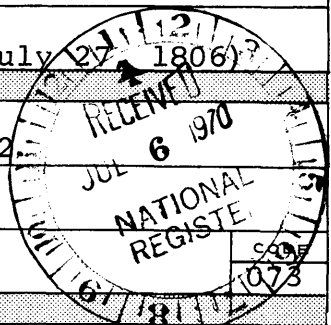


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Montana	
COUNTY: Pondera	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.25.0009	DATE 10/6/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
 Two Medicine Fight Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Site of Lewis' Fight with the Blackfeet (July 27, 1806)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Township 31 North, Range 7 West, Section 12

CITY OR TOWN:
approximately 25 miles ESE of Browning

STATE: Montana CODE: 25 COUNTY: Pondera

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>see attachments</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Federal Trust Land
Indian Trust Land - Allotment #766 Blackfeet

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bureau of Indian Affairs Office, Blackfoot Agency

CITY OR TOWN: Browning STATE: Montana CODE: 25

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Pondera County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Conrad STATE: Montana CODE: 25

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
State Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: Sept., 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Fish and Game Department

STREET AND NUMBER:
Recreation & Parks Division

CITY OR TOWN: Helena STATE: Montana CODE: 25

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Montana
COUNTY: Pondera
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.25.0009
DATE: 10/6/70
FOR NPS USE ONLY

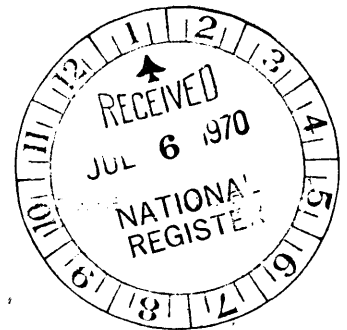
7. DESCRIPTION

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

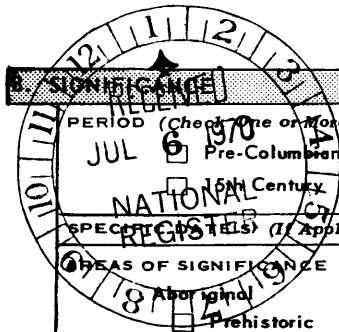
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The land is little changed since Lewis saw it. The same steep bluffs that figured in the fight, a similar growth of cottownwoods on the bottom. Perhaps as perfect integrity as a site of this kind can possibly have.

The site lies within the following described boundary: Beginning at the NW point at intersection of west boundary of Section 12 and Two Medicine Creek; thence in an easterly direction following Two Medicine Creek 3/4 mile; thence in a southerly direction 1/2 mile; thence in a westerly direction 3/4 mile; thence in a northerly direction 1/3 mile to Two Medicine Creek, the beginning point.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
 16th Century
 17th Century
 18th Century
 19th Century
 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known) July 26 and 27, 1806

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Exploration</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

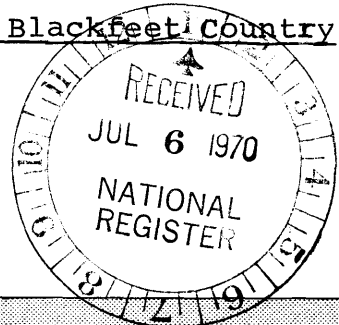
On the evening of July 26, 1806, Lewis and his small party consisting of himself, George Drewyer, Joseph and Reuben Fields, encountered eight Piegans (one of the Blackfoot tribes), and agreed to camp with them at Two Medicine Creek. They arose on the morning of the 27th to find the Indians stealing their guns. R. Fields pursued one Indian and killed him while retrieving his gun. Drewyer jumped up and seized his gun from another Indian and Lewis awoke, pursued and retrieved his gun from a third Indian. Then the Indians endeavored to make off with the horse herd. The main Indian party attempted to drive the horses up the creek and were pursued by Drewyer and the Fields. These fleeing Indians were driven off but had been able to escape with a few horses. The remaining horses were brought back to camp by the Fields. Meanwhile Capt. Lewis pursued two other Indians trying to head up the bluff in the opposite direction with the other horses. In the course of retrieving these horses, Lewis shot and killed a second Indian and barely missed being shot in the head during the skirmish. Lewis and his party then took the horses they needed and rode with great haste to the mouth of the Marias River fearing pursuit by a larger band of Indians.

