

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic FORT MEIGS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Ohio Route 65

not for publication

city, town Perrysburg

vicinity of

state Ohio

code 39

county Wood

code 173

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Ohio; Administered by Ohio Historical Society Fort Meigs Union Cemetery

street & number 17th Avenue and I-17

City of Perrysburg

city, town Columbus,

vicinity of

state Ohio

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wood County Courthouse

street & number

East Wooster Street

city, town

Bowling Green

state Ohio 43401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Landmark Survey,
National Register of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date

federal state county local

depository for survey records Ohio Historical Society

city, town Columbus

state Ohio

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Fort Meigs is located at the western edge of Perrysburg, Wood County in the Fort Meigs State Memorial Park. The park lies in an area which is rapidly shifting from agricultural to suburban usage through the development of new, large, single family homes. Within the park the site of the original fortification is occupied by a reconstruction of Fort Meigs as it appeared during the 1813 seige and serves as a tourist attraction. The area inside the stockade is occupied by a section of the original earthwork traverse, remains of two magazines and the fort well. Other structures within the stockade include fourteen reconstructed earthen ramparts, a log house headquarters structure, a granite obelisk memorial, three smaller stone monuments, and a large stone visitors center. The perimeter stockade is 2500 yards in circumference, constructed of 15 ft. vertical logs set three feet in the ground, and contains seven log blockhouses and five artillery batteries. Although the reconstruction serves to help interpret the historic significance of the fort, all of the buildings, monuments and reconstructed structures must be considered non-contributing towards the historic and archaeological significance of Fort Meigs. Sections of original earthen traverse, the remains of the two magazines and the well constitute the only visible structures associated with the original stockade area. The ditch or moat associated with the smaller and second Fort Meigs (1813-1815) which is discernable in aerial photographs is a contributing structure since it represents archaeological remains of continued activity by the same garrison after the May seige.

Without the stockade, a maintenance structure, main parking lot, a public fishing access and parking area, the septic tank for the park facilities, a picnic shelter and a monument to Pennsylvania Volunteers killed at the fort are considered non-contributing buildings and structures. The remainder of the state park property contributes to the site for several reasons. Based on the contemporary Sebree and Larwill maps, the confines of the park approximate the area cleared around the stockade to provide open fields of fire. The same maps also indicate that the cleared area was utilized extensively by the garrison before, during, and after the May 1813 seige. Seven activity areas are gleaned from the Sebree and Larwill maps and include three cemetery areas for the garrison, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and Kentucky Militia; an artificers yard and structure; a hide processing area; a bake house; and a boat harbor. Various contemporary accounts mention activities at these areas and the garrison orderly books also order "sinks" up to four feet deep placed at least 100, and later 150, yards from the stockade. The above evidence suggests that the cleared area around the stockade, today approximated by the state park limits, was considered an important part of the encampment and is therefore, archaeologically and historically, as significant as the fortified area.

As an archaeological site, Fort Meigs has an uneven history of preservation. Bisected by a road (later Ohio Route 65) along the second traverse line, much of the southern half of the site was farmed until the 1970's. Largely through the efforts of the Hayes family, who acquired the

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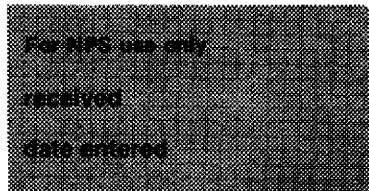
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northern half of the stockade area in the 1840's but did not farm it, much of the original fort and the entire second fort remained intact well into the 20th century. In 1907 the Ohio Historical Society acquired part of the site and in 1908 the 82 ft. high Fort Meigs Monument was erected by the Fort Meigs Commission. In 1923 the Pennsylvania Monument was erected in the cemetery area containing graves of the Pittsburg Blues. About 1931 O.H.S. began management of the site and by 1933-34 had erected a stone shelterhouse along Rt. 65. A park road through the north half of the fort, a second shelterhouse (near Blockhouse #2) and several concrete picnic shelters were established on the previously undisturbed portion of the site. Three small stone markers commemorating the deaths of several fort occupants and the preservation efforts of the Hayes family were established about this time.

