) 15/382830/3982870
- 4) 15/382680/3982670
- 5) 15/382430/3982600
- 6) 15/382430/3982990
- 7) 15/382080/3983000
- 8) 15/382440/3983270

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Don Baker, Plans Officer / Patrick Zollner, National Register
Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 09/24/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: BOUNDARY INCREASE

PROPERTY NAME: Prairie Grove Battlefield (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 9/29/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/13/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001523

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11/9/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This boundary increase adds approximately 66 acres to the area of the original 1990 NR nomination. The combined property includes the whole of Prairie Grove ~~State~~ Battlefield State Park, the site of the last major civil war engagement in NW Arkansas, one of the fiercest Civil War battles fought west of the Mississippi River - a major defeat (in the long run) for confederate forces in the trans-Mississippi department.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A
REVIEWER Harper
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 11/9/92

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Prairie Grove Battlefield (boundary increase)

Washington Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

April 1992

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the northeast corner of battlefield



Prairie Grove Battlefield (boundary increase)

Washington Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

April 1992

Negative on file at AHPP

View of wooded ridge to the west of the battlefield



Prairie Grove Battlefield (boundary increase)

Washington Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

April, 1992

Negative on file at AHPP

View of Borden House from the northwest



Prairie Grove Battle Field (boundary increase)

Washington Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

April 1992

Negative on file at AHPP

View ~~from the~~ of the plain to the north
taken just below the ridge



Prairie Grove Battlefield (boundary increase)

Washington Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

April 1992

Negative on file at AHPP

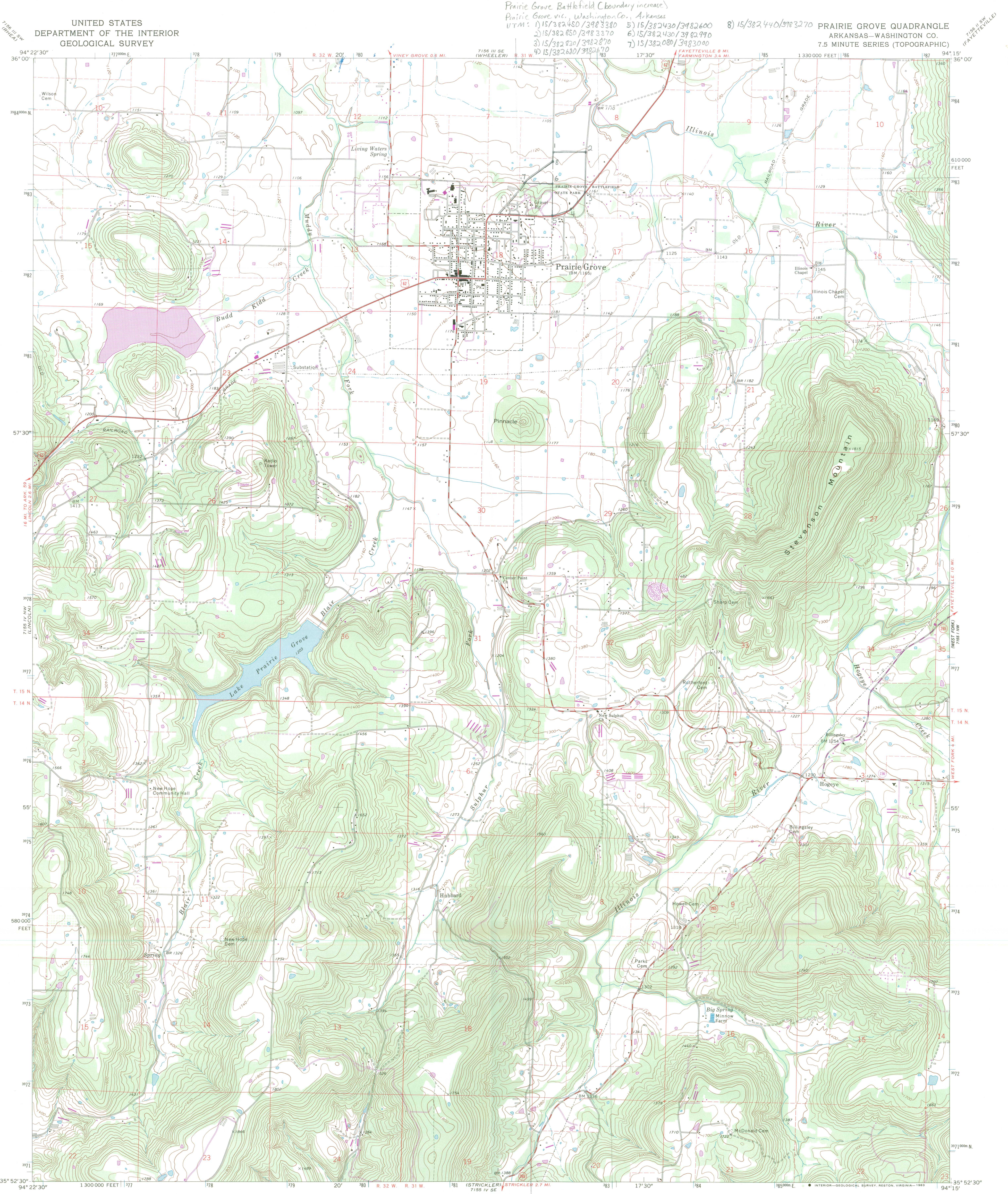
View from the north looking toward Borden House on the ridge



