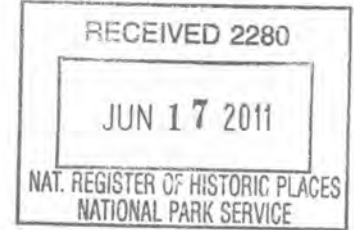


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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pecatonica Battlefield

other names/site number Battle of Horse Shoe Bend; Battle of Bloody Lake

2. Location

street & number 2995 County Highway Y

city or town Town of Wiota

state Wisconsin

code WI county Lafayette

N/A not for publication

N/A vicinity

code 065 zip code 53599

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally statewide _ locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

June 9, 2011

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Pecatonica Battlefield

Lafayette

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

7.28.11

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

private	building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
X public-local	district		6 buildings
public-State	structure	1	sites
public-Federal	X site		structures
	object	1	1 objects
			7 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE/battle site

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

The Pecatonica Battlefield is located in the Town of Wiota, just outside of Woodford, Wisconsin, a tiny village in Lafayette County in southwestern Wisconsin. The battle site is located in Blackhawk Memorial Park, a 120-acre park that sits along the Pecatonica River and County Highway Y. The park is in the geological region known as the Driftless Area, an area of numerous hills and valleys, giving the park a very picturesque setting. Farmland and privately owned woodlands surround the park. Within the park, there are open and wooded spaces, low wetlands, access roads, camping sites and three oxbow lakes related to the river. Since the Period of Significance and the area relate to the battlefield, only the site itself is a contributing resource. Within the park there is a metal pole building used for storage, four privies, and a large covered shelter. The metal pole building, the privies, and the shelter are non-contributing resources of the site.¹

The Battle of the Pecatonica (or Horse Shoe Bend) was one of three significant military engagements during the American-Indian conflict known as the Black Hawk War of 1832. Historical sources pinpoint the specific location of the battle ground in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, Township 2 North, Range 5 East, Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin. The battle site begins near the park entrance where the American troops entered the site, then sweeps down toward the north edge of an oxbow lake, now known as Bloody Lake. Because the area of the troop movements is significant to the battle, this area of the park is included along with the actual battle site in this nomination. At a clearing at the lake edge, there is a marker denoting what is thought to be the exact location of the actual battle. The Rhoda Hinsdale Schullsburg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) and the Town of Wiota dedicated the marker in 1922. While the marker commemorates the historic event, it is not related to the military significance of the site and it, therefore, non-contributing.

The topography of the site begins at a high point near the park entrance and runs downward to Bloody Lake. The remainder of the park and the area around it are more topographically dramatic. Specifically, the elevation of the bottomland along the Pecatonica River is between 785 and 790 feet above mean sea level (amsl), while that of a prominent wooded ridge on the east side of the park, north of the intersection of CTH Y and Sand Road, is between 800 and 850 feet amsl. A high, steeply-sloped cultivated ridge bordering the west side of the river, across from the park, has an elevation between 850 and 900 feet amsl.

¹ This nomination was prepared with the assistance of Dave Breunig and the following organizations: Lafayette County Sportsman's Alliance, Argyle Rod and Gun Club, Belmont Sportsman's Club, Blanchardville Sportsman's Club, Fayette Sportsman's Club, Friends of Woodford Park, Gratiot Sportsman's Club, Isaac Walton League of Benton, Pecatonica River Enhancement Council, Shullsburg Conservation Club, South Wayne Sportsman's Club, Wings Over Wisconsin SW Chapter, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

The landscape of the park is different than it was at the time of the battle. Today, the upper or northern part of the park is largely open space punctuated with large trees. As the land moves lower, it enters swampy bottomland, then a heavily wooded area along Bloody Lake. The original landscape described in Government land surveyors' records from 1832 indicates a vast prairie on the upland ridge west of the Pecatonica River, and mention thickets comprised of prickly ash and tangled underbrush and vines in ravines and bottomland areas along the river.²

The property, about one mile north of the small village of Woodford, is owned by Lafayette County, but is maintained and operated by the Lafayette County Sportman's Alliance, with support from the Friends of Woodford Park. The park is meticulously maintained and is a real "hidden treasure" in the area.

SITE INVENTORY

<i>Name</i>	<i>Resource</i>	<i>Contributing/Non-Contributing</i>
Battlefield (1832)	Site	Contributing
Marker (1922)*	Object	Non-Contributing
Storage Building (modern)	Building	Non-Contributing
Shelter (modern)	Building	Non-Contributing
Privies (4, modern)	Buildings	Non-Contributing

INTEGRITY

Although the area has changed since the period of the Black Hawk War, the open nature of the site remains and the landscape elements associated with the battle are clearly identifiable from the descriptions found in the written accounts of the event.

*While the marker commemorates the site, it is outside the Period of Significance and does not relate to the battle itself.

² State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, Wisconsin Public Land Survey Records: Original Field Notes and Plat Maps, Township 2 North, Range 5 East, Section Line Between Sections 10 and 11 (North), Interior Field Notes by G. W. Harrison (April 1832), Board of Commissioners of Public Lands in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Madison General Library System (<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SurveyNotes>).

Pecatonica Battlefield
Name of Property

Lafayette
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Period of Significance

1832

Significant Dates

1832

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance

The Pecatonica Battlefield is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its statewide significance in the area of military history. The period of significance corresponds to the year of the battle – 1832. At this site, a small, but significant battle, or skirmish, took place that would help change the course of the Black Hawk War, an Indian-American conflict that was the last Native American stand against the opening up of vast areas of Wisconsin for white settlement. Prior to this skirmish, the course of the war had been going badly for the Americans, who were trying to force a band of Sac and Fox Indians to move back across the Mississippi River. These Indians and some members from other tribes, under the leadership of Black Hawk, were attacking white settlers in the lead mining region of northwest Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. As the Indians moved into northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, federal troops and local militia groups were sent to intercept them and drive them back west.

At the beginning of the war, the Americans had little success in even finding the Indians, and one skirmish resulted in an embarrassing retreat for the Americans. The short, violent, battle at the Pecatonica site was a clear victory for American militiamen who showed a high level of discipline under the leadership of Henry Dodge of Wisconsin. This battle convinced the Americans that they could win this type of war and made a military hero out of Henry Dodge, who would take a significant leadership role in the eventual destruction of Black Hawk's followers. After the Black Hawk War, there were no other impediments to white settlement and the opening of Wisconsin as a territory, then a state, soon followed.

Historical Background: The Black Hawk War

The Black Hawk War began on April 5-6, 1832, when a group of about 1,200 Sac (Sauk), Fox (Mesquakie) and some Kickapoo under the leadership of Black Sparrow Hawk (Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kiak) crossed the Mississippi River from Iowa and returned to the Illinois side of the river in the hope of re-occupying their ancestral homeland and planting their corn.³

³ John A. Wakefield, *Wakefield's History of the Black Hawk War of 1832* (Madison: Roger H. Hunt, 1976); Reuben Gold Thwaites, "The Story of the Black Hawk War," *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Volume XII* (Madison: Democrat Printing Company, 1892), 217-265; Moses M. Strong, *History of the Territory of Wisconsin from 1836 to 1848*, (Madison: Democrat Printing Co., 1885), 131-150; Elizabeth B. Rooney, "The Story of the Black Hawk War", *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 40, no. 4 (1957): 274-283; William T. Hagan, *The Sac and Fox Indians* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958); Crawford B. Thayer, *Hunting a Shadow, The Search for Black Hawk: An Eye-Witness Account of the Black Hawk War of 1832* (Menasha, Wis.: Banta Press, 1981).

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Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Black Hawk believed that the 1804 treaty at St. Louis, which ceded all Sac lands east of the Mississippi, was fraudulent and invalid since it was negotiated by two Sac representatives who never possessed the authority to speak for the whole nation. The Sac chief also believed (albeit erroneously) that his Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Potawatomi, Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Ottawa neighbors would join him in fighting the Americans if necessary, and that in case of full-scale war the British they also would come to his aid.