O.H.S. continued to acquire parcels through 1967, and then began efforts to reconstruct the Fort. Excavations in 1967 and 1968 focused on collecting architectural data for reconstructing a section of the north stockade in 1972. Unfortunately, the stockade area and batteries were not completely excavated prior to reconstruction. In 1972 and 1973, Defiance College excavations were designed to collect architectural data on the southern portion of the stockade and examine other features of the fort. At the same time, the Society began operations to complete the reconstruction which called for removal of Ohio Rt. 65, demolition of one shelterhouse and the picnic shelters and recreation of the earthen traverses. The grading operations associated with these activities caused extensive damage to the site, particularly at the western end where the earthworks of the second fort were leveled. Since 1975, when reconstruction was completed, archaeological efforts have concentrated on midden zones along the outside of the stockade or along the original areas of the main traverse.

In spite of the almost certain destruction of the remains of the stockade and blockhouses, as well as large areas of the several encampment areas, subsurface features remain and have been recovered inside the fort since the reconstruction. In addition, the well and the powder magazines should contain intact deposits and portions of a series of 10 ft. deep "sinks" ordered to be dug in the rear of each unit's encampment should also remain intact inside the stockade. Outside the immediate stockade area, little excavation has taken place. In spite of this, fort era artifacts have been recovered by collectors from the boat harbor and artificers area. These, and other extra-stockade activity areas are likely to yield new and significant information on Fort Meigs. Since the cleared area around the stockade was also used for burial sites and refuse deposition, the entire area should be considered a single site with the parking areas, maintenance building, septic tank, picnic shelter and Pennsylvania Monument considered non-contributing buildings and structures.

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Little evidence of the British siege effort remains visible. The sites of the British encampment area and all of the batteries placed on the north side of the river have been obliterated by the development of the city of Maumee, Ohio. However, on the south side of the river, some 400 meters east of the Fort Meigs stockade, are remains of the small battery which commenced firing on May 3rd and maintained a crossfire until it was stormed and neutralized by U.S. forces on May 5, 1813. Presently located within Section M. of the Fort Meigs Union Cemetery, the sites consist of two adjacent semicircular depressions excavated into the west edge of a deep ravine and a low crescent shaped earthen mound located about 200 ft. south of the depressions. The depressions measure 20 X 14 X 4 and 20 X 20 X 5 feet in length, width and depth and represent emplacements for a 5.5 inch howitzer and a mortar of similar size. These guns bombarded the fort with explosive shells. The earthen mound (or barbette) served as protection for a field cannon which fired six pound solid shot at the fort and grapeshot or cannister at the attacking U.S. forces on May 5. The barbette was designed to be fired over and was probably never more than 3.5 to 4 ft. high.

Both areas (the barbette and the two depressions) lie within unoccupied grave plots. The barbette lies within four 20 X 11 ft. numbered plots which are owned by the cemetery. The two depressions occupy 3 numbered plots which are owned by the Witzler family of Perrysburg. Both the cemetery and the Witzler family recognize the significance of the sites and intend that they remain undisturbed.

These two small parcels represent the only designated areas which lie beyond the State owned Fort Meigs Park.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1813-1815 **Builder/Architect** Capt. Eleazer D. Woods, U.S. Army Engineer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the spring of 1813 Fort Meigs, while serving as a winter encampment for regular and militia elements of General William Henry Harrison's forces, was besieged by British regulars, Canadian militia and warriors of several Native American groups. The fort successfully withstood a 9 day siege, thereby frustrating British efforts to regain control of the Northwest Territory. This siege marks the zenith of the British advance in the west as well as the maximum effort by the Native forces under the Shawnee, Tecumseh, during the War of 1812. Probably due to its association with Harrison, the site of Fort Meigs remained little disturbed for over a century before it was acquired as a state park. Since that time numerous archaeological investigations have revealed significant information on the structure and details of the fort as well as information on activity patterns and material culture of the U.S. forces in the War of 1812. Thus, though the site is significant primarily as an historic and archaeological site, it is also associated with the life of President Harrison.

* * *

Late in 1812, General Harrison began assembling forces for a winter campaign against the British at Fort Malden, Ontario. Harrison concentrated troops and supplies at the lower rapids of the Maumee River in preparation for this attack but, following the defeat of his forces at the River Raisin, halted his advance and constructed a winter encampment called Camp Meigs.

