

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 31 1984
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Pea Ridge Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Pea Ridge National Military Park

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Pea Ridge National Military Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pea Ridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Government, Department of Interior, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest Regional Office

P.O. Box 728

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe,

STATE

VICINITY OF

New Mexico

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Benton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bentonville

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey: Elkhorn Tavern (ARK - 23)

DATE

1963

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pea Ridge National Military Park comprises 4,300.35 acres in the foothills country of northwestern Arkansas. The battlefield is dominated by Pea Ridge, a long, low, rugged mountain in the northern part of the Park that rises to 1,601 feet and runs from east to west almost the width of the Park. A smaller mountain known as Round Top rises just to the south; the remainder of the Park is a high plateau leading up to Pea Ridge from the south. Of several small creeks in the Park, the most prominent is Winton Spring Branch, which originates at a natural spring some distance below the Winton Spring House, in the south central part of the Park, then runs southwestward toward Little Sugar Creek.

This landscape has not been altered much since the time when the site achieved its significance. Heavy stands of oak, hickory, and other hardwoods cover Pea Ridge Mountain, today as in 1862. The plateau south of Pea Ridge, at the time of the battle, was a patchwork of thick woods, prairies, and cultivated fields, the whole dissected by roadways. Today the same general pattern is retained, with historic fields actively cultivated under lease arrangements with local farmers. These features of the Pea Ridge landscape--the high rugged ridge, the thick woods, the patches of open fields--strongly influenced the course of the battle, and are in themselves historic resources.

The two-day conflict waged here in March, 1862, left few enduring marks on the land. In the small detached, southern area of the Park are the remnants of earthworks thrown up by Union soldiers; these constitute the only above-ground physical evidence of the battle. Oriented towards the south, the earthworks originally were long, heavy mounds of earth, with trenches dug behind, or north, of them. These defenses were erected on the high bluffs north of Little Sugar Creek. They appear to have been erected beginning about two-thirds mile east of Winton Spring Branch, and extended eastward intermittently for approximately two miles. Portions of the earthworks have resisted erosion over the years and are clearly visible to this day in the detached area of the Park. They appear as long, low ridges, with trenches along their north side, and represent perhaps one-sixth of the original extent of the defenses. A paved interpretive trail to the trenches has been constructed. The total length of the original trenches probably extended beyond the current detached unit boundaries. Several attempts have been made to locate additional trenches outside the current boundaries, but without success. It is likely that only those trenches inside the current boundaries were of a size and construction to have survived, while others outside the boundaries have since eroded away.

The Battle of Pea Ridge centered around two areas to the north of Little Sugar Creek: the village of Leetown and Elkhorn Tavern. The Elkhorn Tavern, situated just east of Pea Ridge, was originally constructed c. 1835, as a two-story log house with two stone chimneys and a full-length porch running along the front side on both stories. In the 1850s, the house was weatherboarded

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and painted white, and an outside front staircase was added on the northeast end of the porch. These changes, along with a set of elkhorns mounted on the ridgepole, gave the building the appearance it presented during the Battle of Pea Ridge. After the battle, bushwhackers burned the building to the ground, leaving only the foundation and the two chimneys. Upon these remnants a new tavern, a one-story wood frame structure, was erected immediately after the War. By the 1880s a second story had been added, and the building had assumed an appearance very similar to that of the pre-Civil War structure. Notable differences included the absence of an outside front staircase and the addition of two extra windows on the upper story of the front (east) side of the house.

Several alterations were undertaken between 1905 and 1917, including the addition of a rear wing, the extension of the north wall of the main wing, and the remodeling of the front porch. These changes were removed when the Park Service, in 1966, restored the structure to its 1880s appearance, reasoning that restoration to the actual wartime period was not feasible due to a lack of documentation. The two-story structure as it appears today is of single-wall frame construction, with white-painted drop siding; it measures 34' 6" x 32' 6". A full-length porch, its wood railing painted deep red, runs along both stories on the front (east) side of the house. The gable roof is wood-shingled, and there is a stone chimney at each gable end. Inside the building there are two large rooms on the ground floor, and two rooms and an attic on the second floor; there are two interior staircases. Attached to the rear of the building on the main floor is a lean-to structure in which there are public restrooms and a modern utility area; these modern intrusions are scheduled for removal.

Leetown, the site of the other major engagement in the Battle of Pea Ridge, is located near the southwest corner of the Park. In 1862, this small village consisted of several residences, perhaps a few stores, and a Masonic lodge. Most of these buildings were destroyed after the battle, and only a small burial plot is visible at the townsite today. The subsurface remains of this town constitute an important historic resource.

