CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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STATE

INVENTORY	NUMINATION	FORM DA	TEENTERED	
SEEI	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW?			S
NAME				
HISTORIC Border	n House			
AND/OR COMMON	,			
Borde	n-Hall House			
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER	* . *			
	2 Highway 62 East		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY. TOWN	ie Grove <u>x</u>	, VICINITY OF	congressional dist Third	RICT
STATE	2.01046	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Arkan	sas	05	Washington	143
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	SENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	_OCCUPIED	XAGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	X_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
	X.BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
Banan make		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER OF	FPROPERTY			
	J. W. Grissom			
STREET & NUMBER Route	2 Highway 62 East			
CITY, TOWN Prair	ie Grove x	VICINITY OF	STATE Arkansa	s
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC Washington Coun	tv Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN	College Avenue	and East Center S	treet STATE	
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT __GOOD X_DETERIORATED

__UNAUTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__GOOD __RUINS
__FAIR __UNEXPOSED

__MO\

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Borden-Hall House is a one-and-one-half story and one-level addition frame structure clad in an 1880's skin. It is located less than 50 yards east of Prairie Grove Battlefield Park.

The plan has a central hallway, one room on either side. The exterior end, cut sandstone chimneys have been removed but can be located.

The weather-board-clad balloon frame building and the ell rest on a layed stone foundation. The building is capped by double-pitched roofs supported by round rafters. The roof was first covered in shingles, then asphalt shingles and now partially by tar paper.

The front facade faces north across the valley of the Illinois Creek. The first level of this facade contains five bays. The central bay consists of a portico and a stylized triangular-pedimented entrance door with sidelights. The portico is covered by a half-hipped roof, decorated with lattice work at the eave and supported by turned columns. The four bays that complete the first level of the north facade contain double-hung, six-pane windows trimmed above with the stylized triangular pediment demonstrated above the entrance door. This same trim was used on the interior of these windows. The half level above on the north facade contains three dormer windows. The end dormers contain double-hung, six-pane sash. The central dormer is larger and is framed for a door, indicating a different type portico existed because the present portico roof half covers the door opening.

Further reinforcing the symmetrical nature of the house are the identical east and west facades of the main block. On the lower level of both facades are double-hung, six-pane windows. On the upper level two double-hung, six-pane windows flank the chimney.

Rear doors exist in the lower rooms of the main block. (All doors were four panelled). The door in the east room enters the two-room addition which was heated by a back-to-back brick fireplace.

The central hallway had a rear door and contained the open-string stairs to the half level. The stairs are "L" shaped, with winders, turned newel, shaped handrail and plain balusters.

The fireplace mantels were carved wood with rectangular openings. Both mantels contained pilasters and entablatures, bed mouldings and mantel shelves. The west mantel had a moulded frieze, whereas the east mantel was plain.

Paper and baseboard covered the plaster on wood lath walls of the lower rooms of the main block. The ceilings were plastered also, and the floors were wood supported by log joists. Wall and floor surfaces in the upper level were boarded and papered.

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water damage from windows, etc. Action must be taken hurridly to prevent

the loss of this very significant building and site.

PAGE 1

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The Borden-Hali House is in a deteriorating condition. Among the immediate problems are a poor roof, fallen chimneys, rotting foundations and porches,



PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CF	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
_PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY/PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
1400-1439	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAV/	SCIENCE
1500-1539	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	Z MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	ENGINEERING	, .MUSIC	_THEATER
X1800-1399	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY -	TRANSPORTATION
1300-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

December 7, 1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Battle - The Borden House

The surrounding land and the Borden House cannot be separated. The Confederate right flank was anchored around the Borden House and orchard where the main fighting of the Prairie Grove battle took place. Briefly stated, General Herron attacked the Confederate right flank near noon and it was not until 4:00 that General Blunt came on the field to unite the Union forces, which then fought together until 7:00 in the evening. Consequently, I intend to confine this report only to those witnessed accounts which took place on the Confederate right flank in and around the Borden House. I believe that these reports, from both North and South, will prove how important this site is to the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park and that the existing Borden House and orchard ground must be saved as an original historical landmark intimately identified with the main events which took place on that Sunday, December 7, 1862.

