NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES/ NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM

WARNING

THIS FILE CONTAINS INFORMATION THAT IS RESTRICTED FROM PUBLIC ACCESS UNDER LAW (INCLUDING 54 U.S.C. § 307103 [FORMERLY SECTION 304 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966, AS AMENDED] AND/OR 16 U.S.C. § 470hh [ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT OF 1979]).

THIS DOCUMENTATION MAY BE VIEWED OR REPRODUCED ONLY WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ACTING THROUGH THE KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER OR THEIR AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE.

_X__ RESTRICTED INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REDACTED

REDACTION DATE ____2/4/2025__ (IF APPLICABLE)

NOTES: by Michael Roller, Archeologist, National Register; reviewed by WICR

FILE (PROPERTY) NAME: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Additional Documentation)

LOCATION (STATE/TERRITORY): Missouri

LOCATION (COUNTY/PARISH): Greene

NRIS#: AD66000113

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: AD66000113 Date Listed: 7/19/2024

Property Name: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

County: Greene State: MO

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation



Signature of the Keeper

2/4/2025

Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7, pg. 45 – 100. Visitor Center: “The larger south wing, which was constructed in 2020 and 2021, has similar massing and comparable concrete walls.” Should read: “The larger south wing, which has similar massing and comparable concrete walls, was constructed circa 2003 and renovations took place in 2020-2021 for the entire building.”

And

Section 8, pg. 132, third full paragraph – “An addition to the Visitor Center in 2003 nearly doubled the size of the building.”

The MISSOURI SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Restricted

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Additional Documentation)*

Other names/site number *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park, Oak Hills Battlefield*

Name of related Multiple Property Listing *N/A*

2. Location

Street & number 6424 West Farm Road 182 | X | not for publication

City or town Republic | X | vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Christian and Greene Code 043/077 Zip code 65738

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

X national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ___ B ___ C X D

Deputy SHPO 5-15-24
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

5/30/2024
Signature of certifying official Date

Federal Preservation Officer — National Park Service
Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

____ determined eligible for the National Register

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain:) _____

7/15/2024
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Additional Documentation) — Name of Property

Christian and Greene Co., MO — County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
X	public - Local
x	public - State
X	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

* Because this document is a reevaluation of the property, this resource count reflects all resources present. See Section 7 for an explanation of changes made.

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	8	buildings
33	12	sites
6	29	structures
1	0	objects
46	49	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

14 (See section 7 for additional information)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE/battlefield
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/marker
FUNERARY/graves/burial
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
TRANSPORTATION/Road Related
AGRICULTURE/Agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/park/conservation area
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/marker
FUNERARY/graves/burial
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
TRANSPORTATION/Road-related
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Double-Pen House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone
walls: Wood, Vinyl
Stone, Metal
roof: Shake, Metal, Asphalt
other: Concrete

[X] **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Christian and Greene Co., MO
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] 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.
- [X] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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.
- [X] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

MILITARY

TRANSPORTATION

COMMUNICATIONS

ARCHEOLOGY: precontact, historic aboriginal, historic non-aboriginal

SOCIAL HISTORY

Periods of Significance

ca. 8500 BCE -- 1700 CE

ca. 1836- ca. 1865 CE

1861-1972

Significant Dates

August 10, 1861

April 22, 1960

December 16, 1970

September 17, 1972

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliations

Dalton, Archaic, Woodland

Architect/Builder

Unknown

[X] **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- _X_ previously listed in the National Register (NRIS #63818905)
- ____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ____ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- _X_ State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- _X_ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- ____ University
- ____ Other

Name of repository: **Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Archives**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Additional Documentation) — Name of Property

Christian and Greene Co., MO — County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1,749.91 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	Latitude:	Longitude:	3	Latitude:	Longitude:
2	Latitude:	Longitude:	4	Latitude:	Longitude:

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	15	462300	4107980
B.	15	464850	4107980
C.	15	464700	4103600
D.	15	462920	4103950

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Sheals (Primary Contact) with Mason Martel, 2021-2024; Jeffrey Patrick, 2017; Camille B. Fife, 2015

organization Building Preservation, LLC date April 30, 2024

street & number 29 South Ninth St. Ste. 210 telephone 573-874-3779

city or town Columbia state MO zip code 65201

e-mail Debsheals@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Additional Documentation) Christian and Greene Co., MO
Name of Property

County and State

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

NOTE: Tables are inserted into the text; figures are all placed at the end of the document.

1. Resources Listed in the 1976 Nomination……..7.5
2. Contributing Resources Associated with the Battle of Wilsons Creek and its Commemoration…….. 7.9
3. Small-Scale Features …… 7.20
4. Contributing Resources Dating to Before the Battle of Wilson's Creek …… 7.35
5. Noncontributing Resources ……..…… 7.40
6. National Battlefields in the United States…… 8.119

Appendix.
I. All Resources, in Alphabetical Order …….. 8.138

Figures:

1. Copy of the 1976 Boundary Map, with UTM Coordinates. (Source: Google Earth 2021.)
2. Context Map. (Source: Google Maps.)
3. Brochure Map of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, with keys to the detail location maps. (Map courtesy of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 2020.)
4. Resource Locations Section 1: Visitor Center.
5. Resource Locations Section 2: Gibson's Mill.
6. Resource Locations Section 3: Ray House.
7. Resource Locations Section 4: South.
8. Resource Locations Section 5: Bloody Hill.
9. Native Land Cessions in Missouri. (Map by Greg Olson, 2020, based on Charles Royce, *Indian Land Cessions in the United States*, 1899.)
10. Historic Period Plan of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, ca. 1838-1861 in John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, Missouri* (Omaha: NE, National Park Service, 2004).
11. Edwin C. Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Greene and Christian Counties, Missouri* (Denver, CO: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, ca. 1970).
12. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail, Section 1: Visitor Center.
13. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail, Section 2: Gibson's Mill.
14. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail, Section 3: Ray House area.
15. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail, Section 4: South.
16. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail, Section 5: Bloody Hill.
17. Rhoda Jones. (Source: Wilson's Creek NB Collections.)
18. Top: Ray House in 1968 (Wilson's Creek NB Archives) Bottom: Historic photo of the Gray-Campbell House. (Gray/Campbell Farmstead," accessed May 2021, http://www.graycampbellfarmstead.org/index.html.)
19. William Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861" (St. Louis: U.S. Army, Headquarters, Department of the Missouri, 1865). Current park outlines added by Deb Sheals in 2021.
20. Wilson's Creek Battleground, 5:00-6:00 am, August 10, 1861. Jeffrey L. Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek: The Fight for Missouri Begins* (Abilene, TX: State House Press, 2018), 135. Current park outlines added by Deb Sheals in 2021.
21. Detail of a map drawn by Colonel Sigel, showing his three positions. Base map reproduced in Robert T. Bray, "An Archeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, Missouri" (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, 1967).

22. Top: Map of the Butterfield Trail, ca 1857. ("Butterfield Overland Mail," Wikipedia, accessed June 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfield_Overland_Mail#/media/File:Butterfield-Overland.gif. Bottom: Sketch Map of the Butterfield Trail in Southern Missouri (*Springfield News-Leader*, June 10, 1956, clipping on file with Wilson's Creek NB).
23. Historic Period Plan of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, ca. 1905-1928. (John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*.)
24. Early Photo of the Rock Cairn at the Site of Lyon's Death, ca. 1890s. (Wilson's Creek NB Archives, #00884.)
25. Illustration from "The Wilson Creek Reunion," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, February 28, 1897, 33.
26. Park Brochure Map of 1967. (Wilson's Creek NB Archives.)
27. Map of Legislative Boundary Increase of 2004. (Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, Pub. L. No. 108-394, 118 Stat. 2247 and 2248, 2004.)
28. Photo Key Detail 1: Visitor Center.
29. Photo Key Detail 2: Gibson's Mill.
30. Photo Key Detail 3: Ray House.
31. Photo Key Detail 4: South.
32. Photo Key Detail 5: Bloody Hill.

[redacted]

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Additional Documentation)**

City or Vicinity: **Republic**

County: **Christian and Greene** State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Deb Sheals**

Date Photographed: December 2020-April 2021
NOTE: These photos were still representative in April 2024.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Visitor Center (Resource 100), looking southwest.
2. Picnic Shelter (Resource 106, looking east-southeast.
3. Carpenter Shop (Resource 103) in the Maintenance area, looking southwest.
4. Tour Road (Resource 112), looking east.
5. Gibson's Mill Trail (Resource 114), looking south.
6. Edgar Cemetery (Resource 4), looking northwest.
7. Ray Cornfield and Ray Cornfield Trail (Resource 113), looking southwest.
8. Tour Road (Resource 112) and Tour Road - Ray House Bridge (Resource 125), looking southeast to Ray House.
9. Ray House (Resource 6), looking south.
10. Ray House Interior (Resource 6), southwest front room.
11. Wire Road Trace (Resource 7) in front of Ray House, looking northeast.
12. West edge of Ray yard, looking south. Left to right: Reproduction rail fence, Ray Pump House (Resource 6b), Ray House (Resource 6).
13. View from Ray House, looking west. Left to Right: Ray Orchard, Bloody Hill, curved top edge of Ray Springhouse (Resource 6a), Ray Cornfield.

14. Ray Springhouse (Resource 6a), looking west.
15. McElhaney House (Resource 8) and Root Cellar (Resource 8c), looking southwest.
16. McElhaney Outbuilding (Resource 8b), and Barn (Resource 8a), looking northwest.
17. McElhaney complex, looking northeast. Left to Right: Outbuilding (Resource 8b), House (Resource 8), and Pump House (Resource 121).
18. McElhaney Barn (Resource 8a), looking southwest.
19. View from East Overlook, looking west. Bloody Hill is to the right.
20. Edwards Cabin/Price's Headquarters Exhibit (Resources 14 and 130), looking west from blufftop near Tour Stop 3.
21. Manley Cemetery (Resource 9), looking southeast.
22. Pratt Pony Truss Bridge (Resource 13), looking northeast.
23. Wilson's Creek near Pratt Pony Truss Bridge, looking south.
24. Edwards Cabin/Price's Headquarters Exhibit (Resources 14 and 130), and field, looking south. Wire Road visible to the left.
25. Bloody Hill Trail (Resource 133), looking northeast to Bloody Hill.
26. Tour Road-South Wilson's Creek Bridge (Resource 128), looking east.
27. Tour Road Stop 4. Looking south to Sigel's Second Position/Sharp's Field.
28. Manley Ford of Wilson's Creek, looking east.
29. Sigel's First Position, looking northeast from outside the southern boundary.
30. Southwest Boundary Trail/former path of Missouri Pacific Railroad (Resource 129), looking west.
31. Looking west to Sigel's Final Position, Sharp House Archeological Site (Resource 10) and Sigel's Second Position/Sharp's Field.
32. Wire Road (Resource 7), looking northeast to ford of Skegg's Branch.
33. Skegg's Branch near Wilson's Creek, looking west.
34. Cannon at Guibor's Battery, looking north, Tour Road (Resource 112) on left.
35. Entrance to Bloody Hill, looking northeast.
36. View east from the top of Bloody Hill, towards Ray House.
37. Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail (Resource 133), near the top of the hill looking southeast.
38. Lyon Marker (Resource 1d), looking west.
39. Bloody Hill, looking northwest from the lower interpretive trail.
40. West Overlook, looking southwest towards the Ray House.

Description Summary:

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service, is between the towns of Battlefield and Republic, approximately twelve miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri. (See Figures 1 and 2.) The legislative boundaries of the park encompass 2,364.96 acres of land in Greene and Christian Counties. That includes 1,749.91 acres that were listed in the National Register in 1966, plus 615 acres added to the legislative boundaries in 2004.[1] The added land is not yet listed in the National Register. This document focuses on the property that is already listed in the National Register. It adds additional information about the district, including new areas and periods of significance. A separate boundary increase is being prepared in tandem with this update to include the land added to the park in 2004.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has a roughly rectangular shape that is approximately 1.5 miles east to west by 2.75 miles north to south. It is generally bounded by West Farm Road 182 (Elm Street) to the north, State Highway ZZ to the west, and County Road ZZ-4 (Wilson Road) to the south. (See Figure 3.) Properties to the east contain widely scattered residences in a mix of grassland and forest. The park includes a large valley that runs north-south through the center of the battlefield, along the path of Wilson's Creek. The creek enters in the northeast section of the park and runs south through the center of the property before exiting at the southeast corner of the park. The center of the property is mostly flat, with large open fields that contain restored prairie or agricultural fields. Steep hills to the east and west overlook the creek bottoms.

The district includes open fields, woodlands, and waterways, as well as buildings and structures. Together these resources form a rural cultural landscape that preserves and commemorates the Wilson's Creek Battlefield. Because this updated nomination recognizes the entire area as a cultural landscape, the entire original park (the parent landscape) is counted as a single contributing site; all other resources are located within that site. Because National Register Bulletin 40 states that "buildings, structures, objects, and sites substantial in size and scale or that are specifically discussed in the text are counted separately," 32 sub-sites of the parent landscape are also contributing sites.[2] They include 14 sites singled out for Military significance in association with the Battle of Wilson's Creek in a 1976 nomination form, and 19 associated with historic contexts added with this document. Added sites include two ca. 1861 resources: a Burial Well (Resource 1c) with Military significance, and the ca. 1861 Bloody Hill Rock Carving (Resource 1a), which is associated with an added area of significance--Social

[1] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, Missouri* (Omaha, NE: National Park Service, 2004), 3-4.
[2] See Patrick Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 40: Guidelines for Counting Resources on a Battlefield*, (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1993), 14.

History. The other 17 added sites are archaeological sites that contain precontact materials; all are significant in the area of Archeology, which is also being added with this document.

All told, this document identifies and classifies 95 resources. There are 46 contributing resources and 49 noncontributing resources. Contributing resources include 33 contributing sites, six contributing buildings, six contributing structures, and one contributing object. There are eight noncontributing buildings, 12 noncontributing sites, and 29 noncontributing structures. The vast majority of the noncontributing structures are trails and small footbridges.

It should be noted that while the property contains numerous noncontributing resources, most of those are small in scale, with minimal impact upon the historic setting. The single largest resource, the overall site, is contributing, and the full property continues to evoke a sense of its time and place.

Elaboration

Explanation of Additional Documentation

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield was authorized on April 22, 1960, officially established in 1970, and dedicated in 1972.[3] In 1966, all 1,749.91 acres of the park were automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. A subsequent National Register of Historic Places registration form was approved on September 1, 1976.[4]

This document includes additional information and a reevaluation of the resources that were included in the 1976 nomination. Numerous historical studies and archeological investigations conducted at the park since 1976 have revealed additional resources and historical context for the known resources. Additional features that have been uncovered or added since have also been evaluated and described below. Information about the areas and periods of significance documented in 1976 is included in Section 8 of this document, along with justification for new areas and periods of significance.

[3] Laura Hazelwood and Connie Slaughter, "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and the Amending Act of 1970" (Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999). National parks are authorized via federal legislation, but not formally established until enough land has been acquired to create a viable National Park Service unit. It is not unusual for those two events to be several years apart.

[4] Thomas P. Busch, "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield," National Register of Historic Places Inventory–Nomination Form, National Register # 66000113 (Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 11, 1976).

The district now has five areas of significance: three were indicated in the 1976 nomination and two have been added with this document.[5] The 1976 form indicated a period of significance which corresponds to the date of the Battle of Wilson's Creek: August 10, 1861, for Military significance. The time span of 1800-1899 was indicated as the period of significance for Transportation and Communication, presumably for the Fayetteville (Wire) Road. This document adds information about a commemorative period in the area of Social History, which reflects the results of a long campaign to recognize and protect the landscape as a memorial to the battle (1861-1972). There is also a new discussion of significance in the area of Archeology, (8500 BCE–1865) due to the large number of important precontact and historic archeological resources that have been uncovered since the park was established.

Resource Counts

Reevaluation and reclassification of resources, along with the addition of historic contexts, has resulted in numerous changes to the resource count for the historic district.

How Resources are Classified in the Additional Documentation

National Register standards for documenting and classifying resources have changed in the forty-plus years that have passed since the park was originally documented with a National Register Form. Many natural and cultural landscape elements in the district are outside of recognized National Register categories of resources and are therefore not included in the official resource tally. That includes small-scale elements that are less than a few feet tall, such as site furniture, signs, and fencing. Small-scale elements that are either temporary or movable, such as site furniture, or simply small enough that they do not have a major impact on the landscape, have not been included in the resource count or individually described.

Many landscape elements do, however, significantly impact the qualities of setting, feeling, and association. Those features and their contribution to the overall integrity of the site are included in the resource descriptions that follow. A general description of landscape features such as views, vegetation, circulation systems and small-scale elements is included in the overall description, but those features are not counted as resources. Historically significant landscape features are described here as Character-Defining Landscape Features. Notable landscape features that do not relate to a period of significance are described as Important Landscape Features.

[5] Early National Register nominations, including the one written for the battlefield, generally relied upon simple checkboxes to identify areas of significance. Periods of significance were similarly indicated with check boxes that identified century-long blocks of time.

The updated resource count also includes elements that were not always counted in the early years of the National Register program. This includes archaeological sites as well as roads, trails, and small bridges, which are now classified as structures. All roads that have park lands on both sides of the roadway are counted as structures. Roads that run along only one side of the park are outside the boundaries and are not included in the resource count.

Resources Listed in the Original Nomination

Although the original 1976 nomination did not include a list of specific contributing and noncontributing resources, it did identify eighteen resources described as "Sites, structures, and features relating to the battle," and noted that most "exist today as archeological sites."[6] It is presumed that those were all considered to be contributing resources in that nomination. Those eighteen resources included two buildings (Ray House and the Ray Springhouse), one structure, (the Wire Road), and one object (Lyon Marker).[7] (See Table 1 below.)

The remaining fourteen resources listed as "historic" in 1976 consist of ten sites of buildings and other resources that were in place during the battle, plus four less-defined landscape areas that saw heavy fighting during the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The building sites were identified via archaeological investigations. All ten building sites are counted as contributing sites in this document, and the four landscape areas are classified as Character-Defining Landscape Features. The character-defining landscape features are Bloody Hill, Ray's Cornfield, Sigel's First Position, and Sigel's Second Position.

Noncontributing Sites in the Original Nomination

The 1976 nomination also listed at least three noncontributing structures—an abandoned railroad right of way, overhead power lines, and "county roads," without specifying how many roads were included.[8] The right of way is part of the general landscape and not individually counted in this document. The overhead power lines are not in the resource count either, because they are not generally inventoried. All roads were evaluated individually here as structures; some are now contributing resources.

[6] Busch, "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield," 7.1.
[7] The National Register Information System (NRIS) resource count varies, possibly due to the vague nature of the early resource list. NRIS records list 17 contributing resources: 9 buildings, 7 sites and 1 object. It is possible that some of the sites of buildings described in 1976 are counted as buildings in the NRIS.
[8] Busch, "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield," 7.1-7.4.

Table 1. Resources Listed in the Original Nomination Form

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	Date	Resource Type	Contributing Status	1976 HS Number
1.2	Burial Sinkhole (Sinkhole)	1861	Site	Contributing	16
4	Edgar Cemetery (Edgar Cemetery)	ca. 1857	Site	Contributing	17
14	Edwards, William, Cabin Archeological Site (Edwards Cabin)	ca. 1850	Site	Contributing	4
7	Fayetteville (Wire) Road (Fayetteville or Wire Road)	1836-ca. 1900	Structure	Contributing	11
5	Gibson, John and Martha, House and Mill Archeological Site (Gibson's Mill)	ca. 1855	Site	Contributing	15
1.4	Lyon Marker (Lyon Marker)	1928	Object	Contributing	18
9	Manley Cemetery (Manley Cemetery)	ca. 1861	Site	Contributing	10
9a	Manley, Caleb and Rebecca, House Archeological Site (C. B. Manley House)	ca. 1850s	Site	Contributing	8
15	Manley, T. B., House Archeological Site (T. B. Manley House)	ca. 1850s	Site	Contributing	7
6	Ray, John and Roxanna, House (Ray House)	ca. 1853	Building	Contributing	1
6.1	Ray, John and Roxanna, Springhouse (Ray Spring House)	ca. 1850s	Building	Contributing	2
10	Sharp, Joseph and Mary, House Archeological Site (Sharp House)	ca. 1850s Woodland	Site	Contributing	14
2	Short, Elias and Rebecca Farm Archeological Site (E. B. Short Farmstead)	N/A	Site	Contributing	6
12	Winn, Larkin, House Archeological Site (Gwinn House)	ca. 1861	Site	Contributing	9
	Bloody Hill (Bloody Hill)	1861	Part of Overall Site-Character Defining Landscape Feature	Not in Resource Count	15
	Ray Cornfield (Ray's Cornfield)	1861	Part of Overall Site-Character Defining Landscape Feature	Not in Resource Count	12
	Sigel's First Position (Col. Sigel's Artillery Position)	1861	Part of Overall Site-Character Defining Landscape Feature	Not in Resource Count	14
	Sigel's Second Position (Sharp Cornfield and Pasture)	1861	Part of Overall Site-Character Defining Landscape Feature	Not in Resource Count	13

Resources Listed in the Additional Documentation
This update documents 81 additional resources. Combined with the 14 previously listed resources, there are 95 resources—46 contributing, and 49 noncontributing. (Tables 2 and 4 identify contributing resources, and Table 5 lists noncontributing resources.)

That number includes resources constructed since 1976, as well as older resources that contribute to recently added areas of significance. Resources in place in 1976 include the farmstead of William and Bessie McElhaney, which contains a house, two outbuildings and a structure that were all built in the early 1900s (Resources 8, 8a, 8b, and 8c), plus a ca. 1914 Pratt Pony Truss iron bridge (Resource 13) that carries the Wire Road (Resource 7) over Wilson's Creek. Those resources were in use in the commemorative period and are counted as significant in the area of Social History.

Numerous archeological sites have also been added, including three historic and 20 precontact sites. The largest added site is the overall battlefield landscape, which was not counted as a stie in 1976. The other two historic sites are Bloody Hill Rock Carving (Resource 1c, which is significant in the area of Social History, and a burial well (Resource 1a) which is significant in the areas of Archeology and Military history. Both have been described in accounts of the battle, but neither was in the 1976 nomination. The added precontact sites are all associated with Criterion D in Archeology. Most of those sites have been investigated since the park was established.

Counting Properties that include Archaeological Resources
Several individual sites and other resources have seen multiple archeological investigations, such as the John and Martha Gibson House and Mill Archaeological Site (Resource 5). The Gibson site encompasses ruins from multiple structures and buildings that were documented via five separate investigations. Because they are part of the same related complex, the property is counted as a single site in this document, and the related archeological resources are included in the individual description of the resource. There are also a few instances in which an aboveground building or structure includes archaeological resources. For example, archeological investigations help guide the restoration of the Ray House, a building that was in place at the time of the battle. The Ray House and the associated archeological site are a single resource, and they are counted here as one building. The related archaeological site is described in entry for the house. Resource tables and individual descriptions throughout include state archeological and CRIS numbers to help identify associated resources.

Roads
Reclassifications include portions of two area roads, State Highway ZZ (Resource 36) and Farm Road 182 (Resource 66). The segments of the roads within the current boundaries have been

changed from noncontributing to contributing structures because they were part of the early tour road system used by the Park Service within the commemorative period.

Battlefield Location and Setting

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is twelve miles southwest of Springfield in southwestern Missouri. It is in Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26 of Township 28 North, Range 23 West of Greene County and Sections 35 and 36, also of Township 28 North, Range 23 West in Christian County. A small section of land along the southern boundary in Christian County is in Section 1, Township 27, Range 23 West.

The battlefield is located within the western Ozarks of southwestern Missouri, in a region known as the Springfield Plateau. The region is defined by the Missouri and Mississippi River valleys on the north and east and by the Arkansas River valley on its south. The terrain around the battlefield has been described as "gently rolling to relatively level, although the margins of stream corridors and floodplains are often marked by escarpments and steep embankments."[9]

North of the park, two major east-west transportation routes, U.S. Highway 60 and Interstate 44 cross Greene County and provide connections to the city of Springfield, the county seat. Other major routes nearby include U.S. Routes 160 and 65 which travel south from Springfield to run east of the park. The park is at the southern edge of the Springfield metropolitan area, between the small towns of Republic to the west and Battlefield to the east. (See Figures 1 and 2.) The city limits of those towns are each less than a mile from the park boundaries. Properties immediately adjacent to the park are generally rural to suburban in nature, with widely spaced houses set among grasslands. The area south of the park is more sparsely developed, with more stream corridors and forested areas.

Individual Resource Descriptions

All resources described below have been numbered and keyed to site maps for ease of reference. (See Appendix I, and Figures 3-8). Each heading includes the resource name, CRIS number(s), construction date, resource type and contributing status. State archeological numbers are also listed where relevant. When possible, the resource names are based upon the persons historically associated with the resource. This document includes the names of the women as well as the men who owned those properties, something missing in most previous sources. Geographical section numbers and location map numbers are also included, as are references to relevant photographs. Important resources within the overall national battlefield landscape that are not included in the resource count are described under separate headings in the overall site description. (Resource 1).

[9] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 3-1.

The following descriptions are grouped by contributing status and resource type. Contributing resources that relate to the Battle of Wilson's Creek and its commemoration (Table 2) are listed first, followed by contributing pre-battle archeological resources. (See Table 4; small scale features are identified in Table 3.) All noncontributing resources are listed at the end. (See Table 5.)

Periods of Significance

The descriptions also identify the relevant area(s) of significance for each of the resources, which are discussed in detail in Section 8 of this document. Those periods and levels of significance are as follows:

Criterion A for Military Significance. (National Significance)

The Military period of significance is 1861 to correspond to the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Criterion A for Transportation and Communication. (Local Significance)

This period relates to the Fayetteville (Wire) Road. The period of significance runs from the creation of the road in 1836 to the last year of the Civil War, 1865, when the road fell out of significant use.

Criterion D for Archeology. (Statewide Significance)

The precontact period for Archeology begins in 8500 BCE, and ends in 1700, the end of the precontact period in the region.

The historic period runs from 1836 to the end of the Civil War, 1865, to correlate to significant historic archeological finds.

Criterion A for Social History/Commemoration. (Statewide Significance)

This period recognizes the long campaign to memorialize and protect the battlefield at Wilson's Creek. The commemorative period of significance begins in 1861 with the first efforts to honor the battle and continues through 1972 when the park was formally dedicated.

Contributing Resources Associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek and its Commemoration

Table 2 and the descriptions that follow are arranged according to their location along the Tour Road, a one-way driving loop through the battlefield. See location maps in Figures 3-9.

