

1-30-E070/1010-41

NR 12-2-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Arkansas

AR0030

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

St. Charles Battle Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Battle of St. Charles

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Junction of Arkansas Highway 1 and the White River

CITY OR TOWN:

St. Charles

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY:

Arkansas

CODE

001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- District
- Site
- Building
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP

- Public
- Private
- Both

- Public Acquisition:
- In Process
 - Being Considered

STATUS

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
- Restricted
 - Unrestricted
 - No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

Arkansas County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

DeWitt

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

- Federal
- State
- County
- Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Charles is a small community lying on the west bank of the White River in Arkansas County, Arkansas. It is located northwest of the intersections of Arkansas Highway #1 and the White River, and rests on the southernmost bluffs along the river's west bank. The Battle of St. Charles was fought along a two mile stretch of the river at and just south of St. Charles.

The few structures now standing near the river's west edge include two grain storage bins, several private residences, and a deserted store. No evidence of the Confederate batteries remains and there are no buildings on the east bank along this part of the river.

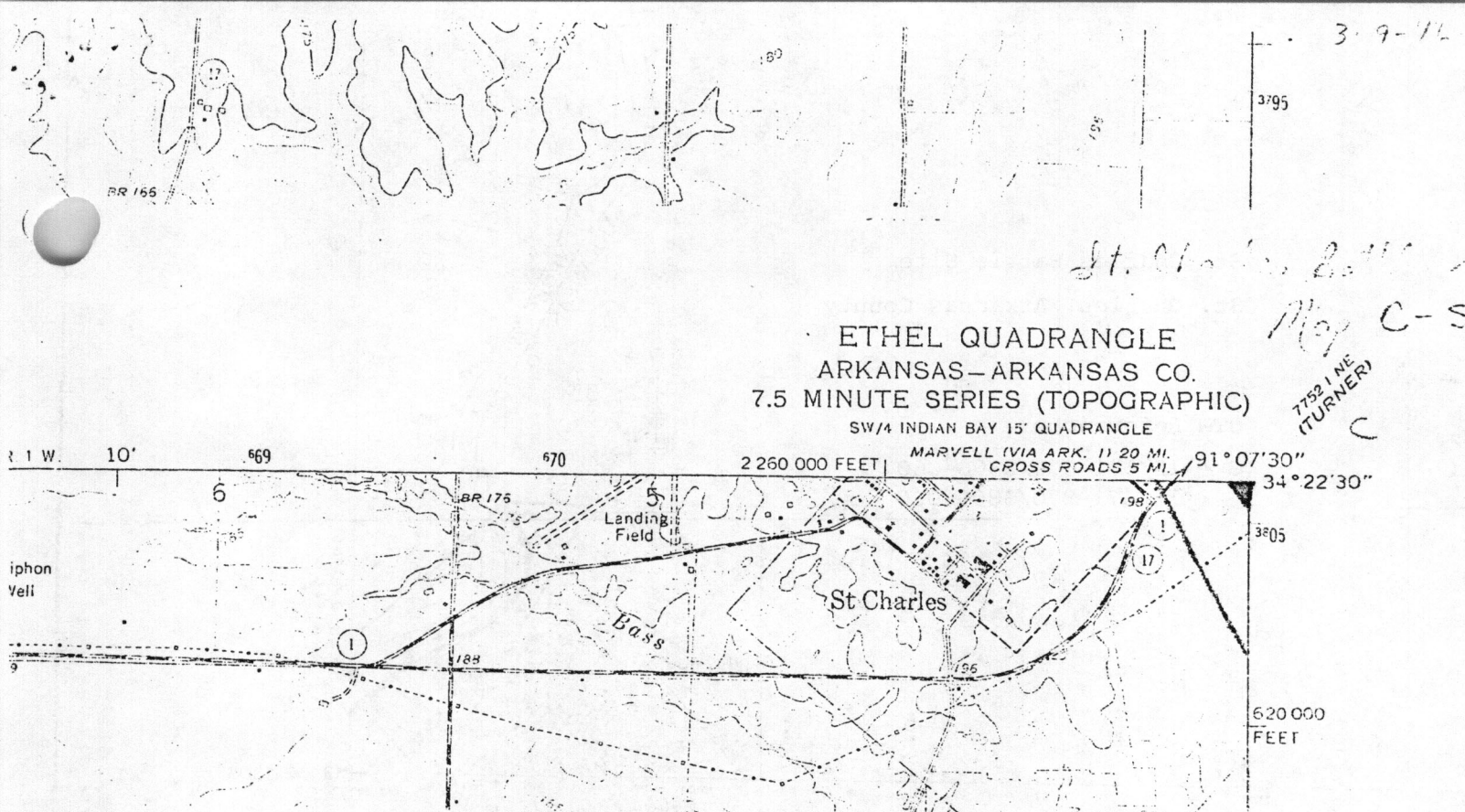
In the late 1930's divers explored the waters where the three Confederate vessels were sunk in 1862. Several relics from the battle were recovered, including two cannons which are now on display in St. Charles. One cannon is at the White River Refuge Sub-headquarters, and the other on Broadway Street.

