

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name First Battle of Newtonia Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Jct. of Highway 86 and Highway O [N/A] not for publication

city or town Newtonia (and) [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Newton code 145 zip code 64853

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally
[X] statewide [] locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Mark A. Miles

11.16.04

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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 certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.

[] removed from the
National Register

[] other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	0	29	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	5	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	5	29	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
 FUNERARY/cemetery
 DEFENSE/battle site
 TRANSPORTATION/road related
 LANDSCAPE/natural feature

Current Functions

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
 FUNERARY/cemetery
 TRANSPORTATION/road related
 LANDSCAPE/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: Battlefield

Materials

foundation N/A
 walls
 roof
 other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Military

Periods of Significance

1862

Significant Dates

1862

Significant Person(s)

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.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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: _____

First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 152.3 acres

UTM References

A. Zone Easting Northing
15 393830 4082620

B. Zone Easting Northing
15 394640 4082580

C. Zone Easting Northing
15 394640 4082430

D. Zone Easting Northing
15 395020 4082410

[X] 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 see continuation sheet

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Summary:

The First Battle of Newtonia Historic District is located north of the junction of Highways 86 and O (M, on some maps) at Newtonia, Newton County. The nominated area encompasses the most significant portions of the First Battle of Newtonia which occurred on September 30, 1862, in and around Newtonia, a small town in southwestern Missouri. The 152-acre district contains five contributing resources that were associated with the battle, which resulted in a rare Confederate victory over Union forces in Missouri. The district is roughly T-shaped, with the base centered in Newtonia above Spring Street/Route EE. The National Register-listed Mathew H. Ritchey House (12/05/78) is within the boundary. Contributing resources consist of the Ritchey barn and barnyard site, a Civil War-era cemetery, the Newtonia Branch stream, the historic Neosho Road and the overall battlefield site. The Ritchey family cemetery and an outbuilding (both listed with the Ritchey House) are also included. Except for the Ritchey House, above ground residential and farm properties from the time of the battle apparently are nonexistent. Archeological resources are known to exist within the district but their extent is undetermined. Historically, the nominated area contained agricultural fields mixed with scattered wooded lots and a meandering stream, some low stone walls and a handful of residences and outbuildings to house a portion of Newtonia's tiny population. The stone walls used for breastworks in the battle are gone, and the houses are different, but in a general way this description largely holds true today. Fourteen residential properties (one-and-two-story houses and mobile homes) dating from the late 19th century through about 1980, a small community building, and a poultry farm consisting of six modern metal buildings are the primary noncontributing resources. Several (approximately nine) garages and outbuildings are also present. The noncontributing resources constitute only a small portion of the district. They do not seriously detract from the larger sense of time and place and the older houses are interesting in their own right. Enough land features that were important in the battle still exist to lend authenticity to the district, so that sufficient integrity of location, setting, feeling and association are retained. A large portion of present-day Newtonia is not included in order to minimize integrity concerns. Although military action occurred within some of the excluded, more developed area, the majority of the fighting took place within the district boundary.

Historic Description:

When the First Battle of Newtonia was fought on September 30, 1862, Newtonia was a tiny farming community with a small "college" and a population of about 97.¹ It was situated at the junction of three roads leading to important towns in southwestern Missouri. South of town, the Neosho Road ran from east to west between the rock fences of the Ritchey mansion and barnyard. Going west this road led to Neosho where a Union garrison was maintained. On the east, it led to a small town called Jollification. The Granby Road left the Neosho Road at the western edge of town and angled off to the northwest, to Granby where

¹Dr. Robert Fryman, et al., *Engaged the Enemy Again: An Assessment of the 1862 and 1864 Civil War Battlefields at Newtonia, Missouri* (Atlanta: Garrow and Associates, 1995), 13. Fryman used the 1860 census and county deed records (which indicated 16 occupied dwellings) to estimate the population. The census listed Newtonia vocations as farmers, teachers, merchants and carpenters plus a blacksmith, an engineer, an overseer, a stonecutter and a physician. The "college" was probably a small boarding school. Its location was not determined for this nomination.

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important lead mines (important to both sides for casting bullets) were located. The Sarcoxie Road exited Newtonia from the north and turned to the northwest. This thoroughfare went to Sarcoxie from Carthage and Mt. Vernon and back again.

In his memoirs, written many years after the war, Union Captain Wiley Britton described the town as it must have been at the time of the engagement--although his estimate of Newtonia's population is considered to be four or five times too high:

This little college town of four or five hundred people was located on a branch in the prairie that flowed off to the north in the direction of Shoal Creek, and on the west and northwest of it, one half to three quarters of the mile off, there was a high rolling ridge of prairie, perhaps seventy-five feet above the town, that extended to Shoal Creek timber. The Sarcoxie road came over the ridge from the northwest, and the Granby and Neosho Roads came over the ridge from the west, and these roads entered the town from the west side...Colonel M. H. Ritchie [sic], a prominent Union man of Newtonia, has a farm that joined the town limits on the southwest, south of the Neosho Road. His dwelling-house, stone barn, and barn lots were adjoining the town. On the north side of his farm there was a stone fence that extended from his house to a quarter of a mile or upward along the Neosho road. His barn lot, of about two acres, was also enclosed with a stone fence. This lot was west and north of his house. The south-side stone fence of it and the farm fence made a lane fifty to sixty feet wide, and some two hundred yards long.²

Union Colonel Matthew H. Ritchey, the community's founder, owned a brick Greek Revival I-House that local historians believe was constructed utilizing slave labor. This circa 1840 house still stands on the south side of the old Neosho Road (today Mill Street) but all of the stone fences have been removed. The Ritchey House was an important structure in the Confederate's defensive position along Neosho Road in the First Battle of Newtonia. Confederate soldiers also used it as a field hospital. As a teen-ager in 1863, Southern sympathizer Belle Starr is said to have obtained valuable information about Federal forces in the area while staying overnight at the Ritchey House under pretense of being lost. At various times, officers from both sides including Generals Sterling Price and Joseph O. Shelby of the Confederate army and Generals John M. Schofield and Samuel Curtis, Lt. Colonel Thomas T. Crittenden, and Major Edwin B. Eno of the Union forces made the Ritchey House their headquarters. According to local tradition, Charles Quantrill also visited the Ritchey House.³

The Ritchey family cemetery is just west of the house and contains 38 known graves. It was in use before the First Battle of Newtonia. This cemetery is located in the area where some of the heaviest fighting is believed to have occurred.

²Wiley Britton. *The Civil War on the Border* (New York and London: G.P. Putnam's Sons, The Knickerbocker Press. 1891), 355; as quoted by Matthew E. Becher et al., *A Preservation Plan for the Civil War Battlefields of Newtonia, Missouri* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Gray & Pape, Inc., September 15, 2000), 22.

³Nancy B. Breme. "Ritchey, Mathew H., House," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1978. Note that while Ritchey's first name is spelled "Mathew" in the nomination, "Matthew" is preferred.

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Ritchey's large stone barn stood on the opposite side of Neosho Road, directly north of Ritchey's mansion and the family cemetery. Ritchey also had a stone-walled mill in the approximate center of town, which just prior to the battle was a source of "breadstuffs" for the Confederates. (This original Ritchey mill burned in 1868. A second Ritchey mill near the Ritchey home was torn down in 1937.) During the battle the solid barn--which is no longer standing--provided an excellent defensive position for the Confederates. Artillery pieces were set up around the barn by Confederate Captain Joseph Bledsoe's Missouri Light Artillery, and heavy firing commenced around and on the barn itself. On the morning of September 30, 1862, the stone fence surrounding the barn was used as breastworks by rebel forces (31st Texas Cavalry and Cherokee Battalion) during the Federal artillery bombardment of the barn area.⁴

The Civil War cemetery and surrounding high ground, located in the middle of the north end of the battlefield, was an essential element in the First Battle of Newtonia. Because of its higher elevation, Union artillery (25th Ohio Battery) was positioned there to bombard the Confederate stronghold in Newtonia. Later the cemetery, which predates the battle, was used for Union and Confederate burials.

The Newtonia Branch is a small stream that meanders through the main part of the battlefield, ultimately flowing into Shoal Creek to the north. It was essential for the operation of Ritchey's mill, and it was an important source of water for both North and South. It also had strategic importance as an obstacle and as a defensive position. Access to the Newtonia Branch was probably contested by both sides.

Current Description:

Today Newtonia remains a small rural community although its population has roughly doubled since 1862, to approximately 200. It consists primarily of single-family residences, only one of which, the Ritchey House, is thought to be extant from the time of the battle. A short section of the old Neosho Road, now called Mill Street, still runs from east to west along the southern edge of the community. State highways serve as boundaries along portions of the district but only local traffic passes directly through it. The combination of streets lined with large trees, a preponderance of single-family homes and the lack of modern industry promote a sense of small town life that suggests historic authenticity. The surrounding area is still used almost exclusively for farming, so Newtonia continues to reflect its agricultural background.

Three state highways are within the Newtonia city limits: Route O on the west, and Route 86 (now the connecting road to Neosho) and Route EE on the south. Few remnants remain of the historic Granby and Sarcocie roads which existed at the time of the battle, although a portion of the Granby Road is a contributing site in the Second Battle of Newtonia Site (nomination pending). The spring-fed Newtonia Branch still meanders through the town and surrounding area. Neither the Ritchey barn nor the original Ritchey mill are standing but the two-story Ritchey House still occupies its original site, directly south of the barn and farmyard site. The Ritchey House appears to have lost some of its integrity due to the recent construction of a front gable and the conversion of a one-story portico into a two-story portico, but its

⁴ Edwin C. Bearss, "The Army of the Frontier's First Campaign: The Confederates Win at Newtonia." *Missouri Historical Review* Vol. LX, No. 3 (April 1966): 300-301.

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historic significance is undiminished. An old wrought iron fence, not present at the time of the battle, encloses portions of the property. The acreage containing the Ritchey House, cemetery, and barn area is owned by the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association.

Two archaeological surveys conducted on the site helped locate battle patterns and artillery positions as well as artifacts. In addition, a preservation plan has been completed for both the 1862 battle site and the 1864 Second Battle of Newtonia site (nomination pending). The surveys and preservation plan were funded by grants to the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association from the American Battlefield Protection Program. The First Battle of Newtonia Site is listed as a Priority 2 Endangered Site by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. A Priority 2 Endangered Site is defined as having fair to good integrity and a moderate to high threat of development.

Contributing Resources:

See Figure A for locations of all resources, contributing and noncontributing:

A. Battlefield Site: The overall site encompasses the majority of the land on which the First Battle of Newtonia occurred on September 30, 1862. Open agricultural fields intermixed with small wooded lots dominate the landscape as they did at the time of the battle. Twenty acres where much of the fighting took place are owned by the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association. This acreage is mostly covered by dense vegetation in summer but is being partially restored to its historic state. This area includes land at the north edge of the city limits where a Union infantry charge by the 9th Wisconsin was repulsed by the Confederates. (See Photos 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12)

B. Neosho Road (Mill Street): Mill Street, formerly Neosho Road, runs from east to west through the length of Newtonia. Approximately 1,000 feet of this paved street is within the district boundary. Mill Street connects with Highway O on the west, leading to a junction that took travelers to the lead mining community of Granby and on to Neosho. The eastern portion of Mill Street where the district boundary ends coincides with the old Ritchey family property line. Intermittently along the length of the street, a natural berm indicates the width of the original lane. The stone walls on both sides of the street which were integral to the outcome because they provided Confederate forces with an excellent defensive position are no longer present. In 1862, Mill Street marked the southern boundary of the community but today the city limits extend south of Highway 86 and Route EE. (See Photo 1)

C. Newtonia Branch: About 2,000 feet of the Newtonia Branch, which meanders roughly northeast-southwest from just south of Mill Street, are included in the district. The stream is less than six feet across at most places within the boundary and is sometimes dry during part of the year. Apparently it was much wider at the time of the battle. The streambank along most of the Newtonia Branch contains dense vegetation including a treeline. (See Photo 13)

D. Civil War Cemetery: Located approximately 2,000 feet north of Mill Street in the northern portion of the district, the Civil War Cemetery measures roughly 500 by 1,000 feet and is surrounded by a thickly wooded zone. Large shade trees are interspersed throughout its area. The cemetery contains at least 600

