

BATTLE OF NATURAL BRIDGE

U.S. 319, 6 miles east of Woodville
Leon County

At Natural Bridge in 1865, a battle was fought that saved Tallahassee from capture by the Federal forces, making it the only Southern capital east of the Mississippi that did not fall into Union hands.

On March 4, 1865, a fleet of 11 steamers and three sailing vessels landed a force of the Union Army at St. Marks lighthouse 20 miles south of Tallahassee at the mouth of the St. Marks River.

News of the landing reached Tallahassee, the militia was called out, and every man and boy who could bear arms did so. Cadets from the West Florida Seminary (now Florida State University) were among those who fought, thus earning the right to one of three Confederate battle streamers awarded to schools in the country today.

Gen. Newton, in command of the Federals, determined to try to cross at Natural Bridge several miles up river where the St. Marks goes underground. Gen. Miller anticipated the enemy's movement, and when the Federals arrived, they found the position well defended. After finding the Confederate position impregnable, Gen. Newton withdrew his forces to Key West.

Confederate losses in the battle were placed at three men killed. The Federals lost 148.

I hereby certify that this property is included in the
National Register.

Ernest Allen Connerly

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 2 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Mumford
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

PH-0002283

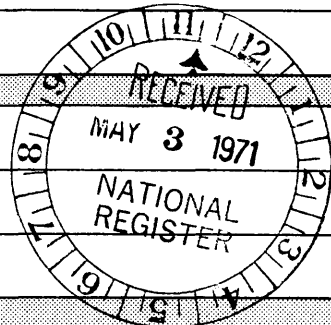
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
 COUNTY: Leon
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: 70.9.09.0015
 DATE: 9/29/70

1. NAME
 COMMON: Battle of Natural Bridge Battlefield
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: Six miles east of Woodville off U.S. 319
 CITY OR TOWN: Woodville vic.
 STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Leon CODE: 073



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Historic memorial</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Division of Recreation and Parks
 Department of Natural Resources
 STREET AND NUMBER: Larson Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund
 STREET AND NUMBER: Elliott Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Florida Historic Sites Survey 1940
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Archives, History and Records Management
 STREET AND NUMBER: 401 East Gaines Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida
 COUNTY: Leon
 ENTRY NUMBER: 70.9.09.0015
 DATE: 9/29/70
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

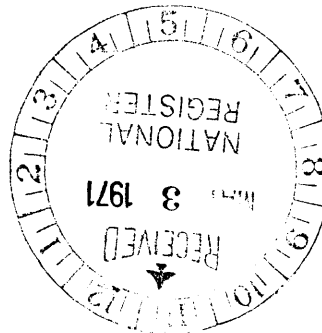
Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Natural Bridge of the St. Marks River is a swampy area near the southern boundary of Leon County, where the river passes through a series of underground passages between sinks and rises for a distance of perhaps half a mile. This produces an intricate series of disconnected short channels which, beginning at a rise, flow above ground for a short distance to disappear underground at a sink. The last rise is in a basin, from where the river flows above ground to its confluence with the Wakulla River. About one-half mile below the basin, the river is traversed and dammed by a ledge of lime rock.

The disappearance of the river between sink and rise forms a "natural bridge," and affords crossing of the St. Marks River.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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) **March 6, 1865**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

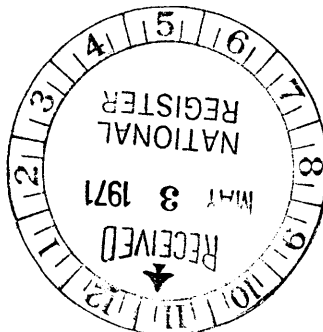
In March of 1865, a Federal force of between 600 and 700 men landed at St. Marks, Florida and began their march inland toward the interior and the Capitol at Tallahassee.

Upon arrival at Newport, it was concluded that passage of the St. Marks River at that point, either by way of the heavily defended bridge or by fording was impossible. At this point, the Federal commanders made a decision to make a night march to the so-called Natural Bridge and attempt a passage there.

The Federal force was met at daybreak on March 6 at Natural Bridge by a Confederate force of approximately 700 men including cadets from the West Florida Seminary at Tallahassee. The Confederate forces were deployed in such a manner as to permit a converging fire at the point where the Federal force meant to cross. Because of this superior position, they completely routed the Union force and drove them back.

The results of the Battle of Natural Bridge prevented the capture of the one State Capitol east of the Mississippi River that was not entered by the Union armies until after the close of the War Between the States.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archer, Sue. "Reminiscences of the Battle of Natural Bridge," Daily Democrat (Tallahassee), November 7, 1918.
 Boyd, Mark F. "The Battle of Natural Bridge," Florida Historical Quarterly XXXIX (October, 1950), 3-36.
War of the Rebellion: Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. XLIX, Part I, 57-69, 1029-1043.