General Hindman C.S.A.

"The shape of the hill determined the line of battle, which was nearly in the form of a horseshoe." When the Confederate Army had drawn a line of battle around the hilltop village of Prairie Grove they were already too late to engage General Herron's Union command alone as had been designed. "General Marmaduke was falling back before the Union infantry, and General Shoup had placed his Confederate division in position to meet the expected attack. He had with admirable judgement selected a strong defensive position upon the brow of a densely wooded hill commanding the Cane Hill and Fayetteville road and within artillery range of the ford of Illinois Creek." (Foote)

Prentiss 1888

"The lines of battle seemed very short, the Confederate front embraced, in general terms, between the Hall House (Borden House) and the Morton House. East of the former and west of the latter the battle seemed to fray out so to speak, and we could find no tradition or landmark." According to the Arkansas History Commission, "The most severe fighting of the battle took place about the Borden House and orchard." General Herron reported more than 300 dead in less than two acres of the slopes about this house. Occupying the right flank of the Confederate Army, the Borden House saw the start of the battle, as this flank successfully held the orchard then occupied by an abandoned Confederate battery of four pieces which baited the initial attacks of General Herron. The following records will prove this, beyond a doubt, by continually referring to the one obvious landmark in this area — the existing Borden House.

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General Herron U.S.A.

In the Official Records: Volume 22, Report #14, General Herron reports on December 19, 1862: "...when within 100 yards of the ridge, the 20th Wisconsin and the 19th Iowa Infantry were ordered to charge a battery placed near a farm house (Borden House), on the edge of the hill. The charge was made in gallant style, the enemy driven back, and the battery taken, but the ground could not be held....Regiment after regiment of infantry was hurled upon the, and they were compelled to fall back."

Colonel Orme 94th Illinois, U.S.A.

In this same volume of the Official Records, Report #31, written on December 10,1862 by Colonel Orme of the 94th Illinois: "Meanwhile the 19th Iowa had received and returned the fire of the enemy and now advanced steadily up the hill to the left of the white house (Borden House), and across the orchard back of the house to a fence, behind which the enemy in greatly superior force were concealed. At it approached, the enemy rose up and poured in a most severe and destructive fire upon it, and the 20th Wisconsin having already commenced to fall back in disorder, the 19th Iowa was unable to hold its position, and was compelled to fall back across the orchard, where Lieutenant Colonel McFarland fell shot through the body. Major D. Kent then took command and rallied a portion of his men, who had fallen back to the right of the battery, near the position of the 94th Illinois."

Major Kent 19th Iowa, U.S.A.

In the same volume of the OfficalRecords, Report #33, written December 10th, 1862 by Major Kent, 19th Towa, who describes this charge: "... The skirmishers advanced under a heavy fire to a cornfield to the right of Battery E, 1st Missouri Artillary, and were ordered to hold it at all hazards which was done, until ordered to fall back and form in line of battle. The regiment was then ordered to advance to the left of the white house (Borden House) on the hill to support the 20th Wisconsin which was hotly engaged. Iowa led by Lieutenant Colonel McFarland advanced up the hill steadily and across the orchard back of the house (Borden) when the 20th Wisconsin gave The 10th still advanced to the fence adjoining the wood, when the enemy, concealed, arose to their feet, three regiments deep, pouring a destructive fire on us from three sides, which caused the regiment to waver and fall back to the battery, on the left of the road leading up the hill, Lieutenant Colonel McFarland here fell, shot through the body. I then took command and rallied what was left of the regiment, as the regiment met with a severe loss in the charge.... Colonel Orme then rode up and ordered Captain Roderick to fall in and rally with the 94th Illinois which he did, led by Colonel Orme in person, driving the enemy back with great slaughter, and holding their position until ordered to fall back and reform."

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Major Thompson, 20th Iowa, U.S.A.

Major W. C. Thompson, 20th Iowa, in a letter dated December 10, 1862, wrote: "We drove them from their position and was still fighting near a fence, and an empty house (Borden House) stood away about twenty yards from us. At last I heard some of the boys say, 'For God's sake, Major, get off your horse or you will be killed!', for they were shooting at me out of the house and a few of the cowards had sneaked into the house (Borden) and had shot often at me and had missed me. But just at sundown and the very last round they shot at us, one of the cowardly cusses raised the window and took a good aim and I was hit that time...." From this graphic description and from statements by other soldiers, we may conclude that the Borden House survived the heavy infantry combat and the artillery fire of that day.