Table 2. Contributing Resources Associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek and its Commemoration

Table 2.
Contributing Resources Associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek and its Commemoration

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Date		Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes	Criterion and Level of Significance	
1	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield - Overall Site	--	CL-5000791 WICR00049.000		1861-1972	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A,D	National
1a	Bloody Hill Rock Carving	--	CL-108504	ca.	1880s	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A	National
1b	Burial Sinkhole (Sinkhole)	--	CL-108410		1861	Site	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National
1c	Burial Well	23GR00240	WICR00011.000	ca.	1861	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A, D	National
1d	Lyon Marker (Lyon Marker)	23GR00242	WICR00009.000 CL-108348 HS-005074		1928	Object	Contributing in 1976	A	Statewide
2	Short, Elias and Rebecca Farm Archeological Site (E. B. Short Farmstead)	23GR00228 23GR00249	WICR00032.000 HS-070053 CL-108430		N/A	Site	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National
2a	Short, Elias B. and Rebecca, Springbox		WICR00033.000 CL-108430	ca.	1850s	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A, D	National
3	Farm Road 182 (Elm Street)	--	CL-108492	ca.	1900	Structure	Reclassified, was N/C in 1976	A	State
4	Edgar Cemetery (Edgar Cemetery)	23GR00229	WICR00020.000	ca.	1857	Site	Contributing in 1976	A	State

Table 2.
Contributing Resources Associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek and its Commemoration

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Date		Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes	Criterion and Level of Significance	
5	Gibson, John and Martha, House and Mill Archeological Site (Gibson's Mill)	23GR00230, 23GR00231, 23GR00251, 23GR00252, 23GR00256	WICR00034.000 WICR00052.000 WICR00021.000 WICR00023.000 WICR00038.000 CL-108526 HS-070040	ca.	1855	Site	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National
6	Ray, John and Roxanna, House (Ray House)	23GR00233	WICR00016.00 HS-001381 CL-108292	ca.	1853	Building	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National
6a	Ray, John and Roxanna, Springhouse (Ray Spring House)	--	CL-108290HS-070052	ca.	1850s	Building	Contributing in 1976	A	National
6b	Ray House Pump House	--		ca.	1950	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A	State
7	Fayetteville (Wire) Road (Fayetteville or Wire Road)	--	WICR00048.000 CL-108308 HS-005075		1836-ca. 1900	Structure	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National
8	McElhaney, William and Bessie, House	--	CL-108294 HS-070054	ca.	1910	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A	State
8a	McElhaney, William and Bessie, Barn	--	CL-108296 HS-070055	ca.	1911	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A	State
8b	McElhaney Outbuilding	--	CL-108300 HS-070057	ca.	1911	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A	State
8c	McElhaney Root Cellar	--	CL-108298 HS-070056	ca.	1936	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A	State
9	Manley Cemetery (Manley Cemetery)	23GR00239	WICR00027.000	ca.	1861	Site	Contributing in 1976	A	National

Table 2.
Contributing Resources Associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek and its Commemoration

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Date		Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes	Criterion and Level of Significance	
9a	Manley, Caleb and Rebecca, House Archeological Site (C. B. Manley House)	23GR00238	WICR00010.000 CL-108480 HS-005076	ca.	1850s	Site	Contributing in 1976	A	National
10	Sharp, Joseph and Mary, House Archeological Site (Sharp House)	23CN00076	WICR00001.000	ca.	1850s Woodland	Site	Contributing in 1976	A	National
11	State Highway ZZ	--	CL-108490	ca.	1950s	Structure	Reclassified, was N/C in 1976	A	State
12	Winn, Larkin, House Archeological Site (Gwinn House)	23GR00235, 23GR00236, 23GR00253	WICR00025.000	ca.	1861	Site	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National
13	Pratt Pony Truss Bridge, County Road 194	--	CL-108494 HS-499036		1914	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	A	State
14	Edwards, William, Cabin Archeological Site (Edwards Cabin)	23GR00237	WICR00026.000 CL-108438	ca.	1850	Site	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National
15	Manley, T. B., House Archeological Site (T. B. Manley House)	23GR00255	WICR00037.000	ca.	1850s	Site	Contributing in 1976	A, D	National

1. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Landscape, 1861. Contributing Site.
CL-5000791, WICR00049.000
The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield landscape encompasses all 1,749.91 acres of the national park. That land includes approximately twenty-two acres of state and local road rights-of-way; the rest of the property is federally owned.[10] The topography of the park is comparable to that of the surrounding countryside, with a mix of open fields and forested stream corridors that include moderate hills. The valley of Wilson's Creek winds its way through the park in a north-south direction. Upland knolls edge the creek valley. The most notable high ground is the hill known since the Battle of Wilson's Creek as Bloody Hill. Elevations range from just under 1,100 feet above mean sea level along the Wilson's Creek corridor to nearly 1,250 feet at Bloody Hill, which is the highest point in the park.[11]

Bloody Hill, 1861. CRIS-AR WICR00028.000 Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature. Section 26NE, Figure 8, photos 13, 25, 35-39.
Bloody Hill is the most prominent landform in the National Battlefield. It is a rocky knoll in the northwest part of the park. It is close to Tour Road Stop 7. Most of the hill is within the park, but portions extend across State Highway ZZ west of the boundaries. (See Figure 19.) With an elevation of nearly 1,250 feet, it is the highest point in the park, a status that made it a focal point during the battle. Early descriptions of the battle describe the hilltop as open and rocky. One description noted that it was "almost bald, with a scattering of brush and an occasional tree" while the slopes had more vegetation.[12] The hill today contains a mix of open restored prairie and woodlands that is comparable to what was there in 1861. The hilltop and south slope are generally open, with widely spaced tress, and the north and east slopes are wooded. The eastern flank of Bloody Hill now has a heavier tree cover than it did during the battle, which impacts the integrity of views of the hill from some vantage points. The open hilltop remains visible from many portions of the park. Bloody Hill is a character-defining landscape feature that was described as a historic resource (Bloody Hill) in the 1976 nomination form. (See Table 1.)

Views
Long views of the surrounding area are a highlight of the upland knolls within the park. That includes views across the valley from the Ray House (Resource 18) near the eastern edge of the park, to Bloody Hill on the west. (See photos 13, 36, and 40.) The Ray House is the only building in the park that was standing at the time of the battle—Bloody Hill was at the center of the battle, and John Ray watched much of the battle from the front porch of the house. (See

[10] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 3-4.
[11] Google Earth accessed May 2021.
[12] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-37.

photo 9.) Bloody Hill is still visible from the front porch of the Ray House although it should be noted that the view is now somewhat diminished by woodlands on the east slope of Bloody Hill.

The Ray porch also provides views of the Ray Cornfield (photos 7 and 13) and the Ray Orchard (photos 7, 8, 11 and 12). The Ray Cornfield, which was another scene of intense fighting, is surrounded by rail fencing that was added ca. 2010 to mark the outline of the field as it appeared in 1861, and similar fencing edges the large yard of the Ray House. The Ray Orchard is a modern replica of an orchard that was in place at the time of the battle.

Ray Cornfield/Gibson Oatfield, 1861. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature. Section 24, 25, Figures 5, 6, photos 7, 13.
The Ray Cornfield, also referred to as the Gibson Oatfield, is an open grass field that encompasses approximately ninety acres. It is close to Tour Road Stops 1 and 2. It is surrounded by tall split rail fencing installed ca. 2010. It is in the northeast section of the park between the Ray House and the Gibson Mill site. The level 24-acre oat field is on the north part of the field, closest to the Gibson Mill Site. The larger cornfield on the south slopes gently to the southwest. The field was put into agricultural use during the historic archeological period; it was the site of intense fighting during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, and it has been an interpretive feature since the 1960s. Ray Cornfield is a character-defining landscape feature that was described as a historic resource in the 1976 nomination form. (See Table 1.)

Ray Orchard, 2010. Part of Overall Site – Important Landscape Feature.
Section 24, 25, Figures 5, 6, photo 11, 13.
The Ray Orchard encompasses approximately one-third of an acre northeast of the Ray House. It is close to Tour Road Stop 2. The current orchard dates to 2010, when thirty trees were planted in even rows to replicate an orchard that was historically located in that location.[13] Although it was planted in modern times, it is an important landscape feature for its role in the interpretation of the historic landscape.

Other interpretive landscape features include the East and West Battlefield Overlooks, which are hilltop areas along the east and west sides of the park. Each offers expansive views of the landscape. They are kept mown and free of trees to preserve views across the landscape. (Photos 19 and 40.)

East Battlefield Overlook, ca. 1980s. Part of Overall Site – Important Landscape Feature. Section 25SW, Figure 6, photo 19.

[13] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations,* Appendix A, 20.

The East Battlefield Overlook occupies a hilltop near Tour Road Stop 3. It provides views across the Wilson's Creek Valley that include Bloody Hill. It is linked to the Tour Road by a wooden staircase (Resource 127) and a short gravel trail (Resource 124). It is an approximately ten-acre mown field that contains a small section of rail fencing and an interpretive marker. Although not historic, it is an important feature for its role in the interpretation of the historic landscape.

West Battlefield Overlook, ca. 1980s. Part of Overall Site – Important Landscape Feature. Section 23SE, Figure 6, photo 40.
The West Battlefield Overlook occupies a hilltop near Tour Road Stop 8. It marks the route of Union advance and withdrawal during the battle of Wilson's Creek. It is a roughly thirty-acre mown field that provides views east across the park that include the Ray House. A modern transmission line runs along the east edge of the file. The overlook is linked to the Tour Road by a short gravel trail (Resource 107) that includes a small wood bridge over a low spot (Resource 110). Although not historic, it is an important feature for its role in the interpretation of the historic landscape.

Open fields in the level land near the creek also provide long views. During the battle, most Confederate troops were camped in the creek bottoms around Wilson's Creek. Missouri State Guard General Sterling Price may have occupied the small Edwards Cabin near the creek bank south of Bloody Hill for at least part of the battle.[14] That area contains an open field today which provides views to Bloody Hill, the Wire Road (Resource 7), and high ground along the west edge of the park. (See photos 24, 25, and 39.)
The landscape at the south end of the park also features level open land, including the former farm of Joseph and Mary Sharp. No buildings from the Sharp farm have survived; the Sharp House site is Resource 10. At the time of the battle the Sharp farm included a large agricultural field that was a Confederate campground and the scene of the second major attack on Confederate troops led by Union Colonel Franz Sigel. Like the Ray Cornfield, Sharp's Field is outlined with modern rail fencing to aid in interpretation. (See photo 31.) High ground along the west edge of the former Sharp property offers a sweeping view of that part of the park, including the path of the Wire Road, the Sharp fields, and a small ridge on the east side of the creek where Sigel's command launched their first attack. (All visible in photo 31.)

Sigel's First Position, 1861. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature.
Section 36SW, Figure 7, photos 29, 31.

[14] Edwin C. Bearss*, Historical Base and Ground Cover Map: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene and Christian Counties, Missouri* (Denver, CO: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, ca. 1970), 65.

Sigel's First position is in the far southeast corner of the park. It was the first of three locations to house artillery and troops under the command of Union Colonel Franz Sigel during the battle of Wilson's Creek. It is near the south end of a steep ridge that overlooks Wilson's Creek and open fields that lie west of the creek. It is heavily forested and removed from trails or roadways. Historic accounts indicate that there was less vegetation at the site during the battle, with scattered trees and little to no undergrowth. (See Figure 15.) In spite of the heavier vegetative cover, the site retains integrity of location and association. Sigel's First Position is a character defining landscape feature that was described as a historic resource (Col. Sigel's Artillery Position) in the 1976 nomination form. (See Table 1.)

Sigel's Second Position, 1861. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature.
Section 36W, Figure 7, photo 27 and 31.
Sigel's Second position is also in the southeast corner of the park, in an open field just west of Wilson's Creek. It is close to Tour Road Stop 4. The site contained fenced corn and stubble fields owned by Joseph and Mary Sharp at the time of the battle.[15] The land slopes gently east towards the creek. The open, grass-covered field is edged with tall split rail fencing that was installed ca. 2010; accounts of the battle show that the field was edged with rail fencing in 1861 as well. It was described as a historic resource (Sharp Cornfield and Pasture) in the 1976 nomination form.

Waterways
Wilson's Creek (photo 23) is the largest of five waterways within the park boundaries. Drainages radiating from the central creek valley include Manley Branch in the east-central portion of the park, McElhaney Branch, which joins Wilson's Creek near the north-central park boundary, and Short's Branch in the northern portion of the park. Short's Branch is fed by Short Spring, which is in the northwest part of the park. Short Spring is surrounded by the Short Springbox, a stone foundation that appears to have been in place at the time of the battle. Skegg's Branch (photo 33), which is one of the larger creeks, enters the park from the west and intersects Wilson's Creek near the Greene-Christian County line. Each waterway is described individually in more detail below.

Wilson's Creek. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature.
Figures 5, 7, 8; photos 22, 23.
Wilson's Creek, for which the Civil War Battle was named, originates roughly twelve miles north of the park boundaries in the city of Springfield and empties into the James River approximately a mile south of southeast corner of the park. It runs south, usually near the center of the park, and intersects with Terrell Creek just outside the southern boundary of the park. It is edged with

[15] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 78.

deciduous woodlands and heavy undergrowth in most parts of the park. As is the case throughout the park, most of the trees in the woodlands appear to be less than seventy-five years old. The creek is typically thirty to thirty-five feet wide and up to six feet deep.[16] It was heavily polluted due to upstream effluent from Springfield in the 1980s and 90s. Water quality has improved significantly over the years, but it was still described as "poor" in 2009.[17] Wilson's Creek is one of the most prominent landscape features of the park

Short's Branch. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature.
CL-108402, Section 23NE, Figure 4.
Short's Branch is an intermittent stream that runs east through the northwest part of the park. Midway across the park, it runs into McElhaney Branch, which in turn empties to Wilson's Creek less than a quarter of a mile to the south. After crossing into the park from the west, Short's Branch meanders south of the Picnic Shelter as well as the site of the Short Farm. Short's Branch is fed by Short Spring, which is located midway between the west park boundary and McElhaney Branch.

Short Spring. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature.
Section 23 SE, Figure 4.
Short Spring is in the north central part of the park. It is partly enclosed by the Short Springbox, a stone structure constructed ca. 1850. It flows into Short's Branch, which is nearby.

[redacted].[18]

Manley Branch. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature.
CL-108398, 23GR00637
Section 25SW, Figure 6.
The Manley Branch is an intermittent stream in the east part of the park. It crosses the east park boundary near the Manley Cemetery and the former site of the Manley House Archeological Site. It flows southwest to empty into Wilson's Creek near the boundary between Greene and Christian Counties. Archeological study in 1983 documented remnants of a concrete dam that crosses the creek and bears an inscription with the initials "J. G." and "November 11, 1938." The dam is believed to have been part of a no-longer-extant mill.[19]

---

[16] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-5.
[17] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Liz Sargent, "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, *Environmental Assessment*, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations" (Omaha, NE: National Park Service, 2018), Appendix A, 10.
[redacted]
[19] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-92.

Manley Ford of Wilson's Creek, ca. 1912. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature. Section 25SW, Figure 7, photo 28.
The Manley Ford is a concrete-covered low water crossing that carries Wilson Road (County Road ZZ-4) across Wilson's Creek. It is located on the southeast boundary of the park. Although the paving is probably only a few decades old, the ford site has likely been in use since at least 1912, when Wilson Road first shown on a Christian County Atlas map.[20]

McElhaney Branch. Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature. Section 23NE, Figure 6.
The McElhaney Branch is a small stream that enters the park near the center of the north boundary. The Tour Road crosses it just west of Stop 1. It runs almost due south for approximately a half mile to join Wilson's Creek near the site of Gibson's Mill. Except for an open field beneath electrical transmission lines, it is surrounded by thick woodlands. A concrete-span bridge carries the Tour Road across the branch near the north park boundary.

Skegg's Branch (Schuyler Creek). Part of Overall Site – Character Defining Landscape Feature. Section 26SE, Figure 8, photo 33.
Skegg's Branch, which is currently known as Schuyler Creek, is the second largest waterway within the park boundaries. The Tour Road crosses it just north of Stop 5. It enters the park from the west and flows generally east to empty into Wilson's Creek a short distance north of the Greene-Christian County border. The Wire Road crosses Skegg's Branch at a small ford just before the branch joins Wilson's Creek. Fed by springs located west of the current boundaries, Skegg's Branch is relatively shallow and about 15 or 20 feet wide where it joins Wilson's Creek. Like all streams in the park, its banks are wooded. It was an important water source during the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Vegetation
Park vegetation is estimated to be roughly thirty-five percent open fields and sixty-five percent wooded.[21] Open fields feature restored prairie or crops such as corn and hay. In general, the silt loams which comprise much of the land are well-suited to agriculture, including cropland, pasture, and trees. Restoration areas within the park have focused on grasses and a few forbs. In areas where prescribed fire has been relatively frequent, tall warm-season grasses predominate along with a few seeded perennials.

[20] *Plat Book of Christian County, Missouri* (Chicago, IL: Western Publishing Co., 1912), 13.
[21] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-28. 2004 estimate plus recent observations.

Species of trees in the wooded areas include oak, hickory, honey locust, black walnuts, Eastern red cedar, ash, and elms.[22] Most trees in the park appear to be less than a century old.[23] Scattered large trees around the Ray House probably date to the late-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. An orchard in front of the Ray House contains even rows of fruit trees that were planted in 2010 to replicate an orchard that historically occupied that site. (See photo 13, and Figure 14.)

The parking area at the former Sharp House site contains sugar maples. Southwest of that parking lot, the Wire Road continues in a southwesterly direction; as it reaches the top of a knoll, it is edged by a planting of Osage orange – what used to be a "living fence," possibly about 100 years old.[24] Groves of Eastern red cedars that are associated with both the Manley and Edgar family cemeteries probably date from the early- to mid-twentieth century. Ornamental plantings surround the parking lot and walks around the Visitor Center (Resources 100 and 109). A few large trees accent the open grass lawn north of the Visitor Center, which is planted with a mix of native grasses and Kentucky blue grass.

Circulation Systems

A great variety of circulation systems exist within the park, including public roads and approximately seven miles of pedestrian and equestrian trails. Newer public roadways in or along the edge of the park include State Highway ZZ on the west side of the park, Farm Road 182 (also known as Elm Street), which is at the north part of the property, and Farm Road 111, which is just outside part of the eastern boundary. Short sections of State Highway ZZ (Resource 11) and Farm Road 182 (Resource 3) run through the northwest corner of the park. State Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182 formed part of the first tour road for the park, which was developed using public roads in the early 1960s.[25] In most cases those roadways are adjacent to the boundaries of the park; only those stretches that have park land on both sides of the road are within the boundaries.

The oldest road in the park, which is now used as a trail, is the Fayetteville (Wire) Road (Resource 7), which was a public road from 1836 to ca 1900. It cuts diagonally across the park, entering from the east near the Ray House, and exiting in Section 25 in the southwest quadrant. (See Figures 10 and 11 for section numbers.) While some sections of the road have been

[22] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-28.
[23] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-5.
[24] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 3-38.
[25] National Park Service, "Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park," Park Brochure (Kansas City, MO: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1967).

plowed over or otherwise obscured, most of the roadway within the park is intact. The Fayetteville Road is one of the oldest resources in the park; it is a contributing structure.

Pedestrian trails in the park include lengthy, relatively secluded recreational trails, as well as shorter trails that access various interpretive exhibits and historic resources. The purely recreational trails tend to be in the southern part of the park, with the shorter trails in the more developed northern section. Most trails are of hard-packed earth or gravel, with modest wood bridges and short stairs to cross waterways or rough terrain. They include the Pulaski Battery Trail (Resource 131), the Ray House and Springhouse Trail (Resource 123), the East and West Battlefield Overlook Trails (Resources 124 and 107), the Ray Cornfield Trail (Resource 113, photo 7), and the Edwards Cabin Trail (Resource 132).

Portions of the Wire Road, the Manley Uplands Trail (Resource 122), the Southwest Boundary Trail (Resource 129, photo 30), and the Ray Cornfield Trail (Resource 113, photo 7) are designated for equestrian use. A small gravel road off the Tour Road accesses gravel horse trailer parking.

The largest circulation feature is the 1986 Tour Road (Resource 112, photos 4, 8, and 26), which loops through the park, beginning and ending at the Visitor Center. The road rides atop a portion of the former Missouri-Pacific Railroad grade on the eastern side of the park. (All associated railroad features were removed after the 1907 line was abandoned in the 1970s.) The Tour Road connects visitors to the park's interpretive sites, with pull-offs and parking areas that include interpretive wayside exhibits that occasionally feature Civil War era cannons and other small-scale features. (See photo 34.) The Tour Road also connects to pedestrian trails and two overlooks that provide views across the park. Numbered stops access trails in the Gibson House and Mill area, the Ray House and Springhouse, the East Battlefield Overlook and the Edwards Cabin/Price's Headquarters, Sigel's Second Position, Sigel's Third (Final) position/Sharp's Field, the site of Guibor's Battery, Bloody Hill, and the West Battlefield Overlook.[26] (See Figure 3.)

Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features in the park include wayside exhibits and signage, sidewalks, fences, stone walls, and headstones in two different cemeteries. (Features that are moveable or temporary in nature, such as benches or modular sheds, are not inventoried here.) Signage includes informational signs, wayside markers, trail identification signs, and standard metal traffic signs. Most are painted metal; the trail signs are wood, painted, or stained brown. (See photos 25, 27,

[26] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-15.

and 35.) Most of the sidewalks in the park are around the Visitor Center and the adjacent parking lot (Resources 100 and 109) or the nearby picnic shelter. (Resource 106, photo 2.)

Table 3. Small-Scale Features

Current Name of Resource		Construction Date	Resource Type	Figure Map
Entrance gates and rail fences	ca.	2000	Small-scale Feature	1
Ray House and Cornfield Split-Rail Fences	ca.	2010	Small-scale Feature	2, 3
Sharp Cornfield Split-Rail Fence	ca.	2010	Small-scale Feature	4
Headstones in Manley and Edgar Cemeteries	ca.	1850s-1900s	Small-scale Feature	2, 3
Ray House Stone Wall	ca.	1935	Small-scale Feature	3
Stone Field Wall #1	ca.	1940	Small-scale Feature	4
Stone Field Wall #2	ca.	1880	Small-scale Feature	4
Remnant Stone Wall near West Battlefield Overlook	ca.	1950s	Small-scale Feature	1
Boundary Fences	ca.	late 1900s	Small-scale Feature	Various
Sidewalks, including visitor center and picnic area, and McElhaney House	ca.	1990-early 2000s	Small-scale Feature	Various
Misc. Signs, including Interpretive and Wayfinding Signs	ca.	1980s-2000s	Small-scale Feature	Various

Many of the boundaries of the park are marked with wire fences that contain small vertical signs that read "Boundary, USNPS." Those fences were likely installed in the late 1900s. The park also contains numerous "worm" fences that are constructed of split rails laid in a zigzag pattern. The entry drive and lawn at the park entrance are lined with low rail fences that are three to four rails tall, and the main front gate is flanked by heavy square stone gateposts. A small monument sign near the gateposts has a matching stone base. The gateposts and rail fencing around the park entrance were installed in the early years of the twenty-first century.

The same type of worm fencing is used around the Manley Cemetery (Resource 9, photo 21) and near pull offs and wayside signs, including in the two overlooks. (See photos 19 and 27.) The historic crop fields and the Ray House yard are all edged with taller, more elaborate rail fences that were installed ca. 2010. (See photos 7, 12, and 31.) The maintenance yard is surrounded by a tall wire security fence that was probably added in the 1970s or 1980s.

There are also several older stone walls scattered around the landscape.[27] They include a short stone wall in front of the Ray House (ca. 1935), ruins of a stone wall in the northwest part of the park (age unknown), and a mortared rubble wall near the Wire Road. A pair of longer stacked stone fences are believed to have been associated with early agricultural fields (late 1800s-early

[27] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-40.

1900s). One of the stacked stone walls is in a wooded part of the former Sharp farm, and the other is located close to the Tour Road.

The Wilson's Creek Battlefield Landscape retains integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. It contributes to all areas of significance documented here: Military, Transportation and Communication, Archeology, and Social History, under Criteria A and D.

1a. Bloody Hill Rock Carving, ca. 1860s. Contributing Site.
CL108504; 23GR00241
Section 26NE, Figure 8.
A small rock outcropping near the Lyon Marker (Resource 1d) on Bloody Hill was documented during archeological investigations performed by Robert Bray in 1967. It bears inscriptions that Bray attributed to battle survivors and described as being "in an unmistakable nineteenth century style." The inscriptions read: "C. S. Lanning (defaced) G. A. Newsome, Co. E, Hughs Reg. Slacks Devision [sic] 1861.8.10."[28] The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.[29] The rock carving is associated with Social History under Criterion A.

1b. Burial Sinkhole, 1861. Contributing Site.
23GR00234. 23SW
This site contains a restored sinkhole that is approximately 11 feet deep and has an elliptical opening. Soldiers were temporarily interred there during the aftermath of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. This site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data. It is significant in Military and Social History under Criteria A. Future archeological investigation may reveal information with the capacity to answer research questions about the early historic occupations of the area before, during and after the battle.

1c. Burial Well, ca. 1861. Contributing Site.
23GR00240.
This is a historic well measuring approximately 28 inches wide by 17 feet deep. It is lined with limestone and chert cobbles. In 1975, it was recorded by Robert Bary, who postulated that it may have been used for temporary burials following the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The well has not been excavated and it is covered with heavy vegetation. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data. It is associated with Military and Social History under Criteria A. Future archeological investigation may reveal information with the capacity to answer research questions about the early historic occupations of the area before, during and after the battle.

[28] Robert T. Bray, *An Archeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, Missouri* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, 1967), 9.
[29] Bray, *An Archaeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park,* 1967, 9.

1d. Lyon Marker, 1928. Contributing Object.
23GR00242. Section 26NE, Figure 8, photo 38.
The Lyon Marker is a granite marker that commemorates the death of General Nathanial Lyon, the first Union general to die during the Civil War. It is in a clearing near the Bloody Hill Trail. The marker is three-and-a-half feet tall and just over two feet wide. It is located at the spot traditionally identified as the site of Lyon's death, in an open area on the east slope of Bloody Hill. The marker is set into a concrete base and engraved with a short statement about General Lyon. It was erected in 1928 by the University Club of Springfield.[30] It was first identified during archeological investigations in 1975, by P Robert Bray. The site is in good condition and has low potential to yield data. It is contributing to Social History under Criterion A.

2. Elias and Rebecca Short, Elias B. and Rebecca, Farmstead Archeological Site, 1861. Contributing Site.
23GR00228; 23GR00249; WICR00019.000; WICR00032.000; HS-070053; CL-108430 Section 25SE, Figure 4.
The Short Farmstead site is [redacted]. General Nathaniel Lyon's troops approached the battlefield from the northeast, traveling overland when they got close to avoid alerting the Southern forces. They traversed part of a large farm owned by Elias and Rebecca Short, who were home when the troops marched through their yard on the morning of the battle.[31] At the time of the battle, the farmstead included a house, barn and root cellar. Although the buildings of the farmstead are no longer extant and the area appears to be more heavily wooded today than it was in 1861, it retains the rural character it had at the time of the battle. (See Figure 12 for a summary of vegetation in 1861.) [redacted] The 1976 National Register nomination described the site as a historic resource (E. B. Short Farmstead), noted that the house was gone by 1910, and that a barn and root cellar were gone by 1976. The site is significant for historic period Archeology, Military, and Commemoration/Social History.

23GR00228. House Complex Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1850s.
This site contains the ruins of a historic farmhouse and root cellar that existed at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Investigations by Robert Bray in 1967 uncovered numerous household items and several Civil War-era items. Excavations determined that the house was

[30] "Club to Dedicate Historic Marker," *Springfield Daily News*, May 26, 1928, 6.
[31] William Garrett Piston and Richard W. Hatcher III, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2000), 195-196.

approximately 20' by 20,' and the farmstead site included a root cellar.[32] The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.[33]

23GR00249. Farmstead Archeological Site. Precontact, Unknown Period.
A lithic scatter consisting of worked chert flakes was recovered during excavation by Robert Bary in 1967. Possible campsite. The site is located near a road and contains light ground cover. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

2a. Short, Elias B. and Rebecca, Springbox, ca. 1850s. Contributing Structure.
23GR00250; WICR00033.000; CL-108430
Section 23SW, Figure 4.
The Short Springbox ruin is in the northern portion of the park, close to the Tour Road. The seven by twelve-and-a-half-foot stone structure has sixteen-inch stone walls that are roughly two feet tall. It surrounds an active spring that drains into Short's Branch to the west of Wilson's Creek. It was part of the Short Farmstead, a site that was described as a historic resource in the 1976 nomination form. (No other resources associated with the farmstead survive aboveground.) The springbox is the only structure in the park that was in place during the Battle of Wilson Creek; it is significant under Criterion A, Military, for its ability to convey setting and association for the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Future archeological investigation may reveal information with the capacity to answer research questions about the early historic occupations of the area before, during and after the battle.