The camp was barely completed when on April 27-28, an invasion force of British regulars, fencibles and militia under Col. Proctor and a Native American contingent under Tecumseh encamped just downstream. While Tecumseh's forces harassed the fort with musket fire, Proctor began constructing artillery batteries opposite Fort Meigs. In defense, Harrison built the "grand traverse" an earthen parapet 12-ft. high, 20-ft. wide and about 300 yards long through the center of the Fort. The tents of the garrison were placed behind this earthen shield on May 1st when the bombardment began. On May 2, a second traverse was completed across the rear of the camp and the two were connected by several perpendicular parapets, forming a "citadel." While the British artillery attempted to bombard the fort into surrender, Tecumseh's forces continued to snipe at the garrison from behind logs and stumps near the walls and particularly from the right (east) flank. Under the cover of this activity a small battery was emplaced on the south side of the river 400-500 yards east of the fort and opened a crossfire on May 3rd.

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The bombardment slackened on May 4th when it became apparent that this was not having the desired effect. Harrison had taken about thirty casualties, most of whom were wounded by musket fire. Upon learning that some 1,200 Kentucky militia reinforcements would arrive by boat the next day, Harrison planned a counterattack on the British batteries for the morning of May 5. Under the command of Col. William Dudley, 800 Kentuckians were to land on the north shore and storm the batteries while the remainder of the reinforcements under General Greene Clay continued to Fort Meigs. Dudley successfully captured the batteries, but rather than destroying the magazines and spiking the guns, allowed his troops to be drawn into ambush by a small group of Native American warriors. Attacked in the rear by British infantry rushing to retake their batteries, Dudley was overwhelmed and all but about 100 of his militia were killed or captured.

Meanwhile, Gen. Greene Clay and the remaining third of the reinforcements landed above the fort and fought their way to the main gate at the south end of the stockade. Upon their arrival, the militia assisted Major Ball's dragoons and volunteer infantry in a sortie against the Native Americans who had opposed their landing. Ball pushed the enemy well into the woods but had trouble extricating himself because the Kentuckians were reluctant to end the pursuit. Retreating to the fort, Ball was hotly pursued to within 150 yds. of the gate, suffering most of his 15-20 casualties while trying to disengage.

Harrison then ordered an attack on the small battery to the east of the fort. This was carried out by Col. Miller with a 350 man force of regulars, the Pittsburg and Petersburg volunteers, and Kentucky militia. Miller charged and carried the battery which was defended by 200 regulars, 150 Canadians and some 500 warriors. The Kentuckians, "with characteristic ardor" (McAfee 1816: 290), rushed into an ambush, were surrounded and suffered heavy casualties until extricated by a portion of the regulars. Having spiked the British guns, Miller withdrew with two officers and forty-one privates as his prisoners and having lost 30 killed and 90 wounded.

Fighting came to a halt early in the afternoon and the rest of the day was spent in negotiating terms for the exchange of prisoners. These activities continued through May 7. On the 8th the Native American warriors were notably absent and the British began to decamp, an operation which was complete by 10 a.m. of May 9th and marked the end of the siege. Never again would the British or Native Americans pose a serious threat to U.S. control of the Northwest Territory.

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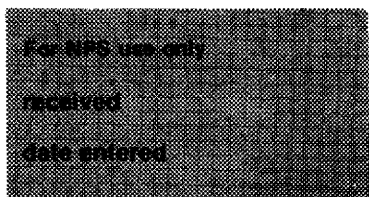
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Fort Meigs served as an encampment throughout the summer of 1813 and was subjected to a second attack in July which consisted of a ruse or "sham battle" by British regulars and a large number of Native American warriors designed to lure a portion of the garrison into ambush. When their effort failed the British again withdrew to Ontario. Anticipating an invasion from Ontario, Harrison ordered Fort Meigs reduced in size for defense by a smaller force. By mid-September Fort Meigs had been reconstructed as a "small post in the upper corner of the old works. . . "(McAfee 1816: 362). By October the garrison consisted of Ohio militia and was utilized as a depot for supplies throughout the remainder of the war, being abandoned in the spring of 1815.

