

NRNE007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Second Battle of Newtonia Site

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly an area NW, SW and SE of the junction of Hwy. 86 & Rt. O at Newtonia [N/A] not for publication

city or town Newtonia [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:

[] 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 [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

contributing	noncontributing	
0	19	buildings
4	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	20	total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- DEFENSE/battle site
- TRANSPORTATION/road-related
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- TRANSPORTATION/road related
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/outbuilding
- COMMERCE/specialty store
- _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: battlefield

see continuation sheet [].

Materials

foundation N/A

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

see continuation sheet [].

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

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

1864

Significant Dates

1864

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 560 acres

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	394380	4081620	15	394330	4080250
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	392940	4080300	15	393000	4082380

[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 multiple owners
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 560 acres

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	394380	4081620	15	394330	4080250
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	392940	4080300	15	393000	4082380

[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 multiple owners
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 1

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Summary:

The Second Battle of Newtonia Site is located roughly between the towns of Newtonia and Stark City in Newton County, Missouri. The boundary encompasses the scene of the heaviest fighting that occurred on October 28, 1864, between General Sterling Price's Confederate forces and Union troops commanded by General James G. Blunt. This 560-acre Civil War battlefield is partially in both towns but most of the nominated acreage lies between them. Missouri Highway 86 bounds much of the site on the east and north and Route O/Starling Road bisects the site from north to south. Today the Second Battle of Newtonia Site contains four contributing resources that played major roles in the fighting and 20 noncontributing properties. The contributing resources consist of the battlefield site as a whole plus what has been designated as the cornfield site, the artillery ridge site and the Granby Road site. The noncontributing resources consist of two small commercial buildings, 12 residential buildings, 5 secondary buildings including a barn, and a concrete silo. Because most of these 20th century properties are in small groupings along the extreme edges of the nominated acreage, their impact on integrity is minimized. Historically, the area consisted of flat agricultural fields planted with various crops, primarily corn. Unobscured vistas into the battle area are plentiful. The historic road system has been changed, but most of the geographical features that affected the outcome, including the generally flat topography with a slight ridge to the northwest where Union cannon were positioned, remain largely as they were in 1864. As a whole, sufficient integrity of location, setting, feeling and association are retained so that the site, as bounded for this registration effort, is evocative of its period and of this important Civil War battle in Missouri.

The boundary for the Second Battle of Newtonia Site was recommended by the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association following two archaeological surveys and a preservation plan.¹

Historic Description:

Newtonia's population in 1864 is undetermined but two years earlier, when the First Battle of Newtonia was fought, it was estimated at just under a hundred.² At the time of the Second Battle of Newtonia, the local residents generally lived north of the battle site. Few if any houses are thought to have stood within the nominated site in 1864, and no buildings or structures from the time of the battle are extant. The town of Stark City, to the south, did not exist. Three roads intersected at Newtonia (Granby Road from the northwest, Pineville Road from the southeast and Neosho Road which ran east-west). Granby Road passed through the northwest portion of the nominated acreage. The boundary of the Second Battle of Newtonia Site is generally southwest of the site of the First Battle. However, the boundaries of both battlegrounds touch at two points (see Figure A, Site Map).

A post office had been established at Newtonia in 1841. In 1857, the town was platted on land owned by Matthew H. Ritchey, among others. Mill Street or Neosho Road, on which Ritchey's brick home was

¹The boundary was selected after archaeological surveys by Robert J. Fryman of White Star Consulting, Mount Pleasant, Tennessee (Newtonia Battlefields Archaeological Survey, June 15, 1998) and Douglas R. Cubbison of Garrow & Associates, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia ('Engaged the Enemy Again: An Assessment of the 1862 and 1864 Civil War Battlefields at Newtonia, Missouri, July 1995). Additional research was conducted by Matthew E. Becher et al. of Gray & Pape, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio (A Preservation Plan for the Civil War Battlefields of Newtonia, Missouri, September 2000).

²Fryman, p. 13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 2

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

located, was at the southern edge of town. Ritchey, who had come to Newton County from Tennessee in 1832, was a prominent resident and his home is individually listed in the National Register (Matthew H. Ritchey House, 12/05/78). The Ritchey House is within the boundary of the First Battle of Newtonia Historic District (nomination pending). Although he was a Southerner, and a slave owner, Ritchey voted for the Union in 1861 as a member of the State Convention. His former residence is believed to be the only building in Newtonia still standing from the time of the battles. Residents of the town and surrounding area farmed the fertile fields west and south of Newtonia--part of the agricultural area known as Oliver's Prairie--where the Second Battle was fought.³

The three intersecting roads at Newtonia were used by the local farmers to transport their surplus produce and receive other goods in return. But the combination of intersecting roads and relatively flat terrain may help explain why the area was a frequent battleground during the Civil War. In addition to the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, numerous skirmishes occurred in and around the town between Confederate guerrillas and Federal troops. These skirmishes and often vicious guerrilla warfare had taken a toll since the Civil War began three years before the Second Battle, devastating the area and leaving the residents in near-constant peril.

Several of Newtonia's inhabitants had fled, in one direction or another, by the time General Sterling Price's Confederates engaged Union forces under the command of General James Blunt on October 28, 1864. On the eve of the Second Battle, most of the fields were unplanted or contained low crops allowing good visibility. Matthew Ritchey's field, a contributing site in the northeast portion of the battlefield, played a central role in the fighting. Its rows of late October corn provided concealment for Confederate forces under General Joseph O. Shelby in a near-defeat of the Union troops. Advancing through the cornstalks, the Confederates--dismounted cavalry--were in the process of flanking General Blunt's men--also dismounted cavalry--from the southeast until Union General John B. Sanborn arrived with reinforcements.⁴ Because of Shelby's nearly successful action through the cornfield, however, the reinforced Union army was unable to regroup in time for a fresh attack which presumably would have destroyed Price's army. As it turned out, by the morning of October 29, 1864, Price and his men were well on their way to the Arkansas border. At the time of the battle, the cornfield consisted of nearly 56 acres immediately south and west of Newtonia.⁵

The Union's artillery ridge northwest of Newtonia also played a pivotal role and is counted as a contributing site. Immediately after General Blunt discovered the Confederate forces positioned south of Newtonia, he ordered the 1st Colorado Artillery Battery to prepare their cannon to fire down from the gently sloping ridge. The distance from the ridge to the Confederate positions was just under a mile. When Shelby's men counterattacked late in the late afternoon, the Union artillery contributed defensive fire in the form of both long range shot and canister, helping slow the Confederate advance until reinforcements arrived.⁶

The final contributing resource is the Granby Road site. Exiting Newtonia to the northwest, Granby Road was used extensively and effectively during the Second Battle by Union forces. The Union

³Cubbison et al., pp. 6-8.

⁴Official Records XLI:83:508.

⁵Fryman, p. 35.

⁶Ibid., p. 28.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 3

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

artillery was situated along and just off the road northwest of the main battlefield. In addition, as the Confederate forces threatened at one point to overrun the Union positions, General Blunt ordered his men to fall back to the Granby Road area to regroup and set up a defensive position. Only after this did the Union reinforcements enter the battle and turn the tide.⁷

Current Description:

Newtonia is a small town (population 204 in 2000) in Newton County in the southwestern corner of Missouri. The population of the entire county is 44,445. Neosho, 10 miles due west of Newtonia, is the county seat and largest city with a population of 9,254. The 1864 battlefield is situated west, south and slightly northwest of the city limits and north of the 20th century community of Stark City, which is even smaller than Newtonia with a population of 127. The greatest portion of the battlefield lies south and southwest of Newtonia. The sites of Granby Road and the artillery positions are northwest of Newtonia. The town of Granby is about five miles away. The cornfield site is directly south of Newtonia, in the northeast part of the bounded area.

To date, no Civil War signage exists in the Second Battle of Newtonia Site (although within Newtonia, simple painted wooden signs identify the Ritchey House and the Ritchey Barn Site which were significant in the First Battle of Newtonia).

Newtonia and the area around it remain agriculture-based. The topography is the same and the land use patterns are almost the same as historically. As Becher et al points out, the historic road system around Newtonia has been overhauled and the older roads--notably the Granby, Sarcoxie and Pineville Roads--do not appear on modern maps. To the extent that their locations can be ascertained, however, these roads have strong implications for more precisely locating troop positions, encampments, field hospitals and engagements.⁸

Relatively few (19) primary and secondary buildings are located within the overall site. In many ways, the landscape appears today much as it did at the time of the battle in 1864, with the land cleared for farming. There were stone walls then but not now and almost certainly there were more trees today. But fields farmed at the time of the battle are still cultivated today. There are unobstructed, relatively pristine views into and across the battlefield from virtually every point on the perimeter. Fine views also are readily available from Starling Road which intersects the southern two-thirds of the battlefield from north to south. Tailings from old open-pit lead mines are present along Starling Road, but they are more noticeable from an airplane than at ground level.