What precipitated the 1832 conflict was the fact that the Sac and Fox Indians continued to cross the Mississippi to their ancestral village, Saukenuk, after being told for several years that they could no longer do so. White settlers then moved into Saukenuk and white leaders thought they finally had convinced the Native Americans in 1831 to not come back to Illinois and the Michigan Territory (which included Wisconsin). But, in 1832, the Native Americans, under the leadership of Black Hawk, again crossed the Mississippi and began to travel up the Rock River to the east. Illinois Governor John Reynolds considered this movement an invasion and a violation of the agreement and called out the Illinois Volunteer Militia to protect the thousands of settlers who had swarmed into the Lead Mining District during the 1820s and 1830s. U.S. troops under the command of Gen. Henry Atkinson soon arrived and for the next four months the Americans pursued Black Hawk and his band across northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, often ignoring or misunderstanding their offers to surrender and negotiate for peaceable removal across the Mississippi.

Military Events of Spring 1832

The arrival of Black Hawk's band caused much excitement throughout the Lead Mining District. Miners immediately set to work building stockades and block houses near their lead diggings. In southwestern Wisconsin, they constructed forts near the homes and smelters of Henry Dodge at Dodgeville (Fort Union), Henry Gratiot at Gratiot's Grove (Fort Gratiot), and William Hamilton at Wiota (Fort Hamilton), on D. M. Parkinson's farm near Mineral Point (Fort Defiance), and at Ebenezer Brigham's settlement at the Blue Mounds (Mound Fort), where settlers were to take refuge in case of enemy attack. Other forts were built at Cassville, Diamond Grove, Elk Grove, Monticello, New Diggings, Platteville, Shullsburg, Sinsinawa, White Oak Springs, and Wingville.⁴

For a brief time, Black Hawk's warriors took the offensive and raiding parties attacked isolated communities of white settlers. On May 14, 40 Sac warriors repulsed 275 poorly-disciplined militia, who fled in fear and confusion in a fiasco that became known as the Battle of Stillman's Run about 30 miles upriver from Dixon's Ferry, Illinois. Eight days later, on May 21, Potawatomi and Sac warriors

⁴ Patrick J. Jung, *The Black Hawk War of 1832* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007), 212.

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Continuation Sheet

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Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

seeking supplies for the retreating band killed 15 white settlers and kidnapped Sylvia and Rachel Hall at Indian Creek, 12 miles north of modern Ottawa, Illinois. On May 24, two Fort Hamilton area men, Aaron Hawley and William Hale, were killed by an Indian party near Kellogg's Grove, Illinois. On June 6, a group of about five Rock River Winnebagos attacked two men outside the fort at the Blue Mounds and killed one of the men, William G. Aubrey, a miner who worked for Ebenezer Brigham at Blue Mounds.

Word of the attacks and killings spread like wildfire across the prairies of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, further igniting fear and panic among the settlers.

Events at Spafford's Farm - June 14, 1832

Such were the conditions on the Northwest frontier in the late spring of 1832. In early June, the countryside around Fort Hamilton (at Wiota) had remained remarkably quiet for several days. So, on the morning of June 14, six men went out to hoe corn on the farm of Omri Spafford, six miles southeast of the fort near the mouth of Spafford Creek, which emptied into the Pecatonica River. Along with Mr. Spafford were five men: Abraham Searles, James McIlwaine, John Bull, Bennet Million, and Francis Spencer. As they worked in the corn field, a party of Sac shot and killed Spafford, McIlwaine, Bull, and Searles. Seventeen-year-old Million managed to survive by swimming the river and running for five miles, before returning to Fort Hamilton that evening. Spencer, who could not swim, grabbed his gun and shot one of his pursuers, before hiding in thickets along the river. Feared dead, he arrived at Fort Hamilton several days later. Commonly called the Battle of Spafford's Farm, the attack was of little importance, but it led to the next major battle of the region, and the first real loss for Black Hawk's men.⁵

Events at Fort Hamilton - June 15, 1832

Following Million's arrival at Fort Hamilton, messengers were immediately sent on horseback to Fort Defiance and other settlements to warn them of the attacks and to seek help. Messengers were also sent to Col. Henry Dodge at Dodgeville, who commanded the local militia and what organized protection the settlers of southwest Michigan Territory had. By the next morning, 20 volunteers gathered at Fort Hamilton and, guided by Million, went to the scene of the killings, where they found the four dead men and buried them in a common grave. The men searched until evening for Spencer, but could find no evidence of him, fearing him dead. The group returned to Fort Hamilton to await the arrival of Col. Henry Dodge, who would decide their next actions. Meanwhile, more miner-soldiers arrived at the fort, including Sioux and Menominee, who were assisting the U.S. troops and militia.

⁵ Jung, *The Black Hawk War of 1832*, 109.

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Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

The Battle of Pecatonica - June 16, 1832

The next morning, June 16, Col. Henry Dodge, accompanied by Thomas Jenkins and John Messersmith Jr., started on horseback for Fort Hamilton by way of the Blue Mounds. While approaching Fort Hamilton, Dodge left the main road, which passed around a field, and took a shortcut. Coming back onto the main road, he met and talked with a German settler by the name of Henry Apple, who was on horseback and hurrying to his cabin nearby to get some provisions so he could join the scouting party at the fort. Before reaching Fort Hamilton, Col. Dodge heard guns fired and Apple's riderless horse soon came galloping back, with a bloody saddle and a bullet-hole through the top of its neck and ear. A search found Apple's body along the road near where Col. Dodge had met him, about 400 yards north of the fort. The war party had apparently been lying in ambush to attack Dodge.

Following the incident, "all was wild excitement" at Fort Hamilton.⁶ Enraged by the previous day's events at Spafford farm and the killing of Apple, Col. Dodge instantly ordered the men to "saddle up." He reportedly said, "Fellow-soldiers — We shall immediately follow the Indians, and overtake them if possible. We know not their number. If any of you cannot charge them sword in hand, fall back now, as I want none with me but those on whom I can rely in any emergency."⁷ None fell back.

Twenty-nine mounted men joined Col. Dodge in the pursuit. What happened next is best described in Dodge's official report to Gen. Atkinson:

The Indians⁸ had not more than thirty minutes start. They retreated through a thicket of undergrowth, almost impassable for horsemen; they scattered to prevent our trailing them. Finding we had open prairie around the thicket, I despatched [sic] part of my men to look for the trail of the Indians in the open ground. In running our horses about two miles, we saw them about half a mile ahead, trotting along at their ease; they were making for the low ground, where it would be difficult for us to pursue them on horseback. Two of the small streams had such steep banks as to oblige us to dismount, and jump our horses down the banks, and force our way over the best way we could. This delay again gave the Indians the start, but my horses being good, and men eager in the pursuit, I gained on them rapidly. They were directing their course to a bend of the Pecatonica, covered with a deep swamp, which they reached before

⁶ William Salter, *The Life of Henry Dodge from 1782 to 1833: with Portrait by George Catlin and Maps of the Battles of the Pecatonica and Wisconsin Heights in the Black Hawk War* (Burlington, Iowa, 1890), 37.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ There is conflicting information whether the Indian warriors were Sac or Kickapoo.

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Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

I could cross that stream, owing to the steepness of the banks, and the depth of the water. After crossing the Pecatonica, in the open ground I dismounted my command, linked my horses, left four men in charge of them, and sent four men in different directions to watch the movements of the Indians, if they should attempt to swim the Pecatonica; the men were placed on high points that would give a view of the enemy, should they attempt to retreat. I formed my men on foot at open order, and at trailed arms, and we proceeded through the swamps to some timber and undergrowth, where I expected to find the enemy. When I found their trail, I knew they were close at hand; they had got close to the edge of the lake, where the bank was about six feet high, which was a complete breastwork for them. They commenced the fire, when three of my men fell, two dangerously wounded, one severely but not dangerously. I instantly ordered a charge on them made by eighteen men, which was promptly obeyed. The Indians being under the bank, our guns were brought within ten or fifteen feet of them before we could fire on them. Their party consisted of thirteen men. Eleven were killed on the spot, and the remaining two were killed in crossing the lake, so that they were left without one to carry the news to their friends.