With the return of peace, renewed settlement of northern Ohio was stimulated by the experiences of 1812 veterans and resulted in the platting of the town of Orleans-of-the-North in the area of the former fort. Parts of the site were purchased as early as 1816 while the remaining portion, including the second fort and the southern portion of the original stockade, was sold in 1848. This section contained visible earthworks and was preserved by the owners until it was acquired by the State of Ohio.

Between 1907 and 1967, the State of Ohio acquired the site of Fort Meigs as a historic monument and park. Development for this purpose included installation and later demolition of park roads and picnic shelters, removal of a state highway from the site, and reconstruction (1969-1973) of the May 1813 configuration of Fort Meigs.

Development of the site has been accompanied by an intensive archaeological program begun in 1966 as a test excavation by Raymond Baby, Archaeology Department, Ohio Historical Society. In 1967-68 Joseph Thatcher of the O.H.S. History Department conducted work designed to recover architectural information for reconstruction of the fort. By 1972, with some reconstruction under way, Randall Buchman of Defiance College was placed in charge of excavations at Fort Meigs and through 1979 carried out a series of limited excavations including the fort well, the Grand Traverse, Gratiot's (Tennessee) Battery, and several midden areas. From 1977 through 1979 John Nass directed the Defiance College fieldwork and prepared his Master of Arts Thesis on the artifacts recovered through 1978. The most recent archaeological work was carried out in 1984 after O.H.S. graded the slope below the north (river) stockade wall. These salvage excavations were carried out by the Ohio Historical Society Contract Archaeology Department under Donald Bier.

During the period 1975-79, Dr. David Stothers, Department of Anthropology, University of Toledo directed a series of excavations oriented towards a significant prehistoric occupation of the same site. Stothers' activity was

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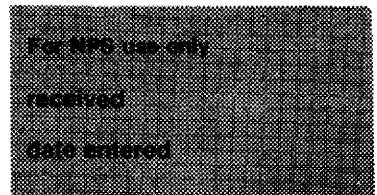
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carried out at the eastern end of the site and encountered some 1813 features. His activities have also contributed to an assessment of 20th century damage to both components.

The excavations at Fort Meigs have provided significant information on the construction of the Fort, the material culture of the garrison and on some of the activities which occurred during the May 1813 seige. Features, such as the partially excavated well and several midden zones on the slope have provided new details on the uniforms and accouterments of various aspects of U.S. forces in the 1812-1815 period. Nass (1980) has provided a quantitative description of the material recovered as of 1978, but the potential for additional analytical work includes comparisons of regulars vs. militia, officers vs. ranks, and U.S. vs. British forces.

As yet unexcavated areas contain sinks, or latrine/refuse features associated with particular encampments as well as those for general use. The well and magazines have not been fully exposed and structures reported outside the stockade (bake house, artificers structure and boat harbor area), although pictured on contemporary maps, have yet to be located. Finally, at least three unmarked cemeteries contain remains of victims of the seige, many of which bear evidence of the types of physical trauma associated with early 19th century frontier warfare. All of these areas contain the potential for producing significant new information on Fort Meigs, the garrison and the culture of the period.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 62.25

Quadrangle name U.S.G.S. 7.5' Maumee

Quadrangle scale 1,24000

UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>279040</u>	<u>4602930</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>17</u>	<u>279060</u>	<u>4603250</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>17</u>	<u>279290</u>	<u>4603340</u>
---	-----------	---------------	----------------

D	<u>17</u>	<u>279260</u>	<u>4603440</u>
---	-----------	---------------	----------------

E	<u>17</u>	<u>279080</u>	<u>4603470</u>
---	-----------	---------------	----------------

F	<u>17</u>	<u>278940</u>	<u>4603640</u>
---	-----------	---------------	----------------

G	<u>17</u>	<u>278570</u>	<u>4603390</u>
---	-----------	---------------	----------------

H	<u>17</u>	<u>278670</u>	<u>4603170</u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached continuation sheet

I	<u>17</u>	<u>278670</u>	<u>4602990</u>
J	<u>17</u>	<u>279530</u>	<u>4603410</u>
K	<u>17</u>	<u>279520</u>	<u>4603380</u>

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title G. Michael Pratt, Ph.D., Archaeologist

organization Heidelberg College Archaeology

date 11/20/85

street & number 310 East Market Street

telephone 419-448-2070

city or town Tiffin,

state Ohio

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 4/29/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date _____

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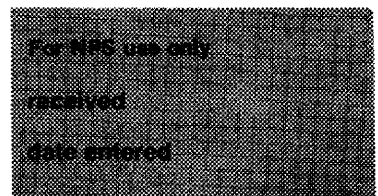
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Averill, James P.