Most noncontributing properties are on the outskirts of the nominated acreage. There are small groupings of primarily residential buildings (some of which are mobile homes), garages and outbuildings at the extreme southeast corner; at the point where Route EE/ Highway 86 intersects Route O; and along the south side of Kirby Lane in the northwest portion of the battlefield. Most of these 20th century properties are relatively nondisruptive to the sense of place. They occupy only a tiny portion of the overall site, so that most of the views have a great deal of integrity and the sense of a connection with the historic event remains strong.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Becher et al., p. 12.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 4

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

While there are no obvious surviving landmarks from the time of the battle such as a house, barn, or stone wall that can help define the precise boundaries of the engagement, enough indications remain to draw at least basic boundaries.⁹ Some of the acreage outside the nominated site was the scene of military action on October 28, 1864, particularly the Stark City area where there were skirmishes leading up to the main battle (see Figure F), but most of the fighting is believed to have taken place within the nominated tract. Some vestiges of the conflict probably were destroyed in connection with the development of Stark City and construction of the Missouri-North Arkansas Railroad through Stark City in 1907-09.¹⁰

The contributing resources (Sites A, B, C and D) are indicated on Figure A.

Site A - Overall Battlefield: This site encompasses much of the land on which the Second Battle of Newtonia occurred. Open agricultural fields still in use dominate the landscape as they did at the time of the battle. Small wooded plots are intermixed with low rolling hills in the northwest portion. County Road O (also known as Starling Road south of Highway 86) runs in a north-south direction through the overall battlefield site along the section line, and Highway 86 forms the east boundary and part of the north boundary. The intersection of Starling Road and Mill Street forms the northwest corner of what was the Ritchey cornfield at the time of the 1864 battle, and that alignment is the same today. The overall battlefield site, as proposed, covers nearly a square mile (.87, or 24,375,000 square feet). Most of the land is privately owned. Initial skirmish lines and cavalry from both armies were located in and south of Stark City, beyond the boundary. Mainly because of integrity concerns, this area is not included. (See photos #1-#12)

Site B - The Cornfield: The cornfield site lies just south of the Newtonia city limits near the intersection of Highway 86 and County Road O. While the cornfield is believed to have covered approximately 56 acres at the time of the battle, the designated site is smaller at 21 acres. Although the construction of Highway 86 has impacted its visual appearance, the cornfield site is easily discernable and probably looks much as it did historically. Crops, usually corn, are planted within the site just as they were in 1864. (See photo #7)

C. The Artillery Ridge Site: The site where the 1st Colorado Artillery Battery positioned its cannon is located nearly one mile northwest of the center of the battlefield, in close proximity to the Granby Road site. It is approximately 1,000 feet west of County Road O and 2,000 feet north of Highway 86. Additional archeology has been recommended to locate the precise position of the artillery during the October 28, 1864 battle, as well as during the First Battle of Newtonia. The slight rise in elevation is recognizable. Today the ridge is largely covered in low grass mixed with forest and undergrowth, so integrity is good. (See photo #10)

D. The Granby Road Site: This site originates near the northwest corner of Newtonia and proceeds northwest through the general area of Artillery Ridge. The actual road no longer exists but its location was confirmed by archaeological surveys and is indicated visually by an easily recognizable treeline along the roadpath. The old Granby Road is a part of local history. It remains integral to understanding and interpreting the Second Battle of Newtonia. The Granby Road area largely retains its wartime

⁹Becher et al., p. 12.

¹⁰Cubbison et al., p. 158.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 5

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

integrity. An intensive archaeological survey was recommended by Fryman to locate the precise position of Federal reserve cavalry at this site.¹¹ (See photo #9)

Noncontributing Resources:

The 20 noncontributing properties consist of 12 houses and mobile homes, two commercial properties, five secondary properties and a concrete silo. Most of these properties are on the north side of Harrison Street at the southeast corner of the site; along the south side of Kirby Road in the northeast portion of the site; and on the west side of County Road O just south of Highway 86. The ambiance of the battlefield is somewhat diminished, but the sense of a defenseless small rural town surrounded by agricultural land which found itself caught between two armies is largely retained. Most of the noncontributing properties are located on or near the fringes of the nominated area. Those at the extreme south end of the battlefield are actually in Stark City. The homes are all single-story. Two of them have stone walls. A metal-sided commercial building of recent construction at the extreme southeast corner is used as a bakery. The other commercial building, at the west end of Kirby Lane, is an older concrete block building which serves as a machine shop. A ramshackle barn and a concrete silo on Starling Road are entirely appropriate within the agricultural landscape. (See photos #3, 5, 8, 11 and 12)

Note that due to differences in map size and detail, the boundaries and resources indicated on the Battle Maps (Figures C, D, E and F) may appear slightly different than on the Site Map (Figure A).

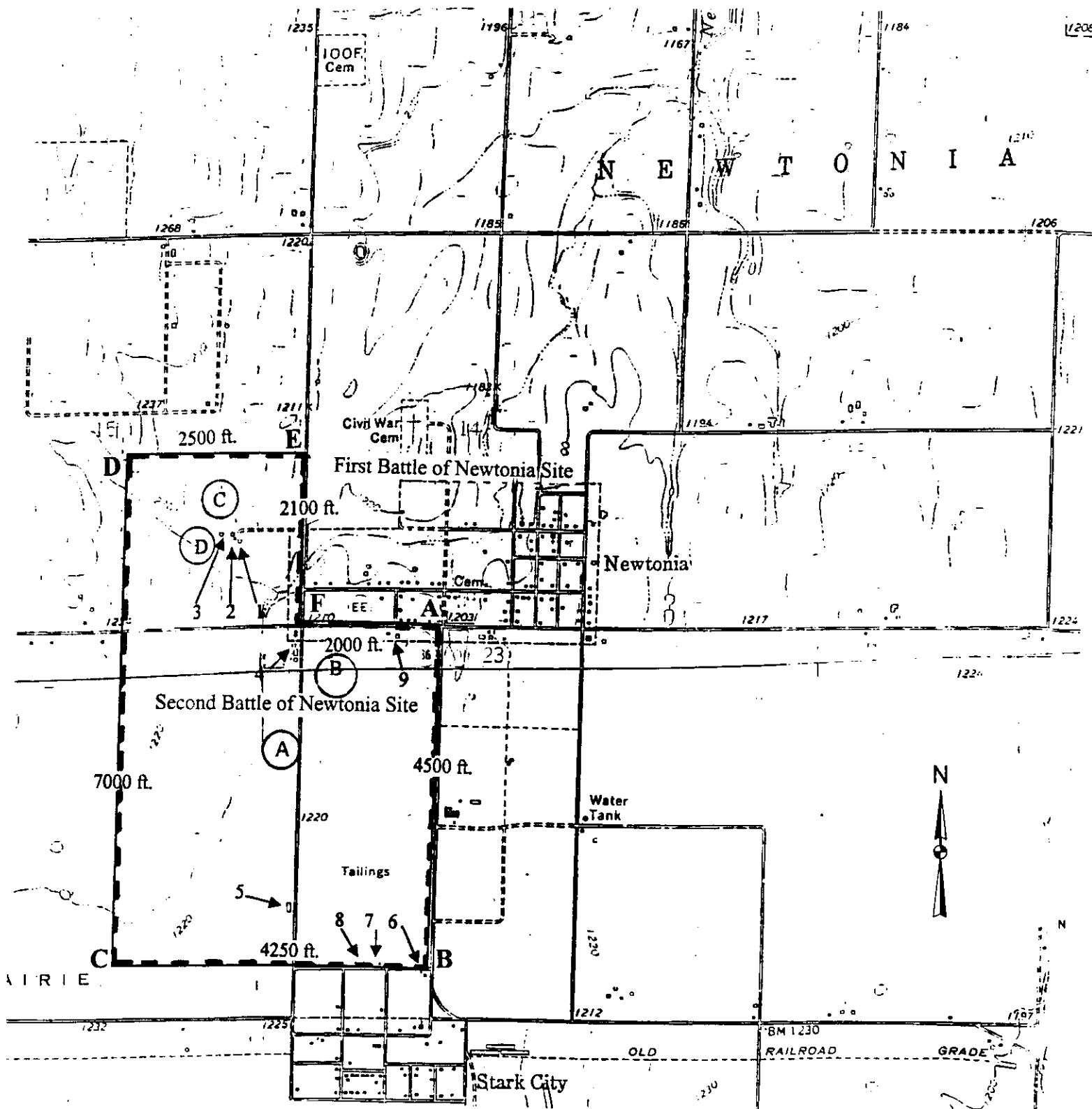
¹¹ Fryman, p.59.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 6