The volunteers under my command behaved with great gallantry. It would be impossible for me to discriminate among them; at the word "charge," the men rushed forward, and literally shot the Indians to pieces. We were, Indians and white, on a piece of ground not to exceed sixty feet square.⁹

Matthew G. Fitch, a participant of the fight, provides some additional insight regarding the pursuit. In his recollection, Fitch notes that Col. Dodge had difficulty in crossing the river as the water was deep and the majority of the men could not swim. As a result, they were ordered to proceed rapidly up the river half a mile to a place where a deep ford allowed the mounted volunteers to cross.¹⁰

The names of the volunteer militia at the Pecatonica battle included: Col. Henry Dodge, Capt. James H. Gentry, Lieut. Daniel M. Parkinson, Lieut. Charles Bracken, Lieut. Paschall Bequette, Lieut. Porter, Lieut. Kirkpatrick, Dr. Allen Hill (surgeon), Thomas Jenkins, William W. Woodbridge, John Messersmith Jr., Asa Duncan, Benjamin Lawhead, Samuel Patrick, William Carnes, John Hood, Levin Leach, Alexander Higginbotham, Samuel Black, Dominick McGraw, Samuel Brents, Peter Parkinson Jr., Van Waggoner, Samuel Wells, Montaville Morris, Matthew G. Fitch, and a man named

⁹ Salter, *The Life of Henry Dodge from 1782 to 1833*, 37-38.

¹⁰ Lieut. Matthew G. Fitch, "The Battle of Peckatonica," *Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Volume X* (Madison: Democrat Printing Company, 1888), 182.

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Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Rankin.¹¹ The other three men appear to have included Peter Parkinson, Sr., Thomas H. Price, and William Deveise.

During the brief struggle, three of Dodge's men were mortally wounded: Samuel Black, Samuel Wells and Montaville Morris. Wells and Morris subsequently died at Fort Hamilton. Black died nine days later at Fort Defiance. Thomas Jenkins was slightly wounded.¹²

The names of the Indian warriors are not recorded. Chief Black Hawk was not present at the battle and did not participate in the conflict at the Pecatonica River. The main body of Black Hawk's band was north of Lake Koshkonong at the time. Whether or not the Sac leader ever learned of what had occurred along the banks of the Pecatonica is unclear as he makes no mention of the incident in his autobiography, which includes an eloquent defense of his actions and an articulate statement of the case against U.S. aggression.¹³

Following the skirmish, the troops returned to Fort Hamilton, conveying the wounded by litter and wagon. Col. Dodge returned to his home at Fort Union, and later went to Galena, Illinois, where he was presented with a flag from the ladies, with the sentiment, "The Daughters of the Lead-Mines to our Father War-Chief." The citizens of Prairie du Chien sent Dodge a double-barreled shotgun in testimony of their respect for his valor.

Col. Henry Dodge's Map of the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend (Battle of Pecatonica)

Col. Henry Dodge's troop movements and the defensive position of the Indian warriors on the east side of a slough along the Pecatonica River are clearly shown in a map prepared for Dodge's official report to Gen. Atkinson¹⁴ Dodge shows the point at which he dismounted and left his horses with a guard (modern east side of the park), the line of march in his advance into the ambushade, the position of his men when they received fire and from which they made a charge, and the line of march in the pursuit including a ford in the Pecatonica River where Dodge and his men crossed before dismounting and preparing for action. The Indian position extended along the east bank of the slough (modern Bloody Lake).

¹¹ *History of LaFayette County, Wisconsin, Illustrated* (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881), 475.

¹² *History of LaFayette County*, 475; Kerry A. Trask, *Black Hawk, The Battle for the Heart of America* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2006), 233.

¹³ Donald Jackson, *Black Hawk: An Autobiography* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1964).

¹⁴ Salter, *The Life of Henry Dodge from 1782 to 1833*, between 36 and 37; map reprinted in Jung, *The Black Hawk War of 1832*, 111.

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Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Historical and Eye-Witness Accounts of the Battle of Pecatonica

Most of the early chroniclers of the Black Hawk War attributed great significance to the event. Thomas Ford, in his history of early Illinois (1854), said that “this little action will equal any for courage, brilliancy, and success in the whole history of Indian warfare.”¹⁵ Moses M. Strong (1879) also claimed that what had happened that day at the oxbow of the Pecatonica was “for daring bravery and cool undaunted courage, . . . not excelled in the history of Indian warfare.”¹⁶

In the 1850s, Charles Bracken, who participated in the fight, proudly stated, “The annals of border warfare furnish no parallel to this battle.”¹⁷ And, recalling the Battle of the Pecatonica in the 1880s, Peter Parkinson Jr., the last surviving participant of the fight, proudly stated, “a more determined set of men . . . never conducted themselves better, or more bravely, in the face of a foe, than did those engaged in this remarkable fight.”¹⁸

Military Events after the Battle of Pecatonica: June to August 1832

Twelve days after the conflict at the Pecatonica River, on June 28th, the whole army under the command of Gen. Atkinson, consisting of 400 regular infantry and about 2600 mounted volunteers, was sent in pursuit of Black Hawk.¹⁹ Following a summer of scattered, evasive movements in the swamps around Lake Koshkonong and a defensive battle fought at Wisconsin Heights (in modern Dane County), which allowed Black Hawk’s people to safely cross the Wisconsin River, Black Hawk and his followers were defeated while attempting to cross the Mississippi River near the mouth of the Bad Axe River (in modern Vernon County, Wisconsin) on August 2, 1832. Only 150 Indians survived the attack. The Black Hawk War was over.

After his capture, Black Hawk was imprisoned for a time and then released to live in the territory that is now Iowa. His spirit broken, Black Hawk later explained his motives: “Rock River was a beautiful country. I liked my town, my cornfields, and the home of my people. I fought for them.”²⁰

¹⁵ Thomas Ford, *A History of Illinois: From Its Commencement as a State in 1818 to 1847*. (Chicago: Lakeside Press, R. R. Donnelley and Sons, 1945).

¹⁶ Moses M. Strong, “The Indian Wars of Wisconsin”, *Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Volume VIII* (Madison: David Atwood, 1879), 277-278.

¹⁷ Gen. Charles Brackens and Maj. Peter Parkinson Jr., “Pecatonica Battle Controversy”, *Second Annual Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Volume II* (Madison: Calkins & Proudfit, 1856), 372.

¹⁸ Peter Parkinson Jr., “Notes on the Black Hawk War”, *Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Volume X* (Madison: Democrat Printing Company, 1888), 198.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 44.

²⁰ Thwaites, “The Story of the Black Hawk War,” 263.

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Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Aftermath of the Black Hawk War

The display of overwhelming power by U.S. troops and militia convinced the Sac and Fox and other Indian nations that reclaiming ancestral lands in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin by peaceful means or military force was no longer possible. After 1832, no further organized military resistance by Indian peoples to the U.S. government occurred in the Lead District. The result was a resurgence of lead mining and settlement in the region. Four years after the Black Hawk War, the lead region became part of Wisconsin Territory, and 12 years after that, the State of Wisconsin.

Epilogue: 1832 to the Present

The story of the Battle of Pecatonica and the memory of those who participated in the brief conflict have been kept alive and preserved on several occasions since that eventful day in June of 1832 during the Black Hawk War.

Brookes and Stevenson Painting, 1857

In 1857, the Pecatonica battle ground site was painted by English-born artists Samuel Marsden Brookes and Thomas H. Stevenson, who in the previous year had also painted the Wisconsin Heights Battlefield and Bad Axe Battleground. The pastoral scene, which shows the rolling countryside and a horseshoe bend in the Pecatonica River, appears much the same today. The landscape oil canvas painting (1942.509) is in the collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison.²¹

50th Anniversary of the Battle, 1882

On June 16, 1882, the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Pecatonica was observed at the battle site on Mr. Miller's land during a rainy afternoon program that featured band music and a series of speeches, including one by Peter Parkinson Jr., the last survivor of the fight.

D.A.R. Marker Erected, 1922

On October 25, 1922 (90 years after the Black Hawk War), a memorial marker was dedicated by the Rhoda Hinsdale Schullsburg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) and the Town of Wiota at the Pecatonica battlefield site to preserve the memory of those who fought in it. Some 400 to 500 interested spectators attended the unveiling ceremony.²² The six-foot high concrete monument remains today in a wooded area on the east side of a slough (modern Bloody Lake) in Black

²¹ The 1857 painting of the Pecatonica Battle Ground by Brookes and Stevenson (Whi-2858) is available online for public viewing at the Wisconsin Historical Society's Turning Points website: (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=328>).