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graves. Gravestones date from before the Civil War. The earliest visible date is 1858. Nine markers have been identified as belonging to Union soldiers, including that of Captain Robert F. Christian who was killed during the Second Battle of Newtonia which was a part of Price's Raid in October 1864. The bodies of 20 Union Soldiers were removed from Newtonia, primarily from this cemetery, in 1869 and placed in the National Cemetery at Springfield, Missouri. Burials are still taking place. The most recent occurred in May 2003. (See Photo 14)

E. Ritchey Barnyard and Barn Site: The battle raged around Matthew Ritchey's barn in what is now the 500 block of Mill Street. The grassy site with a scattering of trees is currently owned by the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association. The Ritchey barnyard of some 2 1/2 acres was surrounded by a stone fence used for cover by Confederates against attacking Federals. The barn survived the battle but was destroyed in the late 19th Century. Archeological surveys have indicated its approximate location across Mill Street from the Ritchey House and confirmed that heavy fighting occurred there during the First Battle of Newtonia. (See Photo 2)

F. The Ritchey House: The district also includes the Matthew Ritchey House which was previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the First Battle of Newtonia, specifically in the thematic areas of Military Affairs, Architecture and Society. The Ritchey House was listed in December 1978. The Ritchey mansion is located at 520 Mill Street, directly south of the Ritchey Barn and Barnyard site. The main block of this brick, Greek Revival I-House and the first floor of the ell are thought to have been constructed in ca. 1840, by slaves owned by Colonel Matthew Ritchey who founded Newtonia. A historic photo of the house shows it without a porch but with what appears to be ghost lines from a one-story portico, which was reconstructed in 1950. The Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association acquired the mansion in 2002. At some point since its listing in 1978, the Ritchey House was altered when a nonoriginal front gable with a fanlight and a two-story porch were constructed. The land surrounding the house is well-kept and parklike. (See Photo 4)

G. The Ritchey Family Cemetery: This small cemetery is just west of the Ritchey House and was listed on the National Register along with the house in 1978. There are 38 known gravesites including six in a separate area marked only with nameless stones. Presumably these are the graves of slaves. The oldest identifiable gravestone is that of Matthew Ritchey's first wife, Mary, who died in 1855. A sprinkling of trees in and around the border of the cemetery provide shade. The north edge begins approximately 30 feet south of Mill Street. Newtonia Branch flows along the western edge of the cemetery. A wrought iron fence, perhaps dating to the battle, surrounds the main portion of the cemetery. At the rear of the Ritchey House property is a complex of connected frame barns and storage buildings. Most of these resources appear to be historic but are not as old as the house. (See Photo 3)

Noncontributing Resources: The primary noncontributing properties are indicated as black squares and rectangles on the Site Map (See Figure A). No attempt was made to depict garages, outbuildings and small ancillary properties. Properties outside the boundaries also are not depicted. Although counted as noncontributing because they were not present at the time of the battle, a few district properties are nonetheless historic and overall their character attests to Newtonia's atmosphere as a small rural community, today as in 1862. There are no multifamily buildings, curbs, sidewalks, parking lots,

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streetlights or industrial buildings in the district. A few houses date from the late 19th century. There are still large, historically open spaces, unimproved lots and platted but never developed streets. Most of the noncontributing resources are situated along roads which border the district. Their spacing makes it easy to see between them from the public road into the battlefield. The open areas and overall character of the site are much the same today as during the battle period. (See Photos 5, 6, 8, and 15)

The following resources are noncontributing:

1. Mobile Home, Teal Drive (north of Newtonia near Point B on site map) – Single-wide, aluminum mobile home with flat roof, ca. 1980.
2. Mobile Home, 881 Morgan St. – Double-wide, aluminum mobile home with flat roof, plus shop building, ca. 1980.
3. One-Story House, 581 Morgan St. – Frame side-gabled house, ca. 1893.
4. One-Story House, 680 Morgan St. – Frame, ca. 1970.
5. One-Story House, 321 Sycamore St. – Frame side-gabled house, small front porch with turned supports, ca. 1900.
6. Two-Story House, 221 Sycamore St. – Frame I-House with two-story ell, front and side one-story porches with square stone piers supporting short turned columns, ca. 1870s. Outbuildings.
7. One-Story House, 440 Morgan St. – Frame side-gabled house with additions, ca. 1970.
8. Two-Story House, 290 Elm St. – Frame near-I-House (second floor not full-height), two dormers through eaves, sunburst trim in gables, small enclosed front porch, ca. 1890s or older. Vacant.
9. Community Center, 461 Mill St. – Frame, one-story, front-gabled building, ca. 1970s.
10. One-Story House (“Thrift Shop”), 401 Mill St. – Frame side-gabled, possible altered double-pen, shed-roof porch, metal roof, ca. 1890s or older.
11. Upright and Wing House, 679 Mill St. – Frame, enclosed sun porch attached to wing, asbestos siding, ca. 1900.
12. Single-Story House, 680 Mill St. – Rock-walled, side-gabled, small hipped porch, ca. 1930s.
13. Six Pre-Engineered Metal Buildings, northwest of Newtonia on east side of Route O – Rectangular, front-gabled, ca. 1990. Poultry business.
14. Mobile Home, 675 Morgan St. Double-wide aluminum mobile home, ca. 1980. Outbuildings.

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15. One-Story House, 500 Market St. – Brick, L-shaped house, ca. 1970. Outbuildings.
16. Mobile Home, 341 Market St. – Abandoned trailer and metal building, ca. ____.

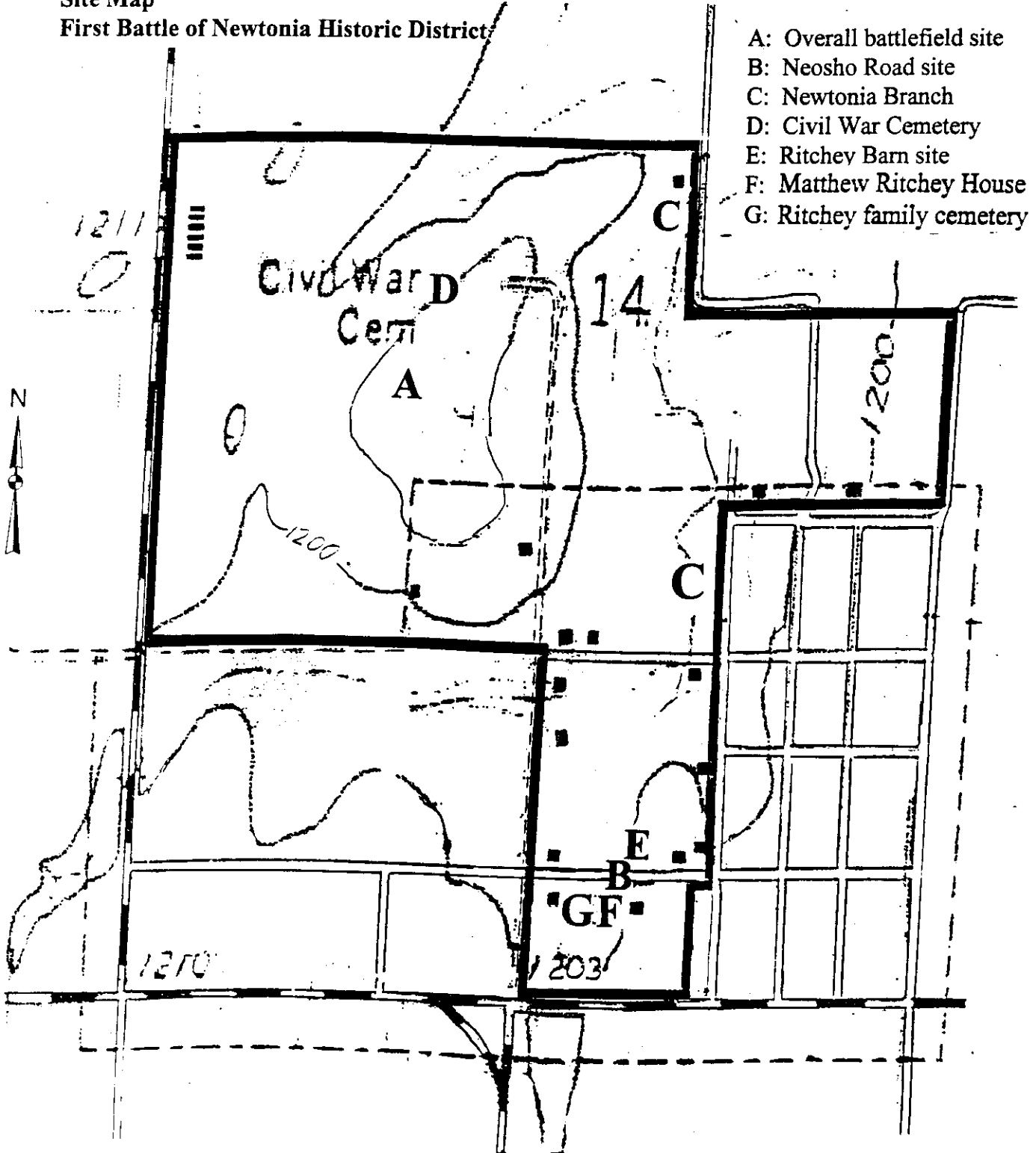
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Figure A
Site Map
First Battle of Newtonia Historic District



- A: Overall battlefield site
- B: Neosho Road site
- C: Newtonia Branch
- D: Civil War Cemetery
- E: Ritchey Barn site
- F: Matthew Ritchey House
- G: Ritchey family cemetery

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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
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Summary:

The First Battle of Newtonia Historic District at Newtonia in Newton County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with statewide significance in the area of Military. The nominated battleground is directly associated with the Civil War engagement fought in and around Newtonia on September 30, 1862, which resulted in a rare Southern victory over Union forces in southwestern Missouri. Much of the fighting occurred along Mill Street, then known as Neosho road, with intense combat including an artillery bombardment of the town and higher ground to the north and west. The daylong engagement involved approximately 4,000 men and ended with some 345 casualties. In an uncommon twist, Native Americans fought against each other on both sides of the conflict. Although notions of Confederate superiority were short-lived despite the victory, the outcome nonetheless gave Southern forces temporary control of the region's crucial mineral resources, notably lead for ammunition. (For maps depicting the battle at different stages as reconstructed by archaeologists, see Figures C-H and L.) The historic district encompasses those portions of the battleground that best convey their historic significance and on which most of the fighting is believed to have occurred. The period of significance is September 30, 1862, the date on which the First Battle of Newtonia was fought.

Elaboration:

The First Battle of Newtonia was simultaneously an embarrassing rout for well-equipped but outnumbered Union forces and a glorious victory for the Confederates. It was significant as the last substantial Southern victory in the region of southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas. The Confederate army consisted of some 2,500 men while the North had only 1,500, so a Southern victory might have been expected but was not guaranteed. Just six months earlier, on March 7-8, 1862, a Union army had defeated a much larger Confederate force at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, where General Sterling Price and his Missouri State Guard had been driven by pursuing Union forces commanded by General Samuel R. Curtis. While their success at Newtonia gave the Confederates fresh hope for supremacy west of the Mississippi, that hope must have been short-lived in the face of a two-pronged Union invasion of Arkansas and the surrender of Vicksburg later that summer. Several battles and skirmishes during the ill-fated invasion by General Price two years later culminated in the Second Battle of Newtonia on October 28, 1864 (NR nomination pending). After the Second Battle of Newtonia, there were no more full-scale Civil War battles in Missouri. Instead, fighting by irregular guerrilla bands became the norm.

The importance of the First Battle of Newtonia was more than psychological because it gave the Confederacy control of a resource-rich part of Missouri, if only for a few months. The center of this strategically important region undoubtedly was Granby, about ten miles northeast of Newtonia where many lead mines were located. Lack of ammunition had been a recurrent problem for Confederate forces in Missouri. Presumably, a large amount of lead ore in the form of galena was taken from the ground by both sides and converted into bullets.