The White River has moved slightly west during the last one hundred years, cutting in more closely to the bluff side of the river. Most of the area which was once blockaded is now covered by the east bank of the river. However, the overall river scene probably looks much the same as it did during the Battle of St. Charles in 1862.

In addition to the two aforementioned cannons, the battle is commemorated by a third object. A cast stone marker approximately twenty feet in height, stands in the center of the town's main thoroughfare and bears the names of both the Union and Confederate troops who were killed in the Battle of St. Charles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3-9-76



St. Charles Battle Site
 May C-5
 7732 1 NE (TURNER) C

Form No. 10-301
 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Charles Battle Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Charles

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Arkansas

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, Ethel Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1967

(C)

4 REQUIREMENTS

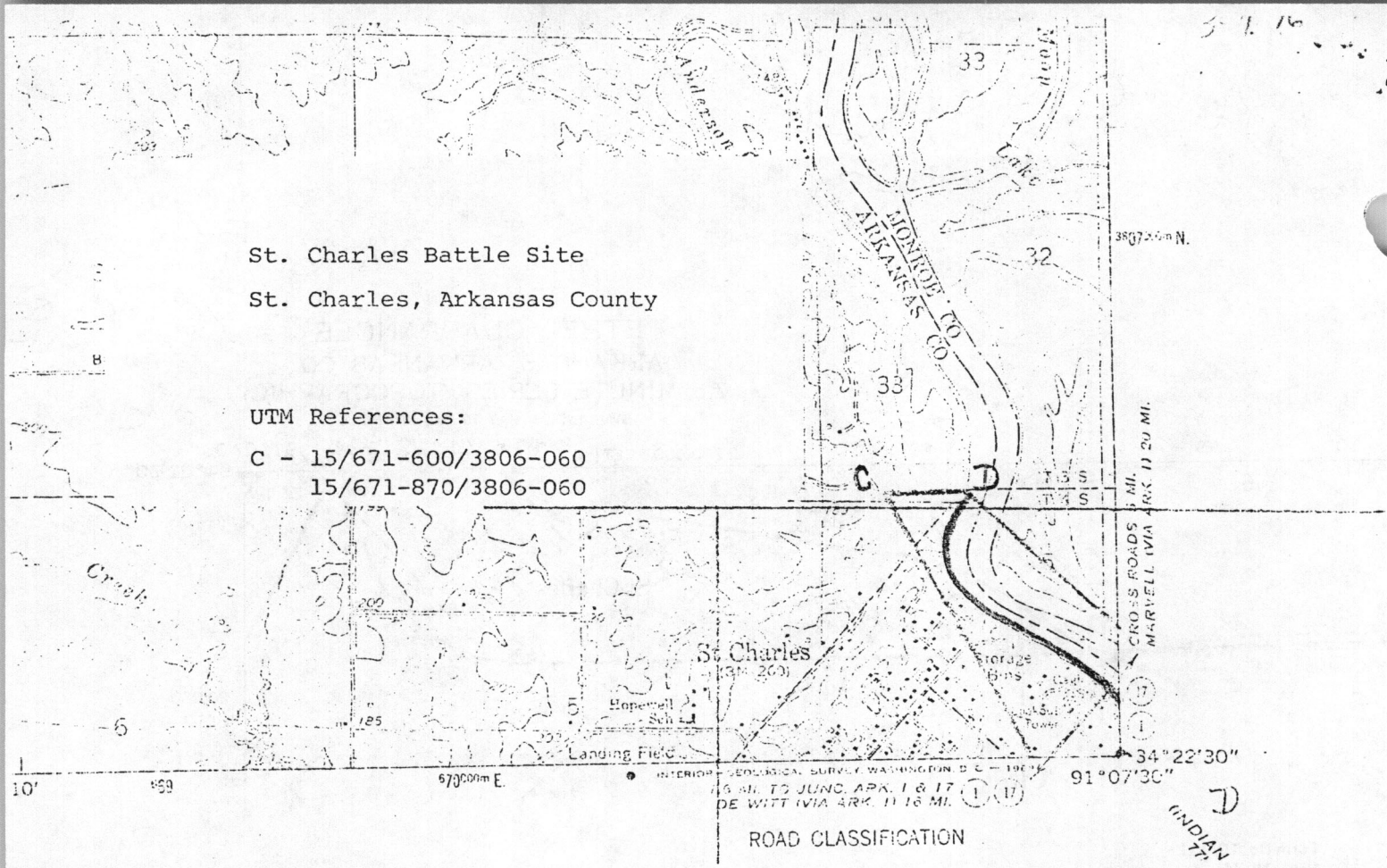
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