1886 Fort Meigs, A Condensed History of the Most important Military Point in the Northwest, Together With Scenes and Incidents connected with the Sieges of 1813, and a Minute Description of the Old Fort and its Surroundings as they now Appear. Blade Printing and Paper Co., Toledo, Ohio.

Boehm, R. B. and R. L. Buchman (eds.)

1975 Journal of the Northeastern Campaign of 1812-1813 Under Major General William H. Harrison by Bvt. Lieutenant-Colonel Eleazer D. Wood, Captain Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. The Defiance College Press, Defiance, Ohio.

Lindley, Harlow (ed.)

1975 Fort Meigs and the War of 1812, Orderly Book of Cushing's Company, 2nd U.S. Artillery April 1813 - February, 1814, and Personal Diary of Captain Daniel Cushing October 1812 - July 1813. Ohio Historical Society, Columbus.

McAfee, Robert B.

1816 History of the Late War in the Western Country - Reprinted 1919 Historical Publications Company, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Nass, John P.

1980 A Description and Quantitative Analysis of Artifacts Recovered from Fort Meigs (1813-1815) Wood County, Ohio. M.A. Thesis, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

Nelson, Larry L.

1985 Men of Patriotism, Courage and Enterprise!; Fort Meigs in the War of 1812. Daring Books, Canton, Ohio.

1985 The Mapping of Fort Meigs. Unpublished ms. submitted to Northwest Ohio Quarterly, Maumee Valley Historical Society, Maumee, Ohio.

Rutter, William E.

1984 The Upper Mississippian Component at the Fort Meigs Site, Northwest Ohio, with Special Emphasis on the Analysis of the Ceramic Assemblage. M.A. Thesis, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

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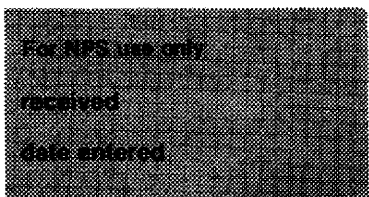
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Except for two parcels described below, the boundary of Fort Meigs N.H.L. coincides with the State of Ohio property and is outlined on the accompanying U.S.G.S. Quadrangle. Beginning at the southeastern most point of the State property at its junction with Ohio Route 65 (A), the boundary runs 400 m. north along the rear of the Fort Meigs on the River development to the edge of a large ravine (B), then east-northeast for 300 m. across a small ravine and through the rear of the "Kentucky Cemetery" at point C. The state property boundary is presently marked by a split rail fence to this point. From the cemetery the boundary runs north for about 140 m. to the end of abandoned Ohio Route 65 (D) thence west following a small stream for 260 m. to the fishing area access road (E). From the road the line continues northwest along the same stream to its outlet at the Maumee River (F). Running southwestward along the river bank for 550 m. the boundary makes a sharp turn (G) and runs southeast for 300 m. to the top of the valley wall and the junction of abandoned Rt. 65 and Fort Meigs Road (H). Following Fort Meigs Road the line runs south and along a rail fence for 200 m. to Ohio Route 65 (I) and then eastward along Route 65 for about 460 m. to the starting point (A). This area encloses the 66.22 acres of the Fort Meigs State Memorial Park.