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Figure A
Site Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 7

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Summary:

The Second Battle of Newtonia was fought on October 28, 1864, generally west and south of the small community of Newtonia in Newton County, Missouri. The 560-acre Second Battle of Newtonia Site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with statewide significance in the area of Military. The site is significant because it is associated with a significant event in United States history, the Civil War. The battle was one of two important Civil War engagements at Newtonia, the first of which was fought on September 30, 1862 (First Battle of Newtonia Historic District, NR nomination pending). The site of the Second Battle of Newtonia is militarily significant as the last battle of Confederate General Sterling Price's failed 1864 campaign in Missouri. A few days earlier, Price's army had been defeated by a larger Federal force at the Battle of Westport and was retreating southward when five brigades of pursuing Union troops led by cavalry under General James G. Blunt caught up with it at Newtonia. Unlike the First Battle of Newtonia, which was won by the Confederates, the Second Battle was more of a last gasp for Price's ragged army in Missouri. General Joseph O. Shelby's dismounted "Iron Brigade" cavalry bravely fought a rear guard action against Blunt's dismounted cavalry as the rest of the Confederate troops escaped. There were an estimated 650 casualties (U.S. 400; C.S. 250).¹² Four days after the battle, the remnants of Price's army crossed into Arkansas. For all intents and purposes, Missouri came under Union control for the remainder of the war. The period of significance is the year of the battle, 1864. Because the site's generally flat terrain with a slight ridge to the northwest remains predominantly agricultural as it was during the encounter, it remains sufficiently evocative of this historic event.

Elaboration:

Like the other so-called border states, Missouri's sympathies were divided between North and South although at the onset of war, Missouri was considered a Union state. Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson, however, sought to lead Missouri into the secessionist camp. When President Lincoln requested 75,000 men to defend the Union following the attack on Fort Sumter, Governor Jackson declared that Missouri would not supply a single man to the Federal Army. In May 1861, incensed after Federal troops fired into an unruly St. Louis crowd while escorting captured state militiamen from Camp Jackson, the legislature passed a bill--at Jackson's request--which required all able-bodied men to serve in the militia in support of the Confederacy. But Jackson was ultimately rebuffed and, when threatened with arrest by Union General Nathaniel Lyon, the governor and a few pro-secessionist elements of his administration fled the state capital at Jefferson City. One of those siding with the exiled governor was ex-governor Sterling "Old Pap" Price, who had agreed to serve as commander of the Missouri State Guard, or militia.¹³

Price, a veteran of the Mexican War, originally opposed secession but changed his mind--as did many others--after the ugly Camp Jackson incident. Now he was determined to free Missouri from Federal rule. Encouraged by an early Confederate victory at Wilson's Creek in October 1861, Jackson summoned state legislators to Neosho (the county seat of Newton County) for the purpose of seceding from the Union. The adoption of "an act declaring the political ties heretofore existing between the state of Missouri and the United States of America dissolved" was illegal due to lack of a quorum (only a

¹²Estimated by the American Battlefield Protection Program.

¹³Duane Meyer. The Heritage of Missouri. St. Louis: State Publishing Co., Inc., 1963, rev. ed., 1973, pp. 348-401.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 8

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

relative handful of senators and representatives attended) and because the legislature already had declared that such an important decision should be voted on by the people, but in November 1861 admission to the Confederacy was requested and formally granted. While military activities in Missouri probably had very little impact on the ultimate outcome of the war, the state was nonetheless important from a strategic standpoint. Missouri's location on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers made the state important to both sides for purposes of transportation as well as communication with forces in the West.¹⁴

Newton County had been established in 1838 and three years later, a post office was opened at Newtonia. The 1857 town plat divided the town into 11 blocks. There were approximately 18 properties in Newtonia by 1860, when the population was estimated at 97.¹⁵ All streets have not been developed but the original pattern is still in use today. A 2,000-foot portion of Mill Street, originally the main east-west street along the south edge of Newtonia, is directly north of a large segment of the nominated battleground.

In addition to the fighting at Newtonia, important Civil War battles fought in Missouri included the Battle of Boonville (June 17, 1861), the Battle of Carthage (July 5, 1861), the Battle of Wilson's Creek (August 10, 1861), the Siege of Lexington (September 18-21, 1861), the Battle of Kirksville (August 6, 1862), the Battle of Independence (August 11, 1862), the Battle of Lone Jack (August 16, 1862), the Battle of Pilot Knob (September 27, 1864), and the Battle of Westport (October 21-23, 1864). This is only a very partial list. There were more than 400 Civil War battles in Missouri and an unknown number of raids and skirmishes. Altogether some 109,000 Union soldiers were Missourians and 30,000 other Missourians fought for the Confederates.¹⁶

As Carolyn M. Bartels put it, "The beautiful State of Missouri ranks third among the States with the most battles and engagements in the War Between the States. She does not lay claim to the likes of a Gettysburg or a siege of Atlanta, but Missouri played host to both opposing sentiments almost on a daily basis."¹⁷

The First Battle of Newtonia on September 30, 1862, was important because it gave Southern forces their first taste of victory in Southwest Missouri since the Confederate victory at Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861. After the First Battle of Newtonia, the Confederates seemingly had gained control of mineral-rich Southwest Missouri. Although the early victory gave the Confederates access to minerals and ores such as lead for ammunition as well as other supplies in the area, however, the Union remained dominant in the Trans-Mississippi theater. Civil War action in Missouri seemed to be winding down as early as the spring of 1862, following the battle at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, where the Confederates were defeated on March 6-8, 1862. While small Confederate victories such as the one at

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Fryman, p. 13; Goodspeed's History of Newton, Lawrence, Barry, and McDonald Counties. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888; McDonald County Historical Society, reprint, 1972, p. 327.

¹⁶ Meyer, p. 400.

¹⁷ Carolyn M. Bartels. The Civil War In Missouri Day By day 1861-1865. Independence, MO: Two Trails Publishing, 1992, p. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 9

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

the First Battle of Newtonia were significant in prolonging Southern honor and a semblance of power in Missouri, over the next year, 1863, the Union generally became the undisputed military force in both Missouri and Arkansas. After Pea Ridge, although Federal troops remained stationed at many towns in Missouri, the focus of Union and Confederate forces that had been in Missouri was east of the Mississippi River. Most of the Federal infantry that had been assigned to Missouri was transferred to Middle Tennessee.¹⁸

Meanwhile, small-scale but brutal hostilities continued with Confederate guerrillas periodically raiding areas they considered of the wrong political persuasion. Then in September 1864, General Price saw what he considered an opportunity to attack St. Louis and generally disrupt the Union war effort. Among other things, the invasion was seen as a way to relieve pressure on Confederate armies in the East. Meanwhile General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was attempting to hold off General Ulysses S. Grant while General John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee was trying to keep General William T. Sherman's forces out of Atlanta. Price and his "Army of Missouri" also probably hoped to recruit additional troops, capture Federal weapons and ultimately win back the state. Price's so-called "Raid of '64" (see Figure B) began on September 19 when he entered Ripley County, Missouri, with a force estimated at 12,000 men.¹⁹

In conjunction with Price's invasion, guerrilla forces around the state staged maneuvers intended to slow down and otherwise disrupt the Union reaction. On September 27, 1864, Union General Thomas Ewing confronted Price's army at Pilot Knob in Iron County, inflicting many casualties before retreating in the face of Price's superior numbers. But by this time St. Louis apparently seemed impregnable to Price, and he turned northwest toward the state capital at Jefferson City. However Price bypassed Jefferson City as well, continuing a westward swing after learning that a large Federal force would be waiting at the capital. In October, battles and skirmishes were fought at Glasgow and Lexington as Price moved westward. At Westport, two Federal armies, one led by Major General Samuel R. Curtis and the other by General Alfred S. Pleasonton, closed in on Price's dwindling forces. The ensuing Battle of Westport was fought on October 21-23 along the rocky terrain of the Big Blue River. Despite a stubborn rear guard action by Confederate General Joseph O. Shelby and his "Iron Brigade," Price was again defeated. To save the battered remnants of his army, he ordered a rapid march southward from Westport toward Arkansas. Union forces followed.

After several small battles and skirmishes, Price and what was left of his army approached Newtonia. Union General James G. Blunt and a force of about a thousand Union cavalrymen were close behind. Blunt's men included the 2nd Colorado and the 15th and 16th Kansas cavalry regiments. The 15th was led by Colonel Charles Jennison, infamous as a leader of the Kansas "Redlegs."²⁰ After riding through Newtonia on the morning of October 28, Price set up camp approximately a mile south of town.²¹ (See Figures C, D, E and F)

¹⁸Fryman, p. 15.