This encounter was particularly significant: as the first meeting between representatives of the U. S. and the Blackfoot tribes, as the first encounter fought between the army and the plains tribes and as the only fight between members of the Lewis and Clark expedition and Indians during the entire trip. This encounter represented the most crucial point as an obstacle to the successful completion of the Lewis and Clark expedition. This event, also an omen of future relations between white men & Indians, closed the upper Mo.R. to whites for sometime. In addition, the area surrounding the fight site contains much evidence of Indian culture including buffalo remains, Indian tipi rings, and a pisiskun.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

West, Helen B., Meriwether Lewis in Blackfeet Country
 BIA, Browning, Montana, 1964



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
NW	48°	27'	50"	112°	28'	05"			
NE	48°	27'	50"	112°	27'	07"			
SE	48°	27'	23"	112°	27'	07"			
SW	48°	27'	23"	112°	28'	05"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **220 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Robert A. Murray

ORGANIZATION: State Fish and Game Department DATE: Sept., 1968

STREET AND NUMBER:
Recreation & Parks Division

CITY OR TOWN: Helena STATE: Montana CODE: 25

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 Wesley R. Woodgerd
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date _____

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

Ernest Allen Murray
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 OCT 6 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Courtauld
 Keeper of The National Register
 AUG 19 1970

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

TWO MEDICINE FIGHT SITE

In all of the approximate 8,000 mile round trip of Lewis and Clark Expedition from St. Louis up to the Pacific Ocean via the Missouri and Columbia Rivers is there a more wildly beautiful, yet desolate, area than the Two Medicine Fight Site. Located on the south side of the Two Medicine River a few miles southwest of Cut Bank and on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the area is inaccessible by motor vehicle.

The description from the Journals of Lewis reads:

-- "we decended a very steep bluff about 250 feet high to the river where there was a small bottom of nearly 1/2 mile in length and about 250 yards wide in the widest part, the river washed the bluffs both above and below us and through it's course in this part is very deep; the bluffs are so steep that there are but few places where they could be ascended, and are broken in several places by deep niches which extend back from the river several hundred yards, their bluffs being so steep that it is impossible to ascend them; in this bottom there stand t(h)ree solitary trees" --



It was here on a Saturday afternoon, July 26, 1806, that four members of the expedition, Meriwether Lewis, George Drewyer, Joseph Fields and Reuben Fields made contact with eight Indians, camped with them, and in a fight early the next morning when the Indians attempted to make way with their horses, two of the Indians were killed. Lewis and his men then fled the area, joining part of the expedition on the Missouri River, and later joining with Clark and the remainder of the men at the confluence of the Missouri with the Yellowstone. Had Lewis and his men been killed in this encounter, and his journals and records destroyed, the loss would have been incalculable. The area is also of major significance because some 19 miles northwest of the Fight Site is the area Lewis named Camp Disappointment, and which is located on Cut Bank Creek. It marks the furthest point north of the expedition and determined the northern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase. Camp Disappointment has been designated as a National Historic Landmark and a large bronze plaque has been placed at the site.

Standing by the three trees referred to by Lewis in his journal, one can easily visualize the descent of Lewis and his men with the Indians to the area, their camp that evening, and conversations carried on through Drewyer by sign language. The discovery of this exact location was possible through the initiative, research and determination of historian, Helen B. West, Scoutmaster Robert H. Anderson, and the Boy Scouts of Troop #44 of Cut Bank. As a result, the Fight Site is now marked by a large rustic sign made by the National Park Service, erected by the Scouts, with an inscription relating the events that happened there. The three trees have been encircled by a four pole, log fence, some 280 feet in length, the material for which was carried into the area by the disastrous Two Medicine River Flood of 1964.

Nearby are fossil remains of prehistoric animals and marine life estimated to be millions of years old, buffalo jump, stone mounds, and teepee rings. Efforts are continuing to have the Fight Site and the surrounding area designated as

an historical landmark and to protect the area. While many Boy Scouts know of its whereabouts, probably less than 75 adults have visited the site, a tribute to its inaccessibility. Some day when the area is adequately supervised and protected and roads are constructed it will be a point of historical interest and Indian culture visited by thousands of persons. The Montana Legislature in its 1969 Session adopted a Joint Resolution requesting the United States to protect and develop the area as a National Monument.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

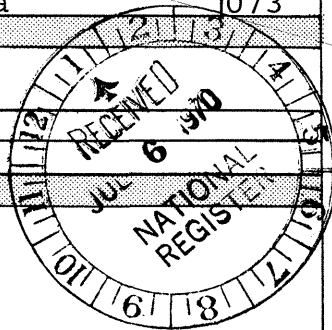
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
Montana	
COUNTY	
Pondera	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
40.10.25.0009	10/6/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Two Medicine Fight Site			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Site of Lewis' Fight with the Blackfeet (July 27, 1806)			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Township 31 North, Range 7 West, Section 12			
CITY OR TOWN:			
approximately 25 miles ESE of Browning			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Montana	25	Pondera	073
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S., Lake Frances, Mont. quadrangle			
SCALE:	15 minute series 1:62,500		
DATE:	1937		
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