The First Battle of Newtonia also was significant because it involved Native Americans fighting each other on both sides of the conflict. According to accounts of the battle, members of the Chickasaw, Creek, Cherokee and Choctaw tribes participated, the latter three fighting for the South. Indians from the

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Oklahoma Territory had been recruited for other Civil War battles, including the decisive battle at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, just 36 miles south of Newtonia, where around a thousand tribesmen reportedly were used by the Confederates.⁵ But it is believed to have been rare for Native Americans to oppose each other as representatives of both the North and the South in a single Civil War battle.

Missouri's sympathies were divided between North and South throughout the war although at the outset, Missouri was considered a Union state. After Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860, Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson announced that Missouri would not supply a single man to the Federal army and called upon the people to prevent Federal invasion. In the ensuing political fracas, Jackson and a small portion of his government fled in exile from the state capital at Jefferson City, leaving control over the state to Union sympathizers. A pro-Union government, however, did not ensure complete Union support in Missouri and its towns, cities, resources and supplies were hotly contested by both sides, effectively pulling the population of Missouri apart.⁶

The First Battle of Newtonia epitomized the importance of southwest Missouri to both the Union and the Confederacy in the latter portion of 1862. Union Captain Wiley Britton of the 6th Kansas Cavalry, who had been stationed at Newtonia and participated in the battle, described Southern expectations in that part of the state as follows:

...the state was considered the granary for the Southern Army west of the Mississippi and could furnish it lead from the Granby Mines to make small arms ammunition to an unlimited extent. As the Southern Army has been driven out of the state the latter part of the Winter, the people of Southwest Missouri had raised good crops of corn, oats, and apples in their orchards, all of which made a tempting prize for the Confederate leaders to get possession of...⁷

Newtonia's location at a junction of important byways to Neosho, Granby, and Sarcoxie made it an important staging area. Its proximity to Granby and the presence of a gristmill operated by Matthew Ritchey made it a prize to both sides. At various times prior to September 1862, both Union and Confederate forces had attempted to control the community. At the time of the First Battle of Newtonia, the small town was in Confederate hands. Ritchey's original gristmill had been confiscated and was being operated by Confederate soldiers. Newtonia at the time was a small rural town consisting of single family residencies and small businesses, much like today. The stone fences surrounding the Ritchey House, barn and mill became fortifications along both sides of the Neosho Road, but the battle stretched across much of the community.

By the middle of September, Confederate forces were converging at Camp Coffee, several miles south of Newtonia. Confederate Colonel Douglas Cooper, under orders of Brigadier General James S. Rains, added his forces to those of Colonel Joseph O. Shelby at Camp Coffee. Colonel Cooper assumed command of

⁵ Duane Meyer, *The Heritage of Missouri* (St. Louis, Mo.: State Publishing Co., Inc., 1970), 377-379.
⁶ Meyer, 348-401.

⁷ Wiley Britton, *The Union Indian Brigade, The Five Civilized Nations in the Civil War* (Kansas City, Mo.: Franklin Hudson Publishing Co., 1922), 85.

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the troops on September 27, three days prior to the battle. His first order of business was to establish a firm presence in Newtonia, so he sent Colonel T.C. Hawpe's 31st Texas Cavalry and the Confederate First Cherokee Battalion commanded by Major J. M. Bryan to establish an outpost there and to put the mill in operation "for the purpose of supplying the command with breadstuffs, which it did abundantly."⁸ In order to bolster Newtonia's defenses, Cooper also sent Captain Joseph Bledsoe's Missouri Light Artillery, consisting of two six-pounder guns, into the town.

Meanwhile, alerted to Confederate activity in southwest Missouri, Union Major General Samuel R. Curtis, who was newly appointed to the Department of Missouri, contacted Brigadier General John M. Schofield in Springfield on September 27. Curtis, hoping to avoid the collapse of the Union presence in this portion of the state, instructed Schofield to consolidate his troops and be prepared to march.. He also sent a letter to General Blunt in Kansas to bring "all available troops" and combine them with those of Schofield.⁶ Two Union brigades from Kansas, the 1st Brigade under General Frederick Salomon and the 2nd Brigade under Colonel William Weer, joined with the Missouri Militia of General Brown at Sarcoxie under Schofield's orders.

Newtonia's tranquility lasted for two more days. On September 29, however, Federal scouts were discovered and driven back by Cooper's men. At about the same time, news arrived in Cooper's camp "that a body of Pin Indians and Federals were at Granby. It being important that we should hold Granby, on account of the valuable lead mines at that place....." Colonel J.G. Stevens of the 22nd Texas Cavalry was sent to Granby to reconnoiter the area and dislodge any Federals that he might find, but upon arrival Stevens found no enemy in sight.⁹

Late in the afternoon on September 29, Union artillery under the command of J. B. Stockton positioned themselves a short distance from the rebel pickets. At sunrise on September 30, the artillery was moved forward to a position about 1,500 yards from Newtonia. Firing commenced upon the Ritchey stone barn which was occupied by the Confederates.¹⁰ Union Captain Wiley Britton of the 6th Kansas Cavalry described the barn, yard, and stone fence:

Colonel M.H. Ritchie [sic], a prominent Union man of Newtonia, had a farm that joined the town limits on the southwest, south of the Neosho road. His dwelling house, stone barn, and barn lots were adjoining the town. On the north side of his farm there was a stone fence that extended from his house to a quarter of a mile or upward along the Neosho Road. His barn lot, of about two acres, was also enclosed with a stone fence. This lot was west of north of his

⁸OR. 297. Cooper.

⁹OR. 297. Cooper. Involvement of Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and a separate band of Union-sympathizing Cherokees known as "Pin Indians" gave an unusual cast to the First Battle of Newtonia, where even scalping was reported. Native Americans fought against each other on both sides of the conflict at the First Battle of Newtonia. Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green, introduction to *The American Indian in the Civil War, 1862-1865*, by Annie H. Abel (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989), 20.

¹⁰OR. 295. Stockton.

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house. The south-side stone fence of it and the farm fence made a lane fifty to sixty feet wide, and some two hundred yards long.¹¹

When the Union gunners fired on the barn, the Confederates behind its walls immediately fired back. The Union artillery attempted to move as much as 500 yards closer to the barn but found that position unfavorable and retreated, with permission, to about 1,000 yards west of Newtonia. From there the attack was pressed with 25 rounds of solid shot from each piece of artillery. Meanwhile, Union Captain Stockton's battery was under continuous fire from Confederate artillery positioned in the town. Ordering his guns to fire upon a gun that was observed in a barn window, Stockton's battery hit it directly, silencing the cannon and dispersing the cannoneers.

General Cooper gave a descriptive account of the locations of his CSA troops during this exchange with the Union battery:

Colonel Alexander's regiment was forced to remount and fall back to the support of Bledsoe's battery, taking position behind the stone fence east of Ritchie's house to the right of the battery, Major Bryan's battalion being on the left, Colonel Hawpe's regiment occupying the stone barn and yard in front of Ritchie's house. Captain Bledsoe . . . when ordered to do so, came promptly into battery on the ridge about 150 yards to the right and rear of their former position, near the road from Newtonia to the Big Spring (Camp Coffee). . .¹²

Pressing, Cooper sent Confederate Missouri calvary regiments against the 3rd Indian Battalion using the 22nd Texas for support. This was not successful, however, as the Union Cherokees pressed the attack back behind the stone fence. Noting the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Tandy Walker's First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment, Cooper sent them in "singing their war-songs and giving the war-whoop."¹³ At the same time Colonel Stevens, who had heard the cannonading as far away as Granby, arrived by way of the Granby Road. Stevens' approach was noted by Cooper who sent an aide to give Stevens the command to move to the right flank of the Union battle line. Stevens would most likely have succeeded but was mistaken for Union reinforcements by some Confederate troops already on the field. The delay in relaying messages to prevent 'friendly' fire allowed the Union forces time to escape.¹⁴ "At this moment the 1st Choctaw Regiment, commanded by Col. Sampson Folsom, reported to Cooper. He ordered them to attack the Federal left (east) flank. . . Folsom's Indians were able to enter a cornfield, and approach the 3rd Indian unobserved. Soon the blue-clad 3rd Indian, and the gray-clad 1st Choctaw and Chickasaw, were engaged in a desperate melee."¹⁵

¹¹ Wiley Britton, *Civil War on the Border* (New York and London: G.P. Putnam's Sons, the Knickerbocker Press, 1890), p. 355; quoted by White Star, p. 11.

¹² *OR*, 297, Cooper.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 297.

¹⁴ *Bearss*, 305.

¹⁵ *White Star*, 36. It is at this point that *White Star* points out that this is one of the few engagements during the Civil War in which Native Americans fought against each other on different sides of the conflict.

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Meanwhile, Union Colonel E. Lynde of the 9th Kansas Calvary found himself in the uncomfortable position of having been caught between the left and right flanking maneuver devised by General Cooper. Observing one body of Southern troops flanking him from the right out of the cornfield, and another fast approaching his rear, Colonel Lynde brought his artillery into position and began firing upon the fast-approaching rebels to cover the retreat of his cavalry and that of the 9th Wisconsin Infantry.¹⁶ In a futile effort to both protect his guns and retreat, Lynde and his troops were surrounded. Some 149 men and officers were captured while the rest narrowly escaped.¹⁷ The fighting ended at 10 a.m.

At 3:30 in the afternoon, Union Brigadier General Frederick Salomon arrived from Sarcoxie with reinforcements. Believing he would meet Colonel George Hall of the Missouri Brigade (USA), Salomon "placed the 6th Kansas with its two howitzers on the right side of the road, the 3rd Indian Home Guard on the left of the road, and his artillery supported by a battalion of the 10th Kansas Infantry in the center."¹⁸ The 3rd Indian began to move along the road to the south while Salomon's artillery renewed Union efforts to dislodge the Confederates who quickly moved to reoccupy their morning fortifications behind Newtonia's fence and stone walls.

Confederate Colonel Cooper sent two Missouri Cavalry Regiments against the 3rd Indian Home Guard, halting its advance along the Sarcoxie Road. Cooper, however, found his regiments being pressed back behind the stone wall by the Union Indian Home Guard. At this time, Confederate Colonel Sampson Folsom reported to Cooper with his 1st Choctaw Regiment. Cooper sent Folsom's Choctaws through a cornfield to sneak up on the Union 3rd Indian unobserved. Almost immediately, the two Indian forces "were engaged in a desperate melee."¹⁹ Colonel Cooper recalled that the battle then spread all across the field, stating that the "cheering of our men and the war whoop of our Indian allies, all combined to render the scene both grand and terrific."²⁰

Seeing that he was not going to be reinforced by Hall's Missouri Brigade (USA), Salomon decided on a general withdrawal. Confederates pursued the retreating Union forces out of town and toward the timber where they met up with Hall's Missouri Brigade. At that point it seemed neither side was particularly anxious to continue the action in darkness and thus the First Battle of Newtonia came to an end.

Newtonia's citizens were shaken by the battle. Not only did they have to clean up the town afterward but the majority of citizens also had lost a massive amount of goods. Many of the homes and businesses had been damaged due to the Union artillery fire, which had been erratic, and by the heavy fighting overall. One mark of permanence was upon the cemetery ("Civil War Cemetery") just north of Newtonia. Though in use prior to the battle, a large number of Union dead were buried there

¹⁶ OR, 293, Lynde

¹⁷ Wiley Britton, *The Union Indian Brigade in the Civil War* (Kansas City, MO: Franklin Hudson Publishing Co., 1922), 94.

¹⁸ White Star, 34.

¹⁹ Ibid., 36.

²⁰ OR, Vol. 13, 299.

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immediately afterward (and later removed). An unknown number of Confederates, according to local legend, were also buried there and perhaps remain in unmarked graves to this day.²¹

Victory in the day-long First Battle of Newtonia gave Southern forces an aura of supremacy in southwest Missouri. Not since the major Confederate victory at Wilson's Creek near Springfield on August 10, 1861, had the Confederacy been the dominant force in the region. The battle which had raged across the width and length of the small agricultural community on September 30, 1862, established the fact that Newtonia would be the center of a hotly contested area for both sides. While Confederate forces in the region benefited from the area's minerals and food supplies, however, Union dominance in the trans-Mississippi theatre remained. After the Union victory at Pea Ridge in March of 1862, Federal armies reigned supreme across Missouri and northern Arkansas with the exception of minor setbacks such as the First Battle of Newtonia. Small Confederate victories like this were significant in prolonging Southern honor and the semblance of Southern power in Missouri and prolonging the ill-fated war in the West. The last major Confederate challenge to Union dominance was, in fact, Confederate General Sterling Price's invasion of Missouri in 1864. The unsuccessful invasion, which sealed the trans-Mississippi theatre for the Union, was the last concerted effort of the Confederacy to regain control of Missouri and Arkansas.