¹⁹Estimates of the number vary. Bartels said Price's army soon reached 15,000, p. 162.

²⁰Fryman, pp. 27-28 and Becher et al., pp. 76-77.

²¹Fryman, p. 28.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 10

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Blunt stated in his official report that as his cavalry approached Newtonia from the low bluffs to the north:

The rebel forces had encamped south of town, on the Pineville road, with the view of remaining there until the following day, thinking that the pursuit of our forces had been abandoned, but on discovering my advance coming in view on the high ground overlooking the town of Newtonia from the northwest, they hastily broke camp and attempted to move off. To cover this movement they employed a force of about 2,000 men upon the prairie to protect their rear...I determined to attack them at once.²²

Immediately, Blunt ordered his artillery (the 1st Colorado Battery) to open fire on the Confederate skirmishers who were preparing to engage the Union cavalry. The battery was positioned on the high ground northwest of town. Soon after, Price's rear guard under the command of General Shelby began forming battle lines. "...The rebel General quickly formed two lines of battle," reported a soldier from the 2nd Colorado Cavalry (Union), "and sullenly awaited our forces."²³ The general mentioned by the soldier was Brigadier General M. Jeff Thompson. Thompson commanded a brigade under General Shelby.

From Price's perspective, Blunt's aggressive attack indicated that the entire Union army commanded by General Curtis had caught up with him. Consequently, Price ordered an immediate retreat from the field while sending Shelby once again to stall the Union onslaught.²⁴ Shelby, one of the true heroes of the Confederacy, was more than willing to throw himself and his men into the breach, according to Major John L. Edwards' account. When Price and his other officers considered marching on to Arkansas rather than resting at Newtonia, Shelby is quoted as saying:

It is much better to lose an army in actual battle, than to starve the men and kill the horses.....No infantry on earth can make the marches we have made lately, and as for me, if their cavalry alone attack, and nothing but cavalry is available, I shall dismount every man in my division and meet them on this open prairie. Let me hold the rear, General Price, and I promise that we shall rest here two days with perfect impunity.²⁵

Edwards, Shelby's adjutant during the war who became his most prolific chronicler afterward, quickly adds that the general's advice probably would have been ignored but "the condition of both horses and men made a halt absolutely necessary."²⁶

²² General James G. Blunt, The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I. Vol. 41 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1885), p. 508.

²³ Pape, p. 77.

²⁴ Albert Castel. General Sterling Price and the Civil War in the West. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968), p. 246.

²⁵ John N. Edwards. Shelby and His Men: The War in the West. (Cincinnati: Miami Publishing Co., 1867; Waverly, MO, 1993 reprint ed.), p. 455.

²⁶ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 11

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Edwards claimed that except for Shelby, every Confederate officer at Newtonia opposed standing up to Blunt's dismounted cavalry at this time:

Shelby thought differently, and marched out to meet Blunt on foot, having, like Cortez, burned his ships behind him, and telling his soldiers: "I will carry you so far from your horses, that in your efforts to reach them, if you are defeated, you will be either killed or captured. We are able to whip Blunt, the safety of the entire army depends upon it, and by the grace of God it shall be done."²⁷

At a word his brigade leaped the fence and made a grand rush squarely upon the enemy's ranks, Shelby leading and every man at his post. Blunt stood the shock well, and for an hour the two ranks fought almost hand to hand.....Step by step Blunt gave way. Langhorne and Thrailkill, everywhere upon the field, had twice charged the 2d Colorado. Thrailkill lost two horses, Langhorne some of his best men, with one of his lieutenants, John Crump, badly wounded. A reinforcement judiciously thrown in now would have destroyed Blunt and captured his artillery, and Shelby sent repeatedly to General Price, stating that he had engaged the enemy with his division and had driven him three miles toward Newtonia; that his losses had been severe and his ammunition was almost expended.....It was not done until too late. General Clark came after Blunt had withdrawn, and Shelby's triumphant but bleeding division was returning from the scene of its last glorious victory.²⁸

And so Blunt's relatively small force failed to capitalize on the situation in the face of Shelby's overwhelming counterattack. Shelby's men drove Blunt's cavalry back across the flat farmland immediately south of Newtonia, saving Price's forces from total disaster much as he had done just days earlier at the Battle of Westport. In his post-battle report, Blunt explained his dilemma and described some of the fiercest fighting:

[The Confederate's] superiority in numbers enabling them to press upon my flanks with a large force compelled me to fall back another 500 yards from my first line, which was done in good order, and the line reformed in the face of terrific fire. The enemy pressed their center, but were promptly checked by the canister of the First Colorado Battery. It was near sundown, and my command had been engaged near two hours and their ammunition nearly exhausted, while a large force of the enemy were passing under cover of a cornfield around my left flank...²⁹

Just as Blunt's command was about to be pushed from the field, reinforcements under Union General John B. Sanborn arrived.

I immediately placed [Sanborn's Brigade] on my left, directing General Sanborn to dismount

²⁷ Ibid., pp. 456-457.

²⁸ Ibid., pp. 457-458.

²⁹ Blunt, p. 508.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 12

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

his men and advance them through the cornfield...repulsing the flanking column of the enemy.³⁰

Combined with the approaching darkness, this dramatic bolstering of Union strength caused Shelby to abandon the field and accompany the remainder of Price's army southward. Blunt, with the help of Sanborn, had repulsed the Confederate counterattack and driven them from the field of combat.

On October 31, three days after the battle, Union Colonel Charles W. Blair tersely summed up the battle for his superior, Major General W. S. Rosecrans:

General Blunt fought Price Friday afternoon at Newtonia, and whipped him out again. General Sanborn supported him. The enemy was badly worsted.³¹

But the Confederates also claimed victory. Even though Shelby's men withdrew, their stalling action against the Union forces was considered a successful endeavor. Since Price's goal was to escape in order to regroup and fight another day, in that sense it was successful. Price's optimistic take on the Second Battle of Newtonia is clear in his report of the engagement:

After passing over the prairie about four miles beyond Newtonia, Brigadier General Shelby halted his command at the edge of the timber and there encamped for the night...ere long our scouts brought the information the enemy were crossing the prairie in pursuit of us. Preparations were immediately made to receive him and about 3 o'clock General Blunt, with 3,000 Federal cavalry [actually only 1,000], moved rapidly across the prairie in pursuit of us and made a furious onslaught upon our lines. He was engaged by Shelby...A short but obstinate combat ensued, when Blunt was repulsed and driven across the prairie three miles with heavy loss. This was the last we saw of the enemy.³²

Although both sides claimed success, neither undisputedly "won" the Second Battle of Newtonia and the North clearly missed its second opportunity in less than a week to achieve a decisive victory. According to Trans-Mississippi Civil War authority Albert Castel, the Confederates "fought only to protect their retreat, and the Federals, because of Blunt's incompetence, missed an excellent opportunity to finish off Price's army."³³

Afterward, the Civil War was essentially over in Southwest Missouri. At least there were no significant engagements between the two armies. Following the battle, Price and his ragtag army continued their southward retreat, arriving in Arkansas in November. They eventually passed through Indian Territory into Texas, probably still hoping to regroup and return. Altogether in the 1864 campaign, Price's army is said to have marched 1,434 miles and fought 43 skirmishes in Missouri.³⁴ The Union army continued its pursuit for awhile but eventually broke it off. Newtonia was garrisoned by Federal forces for seven more

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Colonel Charles Blair, OR, p. 354.

³² General Sterling Price, OR, p. 638.

³³ Castel, p. 246.

³⁴ Meyer, p. 398.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 13

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

months until the war ended the following April.³⁵ The entire state was effectively under Union control for the remainder of the Civil War.