Captain Pittman (C.S.A.), in an interview around 1896 relates:"...On the 7th, after the enemy had been driven to shelter behind his artillery and the sun had gone down in a cloud of sulphurous smoke, the dusk of evening was coming on, our regiment was moved from the corner of the Borden orchard where we were formed after the last charge, and where the hardest fight of the day had occurred, to a point in the woods 150 yards to the south and west where we were given permission to 'lie down arms'."

THE BURIAL TRENCHES

In the Prentiss Report of 1888, mention is made of his companion, the Commissioner, who was a Union veteran and witness of the Prairie Grove battle. The Commissioner relates:"...The next day we went to the field and saw the burial details putting the dead in trenches. The piles of dead where the battery was fought over near the Hall House (Borden House), were frightful. The ground was muddy with blood."

In the Prentiss report of 1888 there is also included the description given by another Union veteran, the Captain, who relates: "Not far from the house (Borden House) were depressions in the ground, and piles of gravelly and barren earth covered with green mould. These mark the trenches where the Union dead were buried and from whence their poor bones were afterward removed. There were other trenches in the orchard now enclosed...All this ground was fought over, the combatants being generally the troops or Herron's command and the Arkansans. Frost's Missourians, who in the original Confederate plan of battle were placed on this flank, were soon sent to the Confederate left."

THE 34th Arkansas, C.S.A., AT THE BATTLE OF PRAIRIE GROVE Flashback 1952

[&]quot;...These Washington County men, who had been drilling for months at Spadra and Mazzard Prairie, down on the Arkansas River, knew where they were

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going when they marched out of Van Buren on the 3rd of December. They recognized the distant silhouette of the Boston Mountains. But they could hardly have forseen that the battle which they anticipated would occur within sight and sound of their homes -- with their own kin huddled in cellars or ministering to the wounded. The 34th Arkansas fought and died on home grounds -- Crawford's Prairie, the Morton farm, the Borden orchard...."

The Commanding Generals Hindman, Herron, and Blunt reported 338 killed and 1,630 wounded in action, for a total of 2,568 men. The high loss of 10% of the troops engaged stands as an exception to most Civil War battles, and indicates the severity of the infantry combat here and of the significant part which artillery had in this battle. The records show that around 600 of the wounded subsequently died. "Losses in killed, wounded, and missing totaled 1,317 for the Confederates and 1,251 for the Federals. Of the latter only 333 were from Blunt's Command indicating how much heavier a portion of the conflict Herron's men had borne." The Records show that of the counted wounded, 430 died in the Army hospital at Fayetteville, 150 in the churches and homes of Cane Hill, Prairie Grove, and others along the Cove Creek and Telegraph Road.

In the Prentiss report of 1888 a description of the battle was given by Mrs. Staples, who relates her personal view of the fight on the Confederate left flank around the Morton House. Prentiss wrote that, "The mistress of the mansion now is Mrs. Staples, nee' Morton, who was a young woman at the time of the fight. The storm of battle, drifting from the east end of the ridge to the westward, drove the women and children to the Morton House, where they took refuge in a shallow cellar which Mrs. Staples shows to visitors. The incident most vivid in her mind was coming up from the cellar to get some garments to cover the children who were suffering from cold."

Yet, there is a copy of a typed manuscript in the Rare Documents file of the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock entitled, Personal Recollections of the Battle of Prairie Grove, and is thoughtto have been written by Mrs. Staples around 1896. It reads, "Early in the day the battle commenced on the Borden farm east of the grove, lasting until sunset, winding up on the Morton farm one mile west. The families were ordered west to the first cellar, which was Morton's. Those in the cellar during the battle were N.J. and J.K. Morton, Wm. Morton, Wm. D. Rogers, wife and three children, A. Borden, wife and five children, Eliza Borden, Dr. Rogers, wife and two children. We all remained in the cellar till dark, but I went into the house several times to get victuals and some bedclothes and wraps for the children...Another shocking affair was helping to bury Mr. Borden, a brother of A. Borden, who was brutally killed in the Pittman lane." From this statement we can easily infer that the Confederates had

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placed their sharpshooters in the Borden House to the east which offered an excellent view of the initial attacks of the Union Army of General Herron's command. It is also easy to imagine sharpshooters occupying the Borden cellar, which was protected from shot and shell. By removing some of the stacked stones of the foundation located in the northeast corner of the house they could have created a small, concealed position in the center of combat. They told the Borden family to get out of their house.