²² "D.A.R. Erect Marker," *Shullsburg Pick and Gad*, November 2, 1922.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Hawk Memorial Park. The monument is but one of several plaques and markers that can be found along the looping route of the Black Hawk War of 1832 in northwestern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.²³

100th Anniversary of the Battle, 1932

On Thursday, June 16, 1932, a centennial celebration was held in a grove on the Martin H. Olsen farm, south of the village of Woodford, Wisconsin, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Pecatonica. The day-long program included a grand parade, with representatives from the Sioux and Winnebago nations, brass bands, floats, speakers, and a community picnic dinner. It is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 people from southern Wisconsin, eastern Iowa and northern Illinois attended the event.²⁴

Statement of Significance

The Pecatonica Battlefield is historically significant at the statewide level because it was a military turning point in the American-Indian conflict of 1832 known as the Black Hawk War. The Black Hawk War was the most significant Indian conflict in Wisconsin's history and its conclusion had far-reaching effects. In 1832, Black Hawk, and a large band of Sac and Fox followers, along with members of other tribes, defied an agreement to remain on the west side of the Mississippi River after years of migrating between their village, Saukenuk, at the junction of the Rock and Mississippi rivers, and winter quarters in Iowa. After several unsuccessful attempts to locate and drive Black Hawk's band back across the Mississippi River, including an embarrassing retreat known as "Stillman's Run," local white settlers were beginning to doubt whether either federal troops or American militiamen could do the job. In the meantime, a number of attacks on white settlers by members of Black Hawk's followers created terror among the residents of the lead mining region of northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin.

The battle at the Pecatonica, a skirmish between several dozen militiamen and a slightly smaller force of Native Americans, was seen by whites as a strong and decisive victory. Unlike Stillman's Run, in this action, the militiamen, under the command of Henry Dodge, confronted the Native Americans who were hiding along the banks of an oxbow lake, stood their ground, and attacked as the Native Americans rose up from the lake. All of the Indians were killed with few militia casualties. When word spread of this event, public sentiment changed. Henry Dodge was hailed a hero and took a leading role in future combat with Black Hawk's followers, and white settlers had new hope that

²³ William F. Stark, *Along The Black Hawk Trail* (Sheboygan, Wis.: Zimmermann Press, 1984), 81-82; Chuck Parsons, *Through The Century: A History of South Wayne, Wisconsin* (South Wayne, Wis.: South Wayne Historical Commission, 1989), 3-4.

²⁴ "Hot Time Had at Woodford's Picnic," *Monroe Evening Times*, June 17, 1932.

United States Department of the Interior
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Section 8 Page 10

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

continuing this fight to drive the Native Americans across the Mississippi could now be successful. The military victory was small, but the results were large, reinvigorating the support for the war effort.

The Black Hawk War was the result of a bungled policy with this Native American group. It was rooted in the general policy of removal of Native American land rights through treaties that, often, many natives did not fully understand. The treaty negotiated in 1804 with certain Sac and Fox leaders (Black Hawk would claim later that these men had no authority to negotiate) was made more confusing by federal action or non-action in this case. Under the terms of the treaty, the Sac and Fox gave up their land rights east of the Mississippi. But, until the federal government decided to actually put these lands up for sale, the Sac and Fox were allowed to occupy them. So, the Sac and Fox Indians continued to return to Saukenauk each planting season for many years after 1804.²⁵

In the 1820s, white settlers began moving into the lead mining region of northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin. In the mid-1820s, the federal government finally moved to enforce the 1804 treaty and told the Sac and Fox they would have to remain permanently in Iowa. By that time, Saukenauk, the greatest settlement of this group, had become a mythical homeland and the Sac and Fox kept returning for several more years. At the same time, white settlers moved into Saukenauk, taking over both the native shelters and agricultural lands. For a brief time, both the natives and the whites co-habited Saukenauk, but when Black Hawk and his followers moved across the Mississippi in the spring of 1832, the settlers and federal government were determined to physically move them back, and conflict was unavoidable.

The lack of success in the early months of the campaign to move Black Hawk and his followers back across the Mississippi was heartily criticized. Local newspapers in Wisconsin and Illinois, particularly the *Galenian* in Galena, Illinois, the capital of the lead region, disparaged the militia; first, at not being able to even find Black Hawk's people and engage them, and second, at being so inept in the battle of Stillman's Run, where militiamen fled in terror at the first sight of native warriors. The lack of success of the campaign was further enhanced by the attacks on white settlers that seemingly could not be stopped. It was in this environment that the Battle of the Pecatonica took place.

The attack at Spafford's Farm and Henry Dodge's decisive command in pursuing the killers, culminating in a defeat of the natives at the Pecatonica, was the first success in retaliating against those who engaged in attacks of white settlers. Also, the way Dodge's men handled themselves in the fight

²⁵ Saukenauk was the ancestral village of Black Hawk and the Sauk. It was located on a point overlooking the mouth of the Rock River where it enters the Mississippi in modern-day Rock Island, Illinois. Today, a park is located amidst the narrow steep valley, bluffs and rivers. Much of the surrounding area is urban landscape in the City of Rock Island.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

with the Indians was a far cry from Stillman's Run. These men attacked when Dodge said to attack and stood their ground in what became a close quarter's fight.

The *Galenian* hailed the battle at the Pecatonica as a "glorious victory," and Henry Dodge was immediately proclaimed a hero. As news of this event spread among the whites, a new attitude developed about the conflict, an attitude that with effective leadership and a fighting force that would not back down, the Indians could be defeated.

This battle also "made" Henry Dodge, a rugged frontiersman-type who was seen as courageous and disciplined, a man who could lead the white population to victory over the "uncivilized" natives. Henry Dodge, indeed, went on to become a notable figure of state-wide significance. He served as Governor of the Wisconsin Territory (1836-1841, 1845-1848) and as a two-term United States Senator from Wisconsin (1848-1857). Without his success at this battle, and his leadership in the rest of the Black Hawk War, Henry Dodge may not have achieved much beyond local interest.

Summary

In 2006, Kerry Trask published the most definitive of the many books on the Black Hawk War. In this volume, which is meticulously researched and delves heavily into newspaper accounts of the period, Trask, perhaps better than anyone else, defines the significance of the Black Hawk War. And, he defines the significance of the Battle of the Pecatonica, a small skirmish that is not usually highlighted or analyzed in other volumes. He states, "While actually only of minor military importance, the Battle of Pecatonica was nevertheless an event of very considerable psychological and symbolic consequence. It occurred at a desperate time. Nothing in the war had been going in favor of the settlers. The militia had abandoned them, the army was disengaged and seemed indifferent to their fate, and the Indians seemed able to strike and kill whenever and wherever they wished . . . Henry Dodge appeared . . . to fashion a redeeming victory out of his armed clash amid the underbrush along the Pecatonica River. It was not much, but it proved the Indians could be beaten, and that the common men of the West could indeed be brave. It revived hope and rekindled confidence."²⁶

That is why this site, the Pecatonica Battlefield, is significant. Without this small military victory, the whites may have backed off the fight and a different outcome may have ensued. And, while a different outcome may have been more positive for Black Hawk and his followers, it could have changed the history of the opening of southern Wisconsin for mass white settlement.

²⁶ Trask, p. 235.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Park Improvements and Preservation Plans, 2010

Through the efforts of the Lafayette County Sportsman's Alliance, with support from the Friends of Woodford Park and the community, much underbrush has been removed from the park, a shelter building stabilized and a handicapped-accessible fishing pier installed within recent years. Plans are currently underway by the local group to raise funds to erect an official Wisconsin historical marker in the park to commemorate the Battle of the Pecatonica and enhance public education and understanding of the Black Hawk War.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

No systematic archaeological investigations have been conducted at the Pecatonica battlefield site or in Blackhawk County Park. Land within current park boundaries has been disturbed by the construction of gravel roads, a shelter house, toilets and other park/campground development, and also by Illinois Central railroad construction in 1887.²⁷ One of the current roads follows the old railroad bed between Bloody and Horseshoe lakes in the park.

Due to its remote and low-lying marshy location in the bottomland, the vicinity of the D.A.R. marker near Bloody Lake does not appear to have been extensively disturbed by past construction activity or park use, making extant archaeological resources (including human remains and fragmentary bones) associated with the 1832 battleground, as well as prehistoric and other historic Indian occupations along the Pecatonica River, possible.

²⁷ The Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc., *The Railroads of Wisconsin, 1827-1937* (Boston: The Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Inc., Baker Library, Harvard Business School, 1937), 46.