3. Farm Road 182/Elm Street, ca. 1900. Contributing Structure.
CL-108492
Section 23E, Figure 4.
Greene County Farm Road 182 is a paved road that runs east-west along the half section lines of Sections 23 and 24, in the north part of the park. It runs through the park in Section 23, and along the northwest park boundary in Section 24. (See Figures 10 and 11 for section numbers.) It is paved and approximately twenty feet wide, with mown grass shoulders. That stretch of roadway has been in use since at least 1904.[34] In the 1960s, it became part of the first tour route for the park.[35] (See Figure 26, 1967 Park Brochure.) Only those stretches of Farm Road 182 that have park land on both sides of the road are within the boundaries. They are contributing for Social History under Criterion A.

[32] Bray, *An Archaeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park*, 136.
[33] Bray, *An Archaeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park*, 143.
[34] *Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri: Compiled from County Records and Actual Surveys.* Missouri Publishing, 1904. From Library of Congress, accessed September 2021, https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4163gm.gla00018/?sp=1.

4. Edgar Cemetery, 1857. Contributing Site.
23GR00229; WICR00020.000
Section 24SW, Figure 5, photo 6.
The Edgar Cemetery is in the northeast corner of the park, near Tour Road Stop 1. The modest family cemetery was established in 1857. It contains eight headstones, which have dates ranging from 1857 to 1912; the oldest is that of Josiah Edgar. It is a level site covered with a mown grass lawn that is dotted with mature cedar and deciduous trees. It was described as a historic resource (Edgar Cemetery) in the 1976 nomination form. It is significant under A for Military and Social History.

23GR00229. Cemetery Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1851.
This site contains a historic cemetery where several casualties of the Battle of Wilson's Creek were buried. It is in good condition and has high potential to yield data.

5. Gibson, John and Martha, House and Mill Archeological Site. Contributing Site.
23GR00230; 23GR00231; 23GR00232; 23GR00251; 23GR00252; 23GR00256; WICR00034.000; WICR00052.000; WICR00021.00; WICR00023.000; WICR00038.000, CL-108526; HS-070040
Section 23SE, Figure 5.
This site encompasses six archeological sites associated with the house and mill of John and Martha Gibson. That complex was the scene of heavy fighting during the Battle of Wilson's Creek. It is located [redacted]
Archeological investigations in 1966 and 1967 identified remains of house and mill foundations, a mill dam and mill headrace, and lithic scatter. The Gibson House and Mill Site is significant under Criteria A and D in the areas of Archeology (historic period), Military, and Commemoration. It was described as a historic resource (Gibson's Mill) in the 1976 nomination form.

23GR00230. Gibson, John and Martha, House Ruins. Historic, ca. 1859/1861.
Excavate by Bray in 1966, this site contains the ruins of a historic farmhouse/complex. It is located [redacted]. The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

23GR00231. Gibson, John and Martha, Mill Dam 2. Historic, ca. 1860.
Excavated by Bray in 1966 and revisited by him in 1975, this is an earth and limestone embankment located along a short portion of the west bank of Wilson's Creek. It also contains several underwater timbers. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

[35] National Park Service, "Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park," Park Brochure, 1967.

23GR00232. Gibson, John and Martha, Mill Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1860.
This site contains the ruins of Gibson's Mill, which was excavated in August 1966. The mill is located [redacted]. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

23GR00251. Gibson, John and Martha, House Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1855.
Farm Site consisting of building depressions. It is located near a trail and contains dense timber and brush. It was excavated by Bray ca. 1966 and revisited by him in 1975. The site is in good condition and has low potential to yield data.

23GR00252. Gibson's Mill Archeological Site Historic, ca. 1850s.
Located on a terrace that overlooks Wilson's Creek and is covered with dense brush and timber. A 2016 site report noted some erosion. It was excavated by Bray ca. 1966 and revisited by him in 1975. The site [redacted]. The site is in good condition and has medium potential to yield data.

23GR00256. Gibson's Mill Headrace. Historic, ca.1850s.
The site consists of a headrace that was historically associated with Gibson's Mill. It was excavated by Bray ca. 1966 and revisited by him in 1975. It is approximately 3,862 feet long and runs along alternating sides of Wilson's Creek. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

6. Ray, John and Roxanna, House, ca. 1853. Contributing Building.
23GR00233; WICR00016.000; HS-001381; CL-108292
Section 25NE, Figure 6, photos 8-12.
The John and Roxanna Ray House is a one-story double pen house, with a full front porch, two sandstone chimneys and a fieldstone foundation. (Photo 9). It was built ca. 1853 and restored by the National Park Service in 1984. The restoration was guided by historic research and archeological investigations that were recorded in 1975, 1985 and 1992.[36] The house is in good to excellent condition.

It faces generally north towards the path of the historic Wire Road (Resource 7), which runs a few yards in front of the house. (Photo 11.) The house has an L-shaped plan that includes two rooms in the front part of the house, and a large room in the rear ell that is partly divided by a large stone chimney. Each leg of the "L" is topped with a gabled roof that has wood shingles that date to the early twenty-first century. The front wall, which is sheltered by the front porch, is

[36] MWAC Site Form and August K. Klapp, *The Ray House* (Springfield, MO: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, 1981), 22.

sheathed with wide horizontal boards, while all other walls have painted wood weatherboards. Much of the wall sheathing is historic, and some may be original.[37]

The front porch is supported by chamfered square posts and edged with simple wooden balustrades. The posts are historic; the balustrades may be modern. It has painted wood floorboards. There are two front doors, each reached by a small wooden staircase that has a simple handrail. The doors are historic and possibly original; the stairs are modern reconstructions. Each front door has two vertical panels. There is one six-over-six double hung window next to each doorway. All window openings in the house have comparable six-over-six wood windows. The porch is supported by mortared fieldstone piers, while the main body of the house rests on a mortared stone foundation that includes a partial cellar. The foundation was rebuilt, and the piers were reconstructed when the house was restored in 1984.[38]

The long east wall of the house features a large external chimney constructed of this stone slabs. The chimney is early or original. The east wall has one window in the front part of the house and two in the rear ell. The narrow south wall of the rear ell contains a single doorway that is accessed by a low recycled plastic lumber ramp that has no railings. The doorway is filled with a vertical plank door. The rear ell contains an internal chimney that is centered along the ridgeline about two-thirds of the way back from the front section. That chimney is a reconstruction that was installed when the house was restored in 1984. The size and location of the reproduction chimney were based on historic research as archeological study of the original foundation.[39]

The west wall of the rear ell has one window and one doorway. (Although the house at one time had an open porch along the rear ell, as was common, investigations conducted in the early 1980s indicated that there was no porch on the house in the 1860s, so it was removed in the 1980s.) The south wall of the front section also has one doorway and one window. The doorways are filled with wide vertical plank doors. Each window has six-over-six hung sashes. The west wall of the front part of the house has a single window.

The interior of the house has been restored to its likely appearance during the 1861 Battle of Wilson's Creek. The east front room features a large historic fireplace and hearth, surrounded by a simple wood mantel that is a modern reproduction. Both front rooms have horizontal plank

[37] The following terms are used throughout this document to describe resources and materials: original features were installed when the building was constructed. Historic features were installed within the period of significance, which for the Ray House is ca. 1853-1970. Non-historic features were added after 1970, the end of the period of significance.
[38] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 22.

walls and ceilings, and wood flooring. The flooring dates to the 1930s. Most of the wall and ceiling planks appear to be historic; some may be original.[40] Most of the door hardware in the house also dates to the 1850s.[41] In the rear ell, much of the interior finishes were installed in 1984; that part of the house was in very poor condition prior to the 1984 restoration. The walls and ceiling of the back room are plastered, and the floors are covered with wide wood floorboards.

The Ray House is significant in all areas of significance: Archeology (Precontact and Historic) , Transportation and Communication, Military, and Social History. It was recognized as one of the most significant resources in the park in the 1976 nomination form.

23GR00233. Ray, John and Roxanna, House Archeological Site. Historic, 1851-1856.
This site contains the possible locations of structures associated with the John and Roxanna Ray House. Starting with excavations led by Susan Monk in 1984, archeological investigations have discovered evidence of two of three ancillary structures identified in documentary sources, along with household materials. [redacted] The site is in good condition and has high potential to yield data.

6.1. Ray, John and Roxanna, Springhouse, ca. 1850s-1986. Contributing Building.
CL-108290; HS-070052
Section 25NW, Figure 6, photo 14.
The John and Roxanna Ray Springhouse is a limestone building that has a barrel roof that is also made of stone. It is approximately thirteen feet by twenty-five feet and is built into the side of a hill west of the Ray House. A plank door is centered in the short front wall, and an active spring runs from the back wall to exit below the door. The springhouse was originally built in the 1850s and was in place during the Battle of Wilson's Creek. By 1976, however, it was a ruin. The 1976 National Register Form noted that "at present only a stone and earth foundation of the old spring house remains."[43] In 1986, the National Park Service reconstructed it using most of the original materials.[44] It is a high-quality reconstruction which incorporates much of the original

[39] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 22.
[40] Edwin C. Bearss, *The Ray House: Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park Historic Structures Report, Part II* (Washington, DC: U.S Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1968), 91-92.
[41] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 23.
[redacted]
[43] Busch, "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield," 7.1.
[44] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-120.

materials. The springhouse is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Military.

6.2. Ray House Pump House, ca. 1950. Contributing Building.
Section 25NW, Figure 6, photo 12.
A small (15 square foot) pump house is located just southeast of the Ray House. It has a rectangular footprint, concrete block walls and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The walls are approximately five feet tall. It is contributing in the area of Social History.

7. Fayetteville (Wire) Road, ca. 1836-ca. 1900. Contributing Structure.
WICR00048.000; WICR00050.000; WICR00062.000; CL-108308; HS-005075
Sections 25, 26, and 35, Figures 6 and 7, photos 11, 24, 31, 32.
The Fayetteville (Wire) Road cuts across the park at a roughly forty-five-degree angle. It crosses the east boundary a short distance northeast of the Ray House and extends southwesterly approximately 1.8 miles to the western border. It crosses Wilson's Creek via the Pratt Pony Truss Bridge (Resource 13), which is located at a historic creek ford near the center of the park.[45] The road is fifteen to twenty feet wide, with a surface that varies from simple swales in a grass lawn near the Ray House (photo 11) to gravel and hard-packed earth (photos 31 and 32). One stretch of the road in the southwest part of the park is lined with a "living fence" which is composed of a closely planted row of Osage Orange trees that may date to the nineteenth century.[46] Many segments of the Wire Road within the park boundaries now serve as pedestrian and equestrian trails. The Wire Road is significant under A in the areas of Military, Transportation and Communication, and Social History. Future archeological investigation may reveal information with the capacity to answer research questions about the early historic occupations of the area before, during and after the battle.

8. McElhaney, William and Bessie, House, ca. 1910. Contributing Building.
CL-108294; HS-070054
Section 25NW, Figure 6, photos 15-17.
The McElhaney House is located a short distance south of the Ray House. It is a one-and-one-half-story frame house with a stone foundation, a complex roofline, and simple Queen Anne styling. It is clad with narrow painted weatherboards that are accented with corner boards; they all appear to be historic. The front (north) wall of the house features a steep cross gable that has cornice returns, and a deep porch wraps around the front and east side wall. The front porch has slender round columns and turned balusters. There is also an early rear porch, which has slender turned posts and the same time of turned balusters. The porch posts are probably

[45] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-41.
[46] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-38.

historic; the baluster may be reproductions. An unpainted deck and ramp on the rear of the house is modern. Fenestration includes two painted half-light doors on the front porch and numerous large one-over-one windows.

The house is the center of a farmstead that includes a concrete sidewalk and gravel drive, as well as a frame barn, a small concrete root cellar, and a frame outbuilding, all of which are also contributing buildings. (Resources 8, 8a, 8b, 8c .) There is also a modern frame pumphouse that is noncontributing because it was built outside the period of significance. (Resource 121.) It is the only such farmstead that was not demolished during early years of park development. It was in place for most of the Social History period of significance and it is typical of small rural farmsteads that were in the area in late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is contributing in the area of Social History.

8a. McElhaney Barn, ca. 1911. Contributing Building.
CL-108296; HS-070055
Section 25NW, Figure 6, photos.16, 18.
The two-and-one-half story frame barn has a concrete foundation and a gabled roof with a hay hood. It is clad with wide yellow pine board and batten siding that is painted dark red. It is built into a steep bank, with ground level wagon doors at the south end of the basement level and on the east wall of the main floor. The wagon doorways have sliding vertical plank doors, and there are also several smaller hatch doors that are also of vertical planks. A pair of windows on the south wall of the barn have four-over-four hung sashes that appear to be original. The barn is contributing in the area of Social History.

8b. McElhaney Outbuilding, ca. 1911. Contributing Building.
CL-108300; HS-070057
Section 25NW, Figure 6, photos 16, 17.
The McElhaney outbuilding is a small, one-story wood building with lap siding, a concrete foundation, and a steep gable roof. It is reputed to have been built by area resident J. B. Stewart.[47] The east-facing façade contains a single entrance. The north and south walls each have a single two-over-two double hung window. Although referred to as a smokehouse in some descriptions, it is titled an outbuilding here because it is unlikely that a smokehouse would have large windows and a door with a glass light. It may have served as a wash house or a summer kitchen when new. It is contributing in the area of Social History.

8c. McElhaney Root Cellar, ca. 1936. Contributing Structure.
CL-108298; HS-070056

Section 25NW, Figure 6, photo 15.
The McElhaney Root Cellar is largely underground. The only part of the cellar above ground is a seven-foot-tall concrete entrance shelter. The entrance has a barrel roof and a wood door with horizontal panels. Concrete steps inside lead to the underground root cellar. Like other resources at the McElhaney farmstead, it is representative of small rural farmsteads that were in the area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is contributing in the area of Social History.

9. Manley Cemetery, ca. 1872. Contributing Site.
23GR00239; WICR00027.000
Section 25SW, Figure 6, photo 21.
The Manley Cemetery is in a remote location near to the east park boundary. It is a small family cemetery that is bordered by a twenty-first century split-rail fence. It measures roughly sixty-five by one hundred feet and contains headstones and as many as fifty-seven unmarked graves.[48] The oldest marked grave is that of Caleb Manley, who died in 1872. Some historical accounts of the battle identify the nearby Manley house as the site of a field hospital and speculate that this cemetery may include unmarked burials of battle casualties.[49] The cemetery was described as a historic resource (Manley Cemetery) in the 1976 nomination form. It is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Military and Commemoration. Future archeological investigation may reveal information with the capacity to answer research questions about the early historic occupations of the area before, during and after the battle.
23GR00239. Cemetery Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1872.
R First investigate by Robert Bray ca. 1975, this site contains a historic cemetery that has marked graves dating to the 1870s. It is believed to also contain burials of battle casualties. The site is in good condition and has medium potential to yield data.[50]

9.1. Manley, Caleb and Rebecca, House Archeological Site. ca. 1850s. Contributing Site.
23GR00238; WICR00010.000; CL-108480; HS-005076
Section 25SW, Figure 6.
This contributing archeological site is [redacted]. It consisted of scattered foundation stones in 1975. The yard of the

[47] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 3-40.
[48] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-50.
[49] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map, 68 and* 91; Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861."
[50] Robert T. Bray, *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, 1975), 40.

house is believed to have been a Confederate hospital during and immediately after the battle.[51] The site is associated with Archeology and Military. The site was described as a historic resource (the C. B. Manley House) in the 1976 nomination form. It is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Military and Commemoration. Future archeological investigation may reveal information with the capacity to answer research questions about the early historic occupations of the area before, during and after the battle.

23GR00238. House Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1861.
This site contains the likely location of the Manley farmhouse, which was known to have existed at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. It was first investigated by Robert Bray in 1975. The site contains foundation remnants and is covered with thick brush. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.[52]

10. Sharp, Joseph and Mary, House Archeological Site (Sigel's Third Position), ca. 1850s. Contributing Site.
23CN00076; WICR00001.000
Section 35NE, Figure 7.
This is the site of the Joseph and Mary Sharp farmstead, which was also the site of Sigel's Third Position during the battle, which was described as the front yard of the Sharp House. It is Stop 5 on the Tour Road. No buildings or other aboveground resources from the Sharp farmstead have survived, and the exact location of the house has not been determined. (The Sharp house is believed to have been destroyed by fire in 1862.[53]) The site includes archeological remains of a late 19th century farmhouse that may have been built on the site of the Sharp house, as well as an area just south of the late 19th century farmstead that was determined to contain numerous Civil War era materials in a 2001 study.[54] A review of archeological resources written in 2008 concluded that "further geophysical investigations in this area followed by exploratory test excavations has the potential to determine if this may be the site of the Sharp house…"[55] The Sharp House site was described as a historic resource (the Sharp House) in the 1976 nomination form. It is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Military and Commemoration, and Criterion D in the Archeology for its potential to answer research questions about the early historic occupations of the area before, during and after the battle.

[51] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 91; Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861."
[52] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler*, "The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 16.
[53] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler*, "The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 12.

[54] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler*, "The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 13.
[55] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler*, "The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 14.

23CN00076. Sharp, Joseph and Mary, House Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1850s.
The exact location of original Sharp house is not known. The site was investigated in 1975 and again in 1984, when the remains of a late 19th century farmstead were found in the area believed to have been the Sharp farmstead. That project also uncovered a few prehistoric artifacts, including a late Woodland era potsherd, which was the only ceramic component found at the park as of 2015. Additional investigations in 2001 uncovered a significant concentration of Civil War era materials. This site is in good condition with high potential to yield data.

11. State Highway ZZ, ca. 1950s. Contributing Structure.
CL-108490
Section 23SW, Figures 7 and 8.
State Highway ZZ runs through the northwest corner of the park and forms most of the west boundary line along Sections 26 and 35. The paved two-lane road is approximately twenty-two feet wide with seven-foot paved shoulders and a mown right of way. Part of the roadway in Section 23 was in use as early as 1905, and by 1938 it had been extended south through Section 26. The full stretch that is now in or adjacent to the park was in use by 1960.[56] (See Figure 26, 1967 Park Brochure). Only those stretches of the highway that have park land on both sides of the road are within the boundaries. It was part of the first tour route in the park in the 1960s and is significant in the area of Social History.[57]

12. Winn, Larkin, House Archeological Site, ca. 1861. Contributing Site.
23GR00235; 23GR00236; 23GR00253; WICR00025.000
Section 25NW, Figure 8.
This contributing site is [redacted]. A 1975 investigation identified a small house foundation and a cellar. No buildings or other aboveground resources have survived. It was included in the 1976 National Register nomination as the Guinn House site; additional research indicates it was the Larkin Winn house. It is significant in Military and Social History under Criterion A.

23GR00235. House Archeological Site 1. Historic, ca. 1861.
This site is the probable location of a house that was in place at the time of the battle. A few scattered artifacts were uncovered during a mid-1960s investigation. The site is in a grassy area near the Wire Road and an interpretive site. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.[58]

[56] County Atlas Maps, U.S.G.S Topographic maps, and a boundary map of the park prepared by the National Park Service in 1961.
[57] "Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park," Park Brochure, 1967.
[58] Bray, *An Archaeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park*, 29-42.

23GR00236. House Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1861.
This site contains a small foundation with a cellar. A 1967 investigation by Robert Bray located a foundation and chimney believed to be from the Winn House. The site is covered with thick grass and is in good condition. The site has moderate potential to yield data.[59]

23GR00253. House Archeological Site. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Part of Overall Site-Archeological site. Not in Resource Count.
Several artifacts have been uncovered at this site, including projectile points, chert flakes, and various other lithic debris. The site is located on the side of a steeply wooded hill. It is in good condition and has medium potential to yield data.[60]

13. Pratt Pony Truss Bridge, 1914. Contributing Structure.
CL-108494; HS-499036
Section 25SW, Figure 8, photo 22.
The Pratt Pony Truss Bridge is in a valley along the Wire Road. (That part of the Wire Road was part of County Road 194 when the bridge was built in 1914.) It is a half-hip Pratt Pony Truss bridge that is approximately fifty feet long, with concrete abutments.[61] The bridge has steel I-beam chords, double steel rods and turnbuckles which strengthen the vertical members of the trusses. Wood decking runs perpendicular to the trusses; the decking and much of the underlaying wood structure was replaced in 2005.[62] "Carnegie" is embossed in raised letters on the I-beams.[63] It carries the Wire Road across Wilson's Creek near the Edwards Cabin Exhibit. The bridge was part of the first tour route in the park. (See Figure 26, 1967 Park Brochure.) It is significant to the commemorative period in the area of Social History.

14. Edwards, William, Cabin Archeological Site, ca. 1850. Contributing Site.
23GR00237; WICR00026.000; CL-108438
Section 25SW, Figure 8, photo 20.
This contributing site is close to a noncontributing building, the Edwards Cabin/Price's Headquarters Exhibit (Resource 130.) It is the site of a cabin owned by William Edwards that is said to have been in place during the Battle of Wilson's Creek but was later destroyed.

---

[59] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler, "*The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 14.
[60] Bray, *An Archaeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park,* 1967, 159-160.
[61] "Old Wire Road Bridge," Bridgehunter.com, accessed July 2021, https://bridgehunter.com/mo/greene/old-wire-road/.
[62] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*, Appendix A, 12.
[63] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-41.

Archeological investigations in 1967 identified a likely outline of the original cabin.[64] In 1985, a different cabin was moved to the site and rehabilitated to serve as an interpretive exhibit. Edwards Cabin was identified as a contributing site in the 1976 nomination. It is significant in Military and Social History under Criterion A, and the historic period of Archeology under Criterion D.

23GR00237. Cabin Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1850.
This site is the likely location of the Edwards Cabin (not extant) that existed at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Robert Bray found the likely outline of the cabin in 1967. The site is covered with grass. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.[65]

15. Manley, T. B., House Archeological Site. ca. 1850s. Contributing Site.
23GR00255; WICR00037.000
Section 26SE, Figure 8.
This contributing archeological site is [redacted] A 1974 investigation revealed a likely location for the house, and some foundation stones. The site was described as a historic resource (the T. B. Manley House) in the 1976 nomination form. It is significant in Military and Social History under Criterion A, and the historic period of Archeology under Criterion D.

23GR00255. House Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1861.
The site contains the ruins of a nineteenth-century house as well as a few artifacts from a twentieth-century house. It is located [redacted]
The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

[64] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-109.
[65] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler, "*The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 15.

Contributing Resources Dating to Before the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Table 4 and the descriptions that follow are arranged by state archeological site number.

Table 4. Contributing Resources Dating to Before the Battle of Wilson's Creek**.**

Table 4.
Contributing Resources Dating to Before the Battle of Wilson's Creek**.**

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Period	Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes	Criterion and Level of Significance	
16	Archaic Campsite	23CN00078	WICR00003.000	Archaic	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
17	Artifact Scatter	23CN00079	WICR00004.000	Archaic Woodland	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
18	Cave Scatter (Lithic Scatter)	23CN00080	WICR00005.000	Unknown Precontact	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
19	Lithic Scatter	23CN00081	WICR00006.000	Archaic Woodland	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
20	Lithic Scatter	23CN00700	WICR00007.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
21	Lithic Scatter	23CN00702	WICR00008.000	Dalton	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
22	Lithic Scatter and Campsite	23GR00245	WICR00015.000	Dalton, Archaic	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
23	Lithic Scatter	23GR00246	WICR00029.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
24	Lithic Scatter	23GR00247	WICR00030.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
25	Bluff Cave	23GR00248	WICR00031.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
26	Lithic Scatter	23GR00254	WICR00036.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State

Table 4.
Contributing Resources Dating to Before the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Period	Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes	Criterion and Level of Significance	
27	Spring Archeological Site	23GR00250	WICR00033.000	Archaic, Dalton	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
28	Lithic Scatter	23GR00629	WICR00014.000	Woodland	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
29	Lithic Scatter	23GR00630	WICR00040.000	Woodland	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
30	Lithic Scatter	23GR00631	WICR00041.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
31	Lithic Scatter	23GR00632	WICR00042.000	Late Woodland to Mississippi	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
32	Broken Langtry Site	23GR00636	WICR00043.000	Early Woodland	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
33	Chert Artifacts	23GR00638	WICR00045.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
34	Natural Trap Sinkhole	23GR00640	WICR00047.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State
35	Open Habitation Precontact Site	23GR02038	WICR00065.000	Unknown	Site	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation	D	State

16. Archaic Campsite. Precontact, Archaic.
Contributing Site *23CN00078; WICR00003.000*
Site is a probable archaic village or campsite. Located on a gravel knoll that has some areas of heavy vegetation. The site is in good condition with potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

17. Artifact Scatter. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23CN00079; WICR00004.000*
A lithic scatter. The site is located on an open, grass-covered terrace that is used for animal grazing. It is in good condition and has potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

18. Cave Scatter (Lithic Scatter). Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23CN00080; WICR00005.000*
A lithic scatter adjacent to ta cave. Located on a side slope that is covered in mixed vegetation of trees, shrubs, and grasses. The site is in good condition and has high potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

19. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23CN00081; WICR00006.000*
A lithic scatter. The site is located on cultivated land. It is in good condition and has potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

20. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Woodland.
Contributing Site *23CN00700; WICR00007.000*
A lithic scatter consisting of debris and a projectile point. The site has been attributed as possibly Woodland in origin. It is located on the edge of a terrace in a grass-covered field. The site is in good condition and has potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

21. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Dalton.
Contributing Site *23CN00702; WICR00008.000*
A lithic scatter burned limestone feature and a Smith projectile point/knife. The site is in a cultivated terrace near Wilson's Creek. It is in good condition, with potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

22. Lithic Scatter and Campsite. Precontact, Late Woodland to Mississippi
Contributing Site *23GR00245; WICR00015.000*
A lithic scatter. A Dalton projectile point/knife and Smith projectile point/knife have been recovered. The site is located [redacted] It is in good condition, with potential to yield data about long-term patterns of

precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

23. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23GR00246; WICR00029.000*
A lithic scatter consisting of a few chert flakes. The site is located on a ridge near an intermittent stream and is covered with heavy vegetation. The site is in good condition, with potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

24. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23GR00247; WICR00030.000*
A few chert flakes have been found at the site. It is located on a sloping terrace that is covered with tall grass. The site is in good condition and has potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

25. Bluff Cave. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23GR00248; WICR00031.000*
Rockshelter/lithic scatter. This is a cave located within a steep bluff that sometimes holds water. Evidence suggests that it was used periodically. The site is in good condition and has potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

26. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23GR00254; WICR00036.000*
The site is a lithic scatter consisting of chert flakes. It is located on a hill with dense vegetation [redacted].[66] The site is in good condition and with some potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

27. Spring Archeological Site. Multiple, Middle Archaic.
Contributing Site *23GR00250; WICR00033.000*
A lithic scatter and midden, mostly consisting of flakes. Buried Dalton component also documented along a stream. The site is located near a spring and has been disturbed by prior construction. It is in good condition and has some potential to yield data about long-term

[66] Bray, *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources,* 1975*,* 53.

patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

28. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Woodland.
Contributing Site *23GR00629; WICR00014.000*
A lithic scatter of unknown cultural affiliation located along a creek. The site is covered with heavy vegetation and is in good condition. It has some potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

29. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Woodland.
Contributing Site *23GR00630; WICR00040.000*
A lithic scatter, possibly from the Late Archaic period. A projectile point and lithic debitage were discovered at the site. It is in a floodplain near a stream and is covered with dense vegetation and trees. The site is in good condition and has medium potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

30. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23GR00631; WICR00041.000*
A lithic scatter located [redacted] The site is covered with vegetation and is in good condition. It has low potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

31. Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Late Woodland to Mississippi.
Contributing Site *23GR00632; WICR00042.000*
A lithic scatter, mostly consisting of debitage. It is in an open field along Wilson's Creek. A portion of the site has heavy vegetation while another part is mowed by park staff. The site condition is listed as 'good' on the site report form, however, that report notes that the area sees lots of visitors and illegal parking is also an issue. The site has potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

32. Broken Langtry Site. Precontact, Woodland.
Contributing Site *23GR00636; WICR00043.000*
The site consists of a light concentration of chert artifacts located along a ridge near Wilson's Creek. It is in good condition, with potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

33. Chert Artifacts. Precontact. Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23GR00638; WICR00045.000*
A lithic scatter of chert artifacts including flakes, shatter, and cobbles. The site is located along a short ridge that is covered with heavy vegetation. The site is in good condition and has medium potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

34. Natural Trap Sinkhole. Precontact. Unknown Period.
Contributing Site *23GR00640; WICR00047.000*
The site contains a 'natural trap' sinkhole that is one by one meters wide and approximately three meters deep. A few animal bones have been found in the sinkhole, and it is believed that additional artifacts and fauna could be uncovered. The sinkhole is in good condition and has medium potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

35. Open Habitation Site. Precontact.
Contributing Site *23GR02038; WICR00065.000*
Contains moderate chert debitage and fire-cracked rock. The site is located near a wooded area. It is in good condition and has potential to yield data about long-term patterns of precontact occupation and land use. It is significant to the precontact period of significance under Criterion D.