²¹ White Star, 10-11.

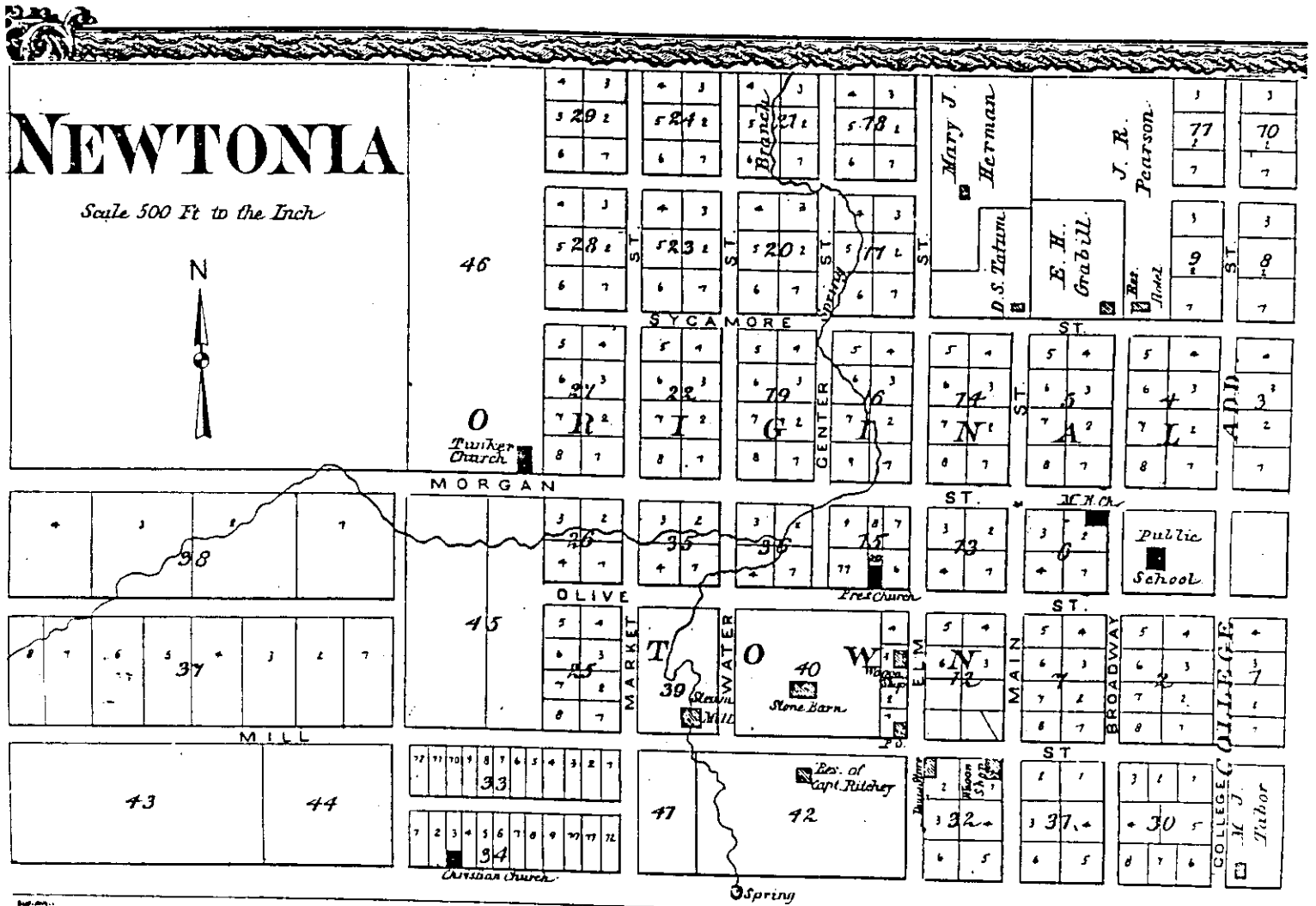
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Figure B
Newtonia Circa 1882
Source: 1882 Newton County Atlas



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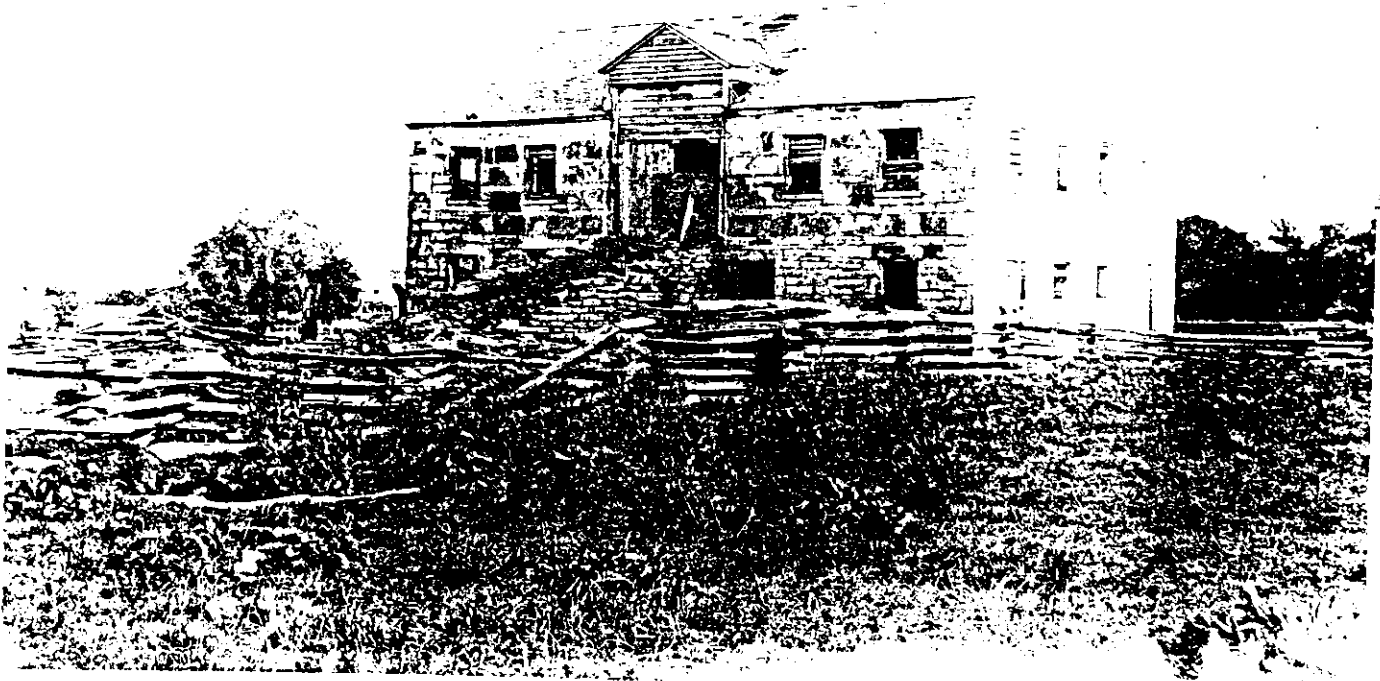
Matthew Ritchey House, circa 1900

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South facade of Ritchey's Barn, circa 1900

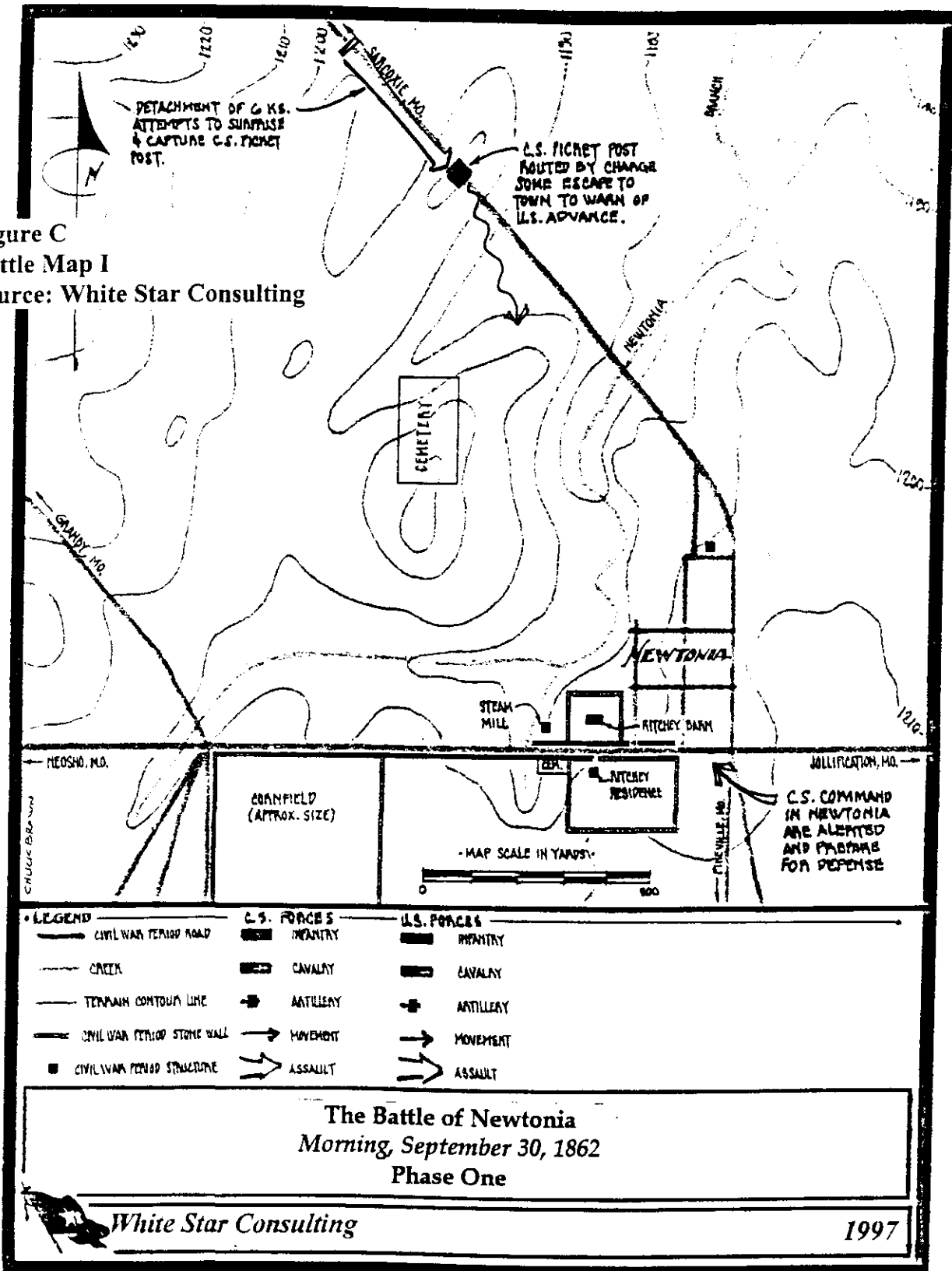
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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Figure C
Battle Map I
Source: White Star Consulting