Pecatonica Battlefield
Name of Property

Lafayette
County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 19 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 263910 4727100
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 264280 4726920
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 264260 4727090
Zone Easting Northing

4 16 264040 4726680
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Robert P. Fay and Carol L. Cartwright, Consultants	date	March 9, 2011
organization	(Prepared for Sally Kahl)	telephone	262-473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Road	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

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Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

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Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 3

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the site is as follows: Beginning at a point described thusly: the intersection of the east boundary line of Blackhawk Park and the west right-of-way line of County Highway Y, then north along the east boundary line to the intersection with an east-west line beginning 250 feet north of the beginning point previously described, then west along this line to the east shoreline of Bloody Lake, then south-southeast along the east shore of Bloody Lake to an east-west line running from the easternmost point of the shoreline of Bloody Lake to the westernmost point of Horseshoe Lake, then east along this line to the western shoreline of Horseshoe Lake, then generally north-northwest along the western shoreline of Horseshoe Lake to the northern shoreline of Horseshoe Lake, then east along the northern shoreline of Horseshoe Lake to the west right-of-way line of County Highway Y (which is also a park boundary line), then northwest along this line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

From historic sources about the Battle of the Pecatonica, the actual site of the skirmish is known to be along Bloody Lake near the current historic monument. However, since the battle site was never officially marked at the time and extensive archeological investigations have not been undertaken at the site, the battlefield dimensions are currently not strictly known. It is also not known exactly where the Native Americans traveled to get to the battlefield site. It is known through historical sources how the American militia got to the site, coming into the area near where the current park entrance exists today (a high point) and traveling southwest between Bloody Lake and Horseshoe Lake down to the battle site. In order to capture as much of the entire battle site as possible, while leaving off excess park land not associated with the battle, the above noted boundaries were established.

These boundaries, then, include enough area around the battle monument so that the exact place of the skirmish is included in the boundary. Also included is land that encompasses the route of the American militia to the battle site that is described in historic sources. The success of the militia in finding the Indians and the discipline displayed by the men in continuing toward the battle site and not turning back is an important part of the significance of the battle. By including this land, the boundary encompasses as much of the historic landscape associated with the battle as is known at this time and where archeological resources might exist.

Pecatonica Battlefield

Lafayette

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	date
organization	telephone
street & number	zip code
city or town	state WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

Name of Property:	Pecatonica Battlefield
City or Vicinity:	Town of Wiota
County:	Lafayette County
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:	Carol Lohry Cartwright
Date of Photographs:	June/November 2010
Location of Original Digital Files:	W7646 Hackett Rd., Whitewater, WI 53190
Copy of Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin

Photo #1 of 6: (WI_Lafayette County_Pecatonica Battlefield_0001)

View of area where militia entered current park boundary looking down toward battle site to the southeast.

Photo #2 of 6: (WI_Lafayette County_Pecatonica Battlefield_0002)

Battle site location along Bloody Lake, monument at center of photo, looking southwest.

Photo #3 of 6: (WI_Lafayette County_Pecatonica Battlefield_0003)

Looking southwest along Bloody Lake at battle site monument area.

Photo #4 of 6: (WI_Lafayette County_Pecatonica Battlefield_0004)

Looking west along Bloody Lake lakeshore near battle site monument area.

Photo #5 of 6: (WI_Lafayette County_Pecatonica Battlefield_0005)

Looking at battle site from across Bloody Lake, looking northeast.

Photo #6 of 6: (WI_Lafayette County_Pecatonica Battlefield_0006)

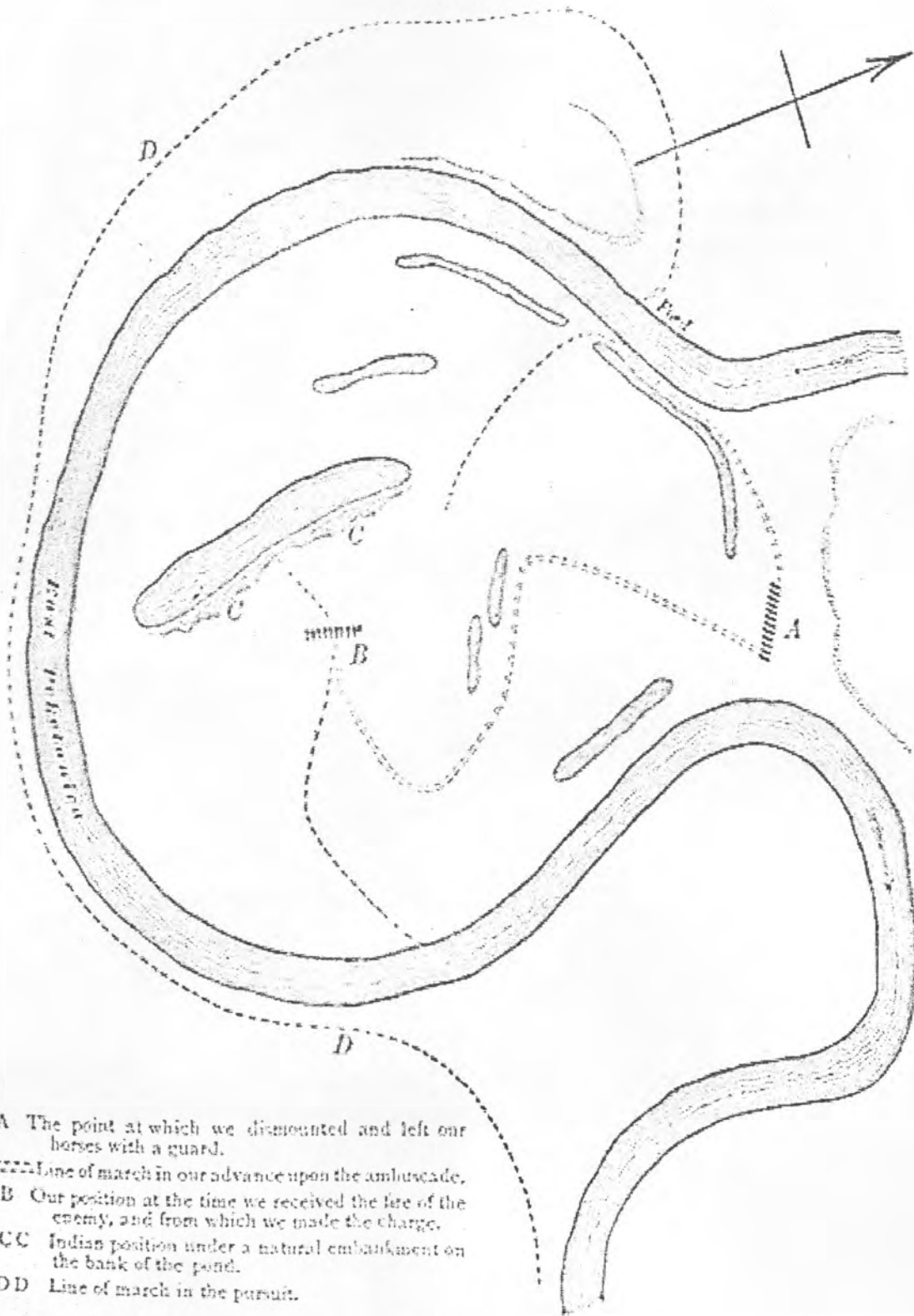
View taken from ridge located to the south of the park, across Bloody Lake and Pecatonica River, looking northwest into park. Battle site at far west of photograph, top of photograph shows area militia entered into current park boundary, then traveled south toward battle site.