Looking across the old battlefield today, where the fields are still used for growing crops, it is possible to comprehend where different actions took place. The course of the battle from the initial advance of the Union forces to the final withdrawal by the Confederates can be imagined. The gentle ridge northwest of Newtonia where the Union artillery was situated is clearly visible as is the cornfield site where Shelby's dismounted cavalry engaged Blunt's men. As a whole, the Second Battle of Newtonia Site retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

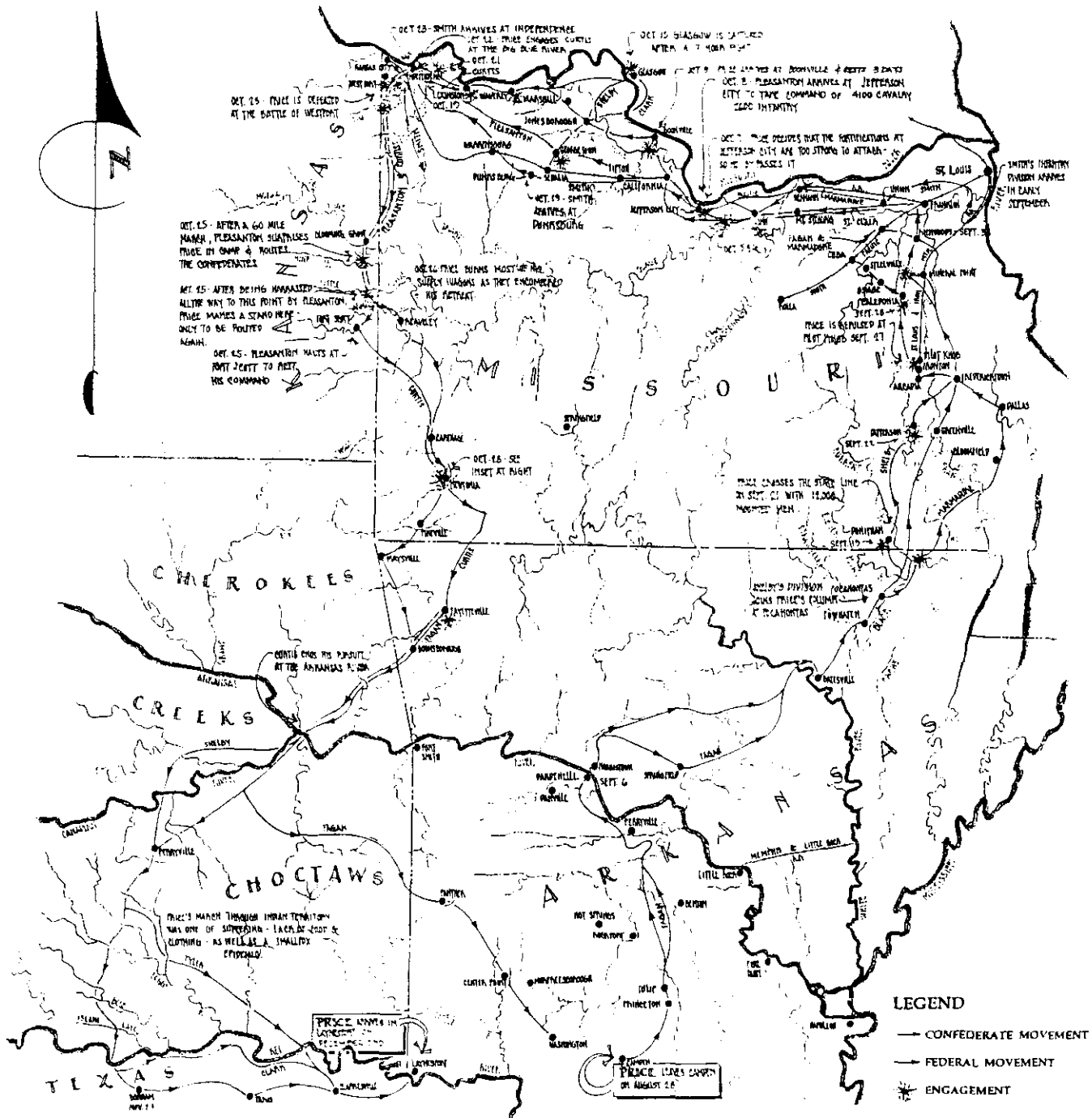
³⁵ Cubbison, pp. 43-54

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 14

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Figure B
Price's 1864 Missouri Raid
Source: White Star Consulting