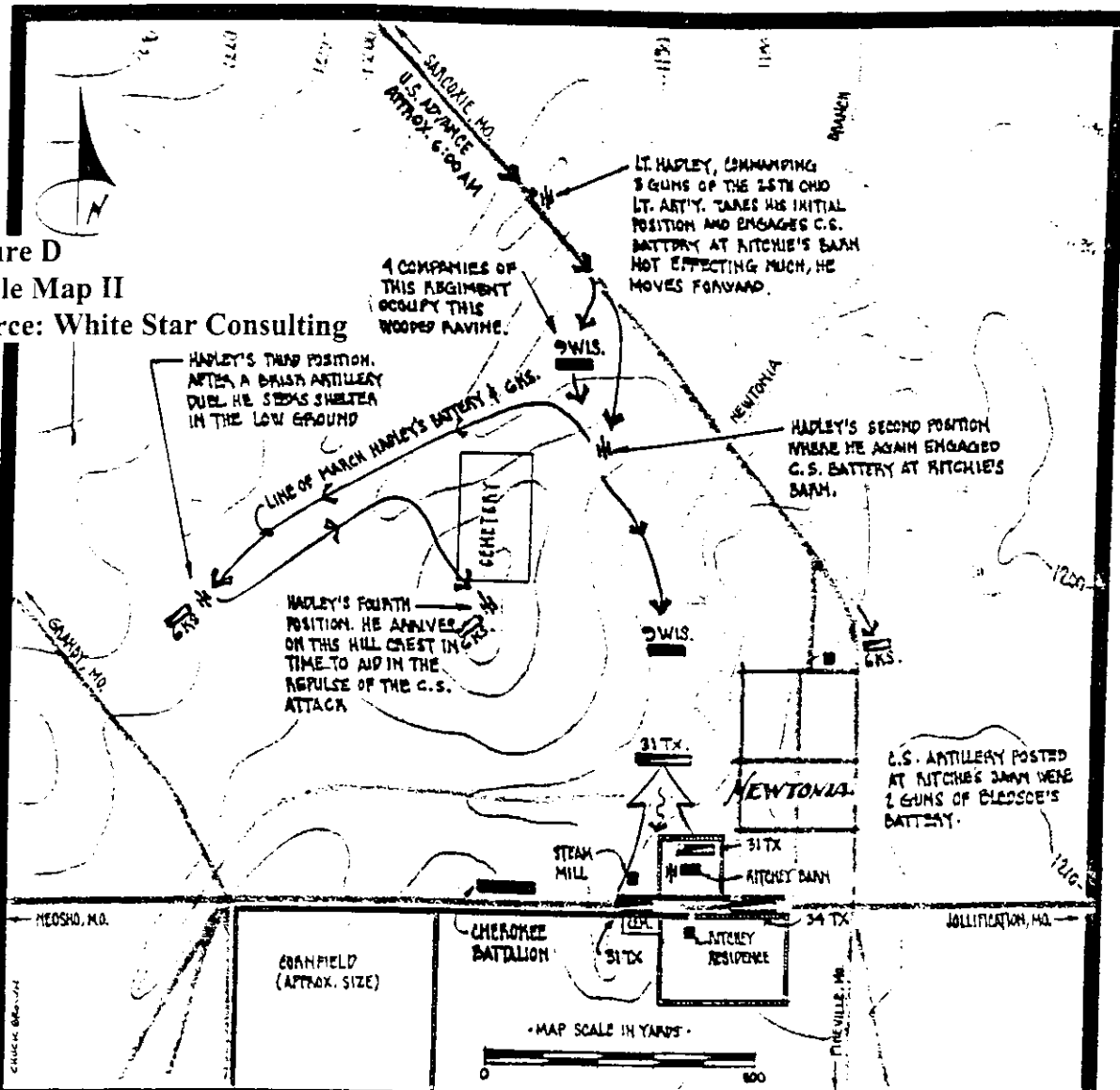
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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
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Figure D
Battle Map II
Source: White Star Consulting



LEGEND		C.S. FORCES	U.S. FORCES
— CIVIL WAR PERIOD ROAD	— CREEK	■ INFANTRY	■ INFANTRY
— TERRAIN CONTOUR LINE	— CIVIL WAR PERIOD STONE WALL	▬ CAVALRY	▬ CAVALRY
■ CIVIL WAR PERIOD STRUCTURE	→ MOVEMENT	⊕ ARTILLERY	⊕ ARTILLERY
	→ ASSAULT	→ MOVEMENT	→ MOVEMENT
		→ ASSAULT	→ ASSAULT

The Battle of Newtonia
Morning, September 30, 1862
Phase Two



White Star Consulting

1997

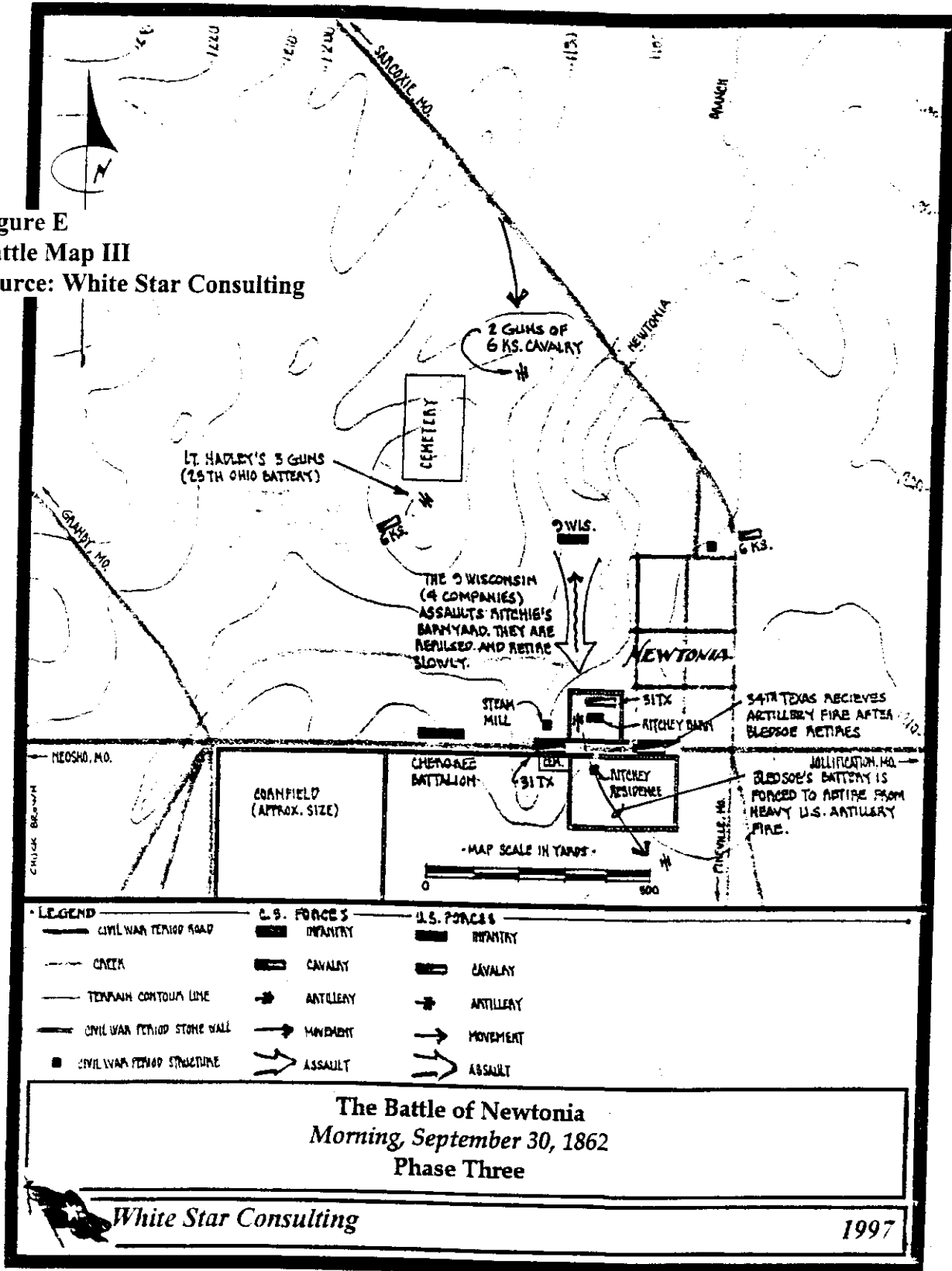
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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Figure E
Battle Map III
Source: White Star Consulting



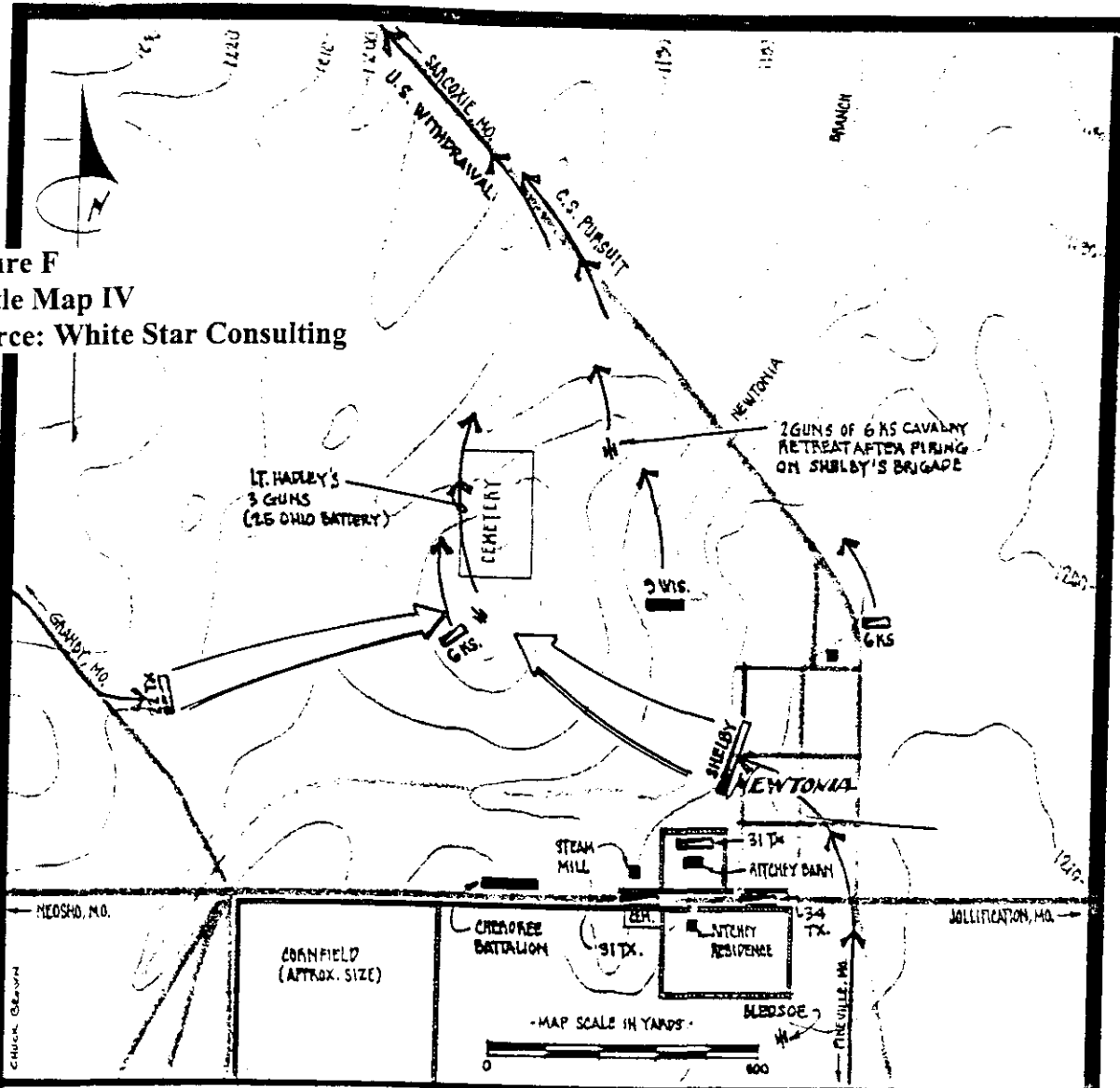
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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Figure F
Battle Map IV
Source: White Star Consulting



