

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input 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

Bentonville Battleground State Historic Site covers 51 acres of open fields and woods, representing a small portion of the area (over 6,000 acres) of the wide-ranging Battle of Bentonville. Within the present boundaries lie many of the original trenches, breastworks, and pits, which are remarkably well preserved. Long sections of the main Confederate line as well as the entrenchments of Generals Carlin and Mower can still be seen.

Within the state-owned area is the Confederate Cemetery. Over three hundred Confederate soldiers lie buried in a common grave marked by a marble monument erected in 1893. Near the cemetery is a modern visitor center. Also on the grounds is the Harper House, an early nineteenth century farmhouse used as a hospital for Union and Confederate soldiers at different times during and after the battle. The house and outbuildings have been or are being restored and appropriately furnished.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Battle of Bentonville, March 19-21, 1865, covered a larger area (over 6,000 acres) and involved more men (about 80,000) than any other battle fought in North Carolina. Commanding these men was a large and distinguished roster of generals. Along with General Joseph E. Johnston, who led the Confederate Army, were Generals Wade Hampton, William J. Hardee, Braxton Bragg, D. H. Hill, Lafayette McLaws, Robert F. Hoke, Stephen D. Lee, A. P. Stewart, Benjamin F. Cheatham, and Joseph Wheeler. Accompanying General William T. Sherman, commander of the Federal troops, were Generals William P. Garlin, H. C. Hobart, J. A. Mower, H. W. Slocum, O. O. Howard, and one Yankee with the remarkable name of Jeff Davis.

Apart from its significance as a battle of unusually large scope, the Battle of Bentonville is of interest because it was the last full scale action of the Civil War in which the Confederate Army chose the ground and made the initial attack. It further represents the only significant Confederate attempt to stop Sherman after the Battle of Atlanta, in August, 1864.

Sherman's army of 60,000 left Savannah in January, 1865, and met with little resistance as it moved through the Carolinas. Sherman's aim was to stop in Goldsboro, North Carolina, for supplies and 40,000 additional troops on his way to join General Grant in the fight against Lee in Virginia. General Johnston, who had raised an army of about 20,000, sought to prevent Sherman's rendezvous with Grant. Learning that Sherman's left and right wings had separated for greater mobility, Johnston decided upon a confrontation at Bentonville. On March 19, Johnston's army attacked Sherman's left wing of 30,000 men. The battle continued for three days; after Sherman's right wing with 30,000 additional troops joined the fray, the Confederate forces withdrew and were not pursued. Varying estimates place Confederate casualties between 600 and 2,600; Union losses are put at about 1,600. Sherman continued on to Goldsboro. It was less than a month until Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox on April 9. Johnston accepted Sherman's surrender terms on April 26 at Bennett Place near Durham, North Carolina, thus ending the fighting in the Carolinas.

Bentonville Battlefield has historic value as the little-disturbed site of a large battle which represented a last attempt by Confederate troops to stem Sherman's sweep northward.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrett, John G. The Civil War in North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Luvaas, Jay. "Johnston's Last Stand--Bentonville," North Carolina Historical Review, XXXIII: 332-358.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	35° 18' 42"	78° 19' 57"		°	'	"
NE	35° 18' 42"	78° 18' 55"		°	'	"
SE	35° 18' 05"	78° 18' 55"		°	'	"
SW	35° 18' 05"	78° 19' 57"		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 51 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:
John B. Wells, III, Survey Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: February 23, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Dr. H. G. Jones
 Title Director, State Department of Archives and History
 Date February 23, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

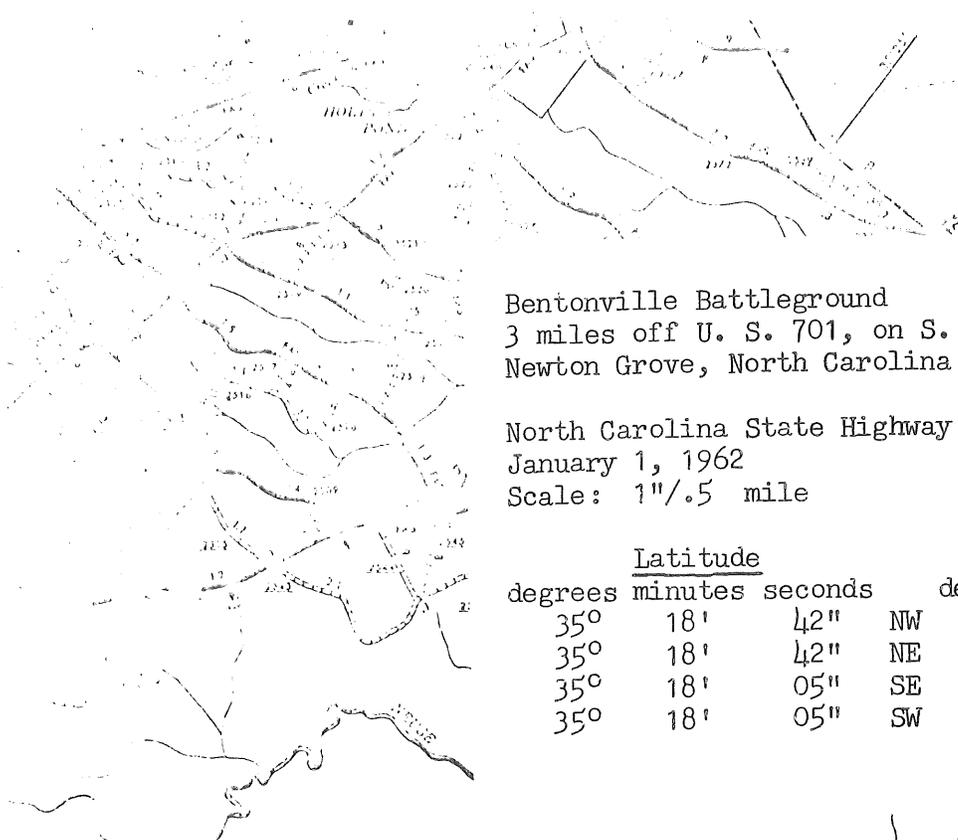
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