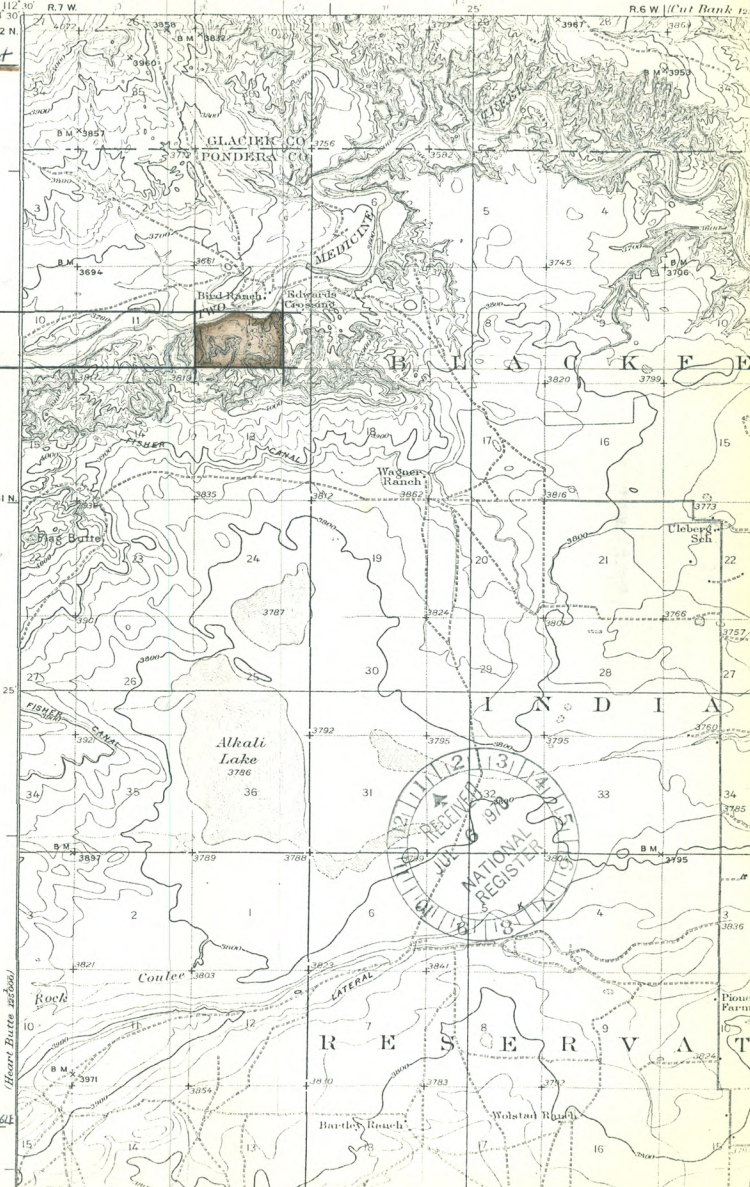
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TWO MEDICINE FIGHT SITE
Site of Lewis Fight with the Blackfeet

48° 27' 50"
↑
N. LAT.
48° 27' 23"

TRUE MERIDIAN
MAGNETIC MERIDIAN
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1934

U. S. G. S.
LAKE FRANCES MONT. QUADRANGLE
15 MINUTE SERIES 1937



INDIAN RESERVATION

LEWIS 23-26 JULY 1806

CAMP DISAPPOINTMENT

BLACKFOOT AGENCY #4 1895

CHOPIN FAMILY MISSION 1887

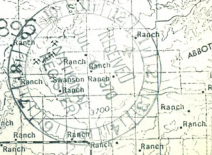
LEWIS FIGHT 27 JUL 1806

BLACKFOOT AGENCY #3, 1874-1895

U.S.G.S
CUT BANK MONT. U.S.; CANADA

NM 12-10
1:250,000

N. LAT: 48° 27' 23" to 48° 27' 50"
W. LONG: 112° 27' 07" to 112° 28' 05"



Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

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	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

10.10.25.0009. 10/6/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Two Medicine Fight Site			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Site of Lewis' fight with the Blackfeet (7-27-1806)			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Township 31 North, Range 7 West, Section 12			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Approximately 25 miles ESE of Browning			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Montana	25	Pondera	073
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. Cut Bank, Montana U.S.A.: Canada NML2-10			
SCALE: 1:250,000			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