St. Charles Battle Site
St. Charles, Arkansas County

UTM References:

C - 15/671-600/3806-060
15/671-870/3806-060



Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Charles Battle Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Charles

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Arkansas

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, Crocketts Bluff Quadrangle

(D)

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1967

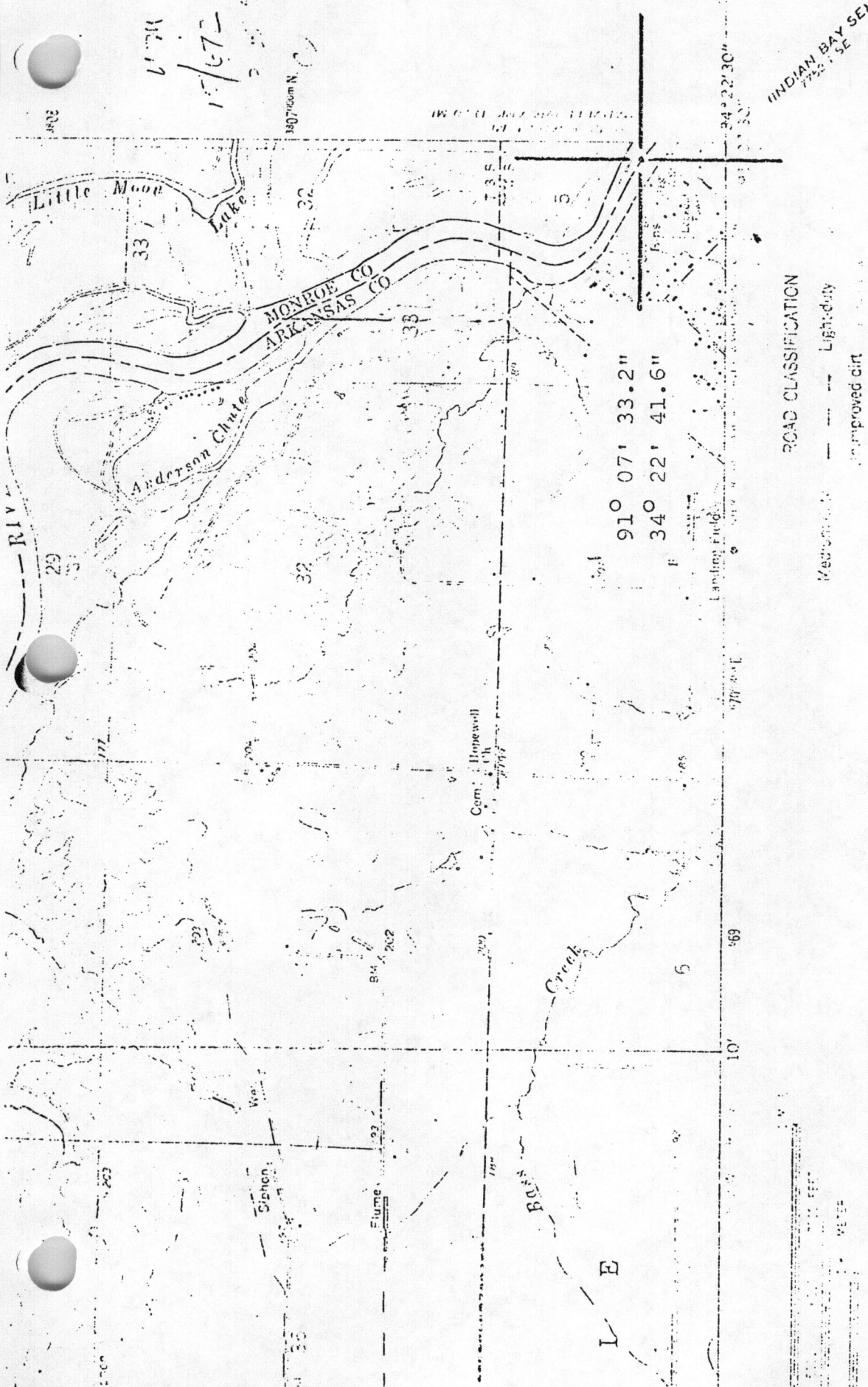
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

