

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Sumter	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: **Dade Battlefield**

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Dade Battlefield

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1 mile S.W. of junction of U.S. Rt. 301 and State Rt. 476

CITY OR TOWN:
Bushnell (vicinity)

STATE Florida	CODE	COUNTY: Sumter	CODE
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
**Mr. Ney Landrum, Chief, Division of Recreation and Parks,
Department of Natural Resources**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Larson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee	STATE: Florida	CODE
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sumter County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bushnell	STATE: Florida	CODE
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dade Battlefield is located in the eastern 1/5th of Dade Battlefield Memorial State Park. A paved road curves through the property away from the historic grounds which are covered by clumps of palmettos and live oaks hanging with Spanish moss. There is a visitor trail, a segment of the historic Fort King (Tampa) Road, with information markers explaining the various stages of the battle. A simulated-log breastwork identifies the location of the original last-ditch defense of Major Dade against the Seminole ambushade. Across the entrance road, ~~opposite~~ the log breastwork is a small visitor center and museum. The western 4/5th of the State Park contains facilities for picnicing, camping, and playground activities which do not intrude upon the historic grounds.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

December 28, 1835

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dade Battlefield is the site of the first military confrontation of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842. A victory for the Seminole Indians, it was part of Chief Osceola's concerted plan of resistance to the Indian removal policy of President Jackson. This encounter opened the most devastating of the nation's Indian wars and the most difficult chapter in the history of Indian removal.

The effect of the Second Seminole War upon the military service was substantial. Seventy-four commissioned officers were killed while a much larger number left the service because of this grueling and gloryless war. In the regular army there were 1,466 deaths of which 328 were killed in action, the remainder dying from disease. It proved a real training round for future top officers--Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, Sherman, Heintzelman, Ord, Thomas, Bragg, Harney, Meade, Johnston, and Pemberton.

The war was important too in military history because of its development of guerilla, or partisan-style warfare. Classical confrontation was given-up in favor of light mobile actions sustained off the land and capable of penetrating to the sources of Seminole vitality.

History

President Jackson's policy of Indian removal was applied to the Seminoles in 1834. The end of that year was to be the deadline for them to move to Oklahoma under the terms of the treaties of Payne's Landing (1832) and Fort Gibson (1833). Behind the resistance to removal was the brilliant Chieftain, Osceola, whose plan was three-fold: (1) terrorize collaborationists prepared to accept removal by murdering Charley Emathla, a chief, steadfast in his determination to leave Florida; (2) kill Indian Agent, Wiley Thompson, who had so often humiliated him and his people; (3) destroy the feeble American forces then in Florida.

All three events unfolded together. The strike against the army took place along the road built in 1828 between Forts Brooke and King. On December 21, 1835, Francis L. Dade was dispatched to Fort King with reinforcements. The detachment consisted of eight officers and a

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Laumer, Frank, Massacre, Gainesville, Florida, University of Florida Press, 1968.
 Mahon, John K., History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842, Gainesville, Florida, University of Florida Press, 1967.
 Roberts, Albert H., "The Dade Massacre," Florida Historical Quarterly V (July, 1926), pp. 123-138.
 Sprague, John T., The Florida War, Gainesville, Florida, University of Florida Press (reprint), 1964.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	28° 39' 14"	82° 7' 35"	0	"		
NE	28° 39' 14"	82° 7' 31"	0	"		
SE	28° 39' 01"	82° 7' 31"	0	"		
SW	28° 39' 01"	82° 7' 35"	0	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **12 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Benjamin Levy, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE: **1/22/73**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Sumter	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Dade Battlefield

hundred enlisted men. All were "redlegged" infantrymen--artillerists trained as infantry, but they had one six-pounder with them. The road was a clear gash in the wilderness. There were no alternative routes and it was reasonable to believe that they were already betrayed by their guide, a slave named Louis Pacheco.

The Indians had scouted every step of the detachment's march. At a spot near what is today the town of Bushnell, the Indians lay in wait. They had selected an area of open pinewoods where escape by the enemy would be difficult, and hid among the palmetto clusters in a line west of the road. The Wahoo Swamp lay at the Indians' backs to provide an escape, if necessary.

According to the report of the sole survivor, Major Dade had just finished promising his men a late Christmas celebration at Fort King, when a sheet of fire rained down on them. The first volley felled half the command, including Major Dade. Captain Gardiner took command and with good discipline ordered a fall-back without panic. As they retreated they fired from behind trees and managed to fire the six-pounder. The effective return fire drove the attackers off for awhile, leaving the soldiers sufficient time to erect a log breastwork into which they dragged their fallen companions.

One hundred eighty Indians opened fire once again with such a withering fusillade that the breastwork and surrounding trees were later found saturated with lead. An attack with tomahawks and clubs was thrown back, but eventually the six-pounder ran out of ammunition and by four in the afternoon not a soldier was standing.

Osceola did not follow up this victory by an assault on Fort Brooke as expected by that garrison. Instead he was content to join the revelry of his people in celebrating this great day. But his joy was misplaced. He had not won back Florida for his people, but rather, had precipitated a long and hopeless war.