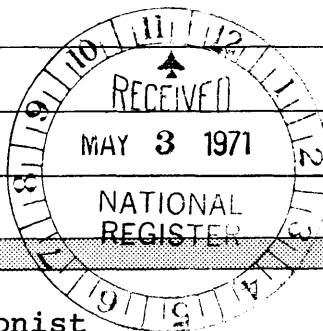
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	30° 16' 58"	84° 09' 10"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	30° 17' 12"	84° 08' 57"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	30° 17' 12"	84° 08' 57"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	30° 16' 58"	84° 09' 10"		° ' "	° ' "	

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

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Randy F. Nimnicht, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt.** DATE: **3/16/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: *Robert Williams*
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: April 29, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Pennington
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
SEP 10 1971

Date: _____
 ATTEST:
William H. Stewart
 Keeper of the National Register
NOV 17 1971
 Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Leon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-9-09-0015	DATE 9/29/90

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Battle of Natural Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Six miles east of Woodville off U.S. 319

CITY OR TOWN:

Woodville

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Leon

CODE

073

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Woodville
Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series (topo)

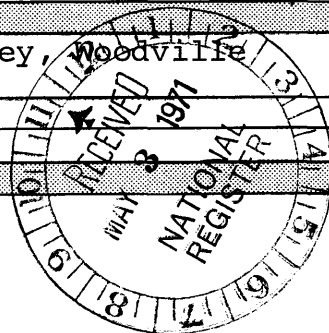
SCALE: 1:24,000

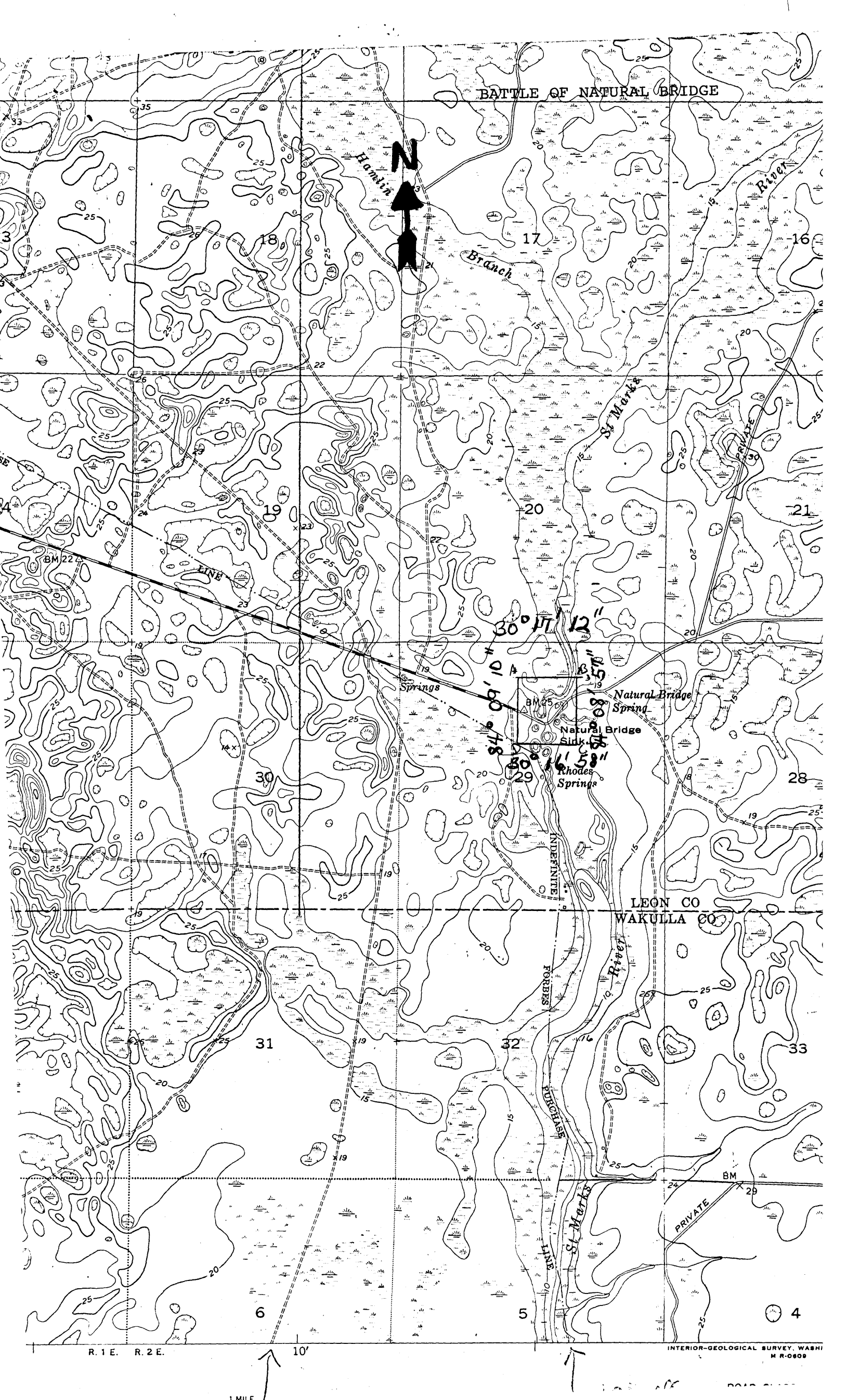
DATE: 1954

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





BATTLE OF NATURAL BRIDGE



Hanlin

Branch

River

St Marks

PRIVATE

LINE

Springs

Natural Bridge Spring

Natural Bridge

Sidk.

Rhodes Springs

LEON CO

WAKULLA CO

FORBES

RIVER

St Marks

PRIVATE

BM

R. 1 E. R. 2 E.

10'

1 MILE

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASH D C M R-0608