Noncontributing Resources

Resource numbers for noncontributing resources begin at 100 to set them apart from contributing resources. Table 5 and the descriptions that follow are arranged according to their location along the Tour Road, a one-way driving loop through the battlefield. See location maps in Figures 3-9. Archeological sites are at the end, in order of state archeological site number.

Table 5. Noncontributing Resources.

Table 5.
Non-contributing Resources

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Date		Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes
100	Visitor Center		CL-108432		1982-2021	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
101	Former Wastewater Treatment Plant			ca.	1979	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
102	Maintenance Equipment Storage (Maintenance Area Complex)		CL-108436c		1991	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
103	Carpenter Shop		CL-10843a	ca.	1980s	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
104	Fire Cache		CL-10843b	ca.	1999	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
105	Mechanic Shop		CL-108436d	ca.	1980s	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
106	Picnic Shelter			ca.	1982	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
107	West Battlefield Overlook Trail			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
108	Visitor Center Nature Trail				1985	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
109	Visitor Center Parking Lot			ca.	1985	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation

Table 5.
Non-contributing Resources

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Date		Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes
110	West Overlook Trail Bridge			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
111	Nature Trail Bridge			ca.	1985	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
112	Tour Road		CL-108496		1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
113	Ray Cornfield Trail			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
114	Gibson's Mill Trail			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
115	Tour Road-McElhaney Branch Bridge			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
116	Tour Road-North Wilson's Creek Bridge			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
117	Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 1			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
118	Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 2			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
119	Farm Road 182 Wilson's Creek Bridge			ca.	1980s	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
120	Trail to Telegraph Road			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
121	McElhaney Pump House			ca.	1973	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
122	Manley Uplands Trail			ca.	1989	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation

Table 5.
Non-contributing Resources

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Date		Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes
123	Ray House and Springhouse Trail			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
124	East Battlefield Overlook Trail			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
125	Tour Road-Ray House Bridge			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
126	East Battlefield Overlook Trail Bridge			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
127	East Battlefield Overlook Trail Stairs			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
128	Tour Road-South Wilson's Creek Bridge			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
129	Southwest Boundary Trail		CL-108486	ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
130	Edwards Cabin / Price's Headquarters Exhibit			ca.	1986	Building	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
131	Pulaski Battery Trail			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
132	Edwards Cabin Trail			ca.	1987	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
133	Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail		CL-108502		1974	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
134	Tour Road-Skegg's Branch Bridge			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
135	Pulaski Battery Trail Bridge			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation

Table 5.
Non-contributing Resources

#	Current Name of Resource (Name in 1976)	State Archeological Site Number	CRIS #s WICR Archeology CL-Cultural Landscape HS-Historic Structures	Date		Resource Type	Contributing Status Notes
136	Guibor's Battery Bridge			ca.	1986	Structure	Newly Evaluated for Additional Documentation
138	Stone Lined Well #1	23CN02026	WICR00055.000	ca.	1850s	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
139	Stone Lined Well #2	23CN02027	WICR00056.000	ca.	1800s	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
140	Town of Wilson Creek Archeological Site	23GR00243	WICR00012.000		1905-1928	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
141	Sandstone Quarry	23GR00639	WICR00046.000	ca.	1800s	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
142	Stone Lined Well #3	23GR02032	WICR00057.000	ca.	1800s	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
143	Cement Well Head	23GR02033	WICR00058.000	ca.	1900s	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
144	Hand Dug Tiff or Barite Mine	23GR02039	WICR00066.000	ca.	1850s	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
145	Well Depression	23GR02095	WICR00068.000	ca.	1900	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
146	O'Connor, Dixie, Farm Archeological Site	23GR02100	WICR00070.000		Multiple	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
147	Lithic Scatter/ farm site	23GR00244	WICR00013.000		Multiple	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
148	Farmstead Archeological Site	23GR00680	WICR00060.000	ca.	1900s Late Woodland	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time
149	Foundation Ruins/Lithic Scatter	23GR02094	WICR00067.000		Multiple	Site	Not enough information to evaluate at this time

100. Visitor Center, 1982-2021. Noncontributing Building.
CL-108432
Section 23SW, Figure 4, photo 1.
The Visitor Center is a sprawling one-story building that has a flat roof and cast-in-place concrete walls. It has two large sections, both of which face east to a paved parking lot near the park entrance. The east wall of each section is lined with large plate glass windows. A wide sidewalk leads from the parking lot to entrances near the center of the east elevation.

The north wing of the building is the oldest; it was built in 1982. It has a roughly triangular footprint that covers roughly 7,300 square feet. Its north and west walls are tucked into a low hillside. The larger south wing, which was constructed in 2020 and 2021, has similar massing and comparable concrete walls. That wing has a rectangular footprint of approximately 8,000 square feet. The roof of the new wing is the same height as the older one, but that part of the building has taller exterior walls due to the southern slope of the open lot. The building is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

101. Former Wastewater Treatment Plant, ca. 1979. Noncontributing Building.
Section 23SW, Figure 4.
The Wastewater Treatment Plant is a 1,016 square foot building with a flat roof and concrete walls. It is north of the Tour Road, just east of the Visitor Center. It is built into a hillside in a secluded wooded area. The front wall contains a large garage door and one pedestrian doorway. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

102. Maintenance Equipment Storage, 1991. Noncontributing Building.
CL-108436c Section 23SW, Figure 4.
Located in the maintenance area of the park, the 1,920 square-foot Equipment Storage building has wood frame walls covered with vertical metal siding, and an asymmetrical gable roof. It originally had four vehicle bays, two of those have since been infilled with frame walls that contain windows. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

103. Carpenter Shop, ca. 1980s. Noncontributing Building.
CL-10843a Section 23SW, Figure 4, photo 3.
The Carpenter Shop is in the maintenance area, which includes five buildings, miscellaneous equipment, a temporary trailer, and modern fencing. The 1,800 square-foot building is one and one-half stories, with vertical metal siding and a shallow gable roof clad in comparable metal panels. It faces east to a paved drive, with three vehicle bays on the front wall and a single pedestrian door on the north. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

104. Fire Cache, 1999. Noncontributing Building.
CL-10843b Section 23SW, Figure 4.
The Fire Cache is a tall single-story building that measures forty feet by fifty feet. It is on the north side of the maintenance area facing south. It has vertical metal siding and a shallow gable roof that is also metal-clad. There are two oversize garage doors on the façade, and small windows and a pedestrian door on the east side wall. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

105. Mechanic Shop, ca. 1980s. Noncontributing Building.
CL-108436d Section 23SW, Figure 4.
The Mechanic Shop is in the maintenance area, east of the Carpenter Shop. It is one story with vertical metal siding and a side gable roof clad in comparable siding. It is 871 square feet. The west-facing façade contains two vehicle bays, a pedestrian door, and a window that is covered by bars. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

106. Picnic Shelter, ca. 1982. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 23SW, Figure 4, photo 2.
The Picnic Shelter is an open one-story shelter with a rectangular footprint that is located south of the Visitor Center. It has a concrete floor and a shallow gable roof with standing seam metal roofing that is supported by widely spaced square posts. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

107. West Battlefield Overlook Trail, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 23SE, Figure 4.
The West Battlefield Overlook Trail is located near the west edge of the park. It leads up a wooded rise from the vehicle pull-off at Tour Stop 8 to an interpretive sign at the edge of the West Battlefield Overlook. The trail is six to eight feet wide and approximately 380 feet long with a crushed rock surface. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

108. Visitor Center Nature Trail, 1985. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 23SW, Figure 4, photo 2.
The Nature Trail at the Visitor Center is a loop trail that leads from the picnic area by the Visitor Center through nearby woodlands. It was built in 1985, just after the Visitor Center was constructed.[67] The trail is two-thirds of a mile long and six to eight feet wide, with a crushed stone surface. Some segments are edged with small landscape timbers. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

109. Visitor Center Parking Lot, ca. 1985. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 23SW, Figure 4.
The Visitor Center Parking Lot is located near the north boundary of the park, just off West Farm Road 182. It is directly east of the Visitor Center and is the main entrance to the Tour Road. The paved parking lot is approximately 133 feet wide by 450 feet long. It has concrete curbs and sidewalks and three grass islands. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

110. West Overlook Trail Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 23SE, Figure 4.
The West Overlook Bridge is next to Tour Stop 8. It crosses the roadside drainage ditch of the Tour Road to connect to the West Battlefield Overlook Trail. It is approximately six feet wide and twelve feet long. The bridge has a wood structure with two horizontal wood railings supported by vertical wood posts. Some components appear to have been replaced since the bridge was built ca. 1986. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

111. Nature Trail Bridge, ca. 1985. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 23NW, Figure 4.
The Nature Trail Bridge carries the Nature Trail over Short's Branch. It is located south of the Picnic Shelter. It is approximately six feet wide and forty feet long. It is supported by concrete footings and has a wood structure. The wood railings consist of two horizontal bars that are supported by upright wood posts. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

112. Tour Road, 1987. Noncontributing Structure.
CL-108496
Multiple Sections, Figures 4-8, photos, 4, 8, 26, 34.
The Tour Road is a 4.85-mile paved road that was placed in service in April 1987.[68] It serves as the park's main circulation route. It has a single twelve-foot lane for one-way traffic, and a separate six-foot pedestrian lane. The road is surfaced with a dark asphalt mix that is fifty percent granite chips. That paving replaced the more reflective original paving in 2015 to diminish the visual impact of the road.[69] The road generally follows the contour of the

[67] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-119.
[68] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-121.
[69] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*, Appendix A, 40.

landscape, and crosses Wilson's Creek at several spots. Much of the road between Tour Stops 2 and 4 was built on the former grade of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Five modern concrete bridges (counted separately in this document) carry the road over waterways. Eight stops along the Tour Road mark locations important to the Battle of Wilson's Creek. (See Figure 3.) Each stop contains pull offs for parking and interpretive signage. The Tour Road is a noncontributing structure Because it dates to outside the period of significance.

113. Ray Cornfield Trail, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 24SW, Figure 5, photo 7.
The Ray Cornfield Trail is a two-track dirt road that runs roughly north-south through the Ray Cornfield. The one-mile trail begins at the north park boundary and runs south to connect to the Trail to Telegraph Road (Resource 120) near the southwest corner of the Ray Cornfield. The trail is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

114. Gibson's Mill Trail, ca. 1988. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 24SW, Figure 5, photo 5.
The Gibson's Mill Trail is close to Stop 1 on the Tour Road, near the north edge of the park. The trail is less than one mile long and passes by the site of the Gibson House and the Gibson Mill. It begins at the pull off for Tour Stop 1, and heads west along the Gibson Oat field towards Wilson's Creek. The trail follows the creek through woodlands before truing west towards the Ray Cornfield. From there, it heads roughly north back to Tour Stop 1. The surface of the trail consists of grass and crushed rock, and there is an interpretive sign near the location of the Gibson Mill. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

115. Tour Road-McElhaney Branch Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 24NE, Figure 5.
The McElhaney Branch Bridge carries the Tour Road over the McElhaney Branch near the north edge of the park. It is a concrete-span bridge with metal guardrails and an asphalt road surface. It is approximately seventy-five feet long. It was built ca. 1986 as part of the Tour Road and is a noncontributing Because it dates to outside the period of significance.

116. Tour-Road North Wilson's Creek Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 24SW, Figure 5.
The North Wilson's Creek Bridge is a concrete-span bridge just west of Tour Stop 1 that carries the Tour Road over Wilson's Creek. It is approximately 260 feet long. It is a concrete-span bridge with metal guardrails and an asphalt road surface. The bridge was built ca. 1986 as part of the Tour Road. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

117. Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 1, ca. 1987. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 24SW, Figure 5.
This short bridge is located near the Ray Cornfield. It is one of two bridges along the Gibson's Mill Trail. The bridge carries the trail over a small creek that feeds into Wilson's Creek. The bridge is approximately six feet wide and eighteen feet long. It has a wood structure with two horizontal railings that are supported by vertical wood posts. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

118. Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 2, ca. 1987. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 24SW, Figure 5.
This short bridge is located close to the south end of the Gibson's Mill Trail, near an interpretive marker for the mill. It is one of two bridges along the Gibson's Mill Trail. The bridge carries the trail over a small creek that feeds into Wilson's Creek. The bridge is approximately six feet wide and eighteen feet long. It has a wood structure with two horizontal railings that are supported by vertical wood posts. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

119. W. Farm Road 182 Bridge over Wilson's Creek, ca. 1980s. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 24W, Figure 5.
The bridge has reinforced concrete footings and a concrete surface with angled concrete guardrails on both sides. It was built before 1997 but does not appear to be more than fifty years old. It is a noncontributing structure Because it dates to outside the period of significance.

120. Trail to Telegraph Road, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 25NW, Figure 5.
The trail is close to the east bank of Wilson's Creek in the north central part of the park. It runs north-south between the Gibson Mill site and the Telegraph (Wire) Road. It is for the most part a narrow dirt trail. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

121. McElhaney Pump House, ca. 1973. Noncontributing Building.
Section 25NW, Figure 6, photo 17.
The McElhaney Pump house is a small frame building that has a front facing gable roof, vinyl siding, and a concrete foundation. It is north of the McElhaney House in the northeast quadrant of the park. There is a single flat painted steel door centered in the west gable end. The building no windows or other doors. It was built ca. 1973 to house equipment for a 500-foot well that was dug that year.[70] It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

122. Manley Uplands Trail, ca. 1989. Noncontributing Structure.

Section 36NW, Figure 6.

The Manley Uplands Trail is a 2.2-mile equestrian trail that follows the path of a former fire road along the east edge of the park.[71] It is a narrow dirt two-track. The north end of the trail is near the driveway to the McElhaney farmstead, after which it meanders south to skirt the edge of the East Battlefield Overlook and continues through thick woods near southeast corner of the park to connect to the Southwest Boundary Trail. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

123. Ray House and Springhouse Trail, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.

Section 25NE, Figure 6.

The Ray House and Springhouse Trail is at Tour Stop 2, between the Ray House and the Ray Springhouse. It has two distinct sections. The trail from the Tour Road to the Ray House is paved, and it includes a long set of concrete steps at the roadway. A paved sidewalk with ramps provides an accessible route around the stairs. The paved trail is approximately six feet wide and 175 yards long; it ends at the edge of the Ray House lawn. The other section leads from the Tour Stop parking lot to the springhouse, which is approximately 215 yards away. That trail section includes a marked crosswalk on the Tour Road, and a simple path across a mown lawn. The full trail was established ca. 1986; the section by the house appears to have been paved later. The trail is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

124. East Battlefield Overlook Trail, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.

Section 25SW, Figure 6.

The East Battlefield Overlook Trail is a short, multi-surface trail that leads from Tour Stop 3 to the East Battlefield Overlook. It is six to eight feet wide and one-eighth of a mile long. It begins with a section of stairs (Resource 127) that lead up a short hill to a crushed rock path. From there, it crosses over a small wood bridge (Resource 126) before entering the open field that is the East Battlefield Overlook. The trail was built in ca. 1986; it is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

125. Tour Road-Ray House Bridge, 1986. Noncontributing Structure.

Section 24SW, Figure 6, photo 8.

The Ray House Bridge carries the Tour Road over an intermittent stream bed just north of the Ray House. It is approximately sixty-five feet long. It is a concrete-span bridge with metal guardrails and an asphalt road surface. It was built ca. 1986 as part of the Tour Road and is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

---

[70] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-110.
[71] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-26.

126. East Battlefield Overlook Trail Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 25SW, Figure 6.
The East Overlook Bridge is west of an interpretive marker at the East Battlefield Overlook, close to the Tour Road. It carries the East Battlefield Overlook Trail over a shallow ditch. It is approximately six feet wide and twelve feet long. The bridge has a wood structure with two horizontal wood railings supported by vertical wood posts. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

127. East Battlefield Overlook Trail Stairs, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 25SW, Figure 6.
The East Battlefield Overlook Stairway is a L-shaped wood structure at Tour Stop 3. The staircase is approximately six feet wide and rises approximately twelve feet. It has two horizontal wood railings. It is built completely of stained wood; it is likely that some of the stair materials have been replaced since it was built ca. 1986. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

128. Tour Road-South Wilson's Creek Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 36NW, Figure 7, photo 26.
The South Wilson's Creek Bridge is a concrete-span bridge that carries the Tour Road over Wilson's Creek near Tour Stop 4 in the south part of the park. It is approximately 175 feet long. It is a concrete-span bridge with metal guardrails and an asphalt road surface. It was built ca. 1986 as part of the Tour Road. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

129. Southwest Boundary Trail, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
CL-108486
Section 35SE, Figure 7, photo 30.
The Southwest Boundary Trail is a rugged two-track that branches off the Manley Uplands Trail in the south part of the park. It runs along the former roadbed of the Missouri Pacific Railroad at the south boundary of the park, then turns north to parallel State Highway ZZ until it connects to the Wire Road. The one-and-one-half-mile trail is designated for equestrian use. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

130. Edwards Cabin/Price's Headquarters Exhibit, moved to site ca. 1986. Noncontributing Building close to a Contributing Site.
Section 25SW, Figure 8, photos 20, 24.
The Edwards Cabin is a single-pen log house that has a side-facing gable roof, an open front porch, and a stone foundation. It is in a large field on the west side of Wilson's Creek in the center of the park. It faces generally east toward the creek and the path of the historic Wire

Road (Resource 7). The one-story house has wood shake shingles, and the walls are clad with narrow weatherboards accented with corner boards. The porch has rough square posts; it rests on small stone piers. A large fieldstone chimney projects from the north side wall, which also has a small square four-light window. There is a matching window next to the back door on the west (back) wall. The interior of the cabin contains a single open room that has exposed hewn logs, wood flooring, a painted plank ceiling, and a large stone fireplace and hearth.

The house was constructed in the mid-1800s, moved to its current location in 1986, and restored to its current condition in 2005 to serve as an interpretive aid. It is believed to be near the site of a similar cabin that was standing during the Battle of Wilson's Creek but later destroyed.[72]

Most of the log walls and some of the structural components of the roof are from the 1850s; most of the other material dates to the later restoration, including weatherboards, porches, foundation, and the chimney.[73] Because it was moved to the site and largely reconstructed outside the period of significance, it is counted as a noncontributing Because it dates to outside the period of significance. It sits near the Edwards Cabin Archaeological Site (Resource 14), which is a contributing site.

131. Pulaski Battery Trail, 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 25SW, Figure 8.
The Pulaski Battery Trail leads from Tour Stop 3 to the site of the Pulaski Battery, in the east-central part of the park. It was created in 1986.[74] From the parking lot, it leads down a slope, across the Wire Road near Wilson's Creek, then up a wooded hillside to the battery site. It is six to eight feet wide and surfaced with crushed stone. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

132. Edwards Cabin Trail, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 25SW, Figure 8, photo 25.
The Edwards Cabin Trail, referred to in some sources as Jeff's Trail, is in the central part of the park just north of the cabin.[75] It begins where the Wire Road crosses the Pratt Pony Truss Bridge, then leads generally northwest up the lower slope of Bloody Hill to connect to the Bloody

[72] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-109.
[73] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*, Appendix A, 13.
[74] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-119.
[75] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*, Appendix A, 41.

Hill Trail near the Lyon Memorial. Most of the trail is a narrow (three or four feet) dirt path; it widens to six or seven feet and has a crushed stone surface closer to Bloody Hill. It does not appear to have seen significant changes since it was created ca. 1986.[76] It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

133. Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
CL-108502
Section 26NE, Figure 8, photos 35, 37-39.
The Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail begins at Tour Stop 7 near the crest of Bloody Hill. It is six to eight feet wide and covered with gravel; a short section near the Tour Road is paved. The trail meanders east down the hill to loop around the Lyon Marker. It also connects to the Edwards Cabin Trail (Resource 132), which leads southeast from Bloody Hill to the Edwards Cabin. The loop trail around the Lyon Marker has been in use since at least 1967, but the trail was reconfigured and the west end was developed about the time the Tour Road was created, ca. 1987.[77] It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

134. Tour Road-Skegg's Branch Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 26SE, Figure 8.
The Skegg's Branch Bridge carries the Tour Road over Skegg's Branch, an intermittent stream that feeds into Wilson's Creek. It is located just past Tour Stop 5, near the center of the park. The bridge has reinforced concrete footings and a concrete surface with steel guardrails on both sides. It was built in ca. 1986 as part of the Tour Road and is a noncontributing structure Because it dates to outside the period of significance.

135. Pulaski Battery Trail Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 25SW, Figure 8.
The Pulaski Battery Trail Bridge is close to where the Pulaski Trail crosses the Wire Road, not far from Wilson's Creek. It was built ca. 1986 when the trail was created.[78] It is approximately six feet wide and twelve feet long. The bridge has a wood structure with two horizontal wood railings supported by vertical wood posts. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

[76] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-121.
[77] "Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park," Park Brochure, 1967; John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-119.
[78] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-119.

136. Guibor's Battery Bridge, ca. 1986. Noncontributing Structure.
Section 26SE, Figure 8.
The Guibor's Battery Bridge is next to Tour Stop 6 in the west central part of the park. It crosses the roadside drainage ditch by the Tour Road and leads to a small clearing that has cannons and interpretive signs. It is approximately six feet wide and twelve feet long. The bridge has a wood structure with two horizontal wood railings supported by vertical wood posts. Many of the elements appear to have been replaced since the bridge was built ca. 1986. It is noncontributing because it dates to outside the period of significance.

Noncontributing Archeological Sites
Entries are arranged in numerical order by Missouri State Archeological Inventory Number.

138. Stone Lined Well #1. Historic, ca. 1850s.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23CN02026; WICR00055.000
Well/cistern that is capped with a large rock. It is in a large, open field with heavy vegetation. The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

139. Stone Lined Well #2. Historic, Unknown Period.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23CN02027; WICR00056.000
Well/cistern. The site is located on a ridgetop covered with timber near a small creek. The well is lined with stone and is 1.2 meters wide by 1.98 meters deep. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

140. Town Archeological Site. Historic, ca. 1905.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR00243; WICR00012.000
This is an abandoned twentieth-century town site. All buildings and structures associated with the town have been demolished. The town site contains heavy vegetation. It is in good condition and has high potential to yield data.[79]

141. Sandstone Quarry. Historic, ca. 1800s.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR00639; WICR00046.000
The site consists of a sandstone quarry that is approximately 50 to 75 cm deep, and between one and four meters wide. It is in good condition and covered with vegetation. The site has low potential to yield data.

142. Stone Lined Well #3. Historic, Unknown Period.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR02032; WICR00057.000
This site contains a stone-lined well that is surrounded by a metal ring that may have contained part of a boiler. [redacted] The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

143. Cement Well Head. Historic.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR02033; WICR00058.000
This site contains a large concrete well head that measures approximately 5' x 6'; depth is unknown. [redacted] Site evaluations have noted that the well should be filled with sterile sand for visitor safety. The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

144. Hand Dug Tiff or Barite Mine. Historic, ca. 1800s.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR02039; WICR00066.000
This hand-dug tiff or barite mine has a small berm on three sides. A large tailings pile was found near the mine. It is located on a hilltop with thick vegetation. The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

145. Well. Historic, ca. 1900.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR02095; WICR00068.000
Well depression located on a ridge. It is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

[79] Bray, *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources,* 1975, 42.

146. O'Connor, Dixie, Farm Archeological Site. Historic, Unknown Period.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR02100; WICR00070.000
Ruins of various farm buildings and structures. The farm was purchased by the National Park Service in the 1960s, and many of the buildings and structures were subsequently demolished. The site is covered with grass and some trees. It is in good condition and has high potential to yield data.[80]

147. Lithic Scatter. Multiple, Unknown Period.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR00244; WICR00013.000
A lithic scatter. The site is covered with dense vegetation and is located close to a park trail. The site is in good condition and has low potential to yield data.

148. Farmstead Archeological Site. Multiple. Late Woodland to Mississippi.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR00680; WICR00060.000
The site contains the ruins of an early- to mid-twentieth-century farmhouse complex. The complex was razed by the park in 1965-1966. In addition to the farmhouse, a Late Woodland or Mississippian projectile point was recovered. The site is in poor condition. It has unknown potential to yield data.[81]

149. Foundation Ruins/Lithic Scatter. Precontact, Multiple.
Noncontributing, not enough information to evaluate at this time.
23GR02094; WICR00067.000
The site contains a stone foundation, metal well head, ceramic pieces, and light lithic debitage. It is in a wooded area. The site is in good condition and has unknown potential to yield data.

Assessment of Integrity

As noted in National Park Service *Bulletin 40*, "battlefields cannot be frozen in time."[82] Inevitably, landscapes change over the years and these principles certainly apply to Wilson's Creek. However, the park retains a rural character and reflects agricultural land uses which were present before, during and after the battle. Several views and vistas of the 1860s are also intact, albeit diminished somewhat by reforestation.

[80] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-107.
[81] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-107.
[82] Patrick Andrus, *Bulletin 40: Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992), 11.

Known archaeological resources are generally well-preserved, and studies indicate a likelihood that the landscape includes intact additional remains. As one study of precontact sites noted, "The potential for buried precontact remains exists in stream flood plains, terraces and…colluvial deposits" and noted good potential for intact remains in upland settings as well.[83] Although the contributing precontact sites appear to be individually minor resources, viewed together, they contribute to the significance of the district in a way which is inclusive of otherwise seemingly ephemeral resources.

According to *Bulletin 40,* "the most important aspects of integrity for battlefields are **location, setting, feeling** and **association."**

- Integrity of **location** is clearly present in Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The boundaries of the park contain most of the lands associated with the battle, including the sites of major engagements. It is also the place where monuments have been placed, and events, reunions and festivals have been held in honor of the battle and the fallen dead. Archeological studies have identified numerous pre- and post-contact resources that exhibit integrity of location. For the pre-contact sites, location imparts information about patterns of use over multiple periods.

- Integrity of **setting** is also adequately present for the Civil War and pre- and post-battle eras. Setting is the physical environment of a historic property, the character of the place in which the events occurred. Aside from creation of area roads, no large scale earth-moving or modern development projects have taken place in or near the site. Natural features, such as Wilson's Creek and its associated streams, and the upland knolls and banks which surround the creek valley are part of the pre- and post-contact setting. Agricultural croplands in and around the park enhance integrity of the historic setting. Although wooded growths are present today in areas where grasslands and savanna once predominated, changes in vegetation patterns are a natural and reversible change. A Vegetative Management Implementation Plan implemented in recent years is guiding related landscape restoration efforts, which include prescribed burns, physical removal, and chemical treatments to control invasive and non-native tree and shrub species and seeding open areas with native grasses.[84]

[83] Kay and Hermann, *Archeological Predictive Modeling of Land Use*, 103.
[84] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*, 24.