Pecatonica Battle Ground
Image ID: WHI-2858

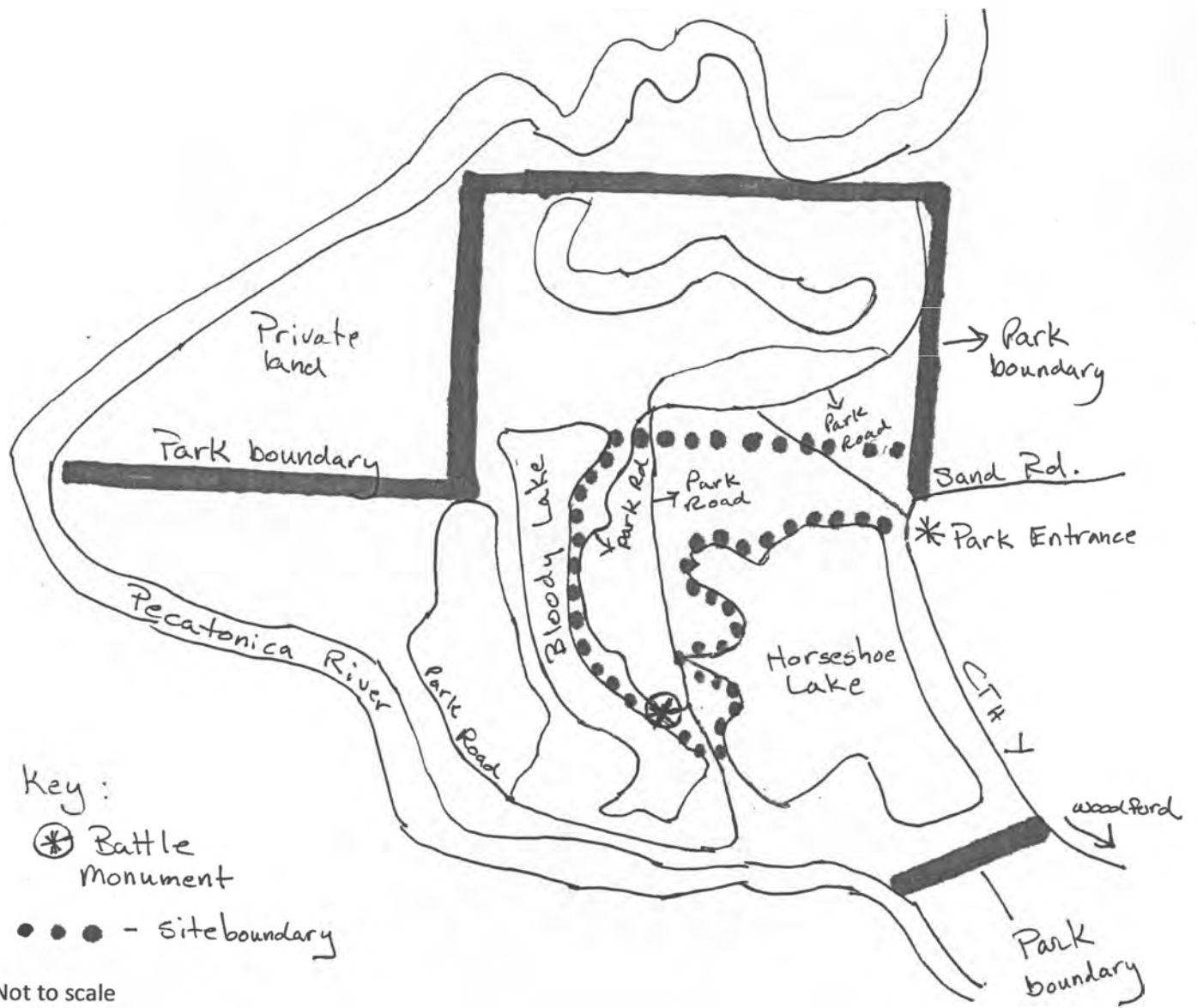
**FIGURE 1:
PECATONICA BATTLEFIELD
TOWN OF WIOTA, LAFAYETTE COUNTY,
WISCONSIN**

**OIL PAINTING BY SAMUEL BROOKES
AND THOMAS H. STEVENSON; DATED 1857.
ORIGINAL OIL PAINTING IN THE WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON, WI.**



- A The point at which we dismounted and left our horses with a guard.
- Line of march in our advance upon the ambushade.
- B Our position at the time we received the fire of the enemy, and from which we made the charge.
- CC Indian position under a natural embankment on the bank of the pond.
- DD Line of march in the pursuit.

HISTORIC DRAWING/MAP 1:
PECATONICA BATTLEFIELD
TOWN OF WIOTA, LAFAYETTE COUNTY,
WISCONSIN
TITLE AND DATE: BATTLE OF HORSE SHOE
BEND, JUNE 16, 1832.



**SITE MAP 1: PECATONICA BATTLEFIELD
TOWN OF WIOTA, LAFAYETTE COUNTY,
WISCONSIN**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Pecatonica Battlefield
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Lafayette

DATE RECEIVED: 6/17/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/12/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/27/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/02/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000488

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7-28-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Pecatonica Battle field
Town of Wiota, Lafayette Co. WI