St Charles Battle Site
 Arkansas County, Ark.

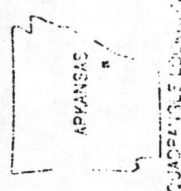
JAN 26 1976



1178
 1-1-72 270

91° 07' 33.2"
 34° 22' 41.6"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 --- Light-duty
 - - - Improved dirt
 State Route

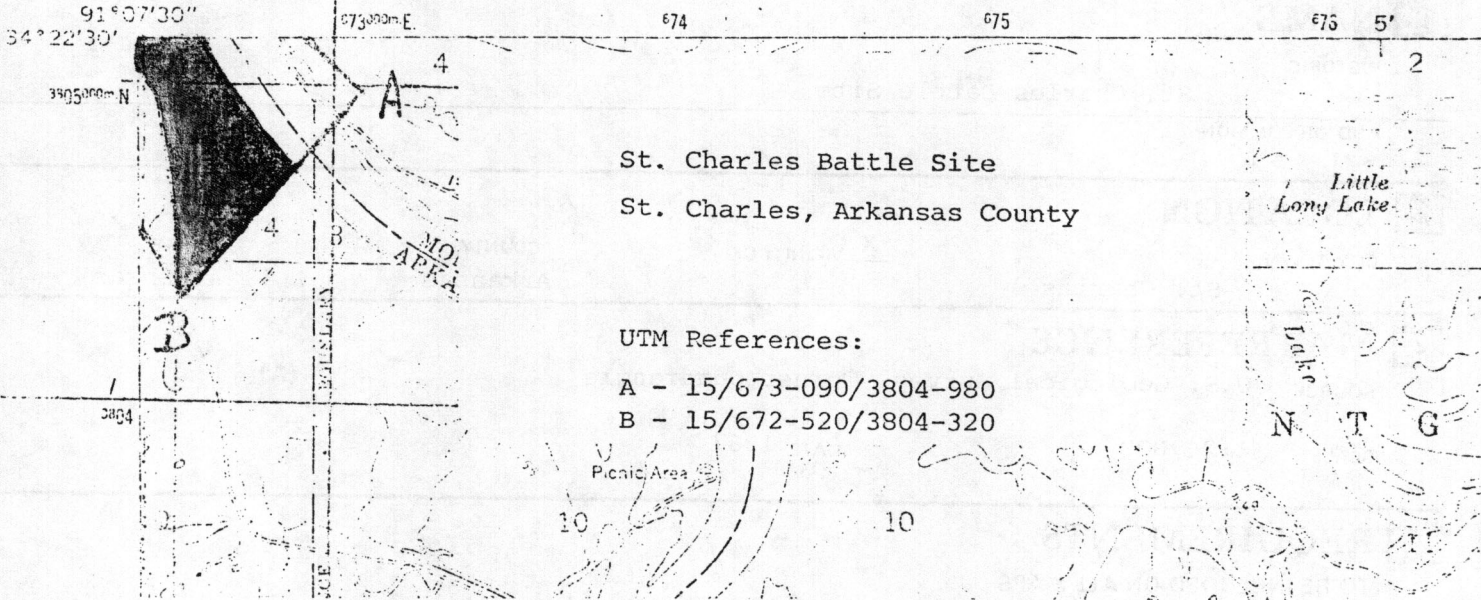


CROCKETT'S BLUFF, ARK.
 NW 1/4 INDIAN BAY 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3422.5 - W9107.5 - 7.5

40' STANDARDS
 50225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 TLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
 IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1967

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



St. Charles Battle Site
St. Charles, Arkansas County

UTM References:

- A - 15/673-090/3804-980
- B - 15/672-520/3804-320