In the Prentiss report of 1888, this journalist begins his interview around Prairie Grove by relating that, "Morning came, chill, cloudy and forbidding. We walked along the business street, what may be called the Post Office street, in search of Confederate 'contemporaries' who could speak of the Prairie Grove battle from observation. There were several of them, all belonging that day to Fagan's Arkansas Brigade which held the Confederate right. They thought the Confederate guns, over which the savage fight occurred at the white house (Borden House), belonged to Blocher's Arkansas Battery. They spoke of the spot where the dead men were piled thickest, as the place where the horses were killed...."(This refers to the Captain's story in the next few paragraphs.)

"...By general consent, Mr. Bill Rogers, who lived on the edge of the ridge and who, with his family connections, owned a large portion of the field, they thought the best guide procurable, and Mr. Rogers was found later in the morning and obligingly mounted his mule and rode over the field. We went first to the white house (Borden House) on the right of the Confederate line, overlooking the ford where the road from Fayetteville crosses. From near this house (Borden House) the Confederate artillery opened on Herron's troops when crossing, and were replied to first by Backhof's Battery. Here the 20th Wisconsin and the 19th Iowa made the first charge of the day, carrying the ridge, only to be forced back."

The Captain's story - 1888. "...We came to a stream (it was the Illinois Creek) and we moved along the bank down the stream and formed in line... The batteries concluded their dispute for a time; the men were wakened and stood up in line, and then moved toward it. (The physical condition of the men refers to the forced march of General Herron's men of 110 miles from their camp near Springfield, Missouri!) And the fire from the guns on the crest, and the musketry fire, seemed to grow thicker and louder as we neared it. I saw a white house (Borden House) on the crest and to our right. We came to the foot of the ridge, the slope covered with a tangle of vines and bushes and trees. Buried in this for a few moments, we were sheltered as if we had gone into a fortress. (This refers to a natural bench in the hill below the Borden House.) We came out near the crest,

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and there was a newly-built rail fence, and there, a few feet off, so that we were looking into their muzzles, were the guns, and nearby the horses standing quietly attached to the caissons. The guns which had been belching flame and smoke all morning stood there still and cold, and the horses as if waiting for us. We could have taken the horses away, but some officer called out to 'shoot the horses.' Men and officers called out in reply, 'save the horses.' Again the senseless order was repeated and this time obeyed. The beautiful horses were piled in a bloody heap, and the men swarmed over and around the guns and a great cheer went up."

"Two minutes elapsed, the last stragglers were working their way out of the brush and up to the crowd about the guns, when dicipline asserted itself, the broken mass was formed in line and began to sweep up the crest and over it, and down the farther slope, and coming to another rise, we saw five gray lines, one behind the other, and they blazed, one after the other, down in our faces."

"The impetus of the charge lasted until the regiment reached a ravine at the feet, so to speak of the enemy. Here we stood and fired up the slope and a hail of bullets answering smiting our line, and then the men lay down and fired as they had been taught to do...there were no more men alive and unwounded in the ravine by that time. I passed the battery we had taken. The guns stood as we had left them."

Prentiss continues his observations in the vicinity of this battery: "The white house of today is a neat cottage with dormer windows, and is occupied by a family named Hall, newcomers to the country. (Courthouse records indicat that they were in the Borden House in this year 1888, the time of this report.) The inclosure about the house seems recent. (Probably remodeled by the previous owner, Mr. W. W. Blanton who is listed in the Washington County Courthouse Record Books G2-177 and G2-202 purchasing the house and land in the year 1881.) To the east, or in the rear of the house, is a young orchard, taking the place of the old orchard which grew there at the time of the battle, and where Lieutenant Colonel McFarland of the 19th Iowa,...was killed....To the southward, or nearer the summit of the ridge, much of the timer has been cut away. To the west of the house (Park property) and immediately around it there seems to have been few changes except those made by the hand of nature. The trees have grown, a change which, occurring on all these forested battlefields, alters their appearance more than anything man has done; but there would be no difficulty, we should think, in a veteran of the 20th Wisconsin, or 19th Iowa, or 37th Illinois, or 26th Indiana, from finding again the " scene