- Integrity of **feeling** is present at Wilson's Creek. Feeling is an expression of the historic sense of a particular time. Most major landscape features of the park, including waterways, enhance feeling of precontact as well as historic resources. The rural setting, along with the presence of fenced fields and a pattern of woodlands and open lands, expresses the feeling of the landscape as it appeared during the battle. Historic feeling is lessened somewhat by the modern Tour Road, but strengthened by the Ray House and the Wire Road, two of the most notable individual historic resources.

- Integrity of **association** is strong. The land within the park boundaries has been firmly associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek since 1861. Events and resources of the commemorative period were done to ensure that association was never forgotten. In many ways, modern activities and events continue to enhance that association. The presence of the sinkhole, for example, coupled with the explanation of the chaos and drama following the battle, brings home a strong association, even today. Archeological data has strengthened that association and added to the understanding of the precontact landscape, and past research has identified potential to learn more.

Individual resources on the property also have integrity of **materials** and **workmanship**.

- The built environment exhibits integrity of **materials.** This is evident in the unchanged granite of the Lyon Memorial that was installed during the commemorative period. Also intact are the stones of the Short Springbox and the stone chimneys, frame walls and interior detailing of the Ray House, all of which bore witness to the battle in 1861. The Pratt Pony Truss Bridge across Wilson's Creek and the buildings of the McElhaney Farmstead also retain a good deal of original fabric that dates to the commemorative period.

- **Workmanship** is evident in all contributing buildings, including the Ray House and the four historic buildings of the McElhaney farmstead. The high quality of that workmanship is reflected in the longevity of those resources, particularly the Ray House, which is one of the oldest houses in Greene County.

Impact of Noncontributing Resources

The landscape in general retains a higher level of integrity than the resource count might indicate. Noncontributing buildings, for example, outnumber contributing buildings eight to six, but all the noncontributing buildings are in secluded wooded locations, which lessens the impact on the overall setting by screening or hiding them. The park's maintenance yard for example, contains four noncontributing buildings, plus newer trailers and small portable sheds that are not in the resource count, but it is set in the far northwest corner of the park and surrounded by

heavy tree cover. The Visitor Center, also a noncontributing resource, is a low modern building that is surrounded by berms to lessen its impact on the historic landscape. It, too, is in the northwest part of the park, well away from the center of the historic battlefield.

There is also one noncontributing building that enhances the historic landscape, despite its status. The Edwards Cabin is a mid-1800s log building that is noncontributing because it was moved to its present site, but it is comparable to the cabin that was there at the time of the battle and is a beneficial interpretive feature.

Noncontributing structures also greatly outnumber contributing—twenty-nine to six—but they have a minimal impact of the overall feeling of the property. Twenty of the noncontributing structures are trails or small trail-related structures such as foot bridges or stairs, and another five are bridges on the Tour Road. Most of the trails are narrow, with hard packed earth or light gravel surfaces that blend into the rural landscape. Many also follow the general path of farm roads that were in place at the time of the battle.

Conclusion

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield today looks much as it did at the end of the commemorative period of significance. By 1972, the National Park Service had removed modern buildings and structures from the grounds to bring the landscape to a state that was closer to that of the 1860s. In that respect, integrity of the landscape is reasonably high for the Civil War era as well as the later commemorative period. As noted in *Bulletin 40*, "the best preserved battlefields appear much as they would have during the battle, making it easy to understand how strategy and results were shaped by the terrain."[85] That is the case at Wilson's Creek; natural features such as streams and the overall topography clearly reflect conditions of the landscape at the time of the battle, as does the general pattern of fields and woodlands.

Individual contributing resources in the district enhance the sense of time and place. The Ray House, a building that has been continually recognized for its connection to the battle, provides a prominent, intact link to the periods of significance. The Fayetteville (Wire) Road offers an important connection to early local and national transportation and communication networks. The buildings of the McElhaney farmstead evoke the agricultural identity of the Civil War landscape, which continued into the commemorative period. Together, the resources of the property form an intact cultural landscape that commemorates the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

[85] Andrus, *Bulletin 40,* 11.

Statement of Significance Summary

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is a unit of the National Park Service in Christian and Greene Counties, Missouri. The battlefield was authorized in 1960 as Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, to commemorate the Civil War battle that took place there on August 10, 1861. Following land acquisition and preliminary park development, it was officially established as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in 1970. The battlefield was formally dedicated in 1972. It was automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 and recorded in a 1976 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. This additional documentation provides supplemental information about the history, significance, and resources of the district, and identifies additional areas and periods of significance.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A for Military significance, as the site of the second major battle of the Civil War, which also resulted in the first war-related death of a Union general, Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon. While the battle was a Confederate victory, it was important to the Union because it secured Missouri's status as a Union state and highlighted the state's importance in the Trans-Mississippi Theatre of the Civil War. The Military period of significance is 1861, to correspond to the Battle of Wilson's Creek. That period was documented in the original 1976 National Register form. The related information added here incorporates recent scholarship and more closely ties the existing landscape and other resources in the park to the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

The 1976 National Register form also identified Communications and Transportation under Criterion A as areas of significance. Those areas relate to the historic Fayetteville (Wire) Road, which traverses the National Battlefield. The battlefield is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Communication, as the site of intact portions of the Wire Road. The period of significance in Transportation and Communications begins when the road was created in 1836 and ends in 1865, the last year of the Civil War, when the road fell out of significant use. This document provides more context and information about these areas of significance.

This document adds two new areas of significance: Archeology and Social History. The battlefield has statewide significance under Criterion D in the area of Archeology. It is an archeological district that has yielded valuable information about historic and precontact activity in southwest Missouri, and it has potential to yield more information in the future. Archeological investigation played an important role in the creation and development of the National Battlefield, particularly for restoration of the Ray House and the identification of other buildings and sites that were in place during the battle. Additionally, more than thirty sites containing precontact materials have been identified within the current boundaries, and numerous studies have indicated the potential for additional research. There are two periods of significance under Criterion D: one precontact and one historic. The precontact period begins with the Dalton

Period in 8500 BCE, the earliest period with good representation of archeological resources at the park, and ends in 1700, the end of the precontact period in the region. The historic period of significance for archeology runs from ca. 1836 to the end of the Civil War, 1865. (The oldest contributing historic resource is the Wire Road, which was established in 1836.) That period includes white settlement of the region and the development of the cultural landscape in which the Battle of Wilson's Creek was fought.

The battlefield also has statewide significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History, as a national park that was created as the result of a long campaign to memorialize and protect the battlefield at Wilson's Creek. Memorial actions began less than a week after the battle with the creation of a rock cairn on the site of Lyon's death and culminated with the creation of a unit of the National Park System to forever protect and interpret the site. It is the only nationally designated battlefield in Missouri. The commemorative period of significance begins in 1861 with the first efforts to honor the battle, and continues through 1972, when the park was formally dedicated.

Criterion Consideration F
Commemorative properties are not usually eligible for listing in the National Register unless they have acquired significance through age, tradition, or symbolic value. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has acquired significance through age and symbolic value, and it is justified for listing under National Register Criterion Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

Explanation of the Additional Documentation
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield was authorized by Congress on April 22, 1960. A subsequent National Register of Historic Places registration form was approved on September 1, 1976 (NRIS #66000113). That registration form was prepared before National Register documents specified National Register criteria for listing, detailed information about periods of significance, or levels of significance. This additional documentation has been prepared to align the National Register documentation with current standards and to update the historic and physical record of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

Historic resources listed on the original National Register form have been described and reevaluated here, and numerous additional resources have been catalogued and evaluated. The original Register form identified eighteen resources as "historic" (contributing) and included no formal inventory of noncontributing resources. Four of those sites have been reclassified as Character-Defining Landscape feature here and the remaining 14 are contributing sites. This update documents 81 additional resources. That number includes resources constructed since 1976, as well as older resources that contribute to recently added areas of significance. Combined with the 14 previously listed resources, there are 95 resources—46 contributing, and 49 noncontributing.

The 1976 document indicated a Military period of significance which corresponds to the date of the Battle of Wilson's Creek: August 10, 1861, and 1800-1899 for Transportation and Communications. (Early National Register forms frequently used check boxes for a range of dates.) That form also listed three areas of significance: Communications, Military and Transportation. (Also identified primarily via checkboxes.) This Additional Documentation adds two new areas of significance: Social History to address commemoration of the battle, and Archeology to acknowledge the results of decades of archeological work in the park. As noted above, this document also identifies a specific period and level of significance for all five areas of significance.

The Military period of significance has not changed from the implied date of 1861. The period of significance for Transportation and Communications has been more specifically identified here as 1836 to 1865. The additional documentation also expands upon the historical context included in the 1976 nomination form for the areas of Military, Transportation, and Communications. The added information incorporates recent scholarship and more closely ties the existing landscape and other resources in the park to the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Separate Boundary Increase

When the National Battlefield was added to the National Register in 1960, the park encompassed the 1,749.91 acres that are the subject of this additional documentation. In 2004, the U.S. Congress passed a boundary adjustment act that authorized the National Park Service to add six non-contiguous sites with a total of 615 acres to the battlefield.[86] That land is being nominated in a separate boundary increase that is being prepared in tandem with this additional documentation.

A Note About Sources

This updated nomination utilizes information from numerous primary and secondary sources. Early drafts of this document were compiled by Camile Fife in 2015 and Jeff Patrick in 2017, who contributed expertise in archeology (Fife) and the Battle of Wilson's Creek (Patrick). For this version of the document, early work conducted by National Park Service historian Edwin C. Bearss, which was based on extensive review of primary sources, was extremely helpful. That includes reports titled "Historical Base and Ground Cover Map: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Green and Christian Counties, Missouri," and "The Ray House: Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park Historic Structures Report Part II." A more recent study "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, Missouri Cultural Landscape Report," prepared in 2004 by John

[86] Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-394, 118 Stat. 2247 (2004).

Milner Associates, was also closely referenced. That document, which was prepared in close cooperation with the National Park Service, also relied heavily on primary sources.

Important information about archeological resources was found in reports on file at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and the Midwest Archeological Center of the National Park Service (MWAC). Additionally, dozens of archeological site inventory forms were supplied by MWAC. Context and history for the Trail of Tears and the Butterfield Trail was provided in part by existing National Register nominations for the Cherokee Trail of Tears and the Butterfield Trail. The 2017 book, *Altogether Fitting and Proper*, by Timothy B. Smith supplied important context on the national battlefield preservation movement, and scores of contemporary newspaper articles helped document and illustrate the long struggle to commemorate and preserve the battlefield at Wilson's Creek.

Elaboration: Significance

Criterion D: Archeology

Periods of Significance: ca. 8,500 BCE – 1700 CE, and ca. 1836-1865 CE.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has statewide significance under National Register Criterion D in the area of Archeology, as a property that has yielded information about the Battle of Wilson's Creek as well as precontact land use within the park boundaries. Archeological investigations have increased understanding of the resources within the park boundaries and provided information about topics that range from precontact patterns of land use to construction details of buildings that were standing during the Battle of Wilson's Creek. More than 60 of the contributing historic resources in the park include archeological resources, either as part of a multi-resource complex or as individual sites. The property also has good potential to yield future archeological information.

Archeological resources are an important part of the park system. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 automatically lists cultural units of the National Park System when they are created and requires subsequent documentation of all cultural resources within the park boundaries. Therefore, this nomination form documents known significant cultural resources in the park, including those that may not be related to the original designation. Like most national parks, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield contains precontact as well as historic archeological sites, which are discussed below in separate sections.

There are two periods of significance under Criterion D: one precontact and one historic. The precontact period begins the Dalton Period in 8500 CE, the earliest period with good representation of archeological resources at the park, and ends in 1700, the end of the Woodland Period. There are 20 contributing precontact sites in the park. The historic period of

significance begins ca. 1836, the date of the oldest known historic archeological resource (the Fayetteville (Wire) Road) and continues through the end of the Civil War in 1865. This includes 14 contributing archeological sites that were included in the 1976 National Register document, two added with this document, and several others that are associated with historic buildings or structures but not counted separately.

Of the sixty-three documented archeological sites in the original National Register boundaries of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, two have been evaluated for eligibility in the National Register and found to be potentially eligible. Both are from the historic period and both are contributing resources in this document: Lyon Marker (Resource 1d, 23GR00242) and the Wire Road (Resource 7, 23CRNO2044, and 23CRNO2046).[87] Thirty-five other registered sites in the park, including precontact and historic sites, were more generally evaluated for "data potential", with six rated high, fifteen medium and fourteen low.[88]

Even though only a few of the known archeological resources from the two periods have been judged to be individually eligible for inclusion the National Register, together, they form a significant grouping that reflects patterns of land use and occupation that spans thousands of years. Existing evidence of long-term use of the site, which has been gained by dispersed investigations, also indicates a likelihood that additional study will expand understanding of precontact as well as historic uses that shaped the cultural landscape of Wilson's Creek. As noted in the cultural landscape report prepared for the property in 2004: "The potential for the sites to yield important information about the history and prehistory is very high."[89] Investigations conducted since that time support that conclusion.

Precontact Resources: ca. 8,500 BCE – 1700 CE

Information about precontact resources at the park has been gathered through a variety of studies. That includes spot testing associated with upcoming construction projects, targeted investigation of historic sites that also contained precontact materials, and at least one larger study that involved a systematic collection of information about precontact resources across the park. The final report for the later study was completed in 2005. The purpose of the 2005 study was, as the final report noted, to evaluate "a general hypothesis of land use; namely that

[87] Excel file of Archeological Sites at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Lincoln, NE: Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service). Dates of evaluation were not included in that file. There were three site forms for the Skegg's Springs location.
[88] Based on a review of all archeological site forms related to the battlefield that are on file at MWAC.
[89] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 5-3.

precontact settlement…preferentially favored places and times of greater water availability," and to "accurately fix the locations of material remains" on the landscape.[90] That data was then used for "predictive modeling of material remains."[91] The study featured a methodical sampling of sites organized around a thirty-meter Cartesian grid that covered the entire park. In all, just over 1,300 shovel tests were conducted, and 13% of those yielded precontact materials.[92] That work produced a statistically valid sampling of locational data and evidence that while precontact resources in the park are most likely to be located close to water sources, they are also extant in upland areas. Further investigation of that anomaly was recommended.[93]

Documented sites at the park indicate that precontact land use there was strongest from the Archaic through the Woodland Periods. Archeological investigations in other parts of the region indicate that pattern of occupation is typical of southwest Missouri in general.[94] Precontact site types include [redacted] Some of the sites located close to waterways and other important natural resources appear to have been used again and again as temporary camps. As one report noted, "a small number of sites appear to have been intermittently yet repeatedly utilized over thousands of years."[95] That pattern of repeated use is illustrated by the presence of artifacts from different precontact periods within single sites. That includes 23GR00245 and 23GR00250, which both have Dalton and Archaic artifacts.

Precontact Occupation: ca. 8,500 BCE – 1700 CE

Human occupation of the site goes back at least 8,000 years.[96] Archeological investigations have shown that the area was inhabited as early as the Paleoindian period (13000-8000 BCE) and that Native Americans were active there until Euro-American settlers began arriving in the late 1700s. The sequence of precontact culture periods begins with Paleoindian, followed by Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian. Each is discussed briefly below. Precontact sites at the

[90] Marvin Kay and Jason Herrmann, "Archaeological Predictive Modeling of Land Use at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, and Wilson's Creek Historic Battlefield, Missouri" (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 2005), 1.
[91] Kay and Herrmann, "Archaeological Predictive Modeling of Land Use at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, and Wilson's Creek Historic Battlefield, Missouri," 1.
[92] Kay and Hermann, Predictive Modeling, 22.
[93] Kay and Hermann, Predictive Modeling, 31.
[94] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-4.
[95] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-4.
[96] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment*, 5.

park that have been studied to date indicate that most of the precontact habitation of the area occurred between the Dalton and Late Woodland periods (approximately 8500 BCE-800 CE).

Information discussed below is based largely on archeological reports and site forms on file with the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC).[97] As of the end of 2020, MWAC files included site forms for 58 different sites within the Register boundaries; twenty-one of those are classified as precontact and another six yielded a mix of historic and precontact materials. Although many of the precontact sites documented on those forms are labeled simply as "prehistoric or precontact," archeologists were able to date some recovered artifacts more specifically, as noted below.

Paleoindian Period (13,000-8000 BCE)
The earliest evidence of human occupation in the state has been attributed to the Paleoindian period. Paleoindians followed a nomadic lifestyle and were known to hunt animals such as mastodons that are now extinct. Artifacts that are typically associated with the Paleoindian period include lanceolate points that were used for hunting.[98] Few signs of Paleoindian life have been documented in southwest Missouri, and only one [redacted].[99] Because of the scarcity of recognized sites from this era, the Paleoindian period is not presently considered to be a cultural affiliation for the park.

Dalton Period (8500-7000 BCE)
The Dalton period coincides with changes in the Earth's climate from cooler conditions to a drier and warmer climate.[100] The lifestyle associated with the Dalton period likely consisted of small groups of hunter-gatherers who were able to process animals, and utilized a variety of tools, such as flake knives, grinders, bone needles and pentagonal projectile points. It is believed that the earliest known use of rock shelters occurred during the Dalton period. Dalton sites are relatively rare in the region, but it is not clear if that is due to limited human activity during that era or a lack of available data.[101]

Evidence of Dalton occupation at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield can be found in at least three archeological sites: 23GR00245, 23GR00250 and 23CN00702. One included a Dalton

[97] Archeological Site Forms: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. All site numbers used in this document refer to state archeological inventory numbers listed on those forms.
[98] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment*, 5.
[99] Camile Fife, Westerly Group, National Register Registration Form, Draft, 2015.
[100] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-2.
[101] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment*, 5.

projectile point/knife located below the plow zone and another site yielded a buried Dalton component. Additionally, a rock shelter, Bluff Cave (23GR00248) is located near two of the known Dalton sites, but specific periods of occupation have not been identified for the rock shelter.

Archaic Period (7000-1000 BCE)
The Archaic period is characterized by a general increase in population and a decrease in mobility, as well as specialized adaptation to local resources. A wider range of resources was utilized for food, and supplies became more stable, which allowed for localization and regionalization of Archaic cultures. The Archaic period is subdivided into the Early Archaic, Middle Archaic and Late Archaic. All three subperiods are represented at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, over numerous sites. Archeological sites associated with the Archaic period at Wilson's Creek show that the area was occupied at least cyclically throughout that time period, and that locations near water sources were favored.

The Early Archaic subperiod (7000-5000 BCE) was characterized by small bands of hunter-gatherers who also used a wider variety of plants and animals.[102] Archeological evidence of the Early Archaic subperiod includes some of the first known stemmed projectile points, as well as basic stone tools.[103] Heavier stone tools such as scrapers and adzes are also present at many Early Archaic sites. A lithic scatter from the Early Archaic subperiod has been identified at 23GR00245, a site near a water source which also contained Dalton materials.

The Middle Archaic subperiod (5000-3000 BCE) represents a shift to a warmer and dryer climate, which contributed to a change in the types of resources used during this time.[104] The only known artifact specifically attributed to the Middle Archaic subperiod at the park consists of a Jakie Stemmed projectile point uncovered at 23GR00250, which is described on the archeological site report as Early-Middle Archaic. Chert cobbles and other materials recovered from an Archaic period campsite close to Wilson's Creek (23CN00078) may also be from the Middle Archaic subperiod.

The Late Archaic subperiod (3000-1000 BCE) in southwest Missouri brought more diverse tool assemblages, which one overview credited to "a wider range of ecological zones and increased environmental exploitation."[105] There was a shift in the methods used to make projectile points, and an increase in the use of ground-stone tools. Resources typical to this era include stemmed

[102] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment*, 6.
[103] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-2.
[104] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment,* 6.
[105] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment*, 6

projectile points, as well as chipped-stone axes, drills, flake knives, and hammerstones.[106] At Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, the Late Archaic subperiod is represented by projectile points uncovered at 23GR00245 as well as a King's projectile point/knife found at 23CN02045. The latter site is on high ground within the proposed boundary increase.

Woodland Period (1000 BCE-1000 CE)
The Woodland period is generally characterized by the earliest appearance of pottery and bows and arrows. Although this part of the Ozarks probably did not have a large enough population to support an agricultural economy, those who did live there appear to have had a stable hunting and gathering lifestyle.[107] The Woodland period is also divided into Early, Middle and Late subperiods, all of which have at least minimal representation at Wilson's Creek. As with Archaic sites in the park, known Woodland period sites there tend to be close to water sources such as large streams or springs. Some of those sites contain both Archaic and Woodland artifacts, providing further evidence of sustained or long term cyclical periods of occupation.

The Early Woodland, of which little data has been found in southern Missouri, is represented at Wilson's Creek by the only precontact ceramic potsherd uncovered in the park as of 2015.[108] That potsherd was found at 23CN00076, and may have been affiliated with 23CN00081, which is nearby.

The [redacted]

The Middle Woodland period was marked by long-term or permanent settlements, widespread trading, the construction of ceremonial earthworks and the creation of art objects.[109] Middle Woodland populations appear to have been relatively scarce in southern Missouri. Artifacts from the Late Woodland, which included a general decline in communication and trading between different regions, are more common throughout the state.

[106] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment*, 6.
[107] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment*, 6.
[108] Camile Fife, Westerly Group, National Register Registration Form, Draft, 2015.
[109] Carl and Eleanor Chapman, *Indians and Archeology of Missouri* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1983), 53.

At least two sites at Wilson's Creek contain Late Woodland materials (23GR00632 and 23GR00680). One of those is near Wilson's Creek; the other is close to a spring and small waterway. Middle to Late Woodland stemmed projectile points/knifes have also been recovered from two sites associated with nineteenth-century dwellings 23GR00233 and 23GR00237. It is possible, however, that those artifacts were from a resident's personal collection rather than in their original context.

Mississippian Period (800-1700 CE)
The Mississippian period was a transitional period for native peoples, between pre- and post-contact with Europeans. Native people tended to live in larger permanent villages with more complex political and social practices. The Mississippian culture also practiced more sophisticated and specialized forms of agriculture than previous cultures.[110] Artifacts typical of the Mississippian Period include shell-tempered ceramics, triangular and ovate arrow points and Scallorn projectile points. One site at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 23GR00636, has been categorized as a Mississippian site, and two other sites there contain late Woodland materials, 23GR00632 and 23GR00680, may also have been occupied in the Mississippian period. Within the battlefield, the Late Woodland to Mississippian transitional land use is represented at 23GR00636, which also produced a Reed projectile point/knife (500-1500 CE). Also dating from this period are Scallorn Corner Notched projectile points/knifes (700-1000 CE), which were recovered from site 23GR00245.

Potential for Additional Archeological Study of Precontact Resources
Additional investigation of precontact resources, along with information already gathered, can aid in the reconstruction of past environmental conditions in the area. Data sources include microscopic paleoenvironmental resources such as pollen, opal phytoliths, and starch grains. They may reveal changes in foodways and horticultural or agricultural activities as well as patterns of environmental change over time. Soil samples and flotation samples also comprise an important part of the archeological record. Some have been recovered, and others are expected.

The data can provide temporal placement of associated artifacts as well as information on environmental conditions, foodways, and horticultural/agricultural activities. Rock shelters, caves, and a natural trap sinkhole (23GR00640) may be excellent locations for paleo botanical material and climate reconstruction. Intact soil horizons should also be considered an important aspect of the landscape of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. They, too, provide additional evidence of natural and cultural changes over time.

[110] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-4.

Additional study could contribute to a better understanding of precontact conditions at Wilson's Creek and southwest Missouri in general. The settlement model of the Dalton complex in the Wilson's Creek drainage, for example, can contribute to important interpretations of this land use in southwestern Missouri. Assemblages from site 23GR00245, site 23GR00250, and rockshelter site 23GR00248 are expected to best address this topic. Refinement of chronology and comparison to regional stratified deposits might be possible.

Investigations show that the area has been used for long periods of time by many different cultures. Additional broad scale landscape study can highlight the value of even modest ephemeral sites to reflect long term patterns of use. As Kay and Herman noted in 2005, "As a first step, it did not matter if our material data were simple tools or waste by-products of tool manufacture or maintenance. The capability to precisely and accurately fix the locations of material remains on a landscape mattered most."[111]

Other questions that may be addressed pertaining to the precontact resources include:

- What made the area so attractive? What can the location of sites and faunal remains found at different time periods tell us about the natural resources and the sociology of the tribes that were living there?[112]
- Were any sites occupied continuously for long periods, or was the area more commonly used on a cyclical basis?
- Although most identified sites are close to water sources, there are notable exceptions. Why were some occupied sites located relatively far from regular water sources?
- Is there stronger evidence of Paleoindian culture in other parts of the park?
- How substantial was the Early Archaic land use?
- Which phase(s) are reflected by Late Archaic components?
- Are there Early Woodland and/or Middle Woodland components with associated toolkits, floral and faunal remains, and pottery?
- Was the Middle Woodland population in the area as substantial as at the John Paul Cave, which is in northern Christian County?
- Was there a substantial Late Woodland population?
- Are there more ceramics from that period? Do they have thinning walls and are they of sand, grit, grog, or limestone temper?
- Was the area largely vacant during the Mississippian period or did local residents continue the Late Woodland lifestyle?

[111] Kay and Herrmann, "Archaeological Predictive Modeling of Land Use at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, and Wilson's Creek Historic Battlefield, Missouri," 1.
[112] Notes from Amy Rubingh, Archeologist, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, November 2021.

Historic Archeological Resources: ca. 1836-1865 CE.

Historic resources were targeted during the earliest archeological investigations at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, which were conducted in the mid-1960s. Priority was given to areas within the park boundaries that were deemed to have potential to yield data on the battle, along with identification and study of buildings and structures that were known to have existed in 1861.[113] Historic site types documented within the district over the years include historic scatter, habitation (historic), timber, road, cemetery/mortuary, historic inscriptions, or rock art (23GR00241), road, military, commerce/industrial, and mining. Other historic resources located within the original park boundaries include stone walls, wells/cisterns, foundation remnants, and the Lyon Marker (Resource 1d, 23GR00242).

The first archeological investigation at the park was conducted in 1966 and 1967 by Robert T. Bray. Bray's work at Wilson's Creek centered around the study of important locations associated with the battle and identifying buildings and structures that existed at that time. Bray surveyed locations such as Bloody Hill, the Gibson House and Mill, the E. B. Short Farmstead, and the Edwards Cabin site.[114]

Investigations undertaken in the early 2000s greatly expanded understanding of the battle, yielding information about everything from the locations of campsites to the general progression of the battle over time. That work also provided what one report described as "a new and independent means of assessing and evaluating the disparate historical record of those events."[115] The authors made a good point that written accounts of the battle were inevitably colored by personal perceptions, as well as the fact that it was the first battle most of the participants had experienced, which meant they may not have had a clear concept of the bigger picture.

Most of the later archeological work relating to the battle was led by Douglass Scott, a longtime National Park Service Archeologist (now retired) who was nationally known for his role in the development of battlefield or conflict archeology. In 2015, that work earned him a lifetime achievement award in the field of historic archeology.[116] According to one recent description of his career, Scott developed his expertise in the field through extensive testing at Battle of the Little Bighorn (Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument). He later utilized the innovative

---

[113] Those studies targeted extant as well as missing aboveground resources. John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-124.
[114] Douglas Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene and Christian Counties, Missouri* (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 2000), 9.
[115] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler*, "The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 89.
[116] "Douglas D. Scott," *Historical Archeology*, 2015 49 (2): 1-9.

techniques developed at Little Bighorn at other battlefield sites in the National Park System, "including Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, where he was able to verify troop movements and the progression of the battle itself as it moved across the landscape."[117] Scott also aided in the study of precontact resources; the Kay and Herrmann modeling of land use patterns noted above was coordinated by Scott, and designed to complement his study of military artifacts from the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Where the precontact study was heavily dependent on shovel testing, Scott's team relied more on metal detecting as an inventory tool; both studies were organized with GIS technology.