Form No. 10-301
(5-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Charles Battle Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN St. Charles VICINITY OF COUNTY Arkansas STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, Indian Bay SE Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1967

(B)

4 REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
 2. NORTH ARROW
 3. UTM REFERENCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Charles Battle Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Charles

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Arkansas

STATE
Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, Turner Quadrangle

(A)

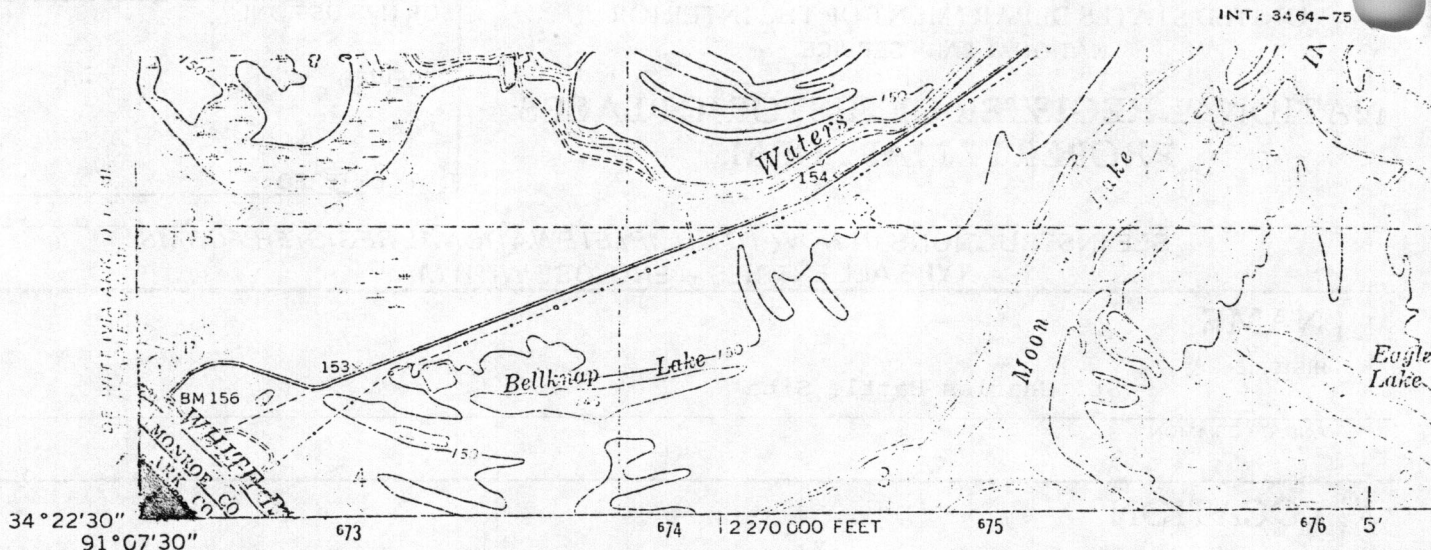
SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1967