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I have confined the accounts of the Prairie Grove battle to the Confederate right flank, which is located in and around the Borden House and orchard and where the burial trenches were excavated. The witnesses tell the story of the battle of Prairie Grove and I do not think that we can improve upon their description.

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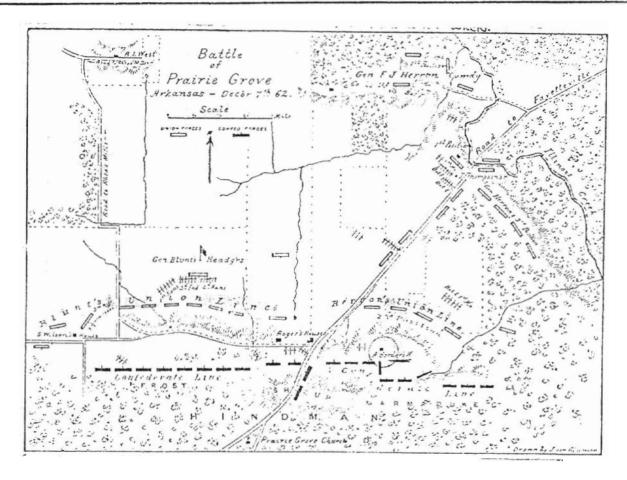
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Blunt's Attack (Confederate left flank)