1 of 6

0127403000337 8/26 () DISC 052

() 01/09/11



Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiotu, Lafayette Co. WI

2 of 6

012740200337 12/13 © 05801658

01/09/11



Peconica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette Co. WI
3 of 6

199127400008337 13/25 © ESCR1561

© 01/89/11



Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiota, Lafayette Co, WI

#4 of 6

01/09/11 08:27 00000337 10/28 '09 000003654

01/09/11



Pecatonica Battlefield
Town of Wiotra, Lafayette Co. WI

#5 of 6

3127-02230307 11/28 © OSCB1672

© 01/09/11

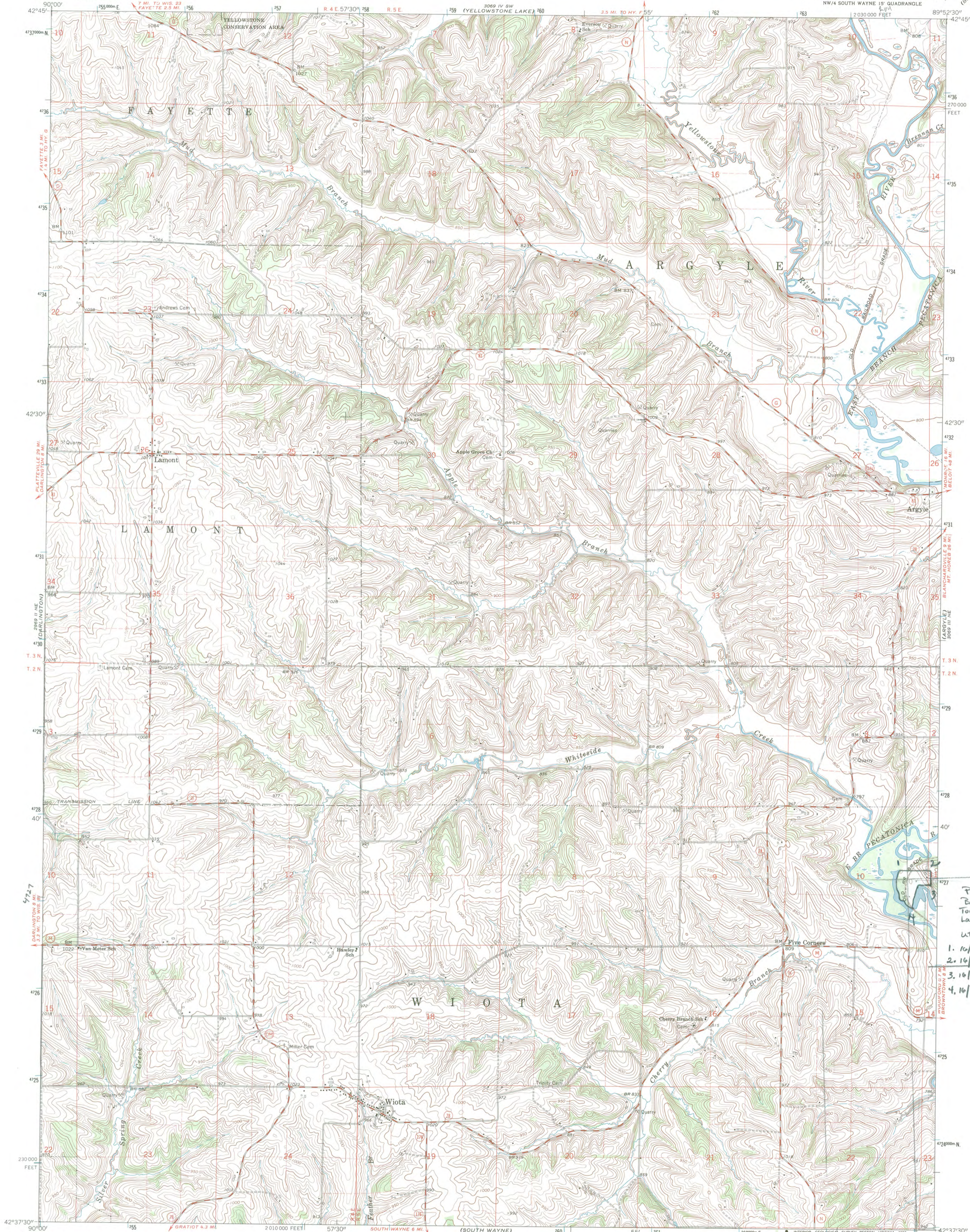


Peconica Battlefield
Town of Wiotia, Lafayette Co. WI

6 of 6

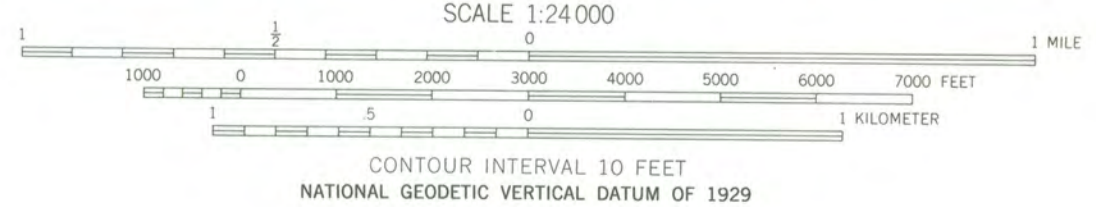
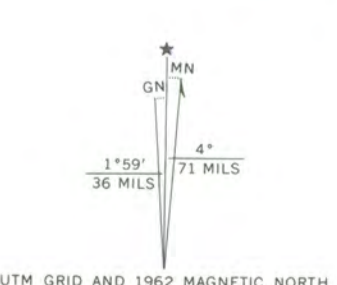
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01/09/11



Pecatonica
Battlefield
Town of WiotA
Lafayette Co. WI
UTM References
1. 16/263910/4727100
2. 16/264280/4727090
3. 16/264280/4726920
4. 16/264040/4726680

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Wisconsin agencies
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North American
Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections is given in USGS
Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt - - - - - State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Map photoinspected 1981
No major culture or drainage changes observed

WIOTA, WIS.
NW/4 SOUTH WAYNE 15' QUADRANGLE
42089-F8-1F-024
1962
PHOTOINSPECTED 1981
DMA 3069 III NW-SERIES V861

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

DIV HIST PRES

March 31, 2011

Wisconsin Historic Register

Dear Sirs;

I would like to nominate Blackhawk Memorial County Park in Woodford, Wi. To be placed on the Wisconsin National Historic Register of historic places. This site was one of many places of conflict during the Blackhawk war. Your consideration on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Dennis Oostdik, past president of Yellowstone Flint and Cap, Inc.
(We are a fur trade period reenactment group who helped bring the park back into use)

RECEIVED

APR 21 2011

DIV HIST PRES

RESOLUTION 01 - 11

PLACING THE PECATONICA BATTLEFIELD IN
BLACK HAWK MEMORIAL PARK
ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

WHEREAS, Friends of Woodford Park, have researched cultural and historic features located in the 160 acres known as Black Hawk Memorial Park; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk Memorial Park is the site of one of only three battles fought in the State of Wisconsin during the Black Hawk War; and

WHEREAS, significant historical features have been identified in that part of the Park where the Battle of Bloody Lake took place; and

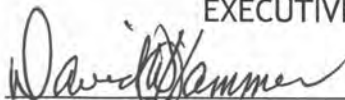
WHEREAS, a nomination application has been prepared by Carol Lohry Cartwright, Robert P. Fay and Sally Kahl, on behalf of the Friends of Woodford Park to place the Pecatonica Battlefield in Black Hawk Memorial Park in Lafayette County, Wisconsin, on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Executive, Rules and Legislation Committee has met and considered the application for the listing of the Pecatonica Battlefield in Black Hawk Memorial Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

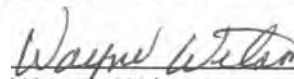
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors, at the request of the Executive, Rules & Legislative Committee, hereby support the nomination application in placing the Pecatonica Battlefield in Black Hawk Memorial Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully submitted,

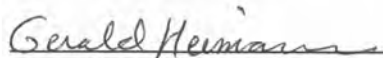
EXECUTIVE, RULES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE



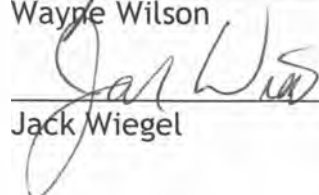
David Hammer



Wayne Wilson



Gerald Heimann



Jack Wiegel

Ted Wiegel

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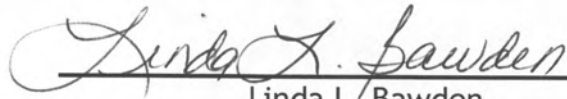
APR 21 2011

DIV HIST PRES

LEGAL NOTE: Within County Board authority.

FISCAL NOTE: No direct fiscal impact.

I, Linda L. Bawden, Clerk of the County of Lafayette, State of Wisconsin, do certify that this resolution was adopted by the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors at a meeting held on April 19, 2011



Linda L. Bawden
Lafayette County Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
DALE W. SCHULTZ

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

DIV HIST PRES

April 1, 2011

Diane Penkiunas
National Register Coordinator
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State St.
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Dear Diane,

Thank you for this opportunity to support the nomination by the Historic Preservation Review Board of the Pecatonica Battlefield at 2995 County Highway Y in Wiota, Lafayette County to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

I would like to lend my full support for this nomination and feel very strongly that the Pecatonica Battlefield deserves to be added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Because of its significance to the history of the region I represent, I am proud to have a painting of Woodford Park in my office at the Capitol, on loan from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Again, I would like to lend my support for this great cause. I welcome a call if further detail is desired for my enthusiastic support for the Pecatonica Battlefield nomination.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale W. Schultz".

Dale W. Schultz



Circus World Museum Foundation, Inc.

RECEIVED

APR 14 2011

DIV HIST PRES

April 13, 2011

Daina J. Penkiunas
Wisconsin State Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Dear Daina Penkiunas,

I just wanted to write this letter in support of the National Register Nomination of the Pecatonica Battlefield or as it is commonly know as the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Whitford Park, Lafayette County.

The Battle of Pecatonica was a significant engagement during the American-Indian conflict known as the Black Hawk War of 1832. It took place within 5 miles of miles of Fort Hamilton (now Wiota) in southeastern Lafayette County.

Colonial Henry Dodge was in charge of the soldiers involved in the battle and he had this to say about the events that happened that day. "After crossing the Pecatonica, in the open ground, I dismounted my command, linked my horses, and left four men in charge of them, and sent four men in different directions to watch the movements of the Indians, if they should attempt to swim the Pecatonica; they were placed on high points that would give them a complete view of the enemy, should they attempt to retreat. I formed my men on foot at open order, and at trailed arms, and we proceeded through the swamp to some timber and undergrowth, where I expected to find the enemy. When I found their trail, I knew they were close at hand; they had got close to the edge of the lake, where the bank was about six feet high, which was a complete breastwork for them. They commenced the fire, when three of my men fell, two dangerously wounded, one severely but not dangerously. I instantly ordered a charge on them, made by eighteen men, which was promptly obeyed; the Indians being under the bank, our guns were brought within ten or fifteen feet of them before we could fire on them. Their party consisted of thirteen men; eleven were killed on the spot, and the remaining two were killed in crossing the lake, so that they were left without one to carry the news to their friends. The volunteers under my command behaved with great gallantry; it would be impossible for me to discriminate among them; at the word 'charge' the men rushed forward and literally shot the Indians to pieces. We were Indians and whites on a piece of ground not to exceed sixty feet square." This engagement fought on June 16, 1832, and called the Battle of the Pecatonica or the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend, was the first decisive victory of the war for the volunteers against the Indians.