4 REQUIREMENTS

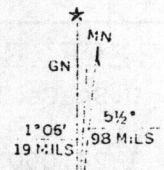
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



(ETHEL)
7/52 TSW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964 and by planetable surveys 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

added 2-7-76
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE one

1. Approximate acreage - 30
2. UTM References - from U.S. Geological Survey; Turner, Indian Bay SE, Ethel and Crocketts Bluff Quadrangles
 - A. 15/673-090/3804-980
 - B. 15/672-520/3804-320
 - C. 15/671-600/3806-060
 - D. 15/671-870/3806-060

3. Verbal description:

The riverfront battle site covered the river and its western bank along a point just north of the river's bend north of St. Charles and south to a point about two miles south of St. Charles. The Spanish Grant line approximates the area's southeastern boundary, with a county all-weather road marking its western boundary. The northwestern boundary lies parallel and southeast of the highway, and between the county road and the river. Areas included are marked in orange on the attached maps.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) June 17, 1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the most interesting naval battles of the Civil War was fought on the lower White River in southern Arkansas. Confederate entrenchments along the bluffs of St. Charles were attacked by a small flotilla of Union vessels. Purportedly, one of the most destructive single shots of the Civil War was fired during this engagement when a Confederate cannon ball struck the steam drum on a Union gun boat, the Mound City.

Following their victory at Pea Ridge in March, 1862, Union forces under General Samuel R. Curtis moved from northwest Arkansas eastward across the state. Their destination was Jacksonport, on the upper White River in eastern Arkansas, where they planned to receive supplies and reinforcements. The Union effort to support Curtis resulted in the Battle of St. Charles.

Confederate Major-General T. C. Hindman was in charge of the Trans-Mississippi District in the Spring of 1862. In an official report he gave the following account of events preceding the Battle of St. Charles:

On June 3, anticipating the fall of Memphis, and that Federal fleets would ascend White River and the Arkansas to cooperate with Curtis, I took steps for obstructing both streams...The point selected on the White River was Saint Charles, about 100 miles above the mouth, where the first bluff appears. A pile-driver was taken there from Little Rock and another hauled overland from Madison, on the Saint Francis. Timber was cut and floated down and great energy displayed in the work.

Despite the efforts of General Hindman's men, the blockade of the White River was still incomplete when the Federal gunboats were within five miles of St. Charles on June 16, 1862. On that same day the Confederates attempted to complete the river blockade by sinking three vessels across the channel. These included the steamboats Eliza G. and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Arkansas	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 2)

Mary Patterson, and the gunboat Maurepas (which would have been defenseless against the Federal ironclads). The guns from the Maurepas were moved ashore to help defend the hastily formed Confederate batteries.

The Federal fleet, moving up the White River toward their scheduled rendezvous with General Curtis, consisted of the ironclad gunboats Mound City and St. Louis, the partially ironclad gunboats Lexington and Conestoga, the tugboat Tiger, and several transports. On the morning of June 17, 1862, the Union gunboats encountered the first Rebel pickets about two miles south of St. Charles. At this point the 46th Indiana Regiment, led by Colonel G. N. Fitch, was landed and began its ground advance along the west bank of the river.

The gunboats continued upstream, and, when in range, their steady fire was returned by Confederate batteries concealed in the thick trees along the west bank. The lead ship, Mound City, was within 600 yards of a Rebel battery when struck with a devastating shot. A 32-pound cannonball penetrated her port casement and exploded her steam drum. The scalding steam forced those who were able to abandon ship. Nevertheless, most of the crew members who escaped the steam were killed by Confederate sharpshooters posted along the bank. One of the injured was Commander A.H. Kilty, leader of the Union expedition. Of about 175 crew members, only 25 answered roll call on the following day.