The Battle of Newtonia
Morning, September 30, 1862
Phase Four

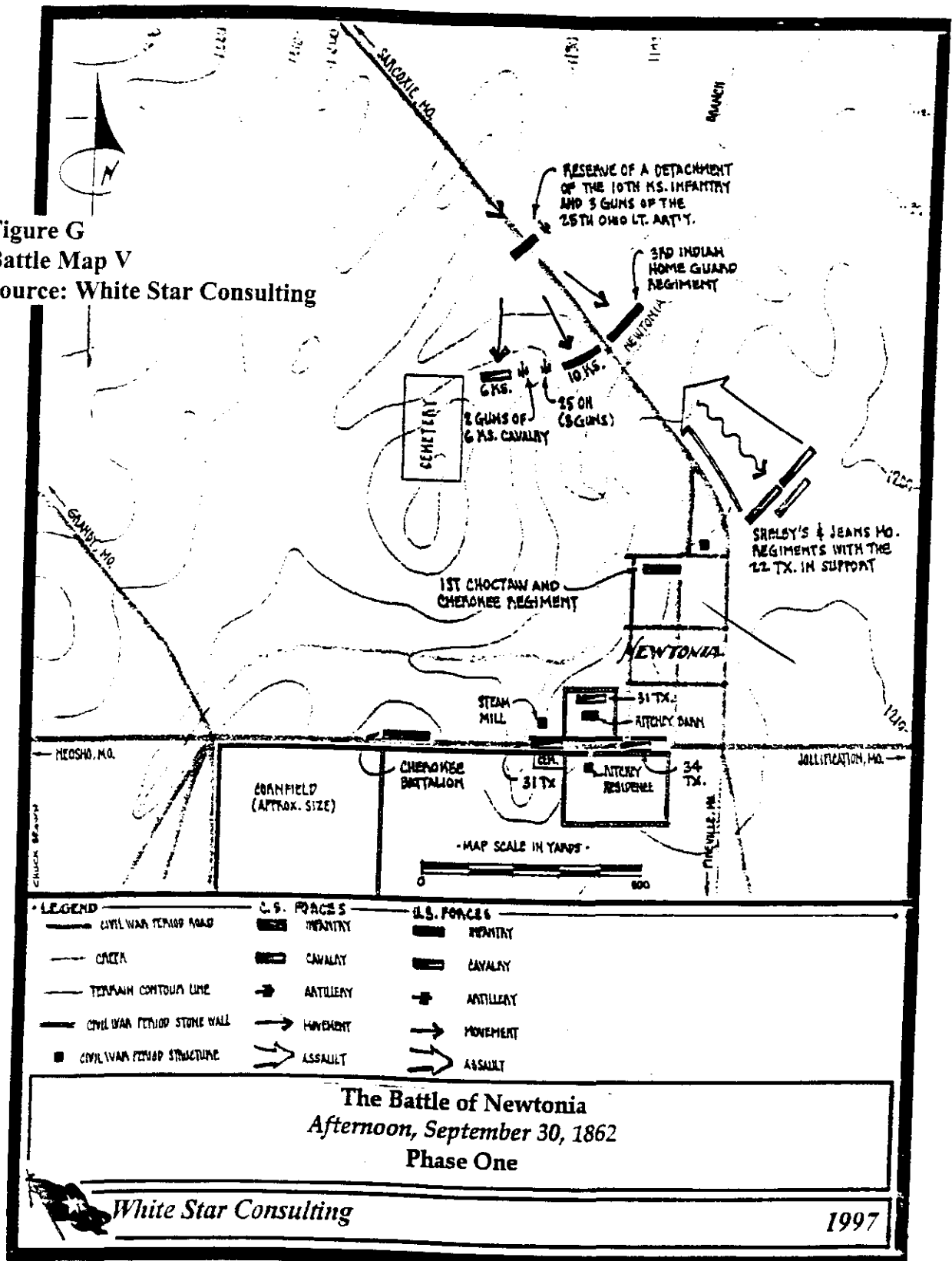
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Section number 8 Page 22

First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Figure G
Battle Map V
Source: White Star Consulting



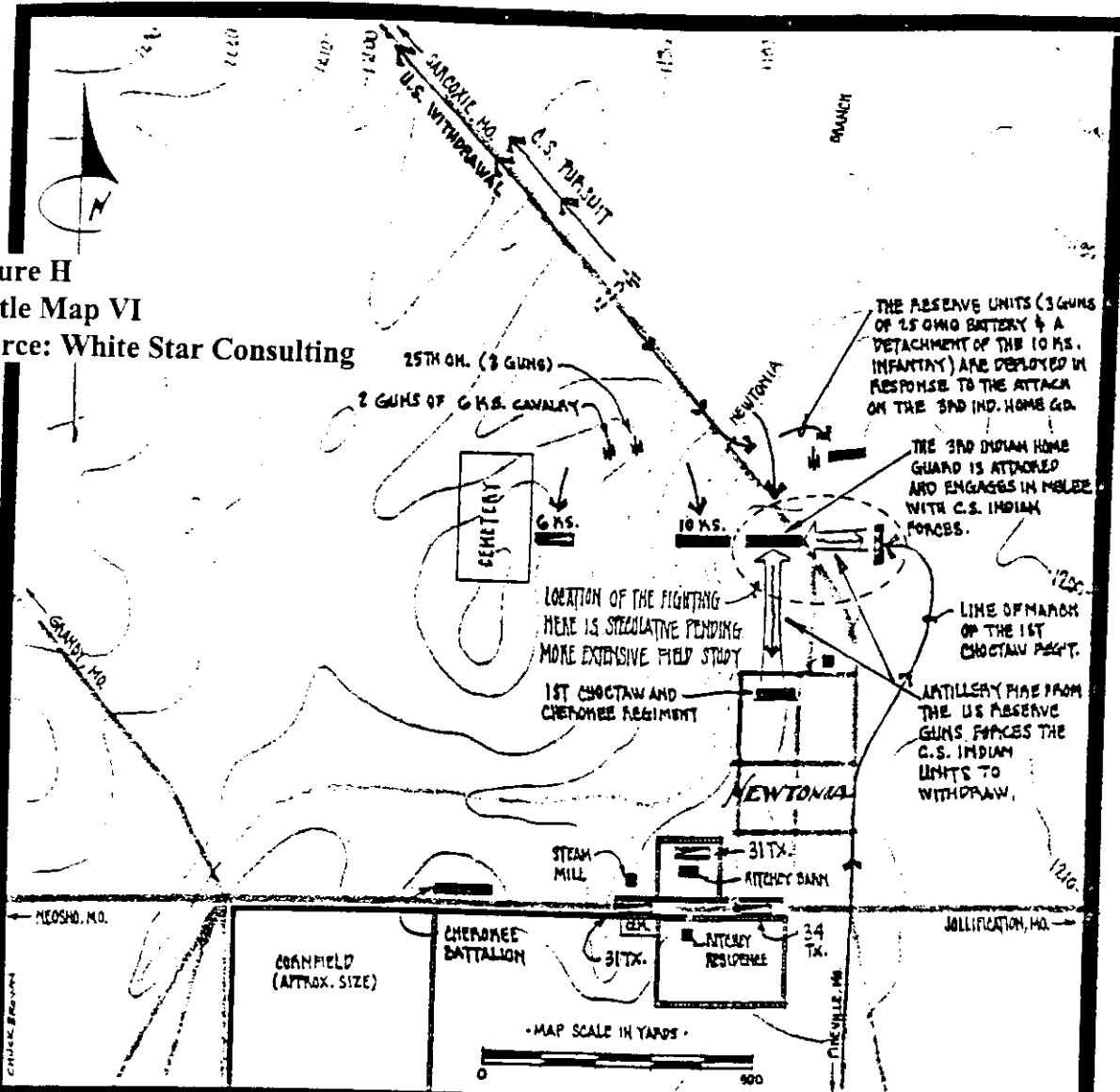
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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Figure H
Battle Map VI
Source: White Star Consulting



LEGEND		C.S. FORCES	U.S. FORCES
CIVIL WAR PERIOD ROAD	CREEK	INFANTRY	INFANTRY
TERRAIN CONTOUR LINE	CIVIL WAR PERIOD STONE WALL	CAVALRY	CAVALRY
CIVIL WAR PERIOD STRUCTURE	MOVEMENT	ARTILLERY	ARTILLERY
	ASSAULT	MOVEMENT	ASSAULT

The Battle of Newtonia
Afternoon, September 30, 1862
Phase Two

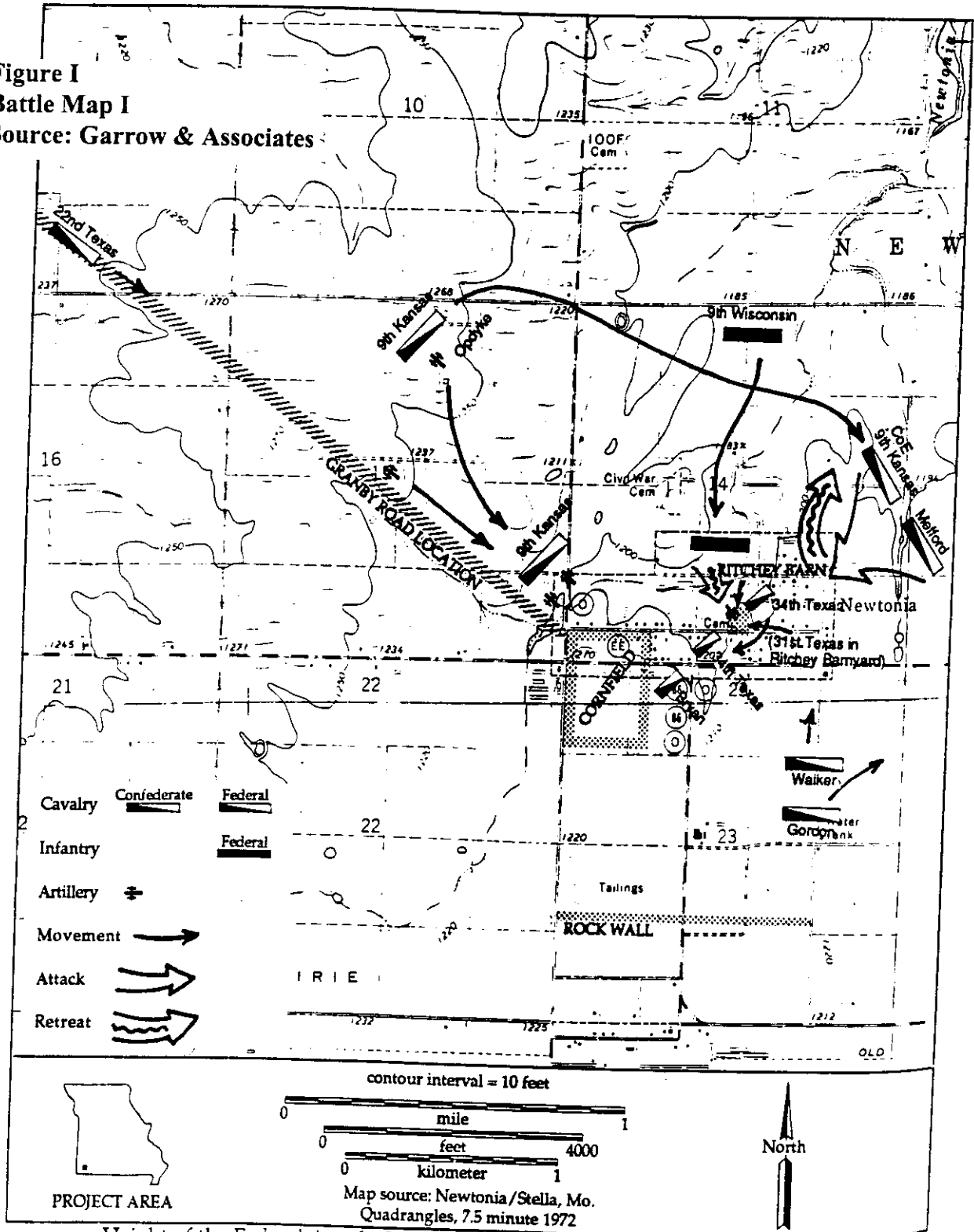
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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Figure I
Battle Map I
Source: Garrow & Associates



Height of the Federal Attack, September 30, 1862 (after Bearss 1966).

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Newton County, Missouri

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with Reports from:
- Colonel Douglas H. Cooper, Commanding (C.S.A.)
 - Lt. Colonel. M.W. Buster, Commanding the Indian Battalion (C.S.A.)
 - Lt. Colonel Tandy Walker, Commanding, 1st Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment (C.S.A.)
 - Colonel T.C. Hawpe, Commanding 31st Texas Cavalry (C.S.A.)
 - Captain Bledsoe, Commanding Bledsoe's Missouri Light Artillery Battery (C.S.A.)
 - Colonel Joseph Shelby, Commanding, Brigade of Missouri Cavalry (C.S.A.)
 - Brigadier General Frederick Salomon, Commanding First Brigade.. (U.S.A.)

