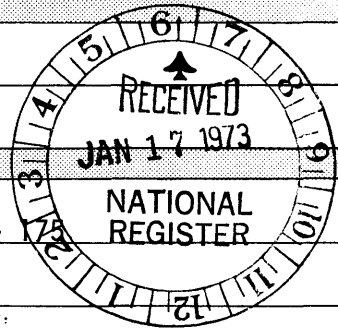


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE: Louisiana | |
| COUNTY: De Soto | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | APR 13 1973 |



1. NAME

COMMON:
Mansfield Battle Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mansfield Battle Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
4 miles S/E of Mansfield on State Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Mansfield

STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **022** COUNTY: **De Soto** CODE: **031**

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Drawer 1111

CITY OR TOWN: **Baton Rouge** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Parish Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Mansfield** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Mansfield Battle Park

DATE OF SURVEY: **July 1963** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Parks and Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Drawer 1111

CITY OR TOWN: **Baton Rouge** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: **APR 13 1973**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" 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 | | |

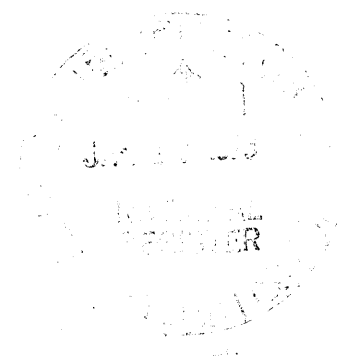
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A major portion of the Moss Plantation on which the Battle of Mansfield was fought is now the Mansfield Battle State Park and as such is kept in a park like condition. A centrally located building houses a museum which contains relics of the battle of Mansfield, displays of confederate and federal equipment and dioramas of the battle on the field.

With the exception of commemorative monuments marking the location of various forces, the area is still much the same as it was at the time of the battle. The surrounding area is rural and sparsely settled. The battlefield is still surrounded by woods and the original fence rows still stand. The road mentioned by General Taylor in his description of the area is now State Highway 175.

The appearance of the area at the time of the Red River Campaign was described by General Richard Taylor in his account of the battle. He wrote; the road from Natchitoches to Shreveport through Pleasant Hill and Mansfield passed through a hilly country and for the most part followed a divide, crossing very few streams that furnished enough water to supply a large army. Most of the area was heavily wooded and scattered farms along the way were incapable of furnishing any considerable amount of forage for either army.

General Taylor helped to explain his choice of a place to make a stand with these words: three roads lead from this place (Mansfield) to Shreveport, the Kingston, the middle and the Ketachi. The distance by the first, "the one nearest the valley of the Red River, is thirty eight miles; by the second, forty; and by the third, forty five. If the federal forces could get past Mansfield, then, the enemy would have three roads, one of which would be near his fleet on the Red River. Only one direct passable road connected Mansfield and Pleasant Hill".



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

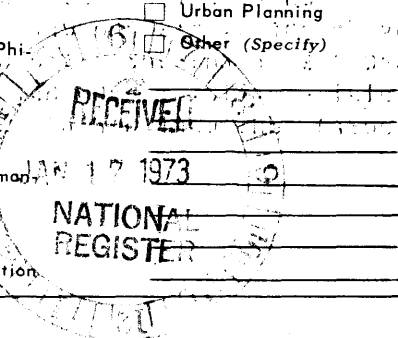
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE, (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

What is believed to be the most important battle of the Civil War, West of the Mississippi, was fought on and near the Moss Plantation, part of which is now the Mansfield Battle Park, near Mansfield, Louisiana.

It was at this point on April 18, 1864, confederate forces under the command of General Richard Taylor, stopped the federal advance on east Texas and the upper Red River. This defeat ended the Red River campaign which was a massive military operation under the command of Major General Nathaniel P. Banks. General Banks employed 36,000 federal soldiers and had under the direct command of Admiral David D. Porter a naval force of fourteen ironclads, six tinclads and numerous transport and supply vessels, believed to number sixty in all. This huge military array was tied up for three months at a time when the United States Army was attempting to defeat Lee at Richmond.

Although the Red River campaign was a costly military endeavor, the main purpose of the campaign was to satisfy economic and political commitments. President Lincoln was under great pressure by prominent New England industrialists and politicians who demanded that an expedition be sent to Texas to secure the cotton lands and free labor to supply the idle cotton mills of the north. A second group consisting of the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa were experiencing a pinch on their economy. They demanded, under threats of secession, that the Mississippi River be immediately opened to their trade. In October 1862, President Lincoln conceded to these demands and commissioned General Banks to establish headquarters in New York and raise an army for this purpose. After many delays the expedition departed from New York on December 4, 1862, to begin a campaign which many months later would end in defeat and the loss of 762 Union troops killed or wounded and 1551 missing. One thousand confederate soldiers were killed or wounded and both sides lost untold amounts of materials and supplies.