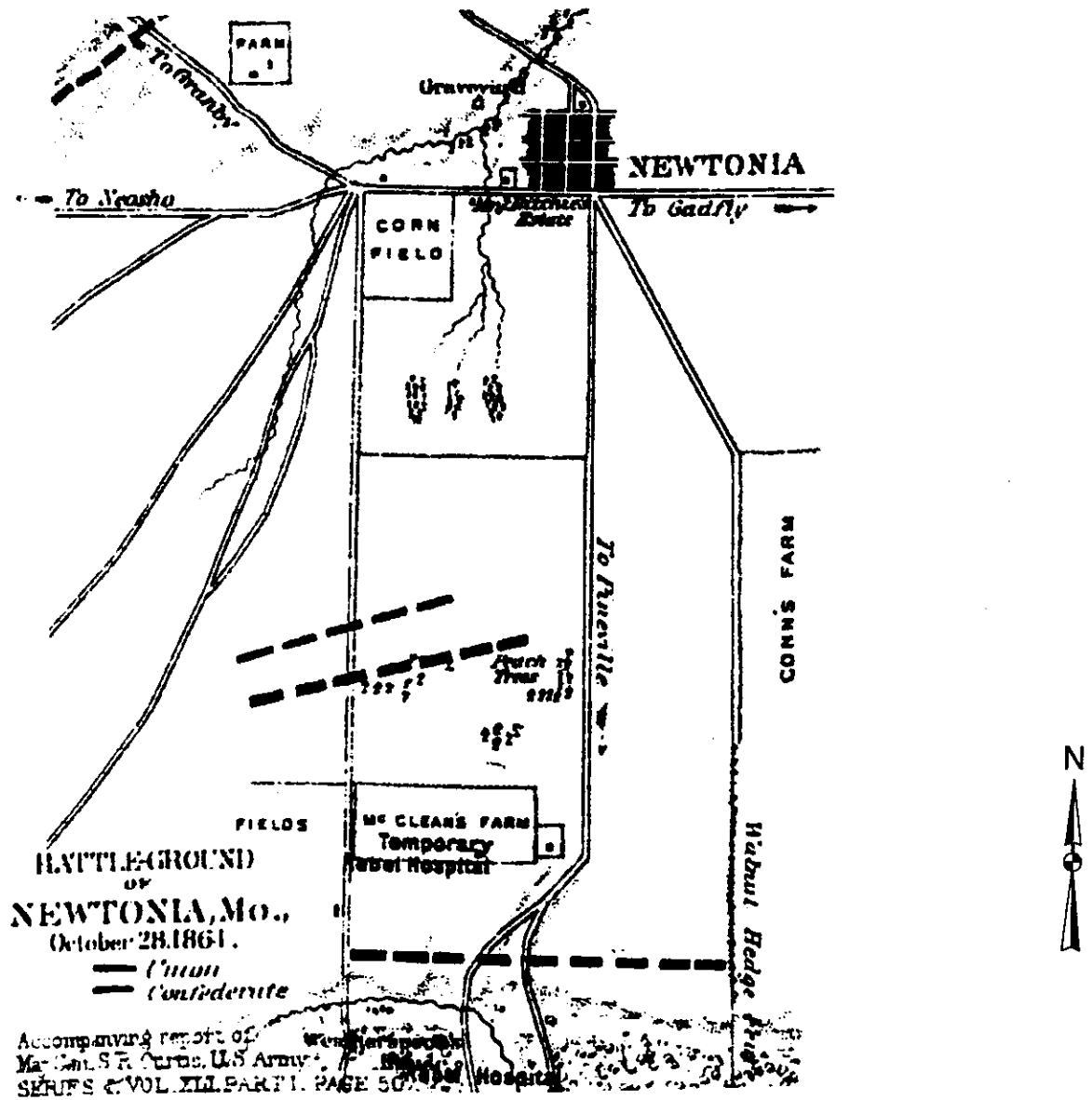


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 15

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

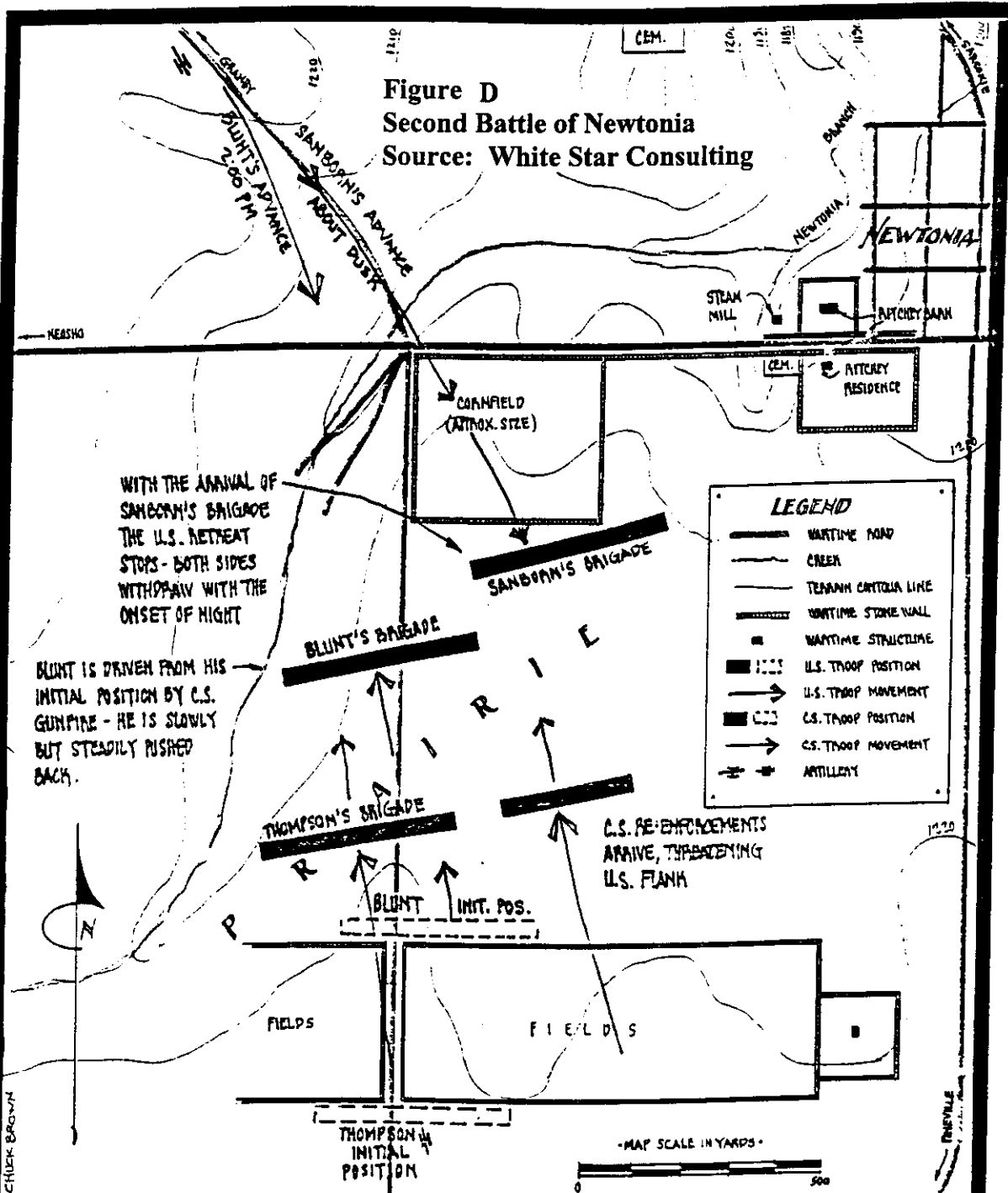
Figure C
Map of October 28, 1864, Battle of Newtonia
Source: Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate LXVI, No. 6