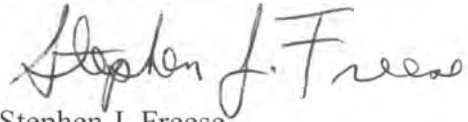
A Historic Site Operated on Behalf of the Wisconsin Historical Society

Circus World Museum Foundation, Inc. 415 Lynn Street Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913 toll free 866.693.1500

circusworldmuseum.com

I believe this was the turning point of the Black Hawk War. And it is important to protect the land that surrounds the battlefield from future development. While I recognize this is a county park and that fact reduces the likely hood of development the extra protection provided by placing the property on the National Register will make sure it never faces the pressure of development like many other national battlefields face.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen J. Freese". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Stephen J. Freese
Executive Director
Circus World Museum Foundation, Inc.



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF

The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, WOODS, WATERS, AIR AND WILDLIFE

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

DIV HIST PRES

April 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

At our monthly meeting, April 13, 2011, the Southwestern Chapter of Izaak Walton League voted to support the Woodford Park on the State Historical Register.

Yours in conservation,

Sandra S. Crabtree, Sec.

Sandra S. Crabtree, Secretary

608-759-4083

LSCrabtree@Centurytel.net

Shullsburg American Legion
Shullsburg, Wisconsin

April 17th 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We would like to recommend that the Pecatonica Battle field in Woodford Park be placed on the State Historic Register.

This was the first battle fought in Wisconsin.

The Woodford park holds a Historical importance in the state of Wisconsin.

There is a monumental plaque in the park that was put there by the D.A.R. from Shullsburg.

The Shullsburg American Legion Auxiliary is proud to be a sponsor of the Woodford Park and it being on the registry is important to us.

In ending I asking you to strongly consider placing this on the State Registry and then in the future it will be placed on the National Registry.

Thank you
Carol Korn
Shullsburg American Legion Auxiliary President

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MAY 05 2011

DIV HIST PRES



Lafayette County
Land Conservation
Department

Lafayette County Land Conservation Department
USDA Service Center
1900 Ervin Johnson Drive – Darlington, WI 53530
Phone (608) 776-3836 Fax (608) 776-2170

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

DIV HIST PRES

April 19, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lafayette County Land Conservation Department is pleased to support the efforts of the Friends of Woodford Park, Carol Lohry Cartwright, Robert P. Fay, and Sally Kahl in regard to their preparation of the nomination application to place the Pecatonica Battlefield in Black Hawk Memorial Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

Black Hawk Memorial Park is the site of one of only three battles fought in the State of Wisconsin during the Black Hawk War. With the identification of historical features in the part of the Park where the Battle of Bloody Lake took place, we support the listing of the Pecatonica Battlefield on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our organization also believes that this listing would create an educational experience for those visiting the Black Hawk Memorial Park. The Lafayette County Land Conservation Department is committed to working with the Friends of Woodford Park to bring this vision to reality, and to use the site for teaching experiences such as our Earth Day Presentations. Each year the Park is used as an outdoor classroom where students learn both environmental skills and the historical significance of this particular site.

Sincerely,



Lisa K. Trumble, County Conservationist
Lafayette County Land Conservation Department

April 27, 2011

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

Dear Nomination Committee,

The Shullsburg Conservation Club of Shullsburg, WI would like to endorse the nomination of the Pecatonica Battle Field in Woodford Park at Woodford, WI to the state historical society.

The Battle of Pecatonica, also known as the Battle of Bloody Lake was fought on June 16, 1832. The battle was a major turning point in the Black Hawk War, despite being of only minor military significance. The small victory won by the U.S. militia at the Battle of Pecatonica helped restore public confidence in the volunteer force following an embarrassing defeat at Stillman's Run. The battle ended with three militia men killed in action and a party of eleven Kickapoo warriors dead.

The Battle of Pecatonica was the first step in the process of redeeming the militia's own morale and it's standing in the eyes of the settlers on the frontier. This was the first battle in which a volunteer force defeated the Native Americans.

The battlefield at Pecatonica is now a privately-administered campground located within a former Lafayette county park. The Black Hawk Memorial Park is maintained by the Lafayette County Sportsmen Alliance, Yellowstone Flint and Cap Club, and the Friends of Woodford Park. In 1922, a marker was erected by the Shullsburg Daughters of the American Revolution chapter and the residents of Wiota to commemorate the Battle of Pecatonica.

We, the Shullsburg Conservation Club feel that recognizing the Battle of Pecatonica as a historical site will create more tourist to the area that are interested in the history of various wars fought in Wisconsin.



Steve Staver, Shullsburg Conservation Club Treasurer

DIV HIST PRES

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MAY 03 2011

Nomination Register Letter

April 29th. 2011

DIV HIST PRES

National Register Nomination Board

We would like to lend our fullest support for this nomination and feel strongly that the Pecatonica Battlefield should be put on the State and National Register of Historical Places.

The Friends of Woodford Park committee strongly support this nomination.

The Battle of Percatonica or The Battle of Bloody Lake was on June 16th. 1832, this was seventeen years before Wisconsin became a state in 1848. Tho a small battle wich ended with three U.S. Militia Soldiors killed and eleven Kickapoo Indians that lost their lives that day.

A victory for General Dodge was a major step in the eyes of the settlers to form this country.

In 1922 a marker was erected by the Shullsburg Daughters of The American Revoltion Chapter, and the Wiota residents which still stands in the park today in memory.

The Friends of the Woodford Park and the state archeologist Carol Lohry Cartwright, Robert E. Fay, support Sally Kahl in this nomination application of Historical Places to be put on the State and National Historic Register.

This organization strongly believes the educational knowledge and history of the park is a learning exsperience for tourist and residents alike.

Thank You for the support in this great cause. Thank You from The Friend of the Woodford Park Committee.

Sally Kahl

Sally Kahl
Park Secetary

608-214-6817

2207 1st. St. Apt#104

Monroe, Wi. 53566

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MAY 03 2011

DIV HIST PRES

April 29, 2011

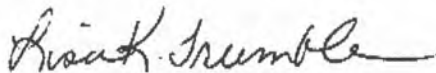
To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Lafayette County Sportsman's Alliance, we are pleased to support the nomination to place the Pecatonica Battlefield in Black Hawk Memorial Park on the National Register of Historic Places. The efforts of the Friends of Woodford Park, Sally Kahl, Robert P. Fay, and Carol Lohry Cartwright are greatly appreciated and strongly supported by our organization.

The Pecatonica Battlefield is only one of three battle sites in the State of Wisconsin. This listing on the National Register would be a wonderful recognition to the area. It would offer an educational experience to those visiting the park and also draw new visitors to the site.

The Lafayette County Sportsman's Alliance will continue to support the work being done at the Black Hawk Memorial Park. In closing, we would ask that you consider placing the Pecatonica Battlefield at Black hawk Memorial Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you,



Lisa K. Trumble
Lafayette County Sportsman's Alliance

On behalf of the Alliance Officers:

Brad Eckerman, President
Lisa Trumble, Secretary

Dave Breunig, Vice President
Steve Staver, Treasurer



80th Assembly District
State Representative

Janis Ringhand

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2011

DIV HIST PRES

May 2, 2011

Dr. Michael Stevens
State Historic Preservation Office
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Stevens:

I write to express my support for adding the Pecatonica Battlefield to the State Register and National Register of Historic Places.

The Pecatonica Battlefield is composed of nineteen acres that are a significant part of Wisconsin's history. It was in 1832, at this very site, that a battle changed the course of the Blackhawk war forever. For this reason, I believe we must protect and preserve this important historical site for years to come.

Residents of the 80th Assembly District have been passionately working on this initiative for years – which speaks volumes to the significance of the matter. It is my hope that these special individuals will finally be rewarded for their hard work and dedication.

If you have any questions about my support for adding the Pecatonica Battlefield to the State Register and National Register of Historic Places, feel free to contact me in my office via phone at 608-266-1192 or by email at Rep.Ringhand@legis.wi.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

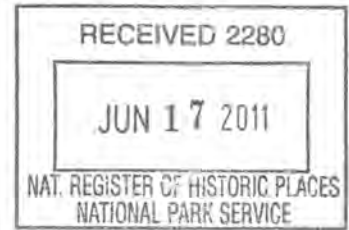
Sincerely,

Janis Ringhand
State Representative
80th Assembly District

JR/mg



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Daina Penkiunas

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 9th day of June 2010,
for nomination of the Pecatonica Battlefield to the National Register of Historic
Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

 Multiple Property Nomination form

6 Photograph(s)

1 CD with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

3 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

12 Piece(s) of correspondence

 Other _____

COMMENTS:

 Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

 This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

 The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.

 Other: _____