So crushing was the defeat, no further major federal effort was made west of the Mississippi.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Destruction and Reconstruction. By General Richar Taylor. D. Appleton & Co. N. Y. 1879 - Red River Campaign. By Ludwell H. Johnson. John Hopkins Press, Baltimore 1958 - The Civil War in Louisiana. By John D. Winters, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, La. 1963 - Facts About The Civil War. By Dwight D. Eisenhower, Civil War Centennial Comm. July 1959 - Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies, 27 Vols.,(Washington, 1894-1919) - Official Records, War of the Rebellion, A compilation of Official Federal and Confederate Records,(Washington 1880-1901).

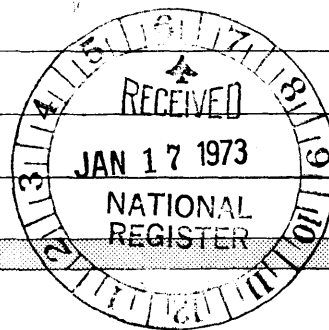
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | 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 |
| NW | 32° 00' 43.6" | 93° 40' 5" | ° | ' | " |
| NE | 32° 00' 43.6" | 93° 39' 45" | ° | ' | " |
| SE | 32° 00' 27.2" | 93° 39' 45" | ° | ' | " |
| SW | 32° 00' 27.2" | 93° 40' 5" | ° | ' | " |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 44

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| NONE | | NONE | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herman C. Willem, Jr.
 ORGANIZATION: State Parks and Recreation Commission DATE: _____
 STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Drawer 1111
 CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22

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: George W. Peake

Title: _____

Date: 9 Jan - 1973

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

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 13 1973

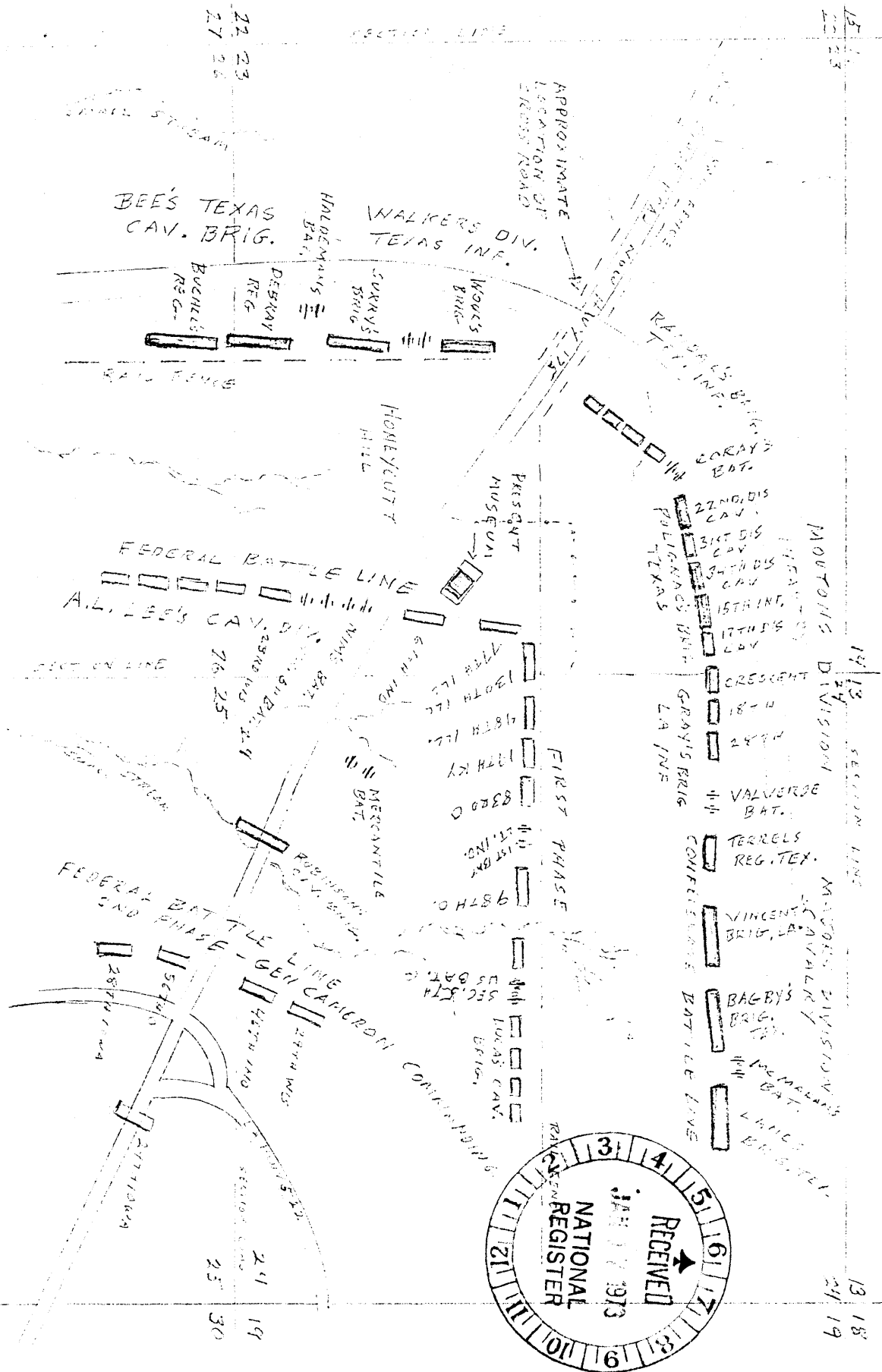
Date: _____

ATTEST:

J. S. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: April 9, 1973

Position of battle lines from a sketch by Capt. A.H. Thigpen, Crescent Reg. C.S.A. and S.F. Benson, participant from the 32nd Iowa. pub. in annals of Iowa in 1906



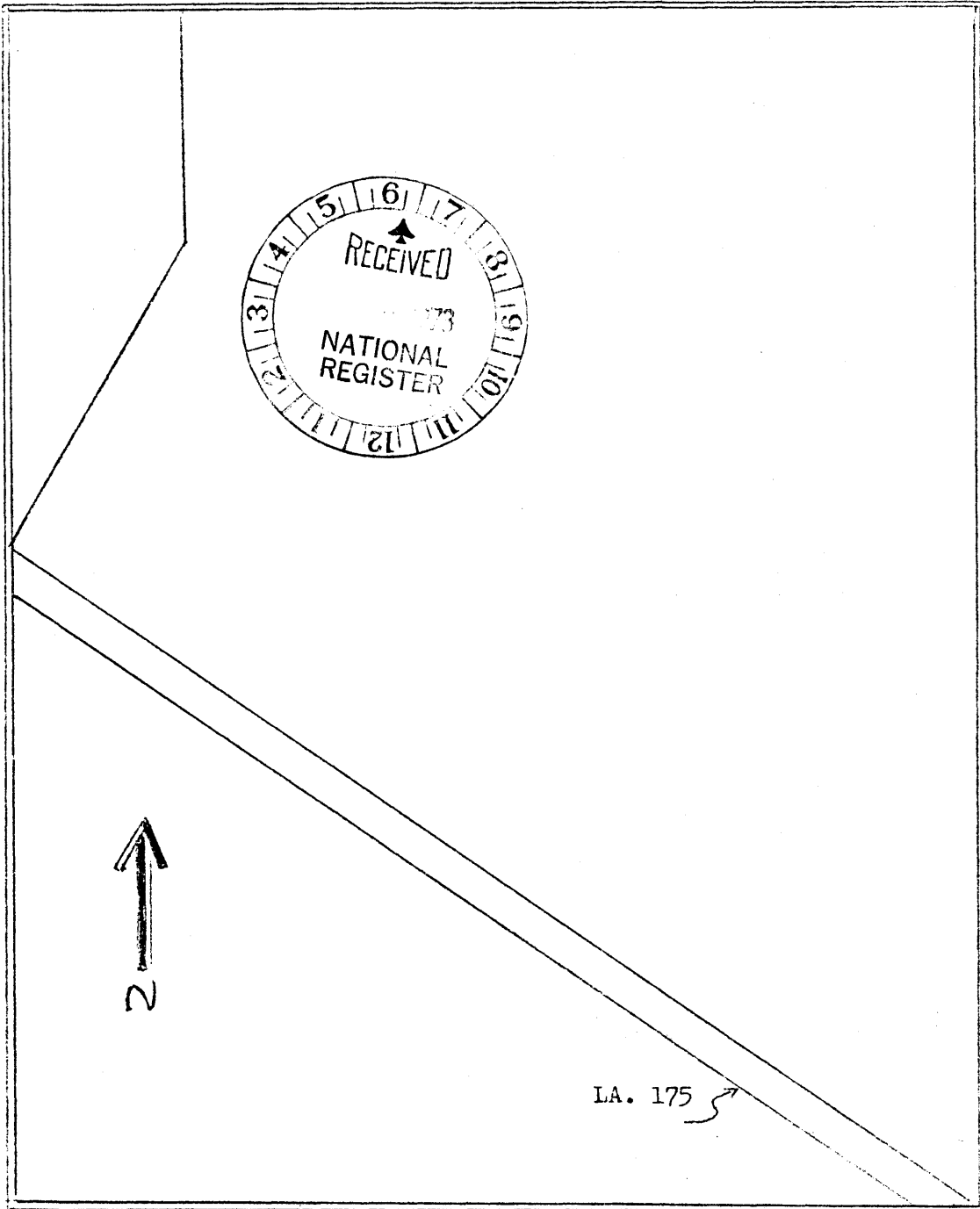
T 12 N. R 13 W.
 MANSFIELD QUADRANGLE
 U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

REPRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MANSFIELD BATTLE PARK

Long.
93°40'5"
Lat.
32°00'43"

Long.
93°39'45"
Lat.
32°00'43"



Long.
93°40'5"
Lat.
32°00'27"

Long.
93°39'45"
Lat.
32°00'27"

Section 23.T12N. R 13 W
Mansfield Quadrangle
U. S. Department Of The Interior
Geological Survey
Scale 3/8"=100'