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 16

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

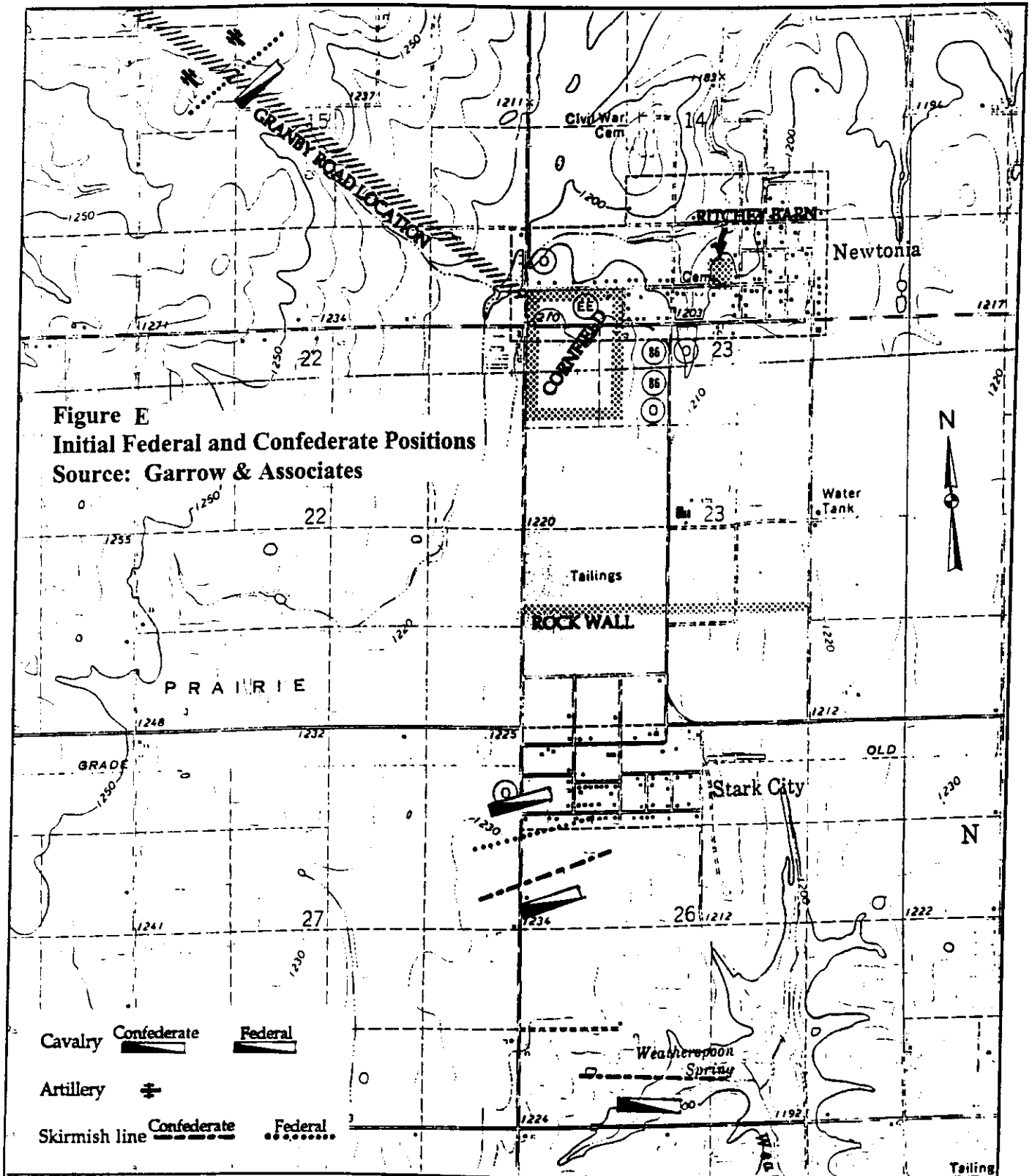


The Second Battle of Newtonia
Price's Missouri Raid
October 28, 1864

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 17

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

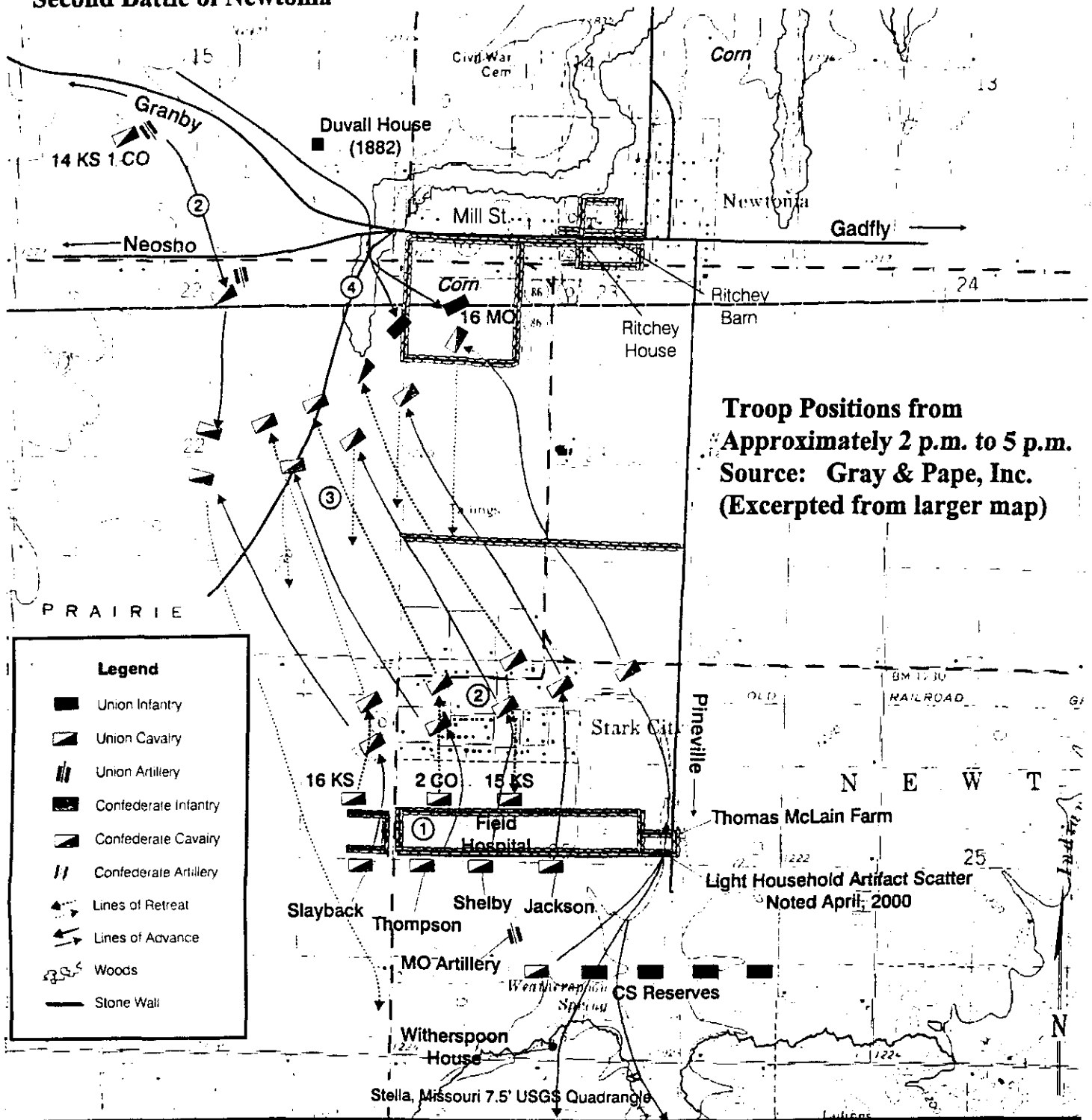


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 18

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Figure F
Second Battle of Newtonia



Troop Positions from
Approximately 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Source: Gray & Pape, Inc.
(Excerpted from larger map)

Light Household Artifact Scatter
Noted April 2000

Stella, Missouri 7.5' USGS Quadrangle

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 9 Page 19

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Bibliography:

- Bartels, Carolyn M. The Civil War in Missouri Day By Day 1861-1865. Independence, MO: Two Trails Publishing, 1992.
- Becher, Matthew E. et al. A Preservation Plan for the Civil War Battlefields of Newtonia, Missouri. Cincinnati, OH: Gray and Pape, Inc., 2000.
- Britton, Wiley. The Civil War on the Border. Volume II 1863-1865. New York: G. W. Putnam's Sons, 1899; reprinted by Kansas Heritage Press, 1994.
- Castel, Albert. General Sterling Price and the Civil War in the West. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.
- Cubbison, Douglas R. et al. Newtonia Battlefields Archaeological Survey. Mt. Pleasant, TN: White Star Consulting, 1998.
- Edwards, John N. Shelby and His Men: Or, The War in the West. Cincinnati, OH: Miami Publishing Co., 1867; Waverly, MO: General Joseph Shelby Memorial Fund, reprint edition, 1993.
- Fitts, Orvis N. "Byram's Ford Historic District," Jackson County, Missouri, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, 1989.
- Fryman, Robert et al. Engaged the Enemy Again: An Assessment of the 1862 and 1864 Civil War Battlefields at Newtonia, Missouri. Atlanta, GA: Garrow and Associates, 1995.
- Monaghan, Jay. Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1955, Bison Book ed., 1984.
- Myer, Duane. The Heritage of Missouri: A History. St. Louis: State Publishing Co., Inc., 1963, Rev. Ed., 1973.
- Stith, Matthew M. "First Battle of Newtonia Historic District," Newton County, Missouri, [draft] National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, 2004.
- U.S. War Department. War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. XIII. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1885.
- Warner, Ezra J. Generals in Blue: Lives of Union Commanders. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1984.
- _____. Generals in Gray: Lives of Confederate Commanders. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1983.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 10 Page 20

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

UTM References (continued):

E. 15/393820 easting 15/4082340 northing

F. 15/393790 easting 15/4081640 northing

Verbal Boundary Description:

(See Site Map, Figure A): Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of Mo. Hwy. 86 at Route EE (Point A on Site Map), proceed south along the property line on the west side of Hwy. 86 for a distance of 4,500 feet to Harrison Street (Point B); then proceed west on Harrison Street along the north property line and continue along an imaginary line into an agricultural field for a distance of 4,250 feet to Point C; then proceed north along an imaginary line for a distance of 7,000 feet to Point D; then proceed east along an imaginary line for a distance of 2,500 feet to Route O (Point E); then proceed south along the west property line of Route O for a distance of 2,100 feet to Mo. Hwy. 86 (Point F); then proceed 2,000 feet along the property line on the south side of Mo. Hwy. 86 to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the Second Battle of Newtonia Site was selected by the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association after the completion of two archaeological surveys and a preservation plan for the 1862 and 1864 Civil War battle sites. The boundaries were determined with reference to the surveys as well as historical accounts of the battle and a concern to preserve the site's ability to convey its historic associations. To date, there has been no systematic appraisal of the subject site's potential for historical archaeological remains, although it could conceivably retain a subsurface component dating to the 1864 battle. The land was originally mapped after the battle by some of those who participated (see Figure C). Modern surveys of the Newtonia battle sites (conducted in 1997 by White Star Consulting of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, and in 1994 by Garrow & Associates, Inc., of Atlanta, Georgia) did not attempt to establish site boundaries for National Register purposes. Development of a preservation plan was the main focus of a 2000 investigation by Gray & Pape, Inc., of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Robert J. Fryman, principal investigator for Garrow & Associates, noted that the Granby Road area largely retains its wartime appearance and has not been visually impacted. The cornfield location, he found, has been visually impacted by the construction of Highway 86 but still retains its historical context and function. Overall, he found that the battlefields have largely retained their historical integrity and recommended efforts to ensure their continued preservation. Douglas R. Cubbison, project manager for White Star Consulting, noted that the absence of surviving landmarks precludes locating the precise site of the October 1864 engagement. In addition, the development of Stark City and construction of the Missouri-North Arkansas Railroad through Stark City in the early 20th century may well have destroyed most traces of the 1864 battle. Matthew E. Becher et al., of Gray & Pape, Inc., agreed with the other researchers that many questions remain unanswered concerning the location and extent of both engagements. However, Becher et al was optimistic that archeological investigations could indeed define the battle areas, and noted that "many of the key markers remain."

The boundary is not as precise as desired but it encompasses the acreage which most strongly retains its historic appearance and on which the primary fighting is known to have occurred. The smaller site of the 1862 battle of Newtonia (First Battle of Newtonia Historic District, nomination pending) is generally

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 10. Photographs Page 21

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

northeast of the Second Battle of Newtonia Site (see Figure A). Separated by two years, the two engagements also were distinctly different. Several 20th century properties are situated between the two nominated battlefields. However, the boundaries touch at two locations, Point A and between Points E and F.

Photographs:

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Photographer: Matthew M. Stith, photos 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, August 19, 2003.

Photographer: Roger Maserang, photos 1, 2, 5, 8, April 5, 2004.

Location of negatives: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 6424 West Farm Road 182, Republic, MO 65783, and Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

1. General battlefield view looking northwest from Highway 86 at Harrison Street.
2. General battlefield view looking north from south boundary along Harrison Street.
3. Commercial property on Highway 86 at southeast corner of site.
4. General battlefield view looking northwest from near center of south boundary at Starling Road.
5. Derelict barn along Starling Road, looking northwest.
6. General battlefield view looking northeast from Starling Road.
7. Looking northeast into cornfield site from Starling Road.
8. Silo and agricultural properties along north end of Starling Road, looking west.
9. Looking west toward Granby Road site (along treeline).
10. Artillery ridge site looking west from east boundary along Route O.
11. Stone house in northwest portion, facing southwest.
12. Residential property in northwest portion, facing southwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 11 Page 22

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

11. Form Prepared By:

1. Matthew M. Stith (Intern, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield/Partners and Parks)
6424 West Farm Road 182
Republic, MO 65738
(417) 732-2662
August 21, 2003
Original preparer

2. Roger Maserang
Historian, State Historic Preservation Office
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
(573) 522-4641
April 29, 2004
Editor and revisions