Center

Herron's Attack (Confederate right flank) Archibald Borden House Form No. 1/0-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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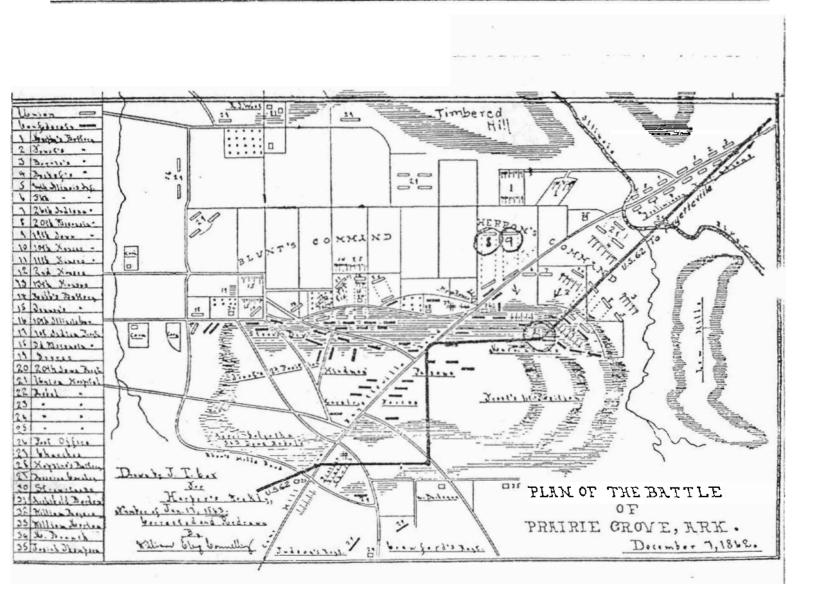
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Morton House Confederate left flank Borden House Confederate right flank Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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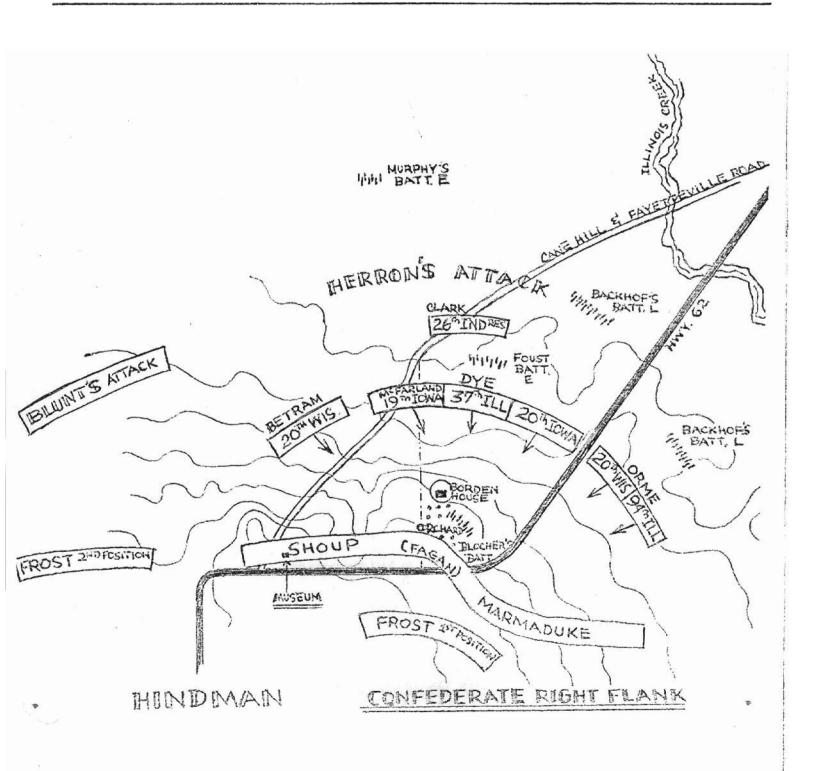
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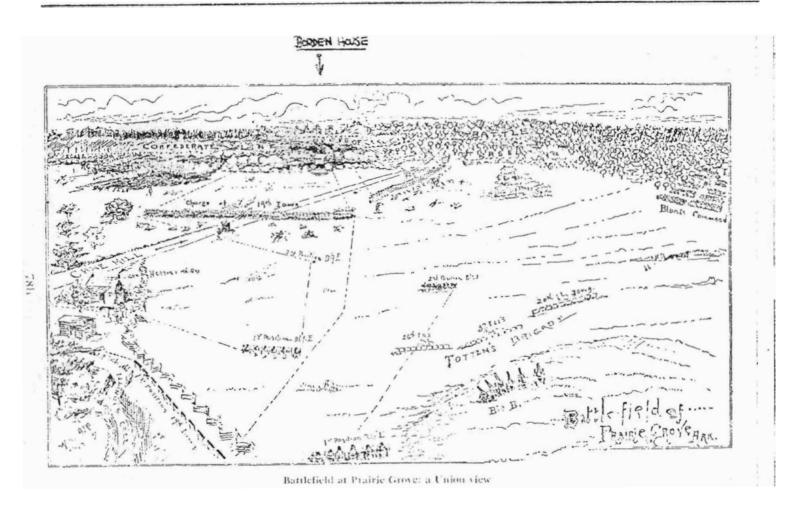
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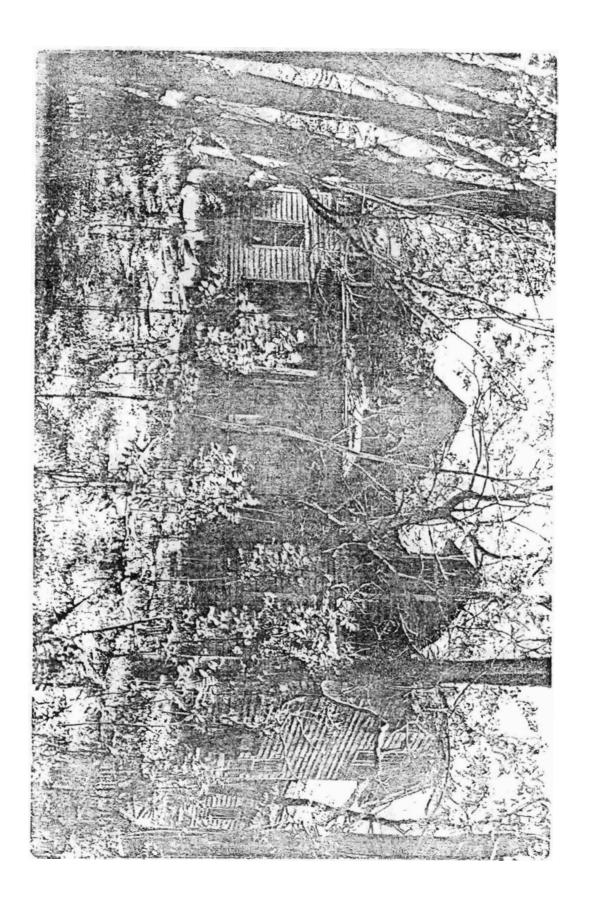
PAGE 10