Several historic roads used in the course of the battle are still visible in the Park. The Ford road runs east and west along the southern base of Pea Ridge and connects at its eastern terminus with the Telegraph Road. The Huntsville Road branches off the Telegraph Road near the Elkhorn Tavern, and runs eastward toward Huntsville, Arkansas. Both the Ford and Huntsville roads appear today as primitive, two-rut road traces, rocky in places. The Telegraph Road traverses the Park on a generally north-south line, passing to the east of Pea Ridge and directly in front of the Elkhorn Tavern. In 1862 a telegraph line, inoperative during the battle, was strung between poles and trees along the Telegraph Road; all traces of the telegraph line are gone today. Entering the Park at Cross Timber Hollow, north of the Elkhorn Tavern, the Telegraph Road is a narrow,

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rocky, two-rut road trace until just before it reaches the Tavern, where it widens noticeably. South of the Tavern the road is paved over almost entirely, as it forms part of the Park's tour road. South of the boundary of the main area of the Park, the road reappears as a dirt tract; it is used infrequently as a means of access to the detached area of the Park.

Just north of the Huntsville Road, a short distance east of the Elkhorn Tavern, are the concrete and stone foundations of the Clemens House. Portions of the stone foundations may date to the time of the battle.

Monuments to those who died in the battle were erected in the late nineteenth century. They are located in a small field across the tour road from the Elkhorn Tavern. The Monument to the Confederate Dead, of carved limestone with inscriptions, was erected in 1887. In 1889 the Monument to the Union Soldier, also of carved limestone and with inscriptions and reliefs, was placed close to the Confederate marker.

Beyond these historic resources, there are within Pea Ridge National Military Park several structures which do not relate to the period of 1862. The Winton Spring House was constructed in its present form around 1915 upon foundations which date from the 1800s. In July 1979, it was determined not eligible by personnel in the offices of the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Officer. Other structures within the Park which are excluded from the present nomination and which do not meet National Register criteria include the National Park Service residence area, the visitor center, and the attached maintenance area. These modern structures serve a management purpose and occasionally require alterations necessitated by a change in their functions. Modifications to these supportive buildings will reflect a compatible architectural style and will not intrude upon the historic resources of the Park.

There are no privately owned structures or parcels of land within the Pea Ridge Battlefield NMP boundaries. A list of historic features follows, divided into three components: standing structures, non-standing structures, and historic roads. These features are keyed to a map enclosed in this report.

1. Standing Structures (\*historically significant)

- A. Headquarters/Interpretive Center/Maintenance Building
- B. Staff Quarters
- C. Staff Quarters
- D. Elkhorn Tavern\*
- E. Winton Spring House
- F. Interpretive Shelter-Pea Ridge West Overlook

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II. Non-Standing Structures (all are historically significant--potential archeological remains)

- A. Little Sugar Creek Trenches
- B. General Curtis' Headquarters Site
- C. Leetown
- D. The Tanyard

III. Non-Standing Structures (unknown-significance)

- A. Pratt's Store
- B. J. Ruddick Structures
- C. Unidentified
- D. Unidentified
- E. Unidentified
- F. Unidentified
- G. Wiley Foster Structure
- H. Unidentified Log Cabins
- I. Amos J. Patterson Structure
- J. Unidentified Log Cabin
- K. "Sturdy"
- L. G. W. Ford Structure (1)
- M. G. W. Ford Structure (2)
- N. Unidentified Structure
- O. Barn
- P. Unidentified Structure
- Q. Clemens House
- R. Log Barn

IV. Historic Roads

- A. Old Telegraph, or "Wire" Road
- B. Huntsville Road
- C. Ford Road

Justification for Boundaries: The boundaries conform to the boundaries of Pea Ridge National Military Park. The battle at Pea Ridge was characterized by maneuver, cavalry action, the use of artillery, and hand-to-hand combat. As a result, the battle of Pea Ridge actually occurred at several points at different times. The present Pea Ridge Battlefield NMP boundaries contain the sites of these various confrontations, as well as most routes of march and much land upon which no fighting actually occurred, but which was important in terms of its effect upon the strategy and tactics employed by both sides during the battle.

# 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 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pea Ridge was the Civil War battle that saved the state of Missouri for the Union. The two-day engagement fought in the northwest corner of Arkansas was a Federal victory, despite the fact that Union forces were outnumbered and were fighting in Confederate territory. The Battle of Pea Ridge was the final, dramatic stage in Federal Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis's campaign to drive pro-Confederate forces from Missouri. And it put an end to Confederate commander General Earl Van Dorn's ambitions toward gaining control of the state and its nerve center, St. Louis.

General Curtis, having taken command of the Federal Southwestern District of Missouri in December, 1861, had pushed the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard into northern Arkansas by mid-February, 1862. The Southerners consolidated forces for a determined drive back to the north. General Van Dorn on March 3 took command of a combined force of 16,000 Confederates, including three regiments of Creek and Cherokee Indians. His first goal was to deal a strong blow to General Curtis who, with some 10,000 Union troops, still lingered to the north of him in the vicinity of Pea Ridge.