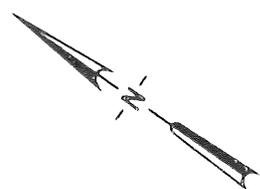
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

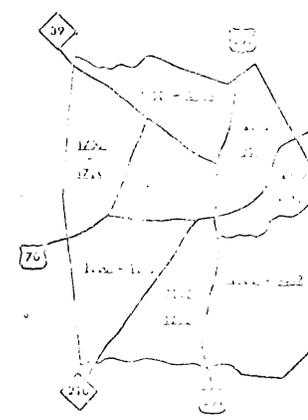
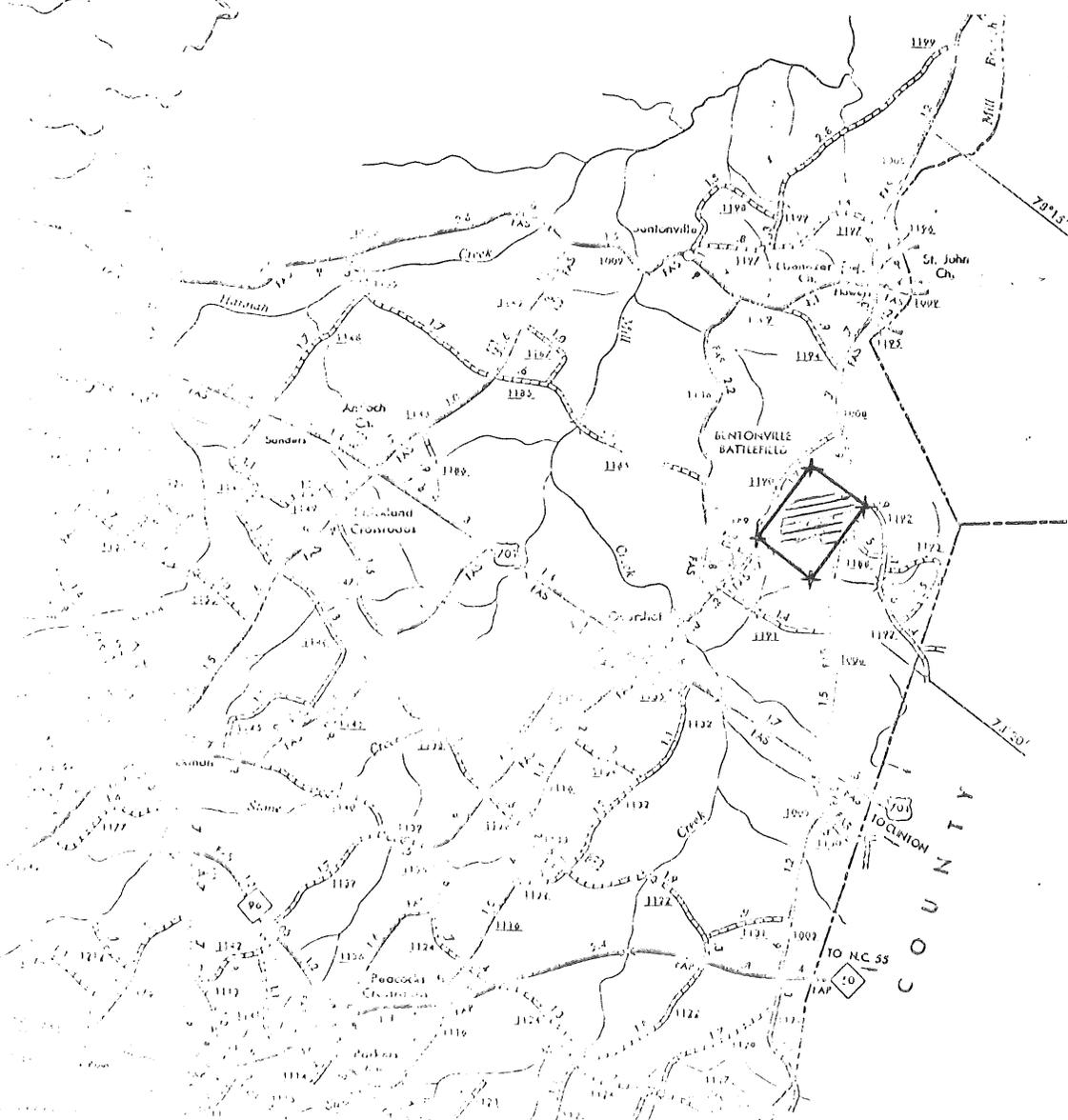


Bentonville Battleground
 3 miles off U. S. 701, on S. R. 1008
 Newton Grove, North Carolina

North Carolina State Highway Commission
 January 1, 1962
 Scale: 1"/.5 mile



Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35°	18'	42"	NW	78°	19' 57"
35°	18'	42"	NE	78°	18' 55"
35°	18'	05"	SE	78°	18' 55"
35°	18'	05"	SW	78°	19' 57"



KEY TO COUNTY ROAD NUMBERS
 ALSO NUMBERED 1961 - 1962