The battlefield-focused archeology led by Scott at Wilson's Creek uncovered thousands of artifacts that relate directly to the battle, including bullets, shell and case shot fragments, buttons, and other personal items left by soldiers. The location of those items helped researchers determine things such as the location of artillery pieces, the movements of soldiers during the battle, and the types of rifles that were used.[118] Archeological evidence of the battle also includes items such as gun maintenance equipment and clothing.[119] Musical instruments and equipment used by surgeons were recovered during a metal detecting survey in 2005; [redacted] Interments were discovered throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. [redacted]

Previous archeological investigations have revealed and confirmed locations of and information about long-gone buildings known to have existed at the time of the battle. That includes the John and Martha Gibson House (23GR00251) the Gibson Mill (23GR0252), the Elias and Rebecca Short House (23GR00228), and the Joseph and Mary Sharp Farmstead (23CN0076). Archeological evidence of the Ray House includes brick, mortar, nails, and window glass.[121]

Investigations have also added to the identification and understanding of the Fayetteville (Wire) Road (Resource 7), which is considered an archeological site along its entire path through the

[117] Correspondence from Ron Cockrell, Regional Historian and Manager, Park History Program, National Park Service, Omaha, Nebraska, 2021.
[118] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler, *"The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 89-93.
[119] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler, *"The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 89.
[120] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler, *"The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 48.
[121] Susan M. Monk, *The Archeology of the Ray House* (Lincoln, NE: Midwest Archeological Center, 1983), 81.

park. Segments of the roadbed just outside the current boundaries (23GR02044 and 23GR02046) have also been studied.

Archeological investigations have also yielded extensive information about historic resources at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, ranging from Native American occupation in the late 1700s and early 1800s to the farmsteads that dotted the countryside at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Native American Tribes

By the end of the Mississippian period, ca. 1700, Europeans, particularly those from France and Spain, had established trading relationships with native peoples of southern Missouri. The "discovery" of the Missouri River by Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette in 1673 resulted in permanent French settlements near St. Louis, as well as extensive trading with the Missouri and the Osage Nations in southern Missouri.[122] The Missouri were in the area when Joliet and Marquette arrived, but had moved north to settle in what is now Nebraska by the 1760s.[123] The Osage remained in the state however, and were the dominant tribe in southern and western Missouri into the early 1800s.[124]

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase brought the land that would become Missouri under the control of the United States. In 1808, the Great and Little Osages signed a treaty with the U.S. government relinquishing their claim to much of southern Missouri, including this part of Greene County.[125] Following the end of the War of 1812, the Kickapoo and Delaware Tribes were relocated to southern Missouri after being forced to cede their ancestral lands in the northeast United States.[126] (See Figure 9. Native Land Sessions in Missouri.) The Kickapoo Tribe built a large village within the present-day boundaries of Springfield, Missouri shortly after arriving.[127] Around 1818, the Delaware Tribe was relocated to southwest Missouri near Springfield, on land that included Wilson's Creek; they established a large village at the junction of Wilson's Creek and the James River, just a few miles from the southern border of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.[128] The settlement was known as Anderson Village (after the chief of that group of

[122] Chapman, *Indians and Archeology of Missouri*, 101-102.
[123] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-5.
[124] Kristie C. Wolferman, *The Osage in Missouri* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1997),1-72.
[125] Wolferman, *The Osage in Missouri, 72.*
[126] Klapp, *The Ray House,* 2.
[127] R. I. Holcombe, ed., *History of Greene County, Missouri* (St. Louis, MO: Western Historical, 1883), 126.
[128] Nekole Alligood, "History of the Delaware Nation," Delaware Nation, accessed February 2021, https://www.delawarenation-nsn.gov/history/; John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-5.

Delaware), or simply Delaware Town. The Delaware site has been the subject of numerous investigations by the Center for Archeological Research (CAR) at Missouri State University in Springfield.[129]

By the time the Delaware and Kickapoo were moved to southwest Missouri, that land was also being settled by whites. The earliest known white settlers in Greene County arrived around 1818 from Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina.[130] The admission of Missouri into the Union in 1820 brought more white settlement and the tribes who were already on the land were forced to relocate once again. In 1829, the Delaware ceded land in southern Missouri to the U.S. government and were relocated to a reservation in present-day Oklahoma.[131] In 1832, the Kickapoo were also removed from their land in southwest Missouri and relocated to Oklahoma.[132]

Potential for Additional Archeological Study of Native American Resources
Additional study could contribute to a better understanding of life in the area prior to white settlement.

- Did the impact of Delaware Town extend as far as the land within the current park boundaries? If so, what impact did it have on the cultural landscape? Were residences scattered or clustered?
- What type of agriculture was being practiced during this period?
- How did patterns of land use by Native Americans compare with those documented in precontact periods?
- How did those patterns vary between tribes?
- What was the connection between roads later used by white settlers and trails established by Native Americans? How many early roads first served as American Indian trails?

Greene County: 1830-1861
Greene County was organized in the 1830s. Although Wilson's Creek National Battlefield now occupies part of both Greene and Christian Counties, that land was all in Greene County in the 1830s. Greene County was originally much larger than it is now, covering much of southwest

[129] "Delaware Town: Where the Wilson Meets the James," Center for Archeological Research (Springfield, MO: Missouri State University, 2005), accessed April 2021, https://delawaretown.missouristate.edu/delaware.html.
[130] Shanna Boyle and Julie March, eds., *at the Spring: A Pictorial History of Springfield, Missouri* (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 1997), 10.
[131] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report*, *Part II,* 24.
[132] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 3.

Missouri. Christian County did not exist until 1859, when it was formed from parts of Greene, Taney, and Ozark Counties.[133]

In 1829, John P. Campbell, formerly of Tennessee, claimed land by a spring in what is now the city of Springfield, Missouri, just eleven miles northeast of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.[134] Campbell and his family were joined by others, and by 1831, a store, school, and church had been built in the new settlement.[135] On January 2, 1833, Greene County was created by an act of the Missouri state legislature.[136] Springfield became the seat of Greene County in 1835, after Campbell donated fifty acres of land near the town square.[137]

Federal survey of public lands around Wilson's Creek began in 1835, three years after the last American Indian tribe was relocated. A team headed by A. Fithian Garrison oversaw the survey of Township 28 North, Range 23 West, in which almost all the current park is located. Only a small part of the southern edge extends into Township 27. (See Figure 10. Historic Period Plan, showing early residents.) The survey notes provide a detailed snapshot of the landscape of the 1830s, with descriptions of soil quality, topography, tree species and vegetative cover. Garrison described much of the ground along the creek as "thinly timbered" and generally "fit for cultivation," and noted that there was little undergrowth in stands of trees away from the bottomlands.[138]

Area Residents 1821 – 1861

By the time the area became a national park in 1960, very few of the houses and farmsteads that were in place during the Battle of Wilson's Creek were extant. The more notable occupants of the area at the time of the battle are described below. Archeological investigations played an important role in the identification of missing resources, and in the confirmation of dates for those buildings that were still standing. That in turn enhanced reconstruction of the landscape and understanding of the events of August 10, 1861. Many of the surviving resources are significant under Criterion D because they have clear potential to yield additional information in the future. (See Section 7 for additional descriptions and tables of contributing resources.) Those and others from this period are also significant under A for their ability to convey setting and association for the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

---

[133] "Christian County: Its First 100 Years," Rootsweb.com, accessed 2021.
[134] Holcombe, *History of Greene County, Missouri,* 722.
[135] Boyle and March, *Crossroads at the Spring*, 11.
[136] Holcombe, *History of Greene County, Missouri*, 156.
[137] Boyle and March, *Crossroads at the Spring,* 12.
[138] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 7-18.

Wilson's Creek is named for James Wilson, one of the earliest known settlers along the creek. It is not known if Wilson named the creek after himself, or if it was named for him by others. Wilson arrived around 1821 and later established a trading post and a small farm near the confluence of what is now Wilson's Creek and the James River (south of the park boundaries). The Delaware had control of the area at that time and Wilson and other early settlers traded with them until the tribe was relocated in 1829. Wilson had traveled to Missouri with the Delaware Tribe of Indians, and lived with them when he first arrived in the area.[139] He later married Elizabeth, a woman from St. Louis, who lived with him on the farm at the mouth of the creek.[140] An estate inventory created after his death in 1834 indicated that the Wilsons made a modest living growing crops such as wheat and corn, as well as raising pigs and cows.[141] Wilson's widow Elizabeth remained in the area after his death; she was half-owner of a trading post near her farm for a time and later married Dr. C. D. Terrell, the second county clerk of Greene County. It is likely that Terrell Creek, which is close to the south boundary of the National Battlefield, was named after Dr. Terrell.

Federal survey of public lands and the removal of the Delaware and Kickapoo, along with improvements to area roads, spurred new white settlement around Wilson's Creek in the 1840s and 50s. The fertile bottomlands adjacent to the creek were the first to be occupied, and some of those early settlers inhabited the land for years before making formal purchases from the Government Land Office.[142] By the mid-1800s, however, numerous settlers had purchased land in the area, including most of the families that were living there during the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

John Dixon

The first official purchase of federal land in the area land was made by John Dixon, who bought 40 acres in the southwest corner of Section 25, near the junction of Skegg's Branch and Wilson's Creek in 1839.[143] Dixon bought additional acreage in the area in 1851, just south of the present park boundaries, near the confluence of Terrell Creek and Wilson's Creek. (That land is within the Boundary Increase that is being prepared in tandem with this Additional Documentation. See the lower edge of the Figures 12 and 15.) He and his family still occupied that property at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The Dixon house and barnyard are no longer extant.

---

[139] Holcombe, *History of Greene County, Missouri,* 131.
[140] "Delaware Town: Where the Wilson Meets the James," Center for Archeological Research. Elizabeth Wilson's maiden name is not known.
[141] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-16.
[142] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-22.
[143] Greene County Land Sales Records, cited in John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-23.

William and Roxanna Steele

William and Roxanna Steele were married in Georgia in 1837, and they moved to Missouri around 1840. They purchased three different forty-acre parcels of land near Wilson's Creek in 1847 but may have lived there several years before the official land purchase was made. All three parcels were within the current boundaries of the National Battlefield.[144] The Steele's had four children between 1840 and 1849. William Steele did not live to see his youngest child born; he died in July 1848, leaving a pregnant wife and three small children.[145]

Probate records show that the Steele house was located on land just west of the present-day John and Roxanna Ray House (Resource 6). A stone springhouse now associated with the Ray House is part of the land owned by the Steeles at the time of his death. It is not known if the springhouse was constructed by the Steeles or the Rays. No other buildings remain on the land owned by William Steele at the time of his death. (Steele's land is shown in Figure 10.)

John and Roxanna Ray

The Ray House (Resource 6, photos 8-12) and Springhouse (Resource 6a, photo 14) are included in the 1976 National Register nomination as contributing buildings. They are significant under Criteria A and D. John Ray was a widowed native of Tennessee who moved to Missouri with his young daughter in the late 1840s. Like the Steeles, he appears to have lived in the area for several years before officially purchasing land. He likely met the Steeles soon after moving to the area and knew them well enough to be appointed administrator of Steele's estate in 1848. He married then-widowed Roxanna Steele in 1849 and likely moved into the former Steele house soon after.[146] By the time of 1850 census, the new Ray household included John Ray's daughter, Roxanna's four children, and their shared three-month-old daughter. The family also held two enslaved African Americans, a nineteen-year-old male named Wiley and a fourteen-year-old female named Rhoda.[147]

Rhoda and Wiley had been held by Roxanna Steele Ray for several years by the time of that census. They may have come with the Steeles when they emigrated from Georgia around 1840. They were definitely part of the household by 1848, when the county court ruled that they were to stay with Roxanna Steele after the death of her first husband, William Steele.[148] That same court later ruled that Rhoda and Wiley could both be hired out to others to provide added

---

[144] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 23; John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-23.
[145] Greene County Probate Records, cited in Bearss, *The Ray House*: *Historic Structures Report, Part II*, 26.
[146] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 5.
[147] 1850 census records, cited in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II*, 34.
[148] Greene County Probate Records, cited in Wescott, "The Ray Family," 3.

income for the widowed Steele. Rhoda and Wiley became a part of the Ray household after Roxanna's marriage to John Ray. In 1856, John Ray sold Wiley, who he claimed had "become difficult to manage as he has been usually hired out."[149]

Rhoda remained with the Ray family. The 1860 census shows that the Rays held five enslaved people at that time, Rhoda and her four children, all girls, aged eight, six, four and one.[150] It has been assumed that Wiley was the father of her three older children, since the Rays held no other men. She and her children were still living there in 1861 and were in the house with the Rays during the Battle of Wilson's Creek.[151] One of the few known photos of a member of the Ray household of the 1860s is of "Aunt Rhoda," as she came to be known. Rhoda and her children were freed by the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in late 1865. In 1868, she married John Jones and the couple moved to Springfield.[152] She died in Springfield in 1897.[153] (Figure 17. Photo of Rhoda Jones.)

Although John and Roxanna Ray were southern born and held slaves, they were likely pro-Union. John Ray became postmaster in 1856 and retained that position through the war, something that would not have happened had he been a Confederate sympathizer.[154]

The Ray House

In 1851, John Ray formally purchased the Steele farm from Steele's estate, plus an additional 120 acres just east of that land from the United States government.[155] The patent for Ray's new land was formally issued on October 1, 1852.[156] On that land, John and Roxanna Ray built a larger house for their growing family. That house survives today and is still known as the Ray House. (Resource 6.) The Rays' new house was located on the main road between Springfield and Fayetteville (Fayetteville Road, Resource 7), close to a spring that had served the Steele family in the 1840s. (See Figures 11 and 14.)

The new frame house was constructed close to the road, facing north-northwest with a view across the creek valley to the west. It is likely that the house was built soon after the land was

[149] Greene County Probate Records, cited in Wescott, "The Ray Family," 5.
[150] 1860 census cited in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 36.
[151] "Mrs. Ollie Bruton Recalls Wilson Creek Battle," *Springfield Press*, April 5, 1930, 18.
[152] "Rhoda Ray and John Jones, July 10, 1868," Greene County, MO Marriage Records, Ancestry.com, accessed September 2021, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/509438206:1171.
[153] "Rhoda Ray Jones (1839-1897)," *Find a Grave,* September 2021, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129567926/rhoda-jones.
[154] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 40.
[155] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 29 and 38.
[156] Greene County Deed Book 413, p. 176-177, cited in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 38.

patented; it was definitely there by January 1856, when John Ray became the first postmaster of the Wilson's Creek Post Office.[157] It is the only extant house within the National Battlefield boundaries that was standing at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek.[158]

The Ray House has an L-shaped plan, with two rooms facing northwest to the roadway and a long rear ell on the southeast wall. Each of the front rooms has a door that opens to a wide front porch. The easternmost front room, which includes a stone fireplace, was used for post office business. The rear ell contains a single long room partly divided by a large stone fireplace. The rear ell may have been constructed and occupied first, possibly using materials salvaged from the former Steele house nearby.[159]

Double Pen Houses

The house uses a well-known vernacular form referred to as a double-pen house. Double-pen houses feature two rooms of nearly identical proportions, placed side by side and covered with a side-facing gable roof. Rear ells are common, either as original features or subsequent additions. Each front room has a front door in the long side wall. The double pen house type was prevalent in the eastern United States and moved westward as new lands opened to settlement.[160] The Ray House has a frequently used variation of the double pen, with a chimney on one side wall; central chimneys were also common, in a variant known as a saddlebag house.[161] It is possible that the original Steele house was a saddlebag house, and that the Rays chose to duplicate that configuration for the rear ell of the new Ray House.

The Ray House is one of the oldest houses in the Greene County; it is believed to be one of only three houses in the Springfield area built before the Civil War.[162] It is similar to one of the better-known early houses in Springfield—the 1856 Gray-Campbell House—which was built ca. 1856 near Springfield. (Figure 18, Early photos of the Ray House and the Gray-Campbell House.) The Gray-Campbell House is also of frame construction, with a side-facing gable roof and two front doors, each of which opens to a square room. Like the Ray House, it had a two-room rear ell with an open side porch for much of its history.[163] The Gray-Campbell House was

[157] National Archives Record Group 28, Records of the Post Office Department, cited in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 39-40.
[158] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-27.
[159] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 6.
[160] Howard Marshall, *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie* (Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1981), 47-49.
[161] Henry Glassie, *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), 101-103.
[162] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Repor*t, 5-4.
[163] "Gray-Campbell House," *Ozarks Watch*, Vol IV, No. 2, Fall 1990, and "Gray/Campbell Farmstead," graycampbellfarmsted.org, accessed May 2021.

relocated to a Springfield city park in 1984 to make way for road construction. The restored house is now part of a complex of relocated historic buildings in Springfield's Nathaniel Greene Park.

The front porch of the Ray House offers a commanding view west across the valley of Wilson's Creek. John Ray watched much of the Battle of Wilson's Creek from that porch while the rest of the household took shelter in a small cellar beneath one room of the house. After the battle ended, the house and grounds were pressed into service as a Confederate hospital. Later that same day, the body of General Lyon—the first Union general killed during the Civil War—was brought to the house for safekeeping. His body was placed on a bed in the front room of the house until it could be safely transported to Springfield. The bed and the coverlet that the body was wrapped in remained in the Ray family until the 1960s, when they were acquired by the National Park Service. They are part of the permanent collection at the park today.

The Ray Springhouse

The Ray family got most of their water from a spring located just down the hill and west of their house, on land that was part of the Steele farmstead in the 1840s.[164] The spring is sheltered by a stone spring house that was built by William Steele or John Ray (Resource 6a).[165] It is an unusual building, with curved walls and a round barrel-vaulted roof constructed entirely of limestone. (See photo 14). Like most springhouses, it provided cool storage conditions and fresh water. Originally used to store dairy products, it later provided storage for fruits and vegetables as well. In the 1930s, it was enlarged to allow neighbors to store dairy products there due to increased dairy production in the area. The building later fell into ruin, consisting only of a foundation by 1976. It was carefully reconstructed to its original form under NPS ownership in 1986.[166]

Caleb and Rebecca Manley

The Manley House site (Resource 9a, 23GR00238) was included in the 1976 National Register nomination. Although Caleb and Rebecca Manley did not formally purchase land in the area from the federal government until 1865, they were living there by 1860, when they were recorded in the U.S. census as John and Roxanna Ray's nearest neighbors.[167] The Manley House was located approximately a mile south of the Ray House. (See Figures 11 and 14.) A map of the battlefield that was drawn in 1865 shows both the Ray and Manley houses, with a

[164] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 28 and Plate II.
[165] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 7.
[166] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 7; Busch, "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield."
[167] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 5-4; 1860 U.S. Census Records, Ancestry.com, accessed September 2021. Caleb Manley is sometimes referred to as C. B. or C. S. Manley on early maps of the battlefield.

trail or unimproved road linking the two farmsteads. (See Figure 19.)[168] The Manley House is no longer extant, but the ruins of the foundation are a recognized archeological site (GR2300238). The site was first investigated by archeologist Ralph Bray of the University of Missouri in 1975.[169]

The Manley House site is close to the Manley Cemetery (Resource 9, photo 21), which is extant and maintained by the National Park Service. The cemetery contains at least 57 grave markers. Eight of those are inscribed, including a large one for Caleb and Rebecca Manley. The oldest headstone in the cemetery today, Caleb Manley's, dates to 1872. There is also a branch of Wilson's Creek (Manley Branch, Resource 1.04) and a spring near the house site. The spring was later covered by a small impoundment.[170]

The Caleb and Rebecca Manley House is included in most maps of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. (See Figure 19.)[171] Confederate artillery batteries were located west and southwest of the house around the time of the battle, and there was a Confederate hospital on the grounds during and immediately after the battle.[172]

John and Martha Gibson

The Gibson property was included in the 1976 National Register nomination for the park as a site. John and Martha Gibson emigrated to the area from Tennessee in 1854. They purchased 200 acres a few miles north of the park and apparently lived there until 1859, when they bought a house (23GR00230 and 23GR00251) and a large grist mill (23GR00231, 23GR00232, 23GR00252, and 23GR00256) located on the east bank of Wilson's Creek. (See Figures 11 and 13.)[173] According to the 1860 census, John Gibson was a "carder"; other records show that he operated at least one carding mill during that time period.[174] The Boardman map of the battlefield depicts the Gibson House and Mill, plus an unidentified building next to the mill that may have supported the carding operation.[175] The agricultural census of 1860 shows that the

[168] William Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861" (St. Louis: U.S. Army, Headquarters, Department of the Missouri, 1865).
[169] Bray, *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources,* 1975, 39.
[170] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 68.
[171] Caleb Manley's middle initial is listed as B. or S. in maps and some written accounts. It is not clear which, if either, is correct; no middle initial is given in census records or his headstone.
[172] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 91; Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861."
[173] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-26.
[174] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-26. Carding mills processed raw wool into rolls for spinning or batts for quilting. They fell from use by the last half of the nineteenth century. "Carding Mill," Old Sturbridge Village, accessed April 2021, https://www.osv.org/building/carding-mill/.
[175] V. Boardman, "Map of the Battle of Wilson's Creek," June 12, 1885.

Gibsons also had a sizeable farm, with 400 acres (115 of which were improved), and several horses, milk cows, and hogs.[176]

None of the buildings on the Gibson property have survived. The mill burned to the ground before the end of the nineteenth century and all other buildings on the site were gone by the 1960s.[177] Archeological investigations that began in 1966 and continued through 1975 revealed the size and locations of the mill and house, as well as details of the mill dam and headrace.[178] The third building on the site was not mentioned in archeological reports. It is possible that it was more of an open shed than a substantial building and therefore left few traces below ground.

The Gibson property was between Bloody Hill and the north end of John Ray's large cornfield. The Gibson property and Ray's cornfield were the site of fierce fighting during the battle. The night before the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri State Guard troops camped along the east bank of the creek just south of the grist mill.[179] During the battle, Union forces under Captain Plummer crossed the creek north of the mill and moved south through the cornfield in an attempt to secure the Union's left flank, an effort that was ultimately unsuccessful.[180]

Elias and Rebecca Short

The Short Farmstead was included in the 1976 National Register nomination as a site. Like the Gibsons, Elias and Rebecca Short were from Tennessee. They moved to Missouri around 1848 and purchased 200 acres just west of the battlefield. In 1852, they purchased another 200 acres in the northwest corner of the current park and were living there by the time of the battle. (See Figures 11 and 12.) Their choice of homesite was likely influenced by an abundant water supply; that 200-acre parcel includes what is now known as Short's Branch as well as a strong spring and the Short Springbox, Resource 2b).[181] By 1860, they had improved fifty of the 230 acres they owned and kept a good assortment of livestock.[182]

By the time the property was purchased by the National Park Service, the buildings of the farmstead were gone, and the exact location was unknown. Extensive archeological investigations in 1967 identified the site and determined that it included a house, a barn, and a

[176] 1860 Agricultural Census, transcribed in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 115.
[177] Bray, *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources,* 1975*,* 43.
[178] Bray, *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archeological Resources,* 1975.
[179] Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek."
[180] Jeffrey L. Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek: The Fight for Missouri Begins* (Abilene, TX: State House Press, 2018), 149-154.
[181] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-26.
[182] 1860 Agricultural Census, transcribed in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 115.

root cellar (23GR00228 and 23GR00249), with a stone springbox nearby. Portions of the springbox are still in place. An interview with the widow of the Shorts' grandson confirmed the location and revealed that the Short house was standing as late as 1910.[183] [redacted] The Short farm is a significant landscape component; it was the path of Lyon's entry into the field, and therefore important in the context of the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Josiah and Susannah Edgar

The Edgar Cemetery (Resource 4, photo 6) was included in the 1976 National Register nomination. (See Figures 11 and 13.) Josiah (J.J.) and Susannah Edgar first purchased property north of the battlefield in the early 1850s. Between 1853 and 1857, they bought as much as 120 acres in Section 24, within the current park boundaries, where they made their home. Josiah Edgar died in 1857 at the age of sixty-seven and became the first burial in what developed into a family cemetery near their house. His forty-five-year-old widow Susannah took over running the farm after his death; she is listed in the 1860 census as a farmer and was still living there at the time of the battle.[184] The Edgar house is no longer standing, but the family cemetery has survived and is maintained by the National Park Service. Archeological remains of the Edgar house have yet to be discovered.

Joseph and Mary Sharp

The Sharp property was included in the 1976 National Register nomination as a site. Joseph D. and Mary Sharp purchased eighty acres of land on the west side of Wilson's Creek just south of the Fayetteville Road in 1843.[185] They appear to have constructed a house on that parcel soon after, and they continued to buy land in the area. By 1860 they owned 400 acres adjacent to the original purchase, as well as more than 1,000 acres in Christian County.[186] (See Figures 10, 11, and 15.) Those holdings were improved with the labor of enslaved people; the 1850 census shows that they held a thirty-year-old woman, a thirty-three-year-old man, a thirteen-year-old girl and a ten-year-old boy.[187] Their names were not included in that record, and it is not known if they were a single family.

The Sharp farm was in a critical location on the battlefield, and it is included in period maps of the battle as well as written descriptions.[188] (See photo 31.) The farmstead (23CNGR00228)

[183] Bray, *An Archeological Survey and Excavations*, 1967, 138-139.
[184] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-30.
[185] Greene County deed records, cited in John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-29.
[186] 1860 Agricultural Census transcribed in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 115-116: John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-29.
[187] 1850 census cited in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 114.
[188] Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek"; Boardman, "Map of the Battle of Wilson's Creek."

was close to the Fayetteville (Wire) Road, with an orchard nearby and two large, fenced fields farther south, along the west bank of Wilson's Creek. (See Figure 15. Sigel's Second Position, the fenced fields are Resource 11.) The farmstead included the house and at least one other building large enough to be mapped. The second building is labeled as a "rebel hospital" on a battle map made in 1865.[189] (See Figure 19.) One description of the battle included a note that the farmstead had "a pretty substantial farmhouse with extensive barns and outhouses."[190] Other soldiers that were there during the battle noted large numbers of horses and cattle animals and made note of a slaughtering business.[191]

It is not clear if Joseph Sharp stayed at the farm during the battle, but his wife and children spent it hiding in the basement of the farmhouse, which was heavily damaged. The Sharp's were among the few Southern sympathizers in the Wilson Creek area. They moved to Howell County soon after the battle. The Sharp house was burned to the ground not long after, reportedly by Union sympathizers.

Archeological investigations have failed to identify the exact location of the Sharp farmstead. The property later contained a late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century house, which muddled the archeological record. Recommendations for further archeological study that were made in 2000 and 2004 both noted a need for more information about the house and associated outbuildings. Information about the outbuildings, for example, could shed more light on the enslaved people who lived on the farm, including where they lived, as well as the functions of the "rebel hospital" building.