About 400-450 m. due east of the eastern point of the reconstructed stockade lie the only visible remains of the British siege effort. This battery is located along the western edge of a north-south ravine and contains the remains of two mortar/howitzer emplacements near the mouth of the ravine and an earthen barbette just south of the head of the ravine. The pit structures are adjacent and open to the edge of the ravine. Traces of an elevated mound can be seen around the circumference of the pits but this is severely eroded. The northernmost pit measures 14 X 20 ft. while the southernmost measures 20 X 20 ft. Both are four to five feet deep and provided a depressed emplacement out of which explosive shells could be fired along a parabolic trajectory. These pits occupy the majority of three unoccupied 20 X 11 ft. grave plots identified as Numbers 96, 97, and 98, Section M. They extend into unoccupied grave spaces in Numbers 99, 100, and 101. All six of these plots are owned by the Witzler family and form an area 60 ft. E-W and 22 ft. N-S for a total of 1320 sq. ft. (J). The barbette is represented by an earthen mound which is aligned roughly N-S. The mound is approximately 35 ft. long and 19 ft. wide and is slightly concave on the eastern (or field gun) side. The mound varies from 2 to 3 ft. in height along its crest. The barbette structure occupies four 20 X 11 ft. grave lots designated Section M, Numbers 142, 143, 165 and 166. The total area involved in these lots is 880 sq. ft. in a rectangle of 22 ft. E-W by 40 ft. N-S. (K). The corners of the plot areas are indicated by numbered concrete monuments. These two areas represent the only parcels which lie outside the state owned property and both are located on Fort Meigs Union Cemetery property.

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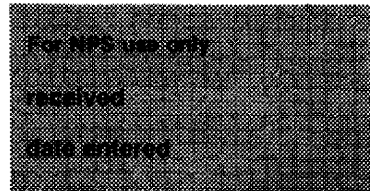
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Justification

Fort Meigs was originally more than just a stockaded area. Though not a classic example of military engineering, Fort Meigs was built by a U.S. Army Engineer trained in defensive fortifications. A cleared area several hundred yards in all directions from the inner works was commonly established to create open fields of fire for the defenders and to force attackers to expose themselves to artillery fire before coming within effective musket range. These cleared areas also provided a secure area for support activities such as washing, cooking, butchering and recreation. Warehouses, latrines, bakehouses, smithshops and etc. were often constructed in these areas which were under the influence of a fort's defenses except during active assault.

That Fort Meigs contained such a clearing is revealed on both the Larwill and Sebree maps (Photo #3, 4). The former shows a very large cleared area which extends almost 400 meters east, south, and west of the fort and to the river on the north. The Sebree map, which uses three scales, is less clear but indicates the clearing extended at least 200 m. from the south end of the stockade, further on the west and perhaps not so far on the east. Within this area an artificers structure, boat dock, and bakehouse are recorded on maps, and instructions for use of the area for refuse disposal and latrines are recorded in the garrison orderly books. Finally three burial areas were designated within this area.

At present, the State owned property reflects the feeling of this cleared zone. Although trees are present and the ravine area south of the stockade is probably more wooded than in 1813, this does not detract from the exposed feeling one notices when approaching the formidable stockade. (In fact, the 1813 defenders received fire from behind stumps, logs and isolated trees in areas where some clearing activities were incomplete). Private development adjacent to state property has impacted the fringe of the original cleared area and the battlefields of the May 5 sorties, as well as the piquet guard areas which were placed well beyond the original clearing. Since the area is significant both archaeologically and as an historic site, as much as possible, the area which was historically considered a part of the fort and which has archaeological potential is included in the Landmark designation.

The boundary areas proposed for the British battery remains are based on the recognition of the gun emplacement structures rather than the site of the battery. These structures are noted on two historic maps. The Larwill map (Photo #3) locates the battery in the second ravine east of the fort and denotes two gun positions. The Sebree map (Photo #4) is more detailed and depicts two gun positions at the mouth of the same ravine and a third position

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

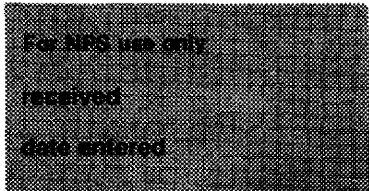
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