As the Mound City was towed out of action, the gunships ceased firing, thus allowing their infantry to charge the Rebel batteries. The Union forces far outnumbered the Confederate defenders, and easily overran the batteries. Among the gray-clads captured by the Federals was the Confederate commander, Captain Joseph Fry. The entire battle lasted less than four hours, and despite the heavy losses on the Mound City, was decidedly a Union victory.

After regrouping under a new commander, the Union flotilla continued its expedition upstream, leaving the crippled Mound City docked near St. Charles. The Confederates' blockade of the White River was ineffectual in halting the Union advance; however, the Federal flotilla was stopped at Des Arc, located about half way between St. Charles and their destination of Jacksonport, when the White River water level dropped too low to be navigable. Nevertheless, the Federal objective

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Arkansas	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 3)

to take the White River had been accomplished, and General Curtis was resupplied by overland routes.

As one of the few naval engagements in the state, the Battle of St. Charles is especially significant in Arkansas' Civil War history. For many years afterwards, portions of the three sunken vessels could be seen during the low-water season, but time has taken its toll, and no physical evidence now remains. Two cannons recovered from the Maurepas by divers in the 1930's, are displayed in St. Charles as relics of the community's more turbulent past.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas History Commission. Archives, Mrs. Mary S. Patrick Diary.
 Glenn, Dr. H. V. "The Battle of St. Charles." Grand Prairie Historical Bulletin, Vol. IV, #4, pp. 1-14, and Vol. V, #1, pp. 1-11.
 Johnson, Boyd W. "The Battle of St. Charles." Grand Prairie Historical Bulletin, Vol. I, #1, pp. 8-12.
 The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D. C.: 1880-1901, Series I, Vol. XXV, pp.29-36, 103-105, 929-932

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES									
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	.	.	0	.	.	34	22	41.6	91	07	33.2
NE	0	.	.	0	.	.						
SE	0	.	.	0	.	.						
SW	0	.	.	0	.	.						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE: 9-10-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Plaza West, Suite 1030, McKinley and Lee Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock

STATE: Arkansas

CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William E. Henderson

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 10, 1974

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

added 3-7-76

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

The site of the Belknap House is just south of St. Charles on the west bank of the White River. Several cedar trees and a large magnolia tree surround the site of the old adobe house. Remnants of the brick foundation are visible in several places, but the entire site is overgrown with thick underbrush.

Further south on the river's west bank lies the area traversed by the Union skirmishers. Bounded by the White River on the northeast and an all-weather road on the south and west, this area encompasses a woodland tract still in its natural state. This area is covered with over 29 varieties of native Arkansas trees, many of which are over 150 years old. Because it has been left untouched, this area looks much the same now as when first viewed by the Union forces during the Battle of St. Charles.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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To assist their naval flotilla, the 46th Indiana Regiment disembarked about two miles south of St. Charles. As they moved up the west bank of the river toward the Confederate batteries, these Union skirmishers forced Rebel pickets to retreat.

The land traversed by the Federal troops encompassed an area unaltered by white men. This virgin territory, which has never been farmed or built upon, was recently added to the list of Arkansas' natural areas by the Natural Heritage Commission. Because of its untouched state of natural land contour and vegetation, this Civil War battle site takes on an added significance.

A second area involved in the Battle of St. Charles is the site of the Belknap (Adobe) House. Located just south of St. Charles and north of the natural area mentioned above, the Belknap House was one of Arkansas' most unusual antebellum structures. Built by Colonel Charles Belknap, the twenty-room house was uniquely constructed of cypress framework with adobe walls. The house and grounds were involved in the battle when Federal skirmishers marched through the area in pursuit of Confederate pickets. Following the battle many of the wounded were taken to the Belknap House, thus making it a temporary hospital. Though the house burned in 1962 and its full basement has been filled in, the site of the house is still discernable on its slope overlooking the river.

These two areas, one significant for its natural untouched state and the other as the site of one of Arkansas' most unusual antebellum houses, were both involved in the Battle of St. Charles. As the site of the land action in this primarily naval engagement, these two adjoining tracts are an integral part of the battle site and should be recognized as such.