Herron's Attack of the Confederate Right Flank

- * A characteristic of the Union charges is that they were disjointed and made in detachments of insufficient strength.
- * A heavy reliance on a strong and well served artillery saved the Union forces from disaster at Prairie Grove.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	PHICAL REFER	ENCES		
ferguson, John L. Arkans Johnson, Robet U. and Cla III, New York: The Lemke, W. J., ed. "Battl Flashback, Vol. II Vaught, Elsa. "Diary of XVIII. #1 (Spring	arence Clough, eds e Century Company, le of Prairie Grov , #6 (December, 19 an Unknown Soldie	Battles a 1884. e." Washin 52), and Vo	nd Leaders of the one of the one of the one of the one of the of the office of the off	Civil War, Vol.
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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFIC	ER SIGNATURE Anne Bai	rtiey 70	energy will	
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DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOL	OGY AND HISTORIC PRE	SERVATION ::	DATE	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

NAME

HISTORIC

Borden House

AND/OR COMMON

Borden-Hall House

LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Prairie Grove

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S., Prairie Grove Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1970

REQUIREMENTS

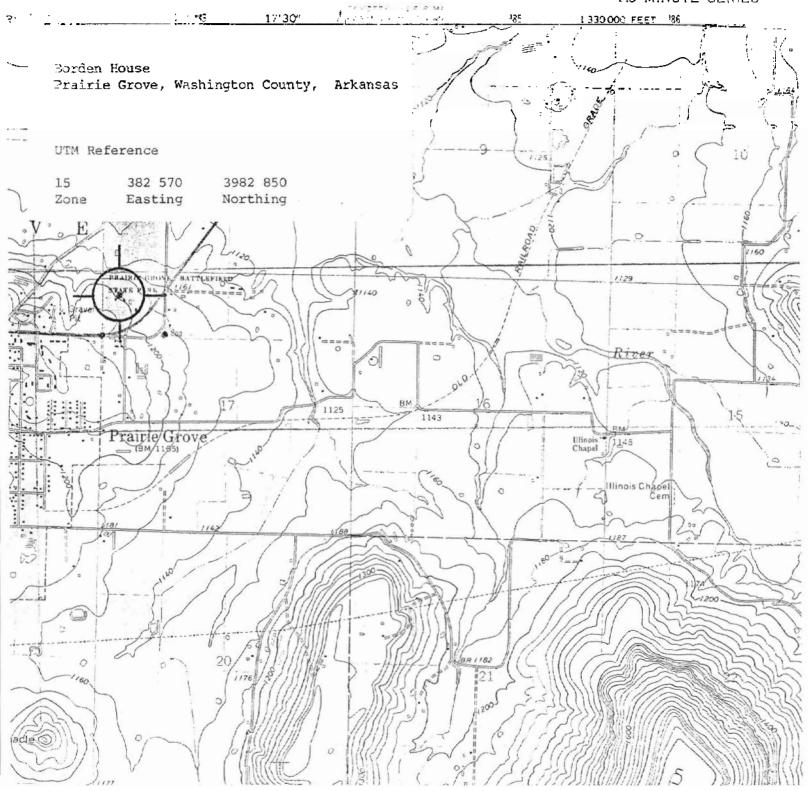
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 3454-75

PRAJRIE GROVE QUA ARKANSAS-WASHIMT 7.5 MINUTE SERIES

- LA LESCHILLIAN LANGUALLE LIMITAL MANDENINE



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PHESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 VEST MAKKHRI

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 722 TELEPHOGE - 501 371-1639

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

owner of the Busher Source & Property
located at france Grove Corpanses
washington, Carried

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the Mational Register of Mistoric Places.

- I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

July 30, 1976