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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Colonel Edward Lynde, Commanding, 9th Kansas Cavalry (U.S.A.)
Colonel Phillips, Commanding, Third Indian Home Guard Regiment (U.S.A.)
Lt. Colonel Arthur Jacobi, Commanding, 9th Wisconsin Cavalry (U.S.A.)
Captain J.B. Stockton, Commanding, Stockton's 25th Battery of Ohio Light Artillery
Battery (U.S.A.)

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National Park Service

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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

UTM References (cont.):

5. 15/395020/4082160
6. 15/394720/4082170
7. 15/394710/4081760
8. 15/394640/4081760
9. 15/394630/4081620
10. 15/394420/4081620
11. 15/394440/4082030
12. 15/393820/4082060

Verbal Boundary Description:

See Site Map, Figure A. The boundary is as marked on the site map. Beginning at Point A at the property line on the east side of Highway O (M on some maps), proceed east along an imaginary line to Point B at the property line on the west side of Teal Drive; then proceed south along Teal Drive to where Teal right-angles to the east (Point C); then proceed along the south side of Teal to the intersection of College Street and Kapok Drive (Point D); then proceed south along the west side of College to the intersection with Sycamore Street (Point E); then proceed west along the north side of Sycamore to the intersection with Elm Street (Point F); then proceed south along the west side of Elm to the intersection with Mill Street (Point G); then proceed west along the south side of Mill for 254.5 feet to the property line of the tract which includes the Ritchey House (Point H); then proceed south along the property line to the north side of Highway EE (Point I); then proceed west along Highway EE to the intersection with Market Street (Point J); then proceed north along the east side of Market to the intersection with Morgan Street (Point K); then proceed west along the north side of Morgan and then along an imaginary line corresponding to the city limit to the east side of Highway O; then continue north along the highway to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the First Battle of Newtonia Historic District was selected by the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association after the completion of two archaeological surveys and a preservation plan. The nominated acreage includes areas identified by both archaeological surveys including artillery positions, locations of stone walls, locations of historical buildings, battle lines and troop movements. The boundary also includes the Civil War Cemetery where soldiers from both the First and Second Battles of Newtonia were buried (the Union soldiers were later buried in the Springfield National Cemetery). The south portion of the district includes the Matthew Ritchey House, Ritchey family cemetery, barn and grist mill sites along a 1,000 foot section of Mill Street. North, west and east boundaries were chosen to include a wide area of the battlefield including unimproved areas which retain the grassy and wooded scenery indigenous to the area at the time of the battle. Though some of the excluded area was the scene of military action, most of the fighting took place within the district boundary. The heaviest fighting occurred near the center of the boundary. In addition, much of the area excluded includes a high concentration of noncontributing properties.

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First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Form prepared by:

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Editor and Revisions
October 2003
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National Register Historian
Missouri State Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 176
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Editor and Revisions
May 2004

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Section Photographs Page 29

First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Photographs:

First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
Newton County, Missouri

Photographer: Roger Maserang, photos 1-14, April 5, 2004

Photographer: Matthew M. Stith, photo 15, June 26, 2003

Location of negatives: Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102

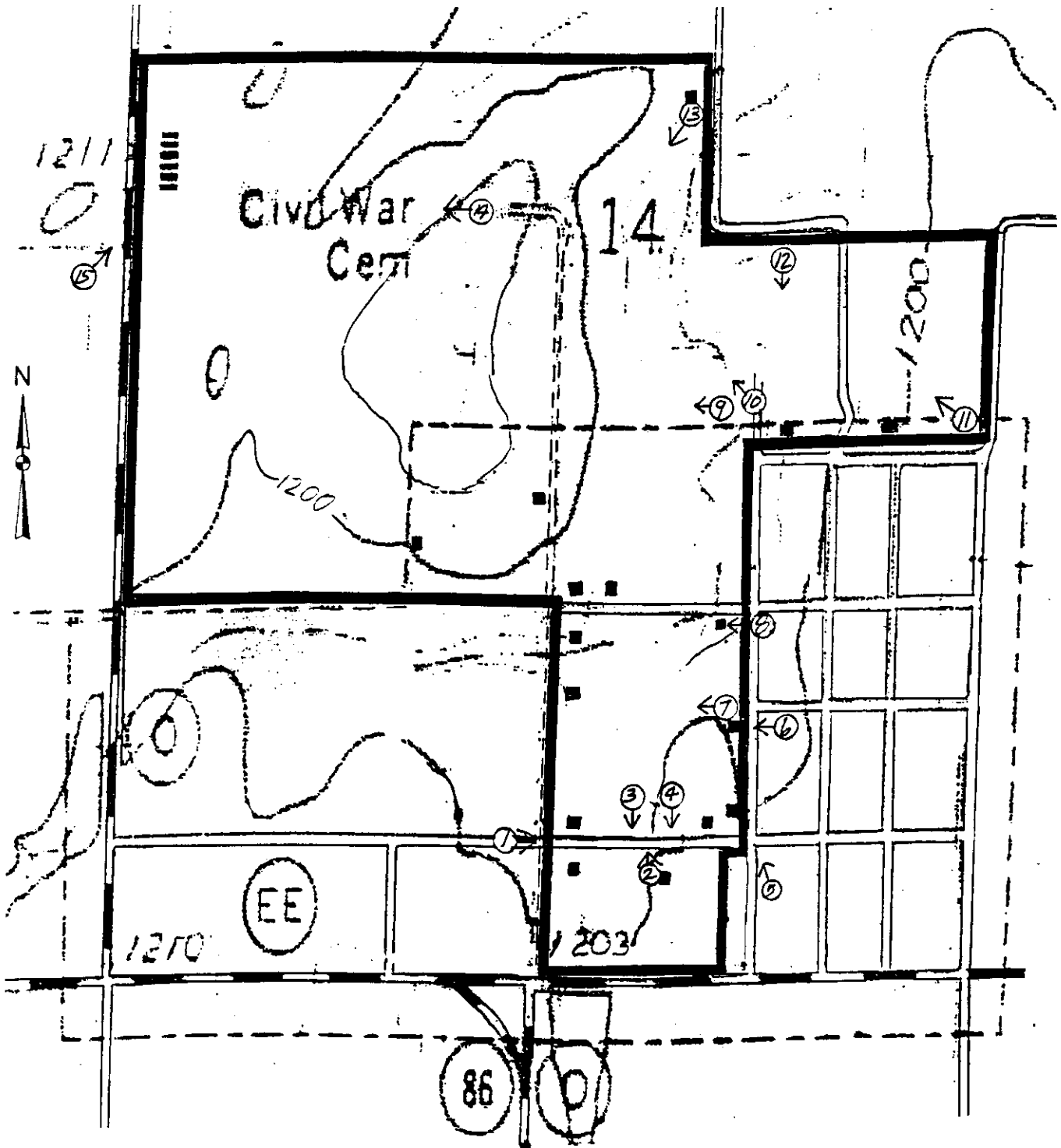
1. Neosho Road and Ritchey Mill (left side of road) sites, facing east.
2. Ritchey Barn site, facing northwest.
3. Ritchey family cemetery, facing south.
4. Matthew Ritchey House, facing north.
5. Looking northwest from Elm Street at Mill Street.
6. Ca. 1890s house on Elm Street, facing northwest.
7. Looking west into district from Elm Street at Olive Street.
8. Noncontributing house at Elm and Morgan Streets, facing west.
9. Looking into large north portion of district from north of Sycamore, facing west.
10. View into large north portion of district from north of Sycamore, facing northwest.
11. View from College Street at Kapok Drive, facing northwest.
12. View from Teal Drive, facing south.
13. Newtonia Branch along Teal Drive, facing southwest.
14. Civil War Cemetery in north portion of district, facing west from entrance drive.
15. Noncontributing metal buildings along Highway O, facing northeast.

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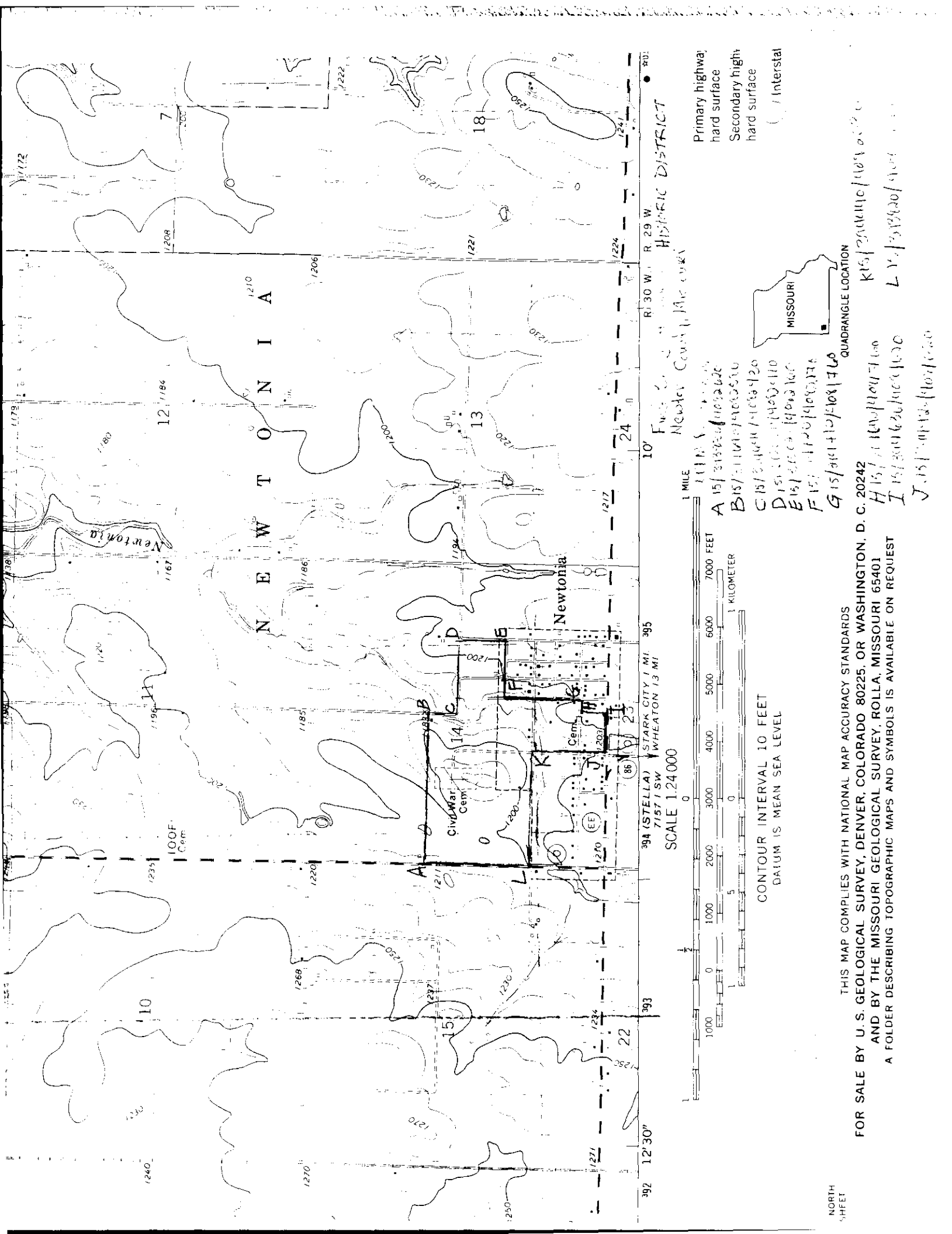
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Section Photo Key Map Page 30

First Battle of Newtonia Historic District
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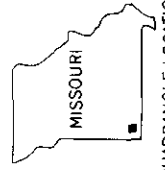
Key: Angle of View = (5) →



Primary highway:
hard surface

Secondary highway:
hard surface

() Interstitial



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1 MILE



SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NORTH SHEET

10' FURTHER COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT

- A 15/311110/1083510
- B 15/311110/1083510
- C 15/311110/1083510
- D 15/311110/1083510
- E 15/311110/1083510
- F 15/311110/1083510
- G 15/311110/1083510