When he learned of the impending attack, Curtis established a stronghold on the north bank of Little Sugar Creek. He anticipated a strike from the south, but Van Dorn decided instead to circle westward, to a position north of the Federals, and attack them from the rear. On the morning of March 7, 1862, Van Dorn organized a two-pronged attack, with part of his force moving southward down the Telegraph Road from a point just east of Pea Ridge, and the other half striking toward the village of Leetown, starting from the western end of Pea Ridge. Heavy fighting all day resulted in a Union victory at Leetown, where two Confederate generals were killed, and a Confederate victory in the eastern area, where the fighting centered around the Elkhorn Tavern. The contest could have been called a draw when the battle resumed on the morning of March 8, but the fact that Curtis was well-supplied with ammunition, while Van Dorn had left his ammunition wagons several miles behind him, soon determined the outcome. By noon the Confederates were retreating rapidly eastward, down the Huntsville Road. The Battle of Pea Ridge, one of the most decisive Civil War engagements fought west of the Mississippi River, had ended.

There would be later Confederate attempts to invade Missouri, but these would be easily repulsed. The more immediate effect of the battle, which left the Confederate force weakened and scattered, was to retard Van Dorn's progress toward Shiloh and keep him from contributing to Confederate strength in that struggle.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bearss, Edwin C. Leetown, Elkhorn Tavern Grounds, Federal Earthworks and Tanyard as of March, 1862. MS prepared for the National Park Service, 1965. Copy in Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Bond, John W. Interpretive Prospectus for Pea Ridge National Military Park. MS prepared for the National Park Service, 1961. Copy in Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4300.35

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	41,0	5,2,0	4,0	3,6	6,2,0	B	1,5	41,0	4,4,0	4,0	3,3	7,8,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,5	40,7	7,8,0	4,0	3,3	0,3,5	D	1,5	40,5	7,4,0	4,0	3,0	7,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for the National Register District are those shown on the attached boundary map. These boundaries are identical to those for Pea Ridge National Military Park.

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

Jane E. Scott/Dwight T. Pitcaithley

June, 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 728

505 988-6501

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Santa Fe,

New Mexico 87501

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Edwin C. Bearss*

TITLE

*Chief Historian, Natl. Park Service*

DATE

*Oct. 10, 1984*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Patricia Andrews - accept documentation, District listed 10/15/66*

DATE

*12/5/84*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The Telegraph Road, the Elkhorn Tavern, the archeological remains at Lee<sup>3</sup>town and the Federal earthworks north of Little Sugar Creek are the primary historic resources in Pea Ridge National Military Park today, and all are directly linked to the battle of 1862. The Federal earthworks, although not actually used in the fight, nevertheless helped determine the course of the battle, for they presented so formidable a barrier to an approach from the south that Van Dorn was forced to strike from another direction. The Telegraph Road, a major avenue for traffic between Missouri and Arkansas, was used by both Union and Confederate troops for transporting men and supplies before and during the battle. It was crucial to Van Dorn's strategy, and was the scene of actual fighting on both days of the battle.

The Elkhorn Tavern was located on the Telegraph Road and, on the morning of March 7, 1862, was the midpoint between Curtis's headquarters to the south and, the easternmost of Van Dorn's forces to the north. Occupied by the Federals when the battle began, the tavern was taken by Confederate soldiers on the afternoon of March 7, then abandoned on March 8 when the Southerners retreated eastward. The Cox family, owners of the building, occupied it throughout the battle, taking refuge in the basement while first Federals and then Confederates used their home as a hospital, supply depot, and military headquarters. The Union army continued to occupy the Elkhorn Tavern intermittently after the Battle of Pea Ridge was over. It served as the last station of the military telegraph line running out of St. Louis and as a headquarters site. Later, the tavern was burned by bushwhackers, probably in late 1862 or early 1863. After the war, Joseph Cox, who had been in the basement during the battle, rebuilt the tavern to resemble the original structure. The building has now been restored to its appearance during the Battle of Pea Ridge.

Leetown was the second area of the battle. The Union artillery and supporting infantry lined up along the north end of Lee<sup>3</sup>town. The Confederate troops pressed through the woods and across Round Top to attack, but failed to defeat the Federal troops. Two Confederate generals, Benjamin McCulloch and James McIntosh, were killed in the battle. In addition, Cherokee Indians, who were fighting for the Confederates successfully charged a three-gun Union artillery battery. Most had never seen artillery and called the cannons "shooting wagons." Shortly afterwards, however, cannon fire from Union batteries crushed the Indian ranks and so demoralized them that they took cover in the woods with limited participation in the remaining battle.

The monuments to the Confederate Dead (1887) and to the Union Soldier (1889) are examples of early commemoration efforts. They also illustrate how Americans thirty years after the battle chose to remember and memorialize their dead soldiers and past heroes.

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Zone	Easting	Northing
E 15	404 520	4030 740
F 15	404 680	4036 780