Prairie Grove Battlefield (boundary increase)
Washington Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Ken Story
April 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the north



Prairie Grove Battlefield (boundary increase)
Washington Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Ren Story, April 1992
Negative on file at AHPD
View from the northern boundary

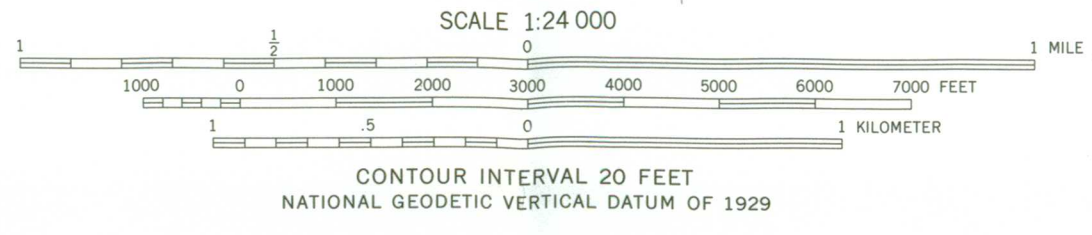
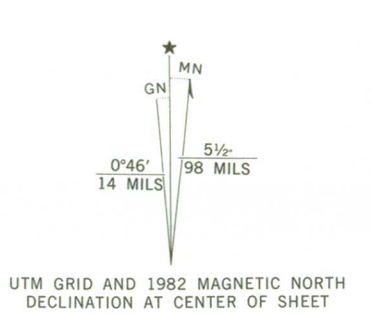


Prairie Grove Battlefield (boundary increase)
Prairie Grove, vic., Washington Co., Arkansas
UTM: 1) 15/382450/3983380 5) 15/382430/3982600 8) 15/382440/3983270
2) 15/382850/3983370 6) 15/382430/3982990
3) 15/382830/3982870 7) 15/382080/3983000
4) 15/382610/3982470

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PRAIRIE GROVE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-WASHINGTON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
18 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
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1980
and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982

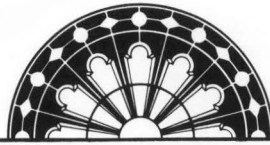


THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, unimproved road, fair or dry hard surface
U. S. Route
State Route

PRAIRIE GROVE, ARK.
N3552.5-W9415.7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 7155 IV NE-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

RECEIVED
SEP 29 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

September 24, 1992

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Prairie Grove Battlefield (Boundary Increase)
Prairie Grove, Washington County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