- K 15/311110/1083510
- L 15/311110/1083510
- M 15/311110/1083510
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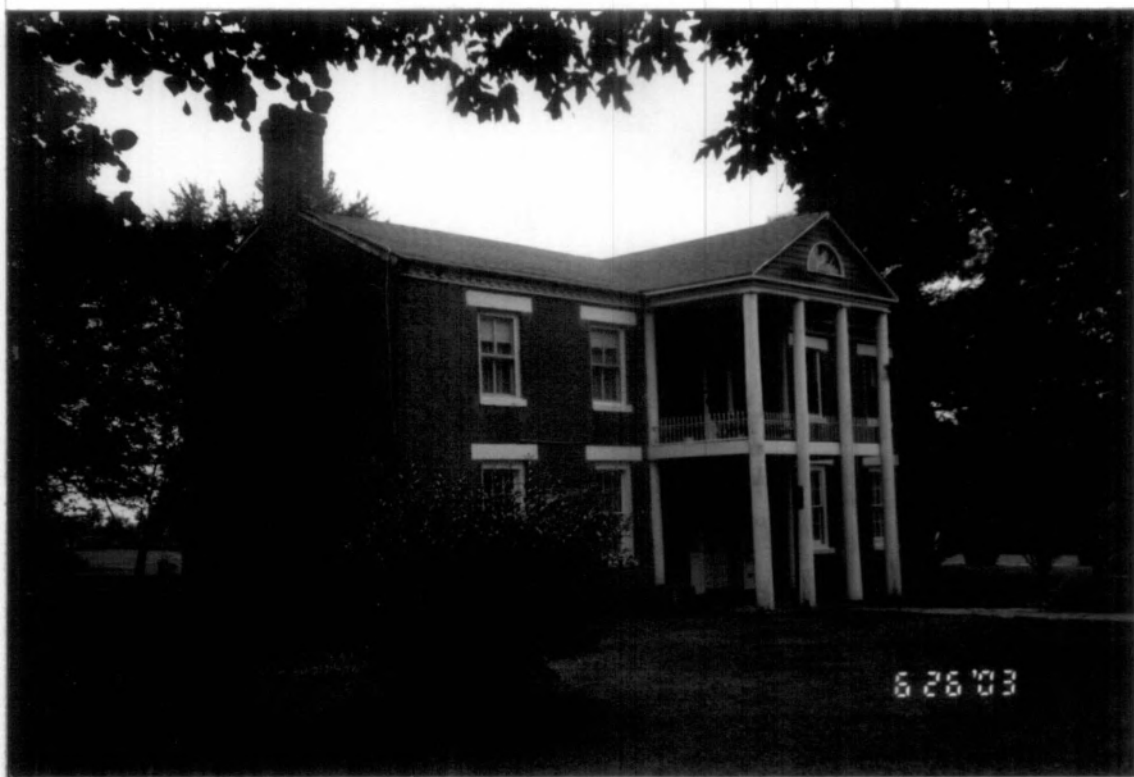






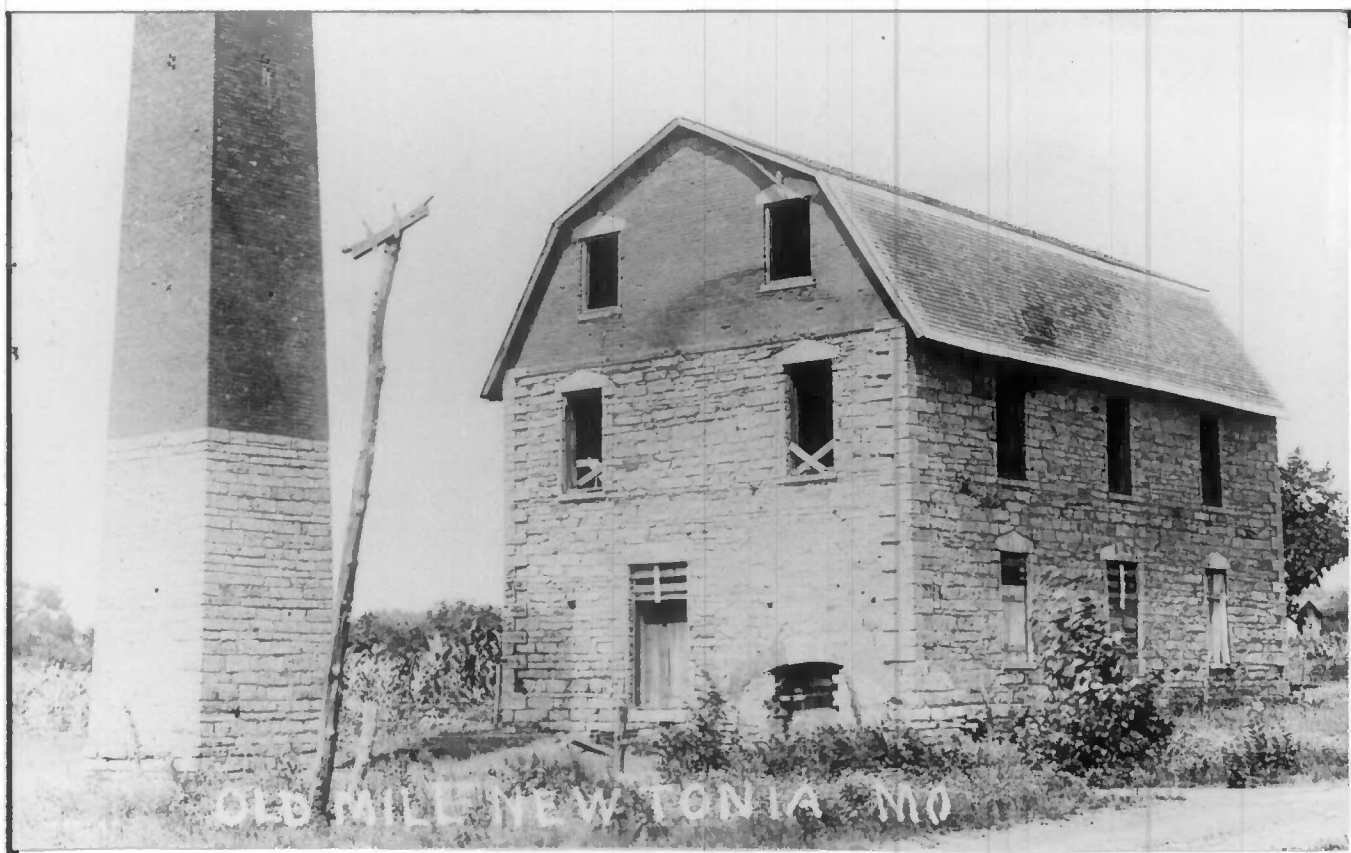
EXTRA
PHOTOS

















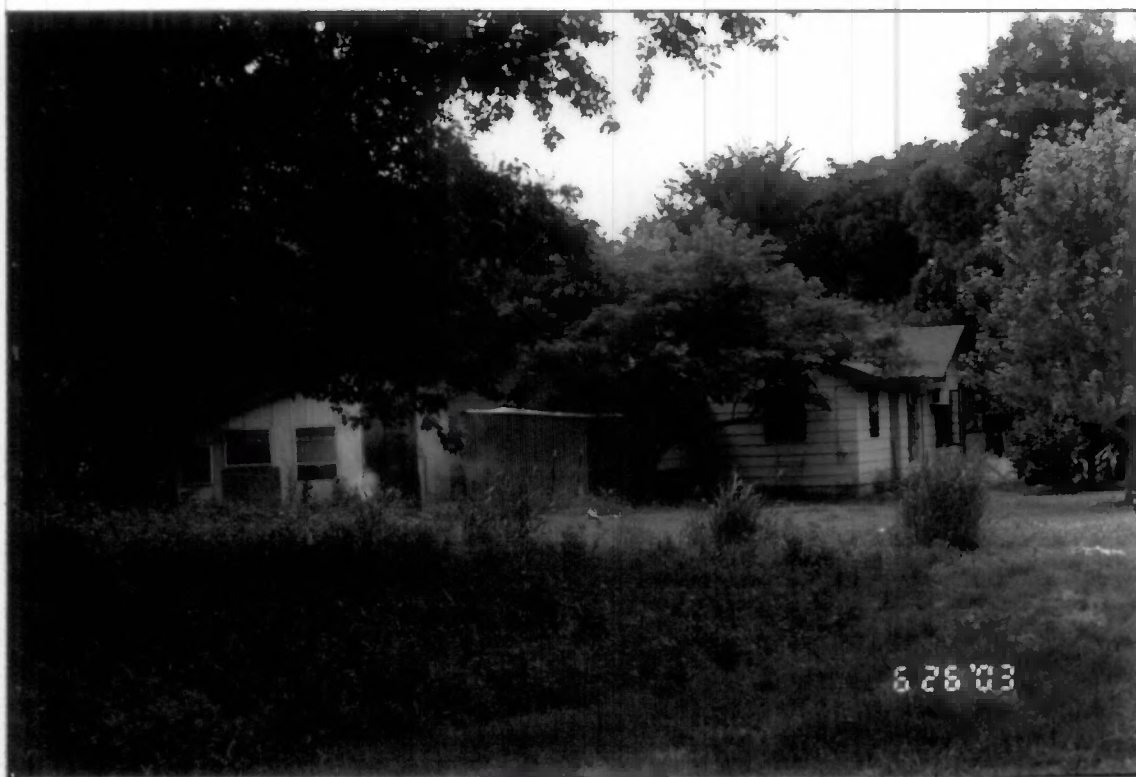




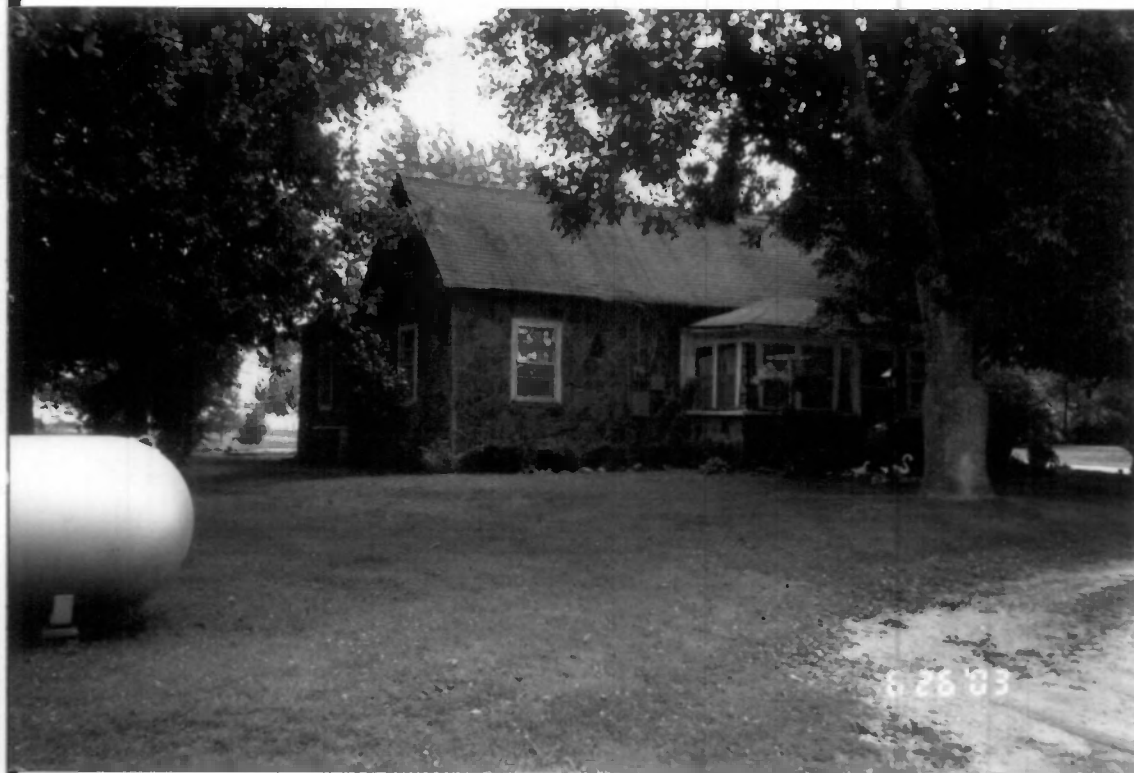














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