More is known about the general configuration of the Sharp agricultural fields (Sigel's Second Position, Resource 11) which are currently delineated by rail fences that were installed in the early twenty-first century to replicate those in place during the battle. Descriptions of the battle mention fences including one written by Sigel, who recalled that his troops moved along a road on the west side of the field, which had "a fence running nearly parallel with the open fields."[192]

Winn (Guinn) House

The Winn house site (23GR00235 and 23GR00253) was included in the 1976 National Register nomination as the Guinn house site, with a note that the location was "only generally known." Several battlefield maps show a house and orchard located [redacted] The house yard and orchard were fenced

[189] Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek."
[190] Wiliam Watson, *Life in the Confederate Army* (New York: Scribner and Welford, 1888), 222.
[191] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-29.
[192] Franz Sigel, "The Flanking Column at Wilson's Creek," *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* (New York, 1886).

separately.[193] (Figure 19, Hoelcke Map of the Battlefield.) The property is marked as Gwinn's House or the John Guinn House on some early maps, but it is not clear who was living there in 1860.[194] The 1860 census includes an entry for L. D. Winn, who was listed just two pages from John Ray's family. Winn family history holds that they occupied that house at one point.[195] Winn had a thirteen-year-old son named John in 1860; John Winn may have remained in the area after the war and came to be associated with the house in later years. For reasons unknown, the Winn or Gwinn family abandoned the house before the battle. Confederate General Benjamin McCulloch took possession of it to serve as his headquarters and located the Pulaski Battery nearby.

The Winn House was among the first sites targeted for archeological study under National Park Service ownership. Archeologist Ralph Bray identified numerous artifacts and a likely location for the house in 1966, but he too was unable to confirm the names of the early occupants. The site was reexamined in 1975; no new information was recovered.

Edwards Cabin

The Edwards Cabin site (23GR00237) was included in the 1976 National Register nomination, with a note about plans to move another 1850s log house to the site in the future. William B. Edwards moved to Greene County in the 1840s and in 1860 he bought land in the SW ¼ of Section 25, within the current boundaries of the National Battlefield, and built a small cabin there soon after.[196] He did not live on that property, however. A biography of William Edwards that was written in 1876 noted that he and his family lived a mile and a half from the Battle of Wilson's Creek and did not move to the farm in Section 25 until 1867.[197] The same biography noted that Edwards was in the stock business. It is likely that the cabin by Wilson's Creek was associated with that operation during the battle.

When Confederate forces moved into the creek valley in August 1861, General Sterling Price is said to have commandeered the Edwards property to serve as his headquarters. Descriptions written after the battle refer to Price's headquarters as "a sort of cow-yard by a little farmhouse down in the valley."[198]

---

[193] Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek"; Boardman, "Map of the Battle of Wilson's Creek."
[194] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-31.
[195] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-31.
[196] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-28, Government Land Office records, Ancestry.com, accessed September 2021.
[197] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-28.
[198] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 65.

The Edwards Cabin was gone by the time the property was acquired by the National Park Service in the 1960s. Efforts to find the exact location of the cabin via archeological investigations in 1967 were inconclusive. In 1986, another 1850s cabin that had been donated to the park was moved to the former Edwards property to serve as an interpretive exhibit.[199] (See photos 20 and 24.) Although it is believed to be comparable to the original Edwards cabin, it is counted as a noncontributing building because it was moved to the site and extensively reconstructed after the period of significance. (Resources 14 and 130, Edwards Cabin Site and Edwards Cabin /Price's Headquarters Exhibit.)

Potential for Additional Archeological Study of Historic Resources

Additional study of below-ground historic resources will enhance the understanding of the Civil War-era cultural landscape around Wilson's Creek. Questions remain about the exact locations and configuration of houses and farmsteads that were in place at the time of the battle. Sites where building locations have not been conclusively identified include the Edwards Cabin Site (Resource 14) and the Sharp farm (Resource 10).

Field methods have included metal detecting and shovel testing in areas that saw the most activity during the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Although those methods are often used for battlefield archaeology, they can miss burials and other resources important to expanding knowledge of the battle and local land use. Due to heavy vegetation and technological limitations of mid-twentieth-century metal detectors, the success rates of some early studies were lower than expected. One 2008 summary of archeological work at the park noted the difficulties of previous metal detecting work and suggested additional areas that should be investigated. Those areas include Sharp's Field south of Skegg's Branch, areas north of Bloody Hill, the north slope of Bloody Hill, and a ravine near Ray's Cornfield.[200]

Future archeological investigations could expand upon the understanding of the Battle of Wilson's Creek as well as the cultural landscape in which it took place.

- Can additional study shed more light on the lives of everyday soldiers who fought at Wilson's Creek?
- Are there new technologies that can be used to build upon the battlefield archeology conducted in the early twenty-first century?
- Is there any surviving evidence of the telegraph system that lined the Wire Road during the Civil War? How did that system compare to others in use at the time?
- Is there evidence of Butterfield era use along the path of the Wire Road?

---

[199] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-120.
[200] Scott, Roerker, and Carlson-Drexler*, "The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific,"* 93-94.

Investigations have revealed information about many of the buildings and structures that were standing at the time of the battle, but others have yet to be identified. Farmstead archeology can reveal variation in landscape, households, socioeconomic status, and access to markets. Cultural variability among neighbors might also be illuminated. Variation in the adoption of mechanization of agricultural practices may also be documented by the resources.

- The exact location of the Joseph and Mary Sharp Farm, for example, has yet to be determined. That farm played a critical role in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Where was the Sharp House and how large was it?
- What can we learn about the Confederate hospital that was on the Sharp Farm during the battle?
- What about other hospitals on the battlefield?
- What did the typical farmstead in the area look like in 1861? What types of outbuildings were common?
- What kind of structures were found in the area in 1861? For example, early stone fences have been identified in a few places; are there or were there others?

There is also good potential to learn about the lives of Black residents and other farm workers of the 1850s and early 1860s. At least three local landowners held African Americans in 1850. John Ray, Joseph Sharp, and John Dixon each held between two and six people in 1850 and it is likely that other farms included enslaved people by the time of the battle.[201]

- Where did the enslaved persons live? In the main house or in separate quarters?
- What did any separate quarters look like?
- How did enslaved people interact with the property owners? Was the relationship of the Ray family and Rhoda Jones typical?
- What other workers were needed to operate the average farm in the area?

Conclusion: Archeology

Archeological resources have enriched understanding and interpretation at the park, and there is strong potential for future discoveries. The first studies at the park occurred just a few years after President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation authorizing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park in 1960 and they have continued through 2021. As noted in the 2004 Cultural Landscape Report, archeological investigations at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield can be categorized in two ways: "preliminary identification and interpretation of park resources" and "park development mitigation and stabilization and restoration efforts."[202]

[201] 1850 U.S. Census, cited in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 114.
[202] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 3-102.

The first archeological studies at the park began in 1966 and that work continued until approximately 1975. The earliest studies concentrated on identifying resources in place during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, to expand the historic record, and enhance development of the park. The second phase, which has yielded more information about precontact resources, took place mostly between 1978 and 1986. Information about precontact activity was gained during the early studies as well as later investigations.

An overview of archeological studies conducted at the battlefield up to 2004 concluded "it is reasonable to predict" that additional precontact and historic resources "will be found in *all* areas" of the park.[203] That study also noted that precontact sites were most likely to be located near or adjacent to springs and natural water sources, while historic resources would be in those areas and along transportation corridors such as the Wire Road. Additional study may also uncover sites in higher areas of the park that provide better views of the surrounding countryside.

Although relic collectors in the area have been a nearly constant presence, the archeological record at the National Battlefield is far from exhausted. Numerous areas in the park have yet to be extensively surveyed, including many that are difficult to reach or have not seen significant park development.[204] The wealth of historic and precontact resources found to date indicates a high potential for additional data.

Criterion A, Military: The Battle of Wilson's Creek

Period of Significance: 1861

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A, in the area of Military, as the site of the first battle of the Civil War that took place west of the Mississippi River. The battle, which was also the second major battle of the Civil War, helped secure Union control of the state of Missouri for the duration of the war. The Military period of significance is 1861, the year in which the Battle of Wilson's Creek took place. This additional documentation expands upon the historical context included in the 1976 nomination form. The added information incorporates more recent scholarship and clarifies how the current landscape of the park continues to reflect the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Lead up to the Civil War

The forces which would erupt in America's Civil War, the country's bloodiest and most violent catastrophe, started building early in the nineteenth century. As the country went through a period of rapid expansion, the North became more urban, more mechanized, and better

[203] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-125.

connected through transportation. The South saw a dramatic rise in cotton production and sales around the world. The yield of raw cotton doubled every decade since 1800, until American Southern cotton represented three-quarters of the world's supply and the southern states comprised three-fifths of all American exports.[205] Slavery, that "peculiar institution," which had long been outlawed in Great Britain and other nations, was the bedrock foundation of the Southern economy.

By the 1850s, the social and economic differences between the two regions were dramatic. Northern states were moving toward an industrial base, immigrants were arriving by the thousands, vast areas were being opened in the West, systems of transportation and finance were mushrooming, and new industries were demanding protection from cheap European imports. In short, northern states were beginning to clamor for aid and protection from the federal government in Washington. By contrast, the South was more static, with little immigration, fewer cities, and a cotton empire dependent on international sales. Southerners sought as many cheap European imports as they could get and wanted the government to keep its hands off as many things as possible.[206]

Although the growing differences between north and south sections of the country were an impediment to harmony, it is probable that most, if not all of those conflicts could have been resolved through the democratic process. But slavery was the issue that could not be compromised. It brought out vigorous and violent emotions on both sides and put a cutting edge on all arguments. It was the one cause without which the war would not have taken place.

Missouri's application for statehood in the late 1810s put the territory squarely in the center of the controversy. With the growing debate over slavery, legislators on both sides of the issue wanted to ensure an even number of free and slave states to maintain equilibrium in the U.S. Senate. Admitting Missouri as a slave state would upset that balance. An impasse was avoided with the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Missouri was admitted as a slave state, Maine joined as a free state, and slavery was banned in all states north of a line that ran along the south border of Missouri.[207]

---

[204] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 3-124.
[205] James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), 39.
[206] Bruce Catton and James McPherson, eds., *The American Heritage New History of the Civil War* (New York: Viking Penguin Books, 1996), 6.
[207] "Primary Documents in American History: Missouri Compromise—March 6,1820," Library of Congress, Web Guides, accessed June 2, 2020, https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&fileName=038/llsp038.db&recNum=668.

As more states began to be organized west of Missouri, however, the question of slavery again became an issue. Following several unsuccessful attempts to resolve conflicts over slavery in the western states, the Compromise of 1850 admitted California to the union as a free state, and Utah and New Mexico were allowed to decide whether to be admitted as free or slave states. The Compromise of 1850 helped maintain the peace between pro- and anti-slavery factions for only a few years. In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act again threatened the balance of slave and free states in Congress. That act allowed residents of the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, which were in free territory according to the Missouri Compromise, to vote on the issue of slavery upon admittance to the Union.[208] Since Nebraska was a solidly free territory, Kansas became the center of a series of violent conflicts on both sides of the Kansas-Missouri border, in an era that came to be known as 'Bleeding Kansas.'

Kansas finally entered the Union as a free state in January 1861, but that did little to address a growing national crisis. Southern states began to talk of seceding from the Union. The presidential election of 1860 became a national referendum on slavery and other differences between north and south. The Republican party, which was strong in northern states, nominated Abraham Lincoln, while Southern Democrats splintered, offering four different candidates. The election of Lincoln, a Republican who was moderate on the issue of slavery, enraged Southern legislatures. (Lincoln did not gain a single electoral vote in the fifteen slave states voting in that election.)[209]

Secession and the Onset of War

As soon as news of the election flashed over the telegraph, South Carolina's legislature called a convention. On December 20, 1860, they voted unanimously to secede from the Union. The other six lower Southern states followed suit soon after. Representatives from Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas met and in February of 1861, they adopted a provisional constitution for the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president. The Confederacy vowed to acquire federal forts within the seceded states as soon as possible, convinced that it could not be considered a viable nation if a foreign power (the United States of America) held a fort in one of its principal harbors.

On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops opened fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, and the Civil War began. The eruption of America's deadliest war, which would cause 1,100,000 casualties and 620,000 deaths, unite a divided north, and immediately attracted Virginia, North

---

[208] Robert Hine and John Mack Faragher, *The American West: A New Interpretive History* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000), 220.
[209] Catton and McPherson, *New History of the Civil War*, 30; James M. McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire*: *The Civil War and Reconstruction* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982),119-122.

Carolina, and Arkansas to the Confederacy.[210] Armed clashes between the two sides continued. Most were relatively small in scale until July 21, 1861, when some 60,000 troops (28,450 Union and 32,230 Confederate) met in the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in Virginia, the first major battle of the Civil War.[211] That fight, which resulted in nearly 5,000 casualties, ended with a Confederate victory, and as one description noted, "forced both the North and the South to face the sobering reality that the war would be long and bloody."[212]

Trans-Mississippi West

Only two days after the humiliation of Bull Run, Lincoln outlined a strategy which included an effective blockade, holding Maryland, reinforcing Union troops in Virginia, and a directive that Union armies in the western theaters were to take the offensive with "special attention to Missouri."[213] The Trans-Mississippi West, which consisted of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), was considered to be crucial to the war effort. Lincoln realized that control of Missouri, which accessed the vital Mississippi-Missouri river network, would be crucial.

Due to the conflicts associated with the fight for Kansas statehood, western Missouri border counties had been plagued by strife and guerrilla warfare between slavery and anti-slavery factions long before the war broke out. In 1860, voters elected Democrat Claiborne Jackson, a longtime advocate for the expansion of slavery. Shortly after his inauguration in January 1861, Jackson called for a state convention to determine Missouri's position in the national crisis. Jackson assumed that the convention delegates would vote for secession, and he began planning for Missouri to join the Confederacy. Counter to Jackson's expectations, however, the pro-Confederate delegates had not been elected in high enough numbers to influence the convention's outcome and, in March 1861, the delegates voted unanimously to stay in the Union. [214]

Despite the convention's determination, Jackson continued to work against the Union cause. When Lincoln asked Jackson to send four regiments of the Missouri militia to fight the

[210] McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire,* 140-150.
[211] That battle is known by two names: "First Manassas" and "First Bull Run." Manassas is the name the North gave it, after the fields in which it was fought, while the South called it Bull Run, after the closest town. The Second Battle of Manassas took place in August 1862. Manassas National Battlefield Park commemorates both battles. "Manassas," National Park Service, accessed September 2021, https://www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm; "Bull Run: First Manassas," American Battlefield Trust, accessed May 2021, https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/bull-run.
[212] American Battlefield Trust, "Bull Run: First Manassas."
[213] McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom,* 350.
[214] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 27; Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's* Creek, 20.

Confederates after the Union defeat at Bull Run, Jackson rebuked Lincoln, calling the request "illegal, unconstitutional and revolutionary, and in its object inhuman and diabolical, and cannot be complied with."[215] On April 20, 1861, furthermore, only three days after Jackson's refusal to assist the Union, pro-Southern partisans seized the Missouri Depot, a Federal arsenal in Liberty, Missouri.

The only other Federal arsenal in Missouri was in St. Louis, and, even before the Missouri Depot takeover, it was a central concern of both the pro-Union and pro-Confederate factions. With the growing Confederate sentiments in the state, the Federal government sent reinforcements to bolster the arsenal's defense in early February 1861. Nathaniel Lyon, then a captain in the U.S. Infantry, was transferred to St. Louis and tasked with protecting the arsenal, along with the close help of Colonel and U.S. Congressman Frank P. Blair.

Lyon was a West Point Graduate who had also served in the Mexican-American War, rising to the rank of Brevet Captain during that conflict. He was transferred to Kansas in 1854 where he was charged with tamping down conflict between pro-slavery and Free State factions until his transfer to St. Louis in 1861. His experiences in the Mexican-American War as well as in the earlier Seminole War provided him with valuable practical experience as a military commander. That expertise appears to have been tempered by an aggressive personality and a strong sense of duty that bordered on obsessive. One description noted that "complete destruction of the enemy seemed to be Lyon's only definition of victory, a fact that had significant consequences for Missouri in 1861."[216]

The "Camp Jackson Massacre" and the Creation of the Missouri State Guard

Jackson had set his sights on seizing the St. Louis Arsenal with artillery he requested from the Confederate provisional president Davis. Jackson and Brigadier General Marsh Frost summoned the militia in early Mary 1861 for a week of "training."[217] Frost planned to set up camp near the arsenal—which was technically a legal gathering despite the majority of pro-secession militiamen. Lyon, however, had already stationed his men there, leading Frost to decide to have his approximately 900 troops camp at the western edge of the city, which became known as "Camp Jackson." [218]

---

[215] McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire,* 153-155; Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek*, 24.
[216] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 29.
[217] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's* Creek, 27.
[218] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's* Creek, 28; Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 30.

Throughout the next week of the militia's training, Lyon, increasingly convinced that the militia posed a significant threat to the arsenal, marched his soldiers to Camp Jackson on May 10, 1861 to confront the militia.[219] Lyon demanded that Frost surrender or the Union soldiers would open fire.[220] Frost questioned the authority of Lyon's command, deemed it illegal, but nonetheless surrendered since he was not prepared to defend the camp. Lyon, without a prison camp, marched the captured militiamen back toward the Union encampment where they were to swear allegiance to the United States before their release.[221]

According to one account, Lyon made a "tragic mistake" by marching through the streets of St. Louis because an angry crowd of civilians formed around the unarmed prisoners and Union soldiers.[222] Confusion turned to chaos when outraged remarks and ethnic slurs that were being hurled at the Union forces turned into rocks and gun shots. According to Piston and Hatcher, the crowd fired shots first at Lyon's men and Lyon's men fired back into the crowd. Before Lyon regained control, seventy-five civilians were wounded and about twenty-eight killed along with two of Lyon's men and three militiamen.[223]

The events of May 10, 1861 became known as the "Camp Jackson Massacre" by the pro-Confederate faction. News of the slain civilians reached Jefferson City and the state legislature "took radical action, just short of taking the state out of the Union" by, among other resolutions, creating the Missouri State Guard.[224] The State Guard recruits were "to swear allegiance to Missouri alone, support the state constitution, and obey the orders of the governor."[225] The creation of the Missouri State Guard not only bolstered Jackson's influence, but it also formed "a major portion of the Southern forces that would fight at Wilson's Creek."[226]

The May 10 incident in St. Louis also prompted the Union side to make a significant change. When Lyon's superior, Brigadier General and Commander of the Department of the West William S. Harney, returned from Washington D.C., he was shocked by Lyon's actions and made an agreement with Price to prevent more conflicts in the state. Blair, however, convinced Lincoln that the situation in Missouri called for a forceful response, not a negotiated truce. Lincoln then relieved Harney of his command, and Lyon, who had recently been promoted to

---

[219] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's* Creek, 29.
[220] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 36.
[221] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 36; Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's* Creek, 32.
[222] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 36.
[223] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 36.
[224] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 37.
[225] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek*, 42.
[226] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 37.

brigadier general, was given sole control of the Federal forces in Missouri on May 30, 1861.[227] Thus, the stage was set for dramatic later moves by Lyon's Second U.S. Infantry and Price's Missouri State Guard.

Events Leading to the Battle of Wilson's Creek

Jackson put the Missouri State Guard under the control of Sterling Price, a former governor of the state and a hero of the Mexican-American War. Born in Virginia, Price moved to Missouri as a youth and by the 1840s was farming tobacco there with slave labor. He also served in state and federal legislatures before resigning from office to fight in the Mexican-American war. He became a Brigadier General of Volunteers in 1847 and was successful enough in Mexico to be considered a war hero when he returned to Missouri around 1848.[228] Price resumed his political career in Missouri and served as governor from 1852 to 1856. He had opposed secession at the 1861 convention, which he chaired, but volunteered to help Jackson as a service to the state. He and Jackson worked together to expand and train the now pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard.

Less than two weeks later Lyon took over the command of Union forces in Missouri, he and Blair met at the Planter's House Hotel in St. Louis with Jackson and Price.[229] Jackson and Price had invited Lyon to meet with them after Lyon's predecessor, Harney, was relieved of his command for making an agreement with Jackson that Union forces would not move beyond St. Louis if Jackson kept things orderly in the rest of state. Harney also agreed that if he did enter, it would be with the cooperation of Price's Guardsmen. Lyon had no intention of making any similar agreement with Jackson and a secessionist government, and after four hours of discussion, it became clear that no agreement was to be reached. Lyon stood and said, "This means war. In one hour one of my officers will call for you and conduct you out of my lines."[230]

By mid-June Union troops had entered Missouri, and Lyon moved quickly to secure the rivers and rail lines in the state.[231] He routed Jackson and his pro-secession state leaders out of Boonville, where they had fled after abandoning the capitol in Jefferson City and orchestrated their replacement with Union backers. He had secured Missouri for the Union. He had one more task on his agenda: to "deal summarily" with Governor Jackson's Missouri State Guard.[232]

---

[227] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 40.
[228] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 48.
[229] Parrish, *History of the State of Missouri, Vol III*, 22.
[230] McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire,* 155.
[231] Earl J. Hess et al., *Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge & Prairie Grove: A Battlefield Guide with a Section on Wire Road* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2006), 4.
[232] Christopher Phillips, *The Battle of Wilson's Creek* (Fort Washington, PA: Eastern National, 2008), 21-23.

Lyon was aided in that task by Colonel Franz Sigel, a German immigrant who had graduated from a German military academy and enjoyed military successes in his home country before coming to the United States. He likely chose to settle in St. Louis due to the large number of German immigrants already living there; half the population of St. Louis was foreign-born in 1860.[233] Sigel soon became a leader of the staunchly pro-Union German American community of that city. He was active in the Turnverein, a German lodge that had their own rifle company. Sigel lectured them on military tactics and even convinced them to follow the 1860 drill manual of the U.S. Army. When Lyon began recruiting volunteers for the Union Army, three hundred members of the Turnverein that had been trained by Sigel enlisted. Sigel was put in charge of the Third Regiment of Missouri Volunteer Infantry, which included those German volunteers.[234]

Sigel and Lyon led several minor engagements against Jackson's Home Guard in southwest Missouri, where they used Springfield as a base of operations. On August 1, Lyon's troops camped at Wilson's Creek on their way to skirmishes with Confederate troops, after which they returned to Springfield. Lyon was ready to hunt down the State Guard but was short on supplies and needed more men. Major General John C. Fremont, the commander of the Department of the West, thought Lyon had enough troops, and suggested Lyon withdraw to Rolla and wait to be called for action. Lyon refused. He wanted to reach the Guard troops before the Confederacy had a chance to send reinforcements. But that help had already arrived.

The Southern force in Missouri at the time consisted of the Missouri State Guard under Major General Sterling Price, state troops from Arkansas led by Brigadier General N. B. Pearce, and at the core, a brigade of Confederate troops led by Brigadier General Ben McCulloch.[235]

General McCulloch was a native of Tennessee who was an early acquaintance of Congressman Davy Crockett. He followed Crockett to Texas and later served in the Texas Rangers. When Texas became a state in 1845, he became a major and served with distinction in the Mexican-American War. Strongly pro-slavery, he became a supporter of secession and was happy to see Texas leave the Union in 1861. He was commissioned as a brigadier general in the Confederate Army soon after, with command of the Indian Territory.[236] At General Price's urging McCulloch led a large force of Confederate troops into southwest Missouri in early July to support Jackson's Missouri State Guard.

---

[233] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 25.
[234] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 24-31.
[235] Bruce Catton, *Terrible Swift Sword: The Centennial History of the Civil War, Volume Two* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday,1963), 16.
[236] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 19-20.

On August 4, after a period of internal conflicts among the Confederate leadership, McCulloch was appointed "supreme commander" of the coalition forces.[237] He immediately ordered an overnight march north on the Fayetteville-Springfield Road to engage with Lyon's Federal troops. The Fayetteville Road, as it was known locally, was one of the oldest public roads in the region. Early in the war, telegraph wires were strung alongside the road, and it became known as the Wire Road.[238] (See the following section for more information about the Wire Road.)

The men were instructed to bring full canteens and one day's rations and to be as quiet as possible on the march. By the time they entered Missouri, Lyon had fallen back to Springfield, and they were ordered to continue marching north the next day, which proved to be blisteringly hot. After suffering through a day's march with little water, the troops camped at Moody's Springs, a short distance from the current south border of the park. (Moody's Springs is located in one of the sites documented in the boundary increase that is being prepared in tandem with this additional documentation.)

The next day, McCulloch moved his troops less than a mile to the banks of Wilson's Creek, which was described in one historical account as "tailor made for his army, possessing abundant water, crops, grass, and firewood and astride the Wire Road (Resource 7), the major highway to Springfield. McCulloch deployed his men for two miles along the creek."[239] His troops became part of a larger force that camped on both sides of Wilson's Creek in the valley that now forms the core of the National Battlefield. General Price's headquarters were located near the center of the camp in or near the William Edwards Cabin, which sat close to the Wire Road on the west side of the creek.

It was a massive encampment, with more than 10,000 troops in all.[240] Union soldier Eugene F. Ware later described his first view of the Southern camp: "a broad meadow before us, in which about five acres of Confederate wagons were parked, axle to axle."[241] The camp's location on the Wire Road meant that those 10,000 Confederate troops were less than a day's march from Springfield, which was an increasingly vulnerable Union stronghold.

---

[237] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 117.
[238] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-26.
[239] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 110.
[240] Edwin C. Bearss, *The Battle of Wilson's Creek* (Cassville, MO: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, 1992), 136.
[241] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 46.

Lyon by contrast, had command of approximately 5,500 troops.[242] Facing the fact that he would be outnumbered, Lyon decided to throw all his forces on the Confederacy's soldiers camped south of Springfield. Sigel suggested instead that Sigel move the men under his command around the Southern forces and attack them from behind while Lyon was attacking them head-on. The Federal forces would have the advantage of surprise, although the Southerners outnumbered them two-to-one.[243]

As a result of that decision, the second major battle of the Civil War was fought at Wilson's Creek. It was the first battle west of the Mississippi River, and it jolted Americans into the realization that Missouri could become part of the Confederacy.[244] It was a costly war for both sides. The combined casualty rate of 16 percent killed, or wounded was one of the highest in the entire Civil War. Among those killed in the battle was General Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in the Civil War.

The Battle

On August 9, a determined General Lyon decided to move out of Springfield and prepared to surprise the Southerners at dawn the following day. He had accepted Sigel's suggestion, trusting the latter's prestigious education in German military schools and combat experience in the German Revolution of 1848. Dividing their small forces was a daring plan.[245] The forces that marched west from Springfield under Lyon that evening consisted of two brigades, the First and Third (the Second Brigade was under the command of Sigel): the First Brigade, commanded by Major Samuel Sturgis, included a battalion under Captain Joseph Plummer, a West Point classmate of Lyon's, a battalion from the Second Missouri Infantry under Major Peter J. Osterhaus, Captain James Totten's Company F of the Second U.S. Artillery, a mounted company of the second Kansas Infantry under Captain Samuel N. Wood, and Lieutenant Charles W. Canfield's Company D of the first U.S. Cavalry.[246]

The Third Brigade (next in Lyon's column) consisted of the First Missouri Infantry, a battalion of Regulars under Captain Frederick Steele, and Lieutenant DuBois' battery. The final brigade in Lyon's column consisted of volunteers from the infantry regiments of the First and Second Kansas and First Iowa, as well as some mounted Home Guards, all under Colonel George W.

---

[242] Bearss, *Battle of Wilson's Creek*, 136.
[243] Hess et. al, *Wilson's Creek,* 4-6; Philips, *The Battle of Wilson's Creek*, 26-27.
[244] *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield: Final General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement,* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2003), 15.; Phillips, *The Battle of Wilson's Creek,* 54.
[245] Hess et. al., *Wilson's Creek,* 5-6.
[246] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek*, 129-130.

Deitzler. In all, Lyon's column that night numbered approximately 4,200 men, including 150 cannoneers with 10 guns.[247]

Meanwhile, about 6:30 p.m. on August 9, Sigel prepared for his role, with a command of three units: eight companies of Third Missouri Infantry, nine companies of the Fifth Missouri Infantry and six pieces of artillery of Franz Backof's Missouri Light Artillery. They were joined by a company of U.S. Cavalry and a company of U.S. Dragoons. Altogether his column included about 1,200 men. Their orders were to gain the rear of the enemy camp and block any retreat from the south.