FORT MEIGS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

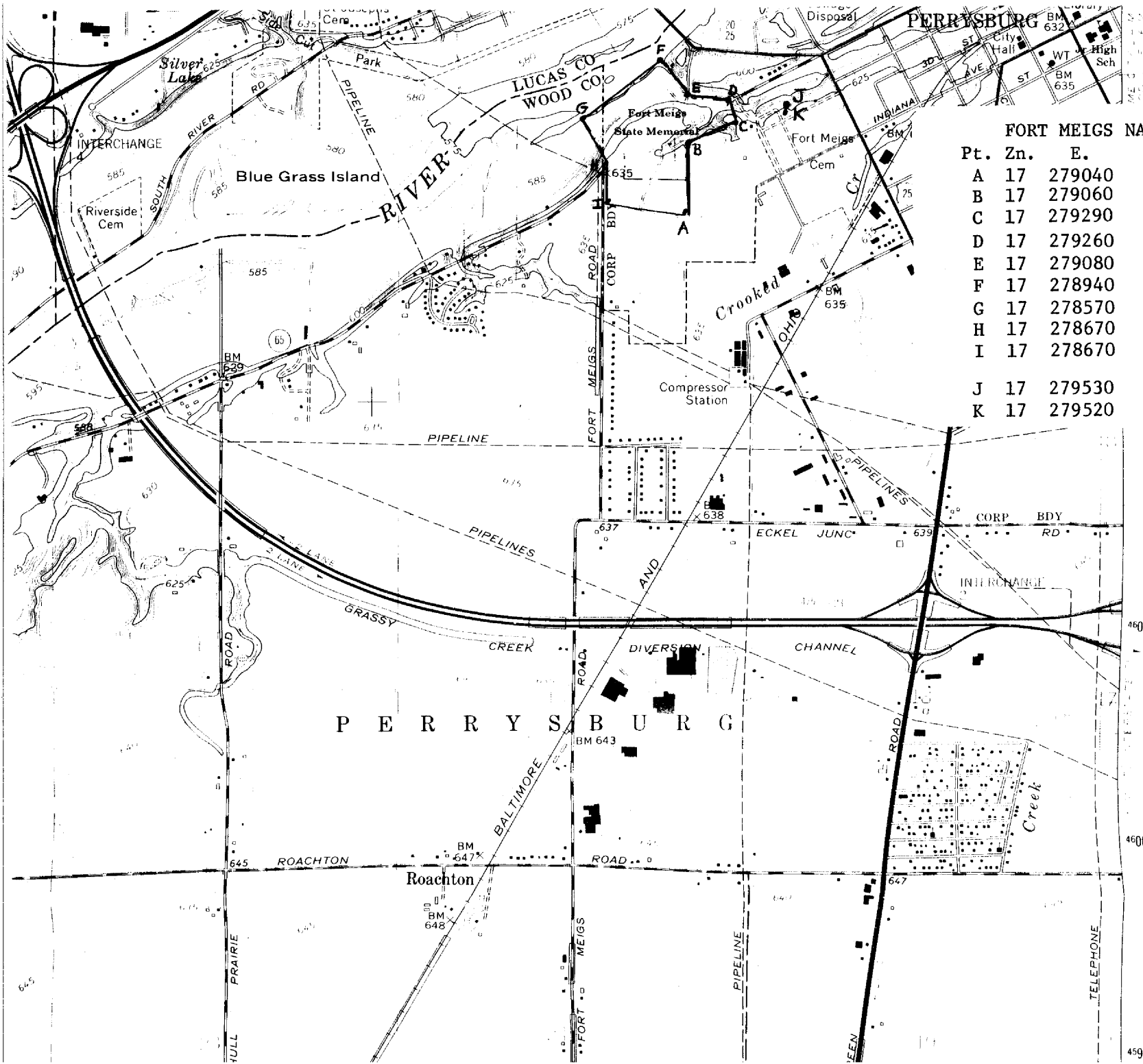
Continuation sheet 10-3

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somewhat to the south, while Capt. Cushing, in his diary, states that Col. Miller's assault on this position destroyed three guns. The battery was defended by about 350 British and Canadian Troops who, presumably, camped in the area of the battery and came to its defense on May 5. The majority of the battery area has been intensively disturbed by excavation of hundreds of grave sites and retains little archaeological potential. The barbette and the howitzer/mortar pits should be considered significant as historic structures and also have some archaeological potential since they and the grave plots in which they lie have not been disturbed. Finally all of the other battery locations have been impacted by recent development and no longer retain archaeological or historical significance.



FORT MEIGS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Pt.	Zn.	E.	N.
A	17	279040	4602930
B	17	279060	4603250
C	17	279290	4603340
D	17	279260	4603440
E	17	279080	4603470
F	17	278940	4603640
G	17	278570	4603390
H	17	278670	4603170
I	17	278670	4602990
J	17	279530	4603410
K	17	279520	4603380

4601

4600

4599