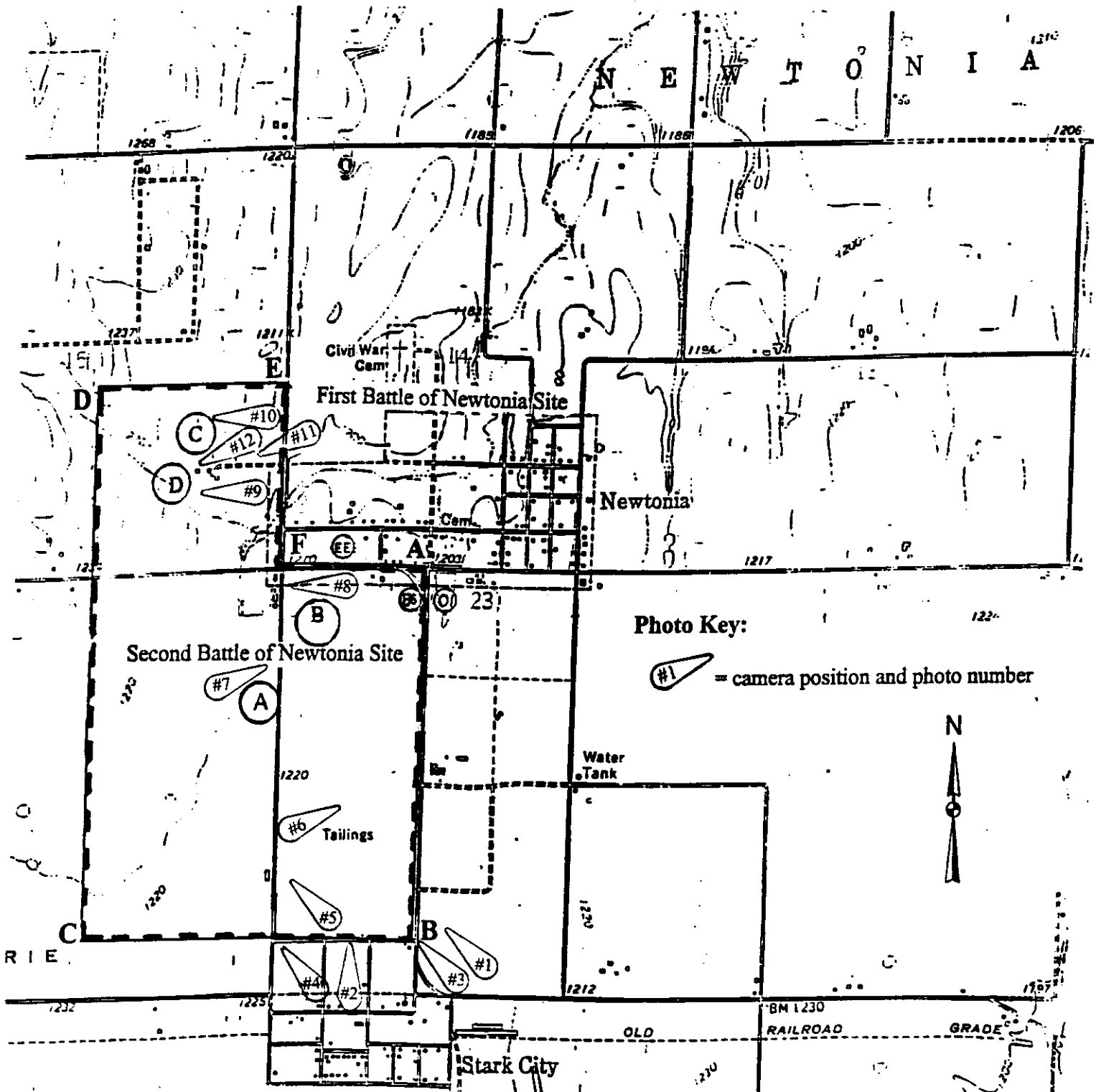
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

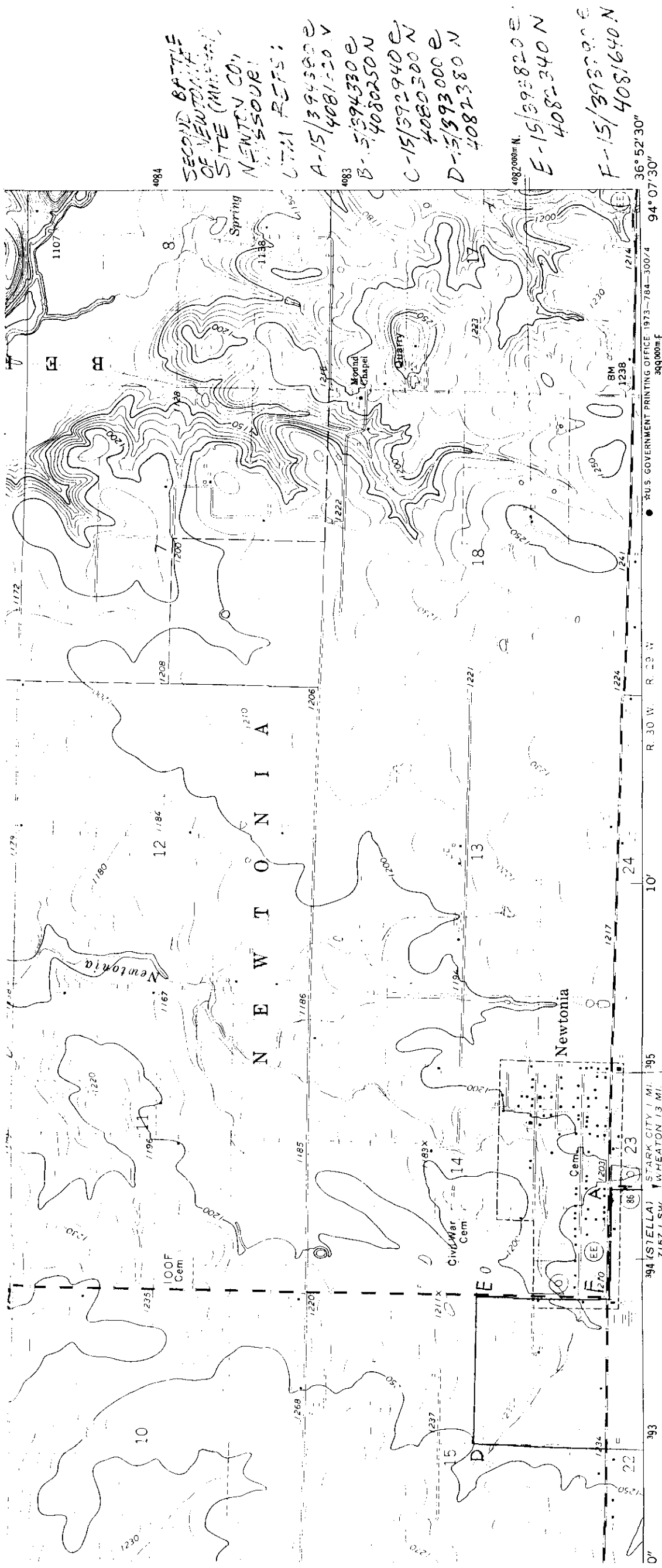
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Map Page 23

Second Battle of Newtonia Site
Newton County, Missouri

Photo Map Showing Camera Angles

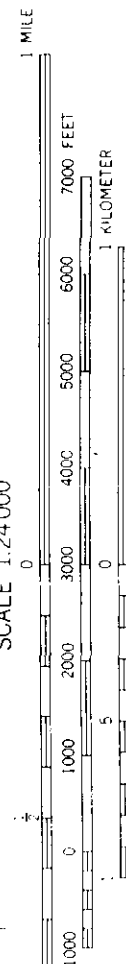
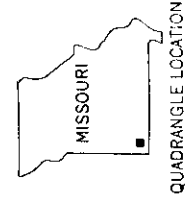




4084
 SECOND BATTLE
 OF NEWTONIA
 SITE (MISSOURI)
 NEWTON CO,
 MISSOURI
 UTM REFS:
 A-15/394300 E
 408120 V
 B-15/394330 E
 4080250 N
 C-15/392940 E
 4080300 N
 D-15/393000 E
 4082380 N
 4082000 N
 E-15/395820 E
 4082340 N
 F-15/395700 E
 4081640 N

36° 52' 30"
 94° 07' 30"
 (WHEATON)
 71571 SE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Primary highway, hard surface
 Secondary highway, hard surface
 Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
 Unimproved road
 Interstate Route
 U. S. Route
 State Route



NEWTONIA, MO.
 NW 1/4 RITCHIEY 15' QUADRANGLE
 71571 SE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

STATES
OF THE INTERIOR
SAL SURVEY

390

391

392 12'30"

393

71571 NW
(NEWTONIA) NE 1/4 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95

10' 4082280 N

600,000 FEET R 29 W

SECOND BATTLE OF
NEWTONIA SITES
NEWTON CO, MISSOURI
MAP #2
UTM REFS:
A-15/394380E
4081620N
B-15/394350E
4080250N
C-15/392940E
4080300N
D-15/395000E
4081640N
E-15/395820E
4082340N
F-15/393790E
4081640N