Lyon's and Sigel's men all marched through the night, resting only briefly (Lyon at 1 a.m., Sigel around 11 p.m.). Lyon's force continued their march at 4:00 a.m., encountering Southern foragers along the way, who did not inform the Southern army. Sigel's march resumed about 2:00 a.m.; they captured about forty Southerners as they neared Wilson's Creek. They turned them over to Company K of the Fifth Missouri, which had been assigned to guarding prisoners.[248] After an exhausting night, the Union troops were in place around 5:30 a.m. on August 10. As planned, Lyon's troops had approached from the northeast, crossing over what is now the northern boundary of the park near the E. B. Short House. (See Figure 20. Map of the Battlefield at 5:00 a.m.) Sigel's command had moved to a position southeast of Wilson's Creek, where they could swing around to come upon Southern troops from behind.

Sigel's First Position

Sigel's troops had performed according to plan, arriving south of the enemy position at a point where they could take the Confederate troops by surprise (Sigel's First Position, Resource 10). Traveling along the Old White River Road, also known as the Delaware Trace, they arrived at what is now the southeast corner of the park, near the junction of Wilson's Creek and Terrell Creek (Figure 21). They established an artillery position on a steep ridge that overlooked the Confederate camp in Sharp's cornfield, in the creek bottoms to the west. The German commander waited until he heard Lyon's musket fire from the north and gave the signal to begin shelling. The bombardment took the Confederates by surprise, causing what one Union officer there at the time described as a stampede in the camp.[249] The six-hour battle was on.

[247] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil* War, 181-184.
[248] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 188-190; Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 129-132.
[249] Quoted in Bearss, *Battle of Wilson's* Creek, 67.

Bloody Hill

At the same time, Lyon continued south to the top of what now is known as Bloody Hill, a rocky hilltop covered by a thin growth of timber and little underbrush. (The same hill was referred to as Oak Hill by Confederate troops.) There he encountered Confederate pickets and got into a savage fight where he quickly learned that his opponent was not going to be easily thwarted.

Initially, Lyon's troops surprised the Confederates and it appeared that they would be able to drive them toward Sigel's men in the south. This initial effort took place just south of Short's Farm (Lyon's Advance, Resource 9), as they were moving south toward Bloody Hill. Federal artillery, under Totten, had loudly announced their presence. As Lyon advanced toward the top of the northern spur of the hill, he could see abandoned Confederate camps to the south and east. He was confident of inflicting a severe blow, saying, "In less than an hour they'll wish they were a thousand miles away."[250] In that positive mood, he ordered Plummer and his battalion of Regulars with mounted Home Guards to the east side of Wilson's Creek. That move was made to protect his left flank, but it also divided his strength.

The advantage of surprise was soon lost, however, as Price ordered his troops up the south slope of the hill to meet the Union forces. The two sides fought furiously for control of the hill, and for a time the Southern forces appeared to be taking the upper hand. Lyon's troops regained control however, for at least a short while. By about 8:00 a.m., the first Southern assault on the high ground had ended and Price had withdrawn to the base of the hill.[251] Lyon had held the crest of the hill, but at significant cost.

Gibson's Mill and Ray's Cornfield

At the same time, Plummer had with difficulty worked his way through thick underbrush to cross Wilson's Creek and attempted to engage some of McCullough's southern forces at the Gibson Mill (Resource 5) and the Ray Cornfield (photo 7). The southern commander sent Colonel McIntosh with a sizeable number of troops. Both sides fought bravely during a bitter conflagration in Ray's cornfield, but the Federal troops were at a decided disadvantage and suffered with heavy casualties. The Southerners pushed them deep into Ray's cornfield until DuBois, seeing Plummer's predicament, turned his guns to lay down covering fire as the Union troops withdrew back across Wilson's Creek.[252]

---

[250] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 198-199.
[251] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*, 242-243; Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 147.
[252] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 149-154.

Sigel's Second Position

Sigel advanced soon after the start of the battle, moving west across Wilson's Creek to continue pressing the Confederates from the south. He and his troops moved through the farm of John Dixon and north to Sharp's Field, at the current southern end of the park. They surged quickly forward, behind the Southern troops that were rushing to meet the threat upon Bloody Hill to the north. With his artillery in a new position on a commanding rise, Sigel confidently moved forward, surprising some of the Southerners who had rallied at Sharp's farmhouse after Sigel's first bombardment.[253] (See Figure 21, Map of Sigel's Positions.)

Sigel's Third Position

Sigel faced some 2,500 enemy troops, according to his estimate, but he bombarded them with artillery, and about 8:00 a.m. was able to continue north to the front yard of the Sharp house (Resource 10, 23CN00076). The morning had gone well for Sigel, but as with Lyon, initial success would soon evaporate with determined Southern opposition.[254] Confederate Brigadier General McCulloch was determined to deal with the aggressive German. He turned to available troops, and to McIntosh, who was fresh from his defeat of Plummer's Federal troops in Ray's Cornfield.

McCulloch assessed the situation and moved his men forward. There was considerable confusion among the Federal ranks, since both sides were dressed in both gray and blue, or no uniform at all. In addition, Sigel had received no word from Lyon and so assumed that troops coming his way were Southern troops retreating from the battle on the hill. That was not the case. Those confusions and some tactical mistakes, along with the South's superior numbers, resulted in a dramatic rout of Sigel's brigade. Sigel and most of his remaining troops retreated.

Sigel and one group of soldiers headed south along the road by Sharp's field towards the Dixon Farm, while others moved southwest on the Wire Road. Some of those troops then took the Little York Road west, where they were able to swing west and north of the battlefield to return safely to Springfield. (The Little York Road is in the boundary increase.) Sigel rejoined some of his men south and west of the Dixon farm. They headed east to return to Springfield the way they had come, pursued for part of the way by Southerners. Sigel escaped capture by the enemy and arrived in Springfield about 4:30 p.m., ahead of the remainder of the Federal army.[255]

---

[253] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 160.
[254] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 160-161.
[255] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 257-261.

Return to Bloody Hill

With two Federal threats now vanquished, the Southern forces were ready to concentrate on Bloody Hill. They mounted a second attack on the 3500 hundred men and ten guns of the still formidable Federal battle line. The battle was intense, fueled by both Federal and Southern artillery. Batteries commanded by Captain James Totten and Lieutenant John DuBois sent devastating rounds of canister into the Southern lines, but both sides were effective, making Wilson's Creek one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Officers in the battle drove ahead of their men–often mounted, they presented a vulnerable target for the barrage of missiles. One State Guard soldier later wrote, "I could see how we might escape casualty, but I could not see how these officers could avoid stopping some of the missiles that flew so thickly overhead."[256]

Accounts of bravery under fire, common on Civil War battlefields were also typical of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The actions of General Nathaniel Lyon stand out. Early in the battle for Bloody Hill, he had dismounted from his horse, directing the battle on foot when he received a painful but not significant injury while his horse was shot as he held its reins. He continued, limping, and suffered a minor head wound. After a makeshift bandage was applied, he persevered, this time mounting a horse offered by his second in command, Major Samuel Sturgis, who was nearby.

Lyon's Death

Mounted, Lyon moved to deal with a gap at the center of the Federal line. Asked by his aides not to expose himself to fire, he replied, "I am but doing my duty."[257] Accounts differ regarding what followed, but all agree that, as Lyon rode close to the front line, accompanied on horseback by Colonel Robert Mitchell, a murderous volley from the South tore into them and others around them. Lyon was struck in the chest, the large-caliber bullet passing through both lungs and the heart, exiting below the right shoulder blade. He collapsed slowly from his horse, and possibly leaning on an aide, whispered "…Lehmann, I am going."[258] Thus, four hours into the battle, the first Union general officer to be killed in battle in the Civil War died.

The fighting continued for some time after Lyon's death. Federal forces were under the command of Major Samuel Sturgis when the Confederates on that portion of the hill broke off their attack, retreating and causing a lull. Then, in their third attempt, Southern forces mounted overwhelming numbers under the commands of Brigadier Generals Ben McCulloch and Nicholas B. Pearce. At about 10:30 a.m., 3,000 troops moved up Bloody Hill and the fighting became even more intense.

---

[256] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek*, 175.
[257] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 268.
[258] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 268.

Sturgis valiantly drove his men, as the August sun burned hotter and hotter, but with ammunition running low, the prospects dimmed. No one had heard about the fate of Sigel and his forces to the south. Sturgis called together a council of his officers and the consensus was that if Sigel did not appear soon, they must retreat, if possible. After several more brutal Southern assaults, it became clear that Sigel would not appear, and Sturgis began to order the withdrawal. The Union rear guard held positions until ambulances had retrieved as many wounded as possible. After falling back about two miles to let the soldiers rest, drink fresh water, and eat, Sturgis continued the march to Springfield, arriving around 5:00 p.m., just twenty-four hours after they had left.[259]

After arriving in Springfield, Major Sturgis called a meeting with his officers to plan their next move. They decided to leave Springfield in the morning and head towards Rolla, Missouri, some hundred miles to the northeast. Soon after the Union army left Springfield, the Southern coalition army moved in and occupied the city.[260]

Lyon's Body

During the Union withdrawal to Springfield, General Lyon's body was inadvertently left behind on Bloody Hill. Confederate soldiers discovered the body and moved it to General Price's headquarters near the present-day location of the Edwards Cabin.[261] Once the Union forces realized that Lyon's body had been left behind, Dr. S. H. Melcher of the Fifth Missouri (Union) returned to the battlefield to retrieve the body.

Upon identifying Lyon's body, Dr. Melcher received permission from General Price to have it moved to the Ray House (Resource 6, photos 9-12), which was being utilized as a Confederate hospital.[262] Lyon's body was then placed on a bed in the front room of the house. Later that afternoon, the body was wrapped in a counterpane provided by Roxanna Ray and was escorted back to the Union headquarters by Dr. Melcher and a few Confederate soldiers.[263] The counterpane was later returned to Roxanna Ray and kept by the Ray family over the years before it was acquired by the National Park Service.[264]

---

[259] Patrick*, Campaign for Wilson's Creek*,178-185; Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 275-286.
[260] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek*, 191-192.
[261] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 14.
[262] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 16.
[263] Counterpane is another word for bedspread. Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 17.
[264] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 14.

Burials

The bodies of other participants in the battle were not so well treated. One member of the Missouri State Guard wrote to his sister the day after the battle that although the Federal troops were given permission to "bury their dead and gather their wounded" they were forced to retreat so quickly that many bodies were left behind.[265] Since the Confederates retained control of the area, they were able to bury their dead in a more orderly manner than the Federal forces. One Confederate officer reported that the "dead were all carefully and decently buried upon the bank of Wilson's Creek."[266]

The day after the battle, Sergeant Tunnard of the Third Louisiana was tasked with burial duty on Bloody Hill, which had seen the fiercest fighting. He wrote later that "The ground was still thickly strewn with the ghastly and mangled forms. Fifty-three bodies were placed in a single grave…these were hastily covered with brush and stones."[267] [redacted]

Military Consequences

The Battle of Wilson's Creek put the national spotlight of the four-month-old Civil War west of the Mississippi River and affected the fate of the Trans-Mississippi west. It helped eventually muster Union resolve and resources toward securing this critical part of the country for their cause. As George B. McClellan reported in a memo to President Lincoln in August 1861, "Our late reverses make this course imperative; [to crush the South] had we been successful in the recent battle it is possible that we might have been spared the labor and expense of a great effort; now we have no alternative…"[270] The result was that in February 1862 a new Union force marched southwest across the border into Arkansas and administered a resounding defeat to Confederate hopes at the Battle of Pea Ridge. While the South continued to launch raids into

[265] Robert H. Dyer to Lilia Dyer, August 12, 1861, Manuscript collection, State Historical Society of Missouri, quoted in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 83.
[266] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 85.
[267] Tunnard, *A Southern Record*, 61, quoted in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 83.
[268] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-49.
[269] Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment,* 21.
[270] Brooks D. Simpson, Stephen W. Sears, and Aaron Sheehan-Dean, eds., *The Civil War: The First Year Told by Those Who Lived It* (New York: Library of America, 2011), 533.

Missouri throughout the war, Pea Ridge ended any serious Confederate attempt to retake the state.[271]

After the Battle of Wilson's Creek, both sides claimed victory. Not surprisingly, Northern papers declared Wilson's Creek a Union triumph, some on the grounds that Lyon had accomplished his mission to secure Missouri's river and railway communications network. Also proclaiming victory, Southern newspapers saw the battle as a vindication of the pro-rebel Missouri State Guard and gleefully predicted Missouri's eventual secession.[272]

Although the Confederates won the Battle of Wilson's Creek, it left a legacy for both the North and the South. For the South, the victory thwarted, at least in the short run, the Union's efforts to keep Missouri in the Union. Union leaders, on the other hand, believed the Southerners had given them the seeds for full control of Missouri. The battle's outcome had no effect on the Union's control of St. Louis, an important port on the Mississippi River. The river played a crucial role during wartime, as a transportation route for troops and supplies, and for its potential for transport and resources as the nation was expanding westward.

Conclusion: Military Significance

The Battle of Wilson's Creek is nationally significant. It was only the second major battle of the Civil War, launched just four months into the conflict, but it was one of the bloodiest. Casualties were severe. The Union forces lost 1,317 men out of approximately 5,400 engaged. Of those, 258 were killed, 873 wounded, and 186 missing. The Confederate troops, numbering about 10,200, reported 1,230 casualties, with 279 dead and 951 wounded. Thus, the Union lost twenty-four percent of their personnel; the South lost twelve percent.[273] A ten percent casualty rate was high for a Civil War battle.[274]

The first Union general to die in the Civil War, General Nathaniel Lyon, was killed fighting in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. His death was memorialized in newspapers across the country and in poems and other tributes, thus drawing new national attention to the war halfway across the continent from the eastern seaboard. His death and the fierce resistance of the Southern forces at Wilson's Creek awakened the administration in Washington to the needs of the western front.[275]

---

[271] Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 199.
[272] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 307, 318-319.
[273] Bearss, *The Battle of Wilson's Creek*, 136.
[274] "Battlefield of Wilson's Creek to Become a Missouri State Memorial," *The Daily Standard*, December 30, 1953, 5.

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield commemorates those who pitted their weapons and their wills, their strategies and their counterstrategies, their actions, and their reactions, in the name of what they believed.

Criterion A, Transportation and Communications: The Fayetteville (Wire) Road

Period of Significance: 1836-ca. 1865.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is locally significant in the areas of Transportation and Communications, for the intact segment of the Fayetteville or Wire Road (Resource 7) that runs through the park. The Fayetteville Road was one of the first improved public roads in Greene County, and a critical part of the Butterfield Trail of the late 1850s. At the time of the battle, it was part of a major throughfare in southwest Missouri. During the Civil War, the roadway was edged with wires that carried the first telegraph in the Springfield area, after which it became known as the Wire Road. The period of significance under Transportation and Communications runs from its creation in 1836 to the end of the Civil War, 1865, which marks a decline in the road's importance in the area. This additional documentation clarifies the period of significance and expands upon the historical context included in the 1976 nomination form for the areas of Transportation and Communications. The added information incorporates recent scholarship about one of the largest contributing resources in the park, the Fayetteville (Wire) Road.

Fayetteville Road

Greene County officials ordered the development of public roads shortly after the county was organized. When the Greene County Court first met in March 1833, they set about establishing a public road system that included roads leading north to navigable rivers and south to the Arkansas Territory.

The court took action to improve southerly routes to Fayetteville, Arkansas, which was one of the more prominent towns in the Arkansas Territory at the time. In 1833, they declared an existing road that linked Springfield and Fayetteville to be a public road within Greene County.[276] That roadway ran almost directly south out of Springfield to connect to Delaware Town, the large Delaware Indian settlement located at the junction of Wilson's Creek and the James River.[277] It followed a trail that had long been used by the Osage and Delaware traveling to

[275] Patrick*, Campaign for Wilson's Creek,* 198*.*
[276] Holcombe, *History of Greene County, Missouri*, 159.
[277] Jonathon Fairbanks and Clyde Edwin Tuck, *Past and Present of Greene County, Vol. 1,* accessed June 2021, https://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/paspres/ch5pt2.html.

Delaware Town and on south to the White River. That road also referred to at times as the Delaware Trace, the White River Trace, or the White River Road.[278]

In 1836, early Greene County officials also ordered development of another road that was to lead west out of Springfield for a short distance before turning southwest "in the direction of Fayetteville, in Arkansas Territory, until it reaches the state line."[279] At the time, Greene County was originally much larger than it is today, extending all the way to the southern boundary of the state. (Christian County was not formed until 1859.) The 1836 roadway, referred to as the State Road in later court documents, took a more direct route to Fayetteville than the Delaware Trace. Unlike the Delaware Trace, it crossed the boundaries of the current park. It crossed Wilson's Creek a short distance west of the Ray House, near the current site of a Pratt Pony Truss Bridge on former County Road 194. The State Road soon became the preferred route to Fayetteville, and the Delaware Trace, which was east of the current boundaries of the park, gradually fell out of use.

Those early road developments in Greene County helped develop an important north-south transportation corridor in western Missouri. As one author noted that route "was the artery for our early settlers, who with their goods disembarked at Boonville or at Warsaw, headquarters of navigation on the Osage River, and proceeded on their way south into the interior of the Ozarks."[280]

Mail Service on the Fayetteville Road

In 1846, the newer path of the Fayetteville Road became a route for mail between Springfield and Fayetteville, courtesy of a two-horse stage operated by private contractor Joseph Burdin.[281] In 1856, John Ray became the first postmaster of Wilson's Creek, a job he held for the next ten years.[282] At that time, the next nearest post offices were at Little York, six miles to the northeast, or in Springfield, more than nine miles north along the Fayetteville Road.[283]

---

[278] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 61; Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 14-15.
[279] County Court Records, quoted in Fairbanks and Tuck, *Past and Present of Greene County*.
[280] Winslow A. Kingman, "Two Important Pioneer Roads of the Ozarks," *Ozarks Mountaineer*, March 1960, 5.
[281] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-25.
[282] Bearss, "*The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 39-40.
[283] Post Office Records of the 1850, cited in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 40.

Butterfield Overland Trail

When John Ray became postmaster in 1856, regular local mail delivery was generally available, but there were few options to transport mail across the country. The United States saw tremendous western expansion in the first half of the nineteenth century. That growth had begun with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and continued with regular additions over the next forty years. By 1848, most of the current land west of the Mississippi River was part of the United States, and would-be settlers were streaming west over the Oregon Trail. The discovery of gold in the California Territory in 1848 increased westward emigration and swelled the population along the Pacific Coast, with California becoming a state in 1850.[284]

Transportation and communication networks had not kept pace with that geographical expansion, however. Mail was the primary form of communication, but there was no good way to get mail from coast to coast. The few overland routes across the west half of the country were generally no more than rough trails, and railroad development to the west had not extended much past Missouri. As a result, mail from eastern states to California and its neighbors had to be transported by steamships that traveled south around Cape Horn and back up the Pacific Coast. A shortcut across the Isthmus of Panama on foot or via mule cut off a few weeks but it was more dangerous. It routinely took as much as six months to get a letter from Philadelphia to San Francisco. Communication was so poor that news of the discovery of gold in California was not announced in New York papers for nearly eight months.[285]

Californians and others began calling for better service from the U.S. Post Office Department. Finally, in 1857, the U.S. Congress passed several pieces of legislation to fund the development of overland mail routes that would connect California to the east half of the country. The most notable action that year was an amendment to the federal post office appropriations to fund a stage line between San Francisco and the Mississippi River.[286]

Missouri Representative John Phelps, who later served as governor of the state, was a cosponsor of the bill. As a resident of Springfield, Phelps would have been familiar with roads in the Wilson's Creek area, including the Fayetteville Road. He later served as a Colonel in the Union army during the Civil War. Although he did not fight at Wilson's Creek, his family was involved with that conflict; his wife Mary cared for the body of General Lyon after the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

---

[284] *Butterfield Overland Trail: National Historical Trail Special Resource Study* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2018), 18.
[285] *Butterfield Overland Trail: National Historical Trail Special Resource Study*, 19.
[286] *Butterfield Overland Trail: National Historical Trail Special Resource Study*, 21.

The legislation to fund the new route was passed in March, and the Postmaster General began soliciting proposals from private contractors soon after. In September that same year, a consortium headed by New York native John Butterfield was awarded a contract to operate a semi-weekly overland mail route to San Francisco. The route had two starting points along the Mississippi River, one in Memphis and one in St. Louis. The choice of St. Louis as a starting point was based in part on the fact that the Missouri Pacific Railroad was operating a rail line from there to Jefferson City and was planning to extend the rails farther west in the state the following year. The contract stipulated that Butterfield would use the railroad to its new terminus near Tipton, Missouri then utilize the north-south road that connected Boonville with Springfield, Fayetteville, and Fort Smith.[287]

Butterfield, who had extensive experience in commercial transportation, began work on the route even before the contract was finalized. By 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail Route stretched approximately 2,600 miles from St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California. (Figure 22.) His company improved existing road alignments and constructed new roads where needed. As a well-developed route that had been in use for decades, the Fayetteville Road in Greene County and the Wilson's Creek area probably did not require extensive work. It was no superhighway, though. A description of the road written by one of the first passengers on the route described that part of the road as being "extremely dusty, hilly and stony."[288]

Butterfield also established a series of stagecoach stops across the St. Louis and Memphis to San Francisco route which included what is now the National Battlefield. Stage stops were generally located ten to twenty-five miles apart along the entire route. As one of the largest towns on the Missouri route, Springfield was a natural stopping point. Stages traveling south from Springfield passed in front of the Ray House but stopped only to pick up mail as needed. The Butterfield Route doubled as a local mail route for a few months in late 1859 and early 1860, when the local contractor reneged on his contract.[289]

Even without stops, the Butterfield stages offered Wilson's Creek residents an exciting connection to distant lands. The first westbound Butterfield stage passed the Ray House in mid-September 1858, and the first eastbound stage passed through on October 8, 1858. As historian Edwin Bearss observed, for the next two and half years the Butterfield stages "were a part of the local scene, and as they rumbled by the Ray House on the way to and from

[287] *Butterfield Overland Trail: National Historical Trail Special Resource Study*, 23.
[288] Waterman Ormsby, quoted in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 45.
[289] Post Office Records at the Library of Congress, 1858-1862, cited in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 47.

California the children regularly turned out to exchange good-natured greetings with the drivers and passengers."[290]

The route through southwestern Missouri and the Wilson's Creek area operated until the advent of the Civil War made the route more dangerous and resulted in federal calls for a route that did not go through a southern state. By that time, the stage company was also facing competition from the Pony Express, which was established in 1860 to provide a more efficient way to transport mail overland. In July 1861, the U.S. Congress passed legislation to end the contract for the southern stage route in favor of a more centrally located route, which began in St. Joseph, Missouri.[291] That change ended the Fayetteville Road's role as part of the first transcontinental mail route in the country, but it is likely that the looming Civil War eclipsed the impact of that change on area residents.

Wire Road

Area residents gained access to a new form of communication a short time before the Butterfield stages stopped traveling across Wilson's Creek. In 1860 telegraph lines were installed alongside the Fayetteville Road, which almost immediately became known as the Telegraph or Wire Road.[292] The installation of that telegraph line followed a decade of telegraph development in the state. Although telegraph service technically reached St. Louis from Louisville, Kentucky in 1847, the information had to be ferried by hand across the Mississippi River, due to numerous unsuccessful attempts to get the lines across the river. The problem was largely resolved by 1859, and telegraph service soon spread west across the state and the nation. Most of those early lines followed established transportation corridors, including railroads and stage routes.[293] By 1861, telegraph service had reached the west coast.[294]

Telegraph service first arrived in Springfield in the spring of 1860 and that summer, the line was extended south along the Fayetteville Road and on to Fort Smith, Arkansas.[295] One early description of the road noted that "Wherever possible the insulators, to which the wires were secured, were affixed to convenient trees. Elsewhere the single wire was positioned on poles."[296] The telegraph lines along the Wire Road were in use in the Wilson's Creek area only

[290] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 48.
[291] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 49.
[292] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-26.
[293] Perry McCandless, *A History of Missouri, Vol. 2* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1972), 150-151.
[294] "Milestones: Transcontinental Telegraph, 1861," IEEE Denver Section, accessed June 2021, http://ethw.org/Milestones:Transcontinental_Telegraph,_1861.
[295] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 53.
[296] Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 63.

for the duration of the war, but the name Wire Road endured. Surviving remnants of the roadway are still referred to as the Wire Road.[297]

Civil War Use

The Wire Road was one of the most important roads in the area during the Civil War, and it is the only road within the park boundaries that survives from the Civil War period.[298] As one of the best public roads in the region, it was used by troops on both sides of the conflict in the months leading up to the Battle of Wilson's Creek. It also saw heavy use in the days before the battle, with Confederate troops coming up the road from the south to camp along Wilson's Creek.

During the battle, troops from both sides used the road to quickly respond to battle conditions. Near the end of the battle, many of Sigel's men retreated by traveling southwest along the road in search of a safe route back to Springfield. That included some 400 members of the Fifth Infantry under the command of Salomon. They stopped at the John L. Gwin farm, which was on the Wire Road less than a mile southwest of the Sharp farm.[299] (The Gwin farmstead exists today only as an archeological site. See Figure 15 for the location of the farm). Salomon's men captured a surgeon from the Missouri State Guard that was at the house, Dr. R. B. Smith, but Union doctor M. E. Melcher convinced them to release him so he could keep working. One description of the incident noted that the two doctors "then rode back up the Wire Road where they joined other doctors on the field, treating both Union and Southern casualties without regard to their affiliation."[300]

After releasing Dr. Smith, Salomon and his men continued south on the Wire Road before turning northwest on the Little York Road to circumvent the battlefield on their return to Springfield. (Portions of the Little York Roadway are in Site 4 and are being added to the boundaries of the National Battlefield.) Not long after they left the Gwinn farm, another group of Union troops that included cavalrymen led by Eugene Carr moved south along the road with one of the guns that had been in use. They were ambushed as they got close to the farm; the attack killed one of the horses drawing the gun and wounded another. Carr's men drove away their attackers, then abandoned the gun and continued south on the Wire Road. In their rush to depart, they missed the turn onto to the Little York Road and continued south.[301]

---

[297] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 53.
[298] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 5-13.
[299] The Gwin farmstead is just outside the existing park boundaries in Site 4 of the boundary increase. It exists today only as a site. John L. Gwin's last name is spelled Guinn and Gwinn in various sources; it is Gwin in Government Land Office records.
[300] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 257.
[301] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 258.

A company of cavalry under the command of Lieutenant Ferrand also retreated via the Wire and Little York Roads. They were the last group to do so. Ferrand's troops were dismounted in Sharp's field when Sigel's brigade collapsed, and they soon found themselves cut off from other Union troops. As they fell back to the south, they came upon L. A. D. Crenshaw, who had acted as a guide for Sigel's overnight approach to the battlefield. Crenshaw was forcibly detained to guide Ferrand's men back to Springfield via Little York.[302] They moved west to the Wire Road, where they came across the gun Salomon's men had abandoned, and a short time later, a caisson filled with ammunition that had also be left behind. They replaced the dead and wounded horses that were harnessed to the equipment with horses and two mules that likely came from the Gwinn farm. They took the equipment with them along the Wire Road to the Little York turnoff, where they headed back to Springfield. Ferrand's men were the last to use the roads as part of the retreat, but it is likely that both roads saw heavy subsequent use as wagonloads of wounded made their way to Springfield after the battle.[303]

The Fayetteville Road remained in service after the war, but gradually fell from use over the following decades. The angled path of the roadway was steadily reconfigured to follow property boundaries that aligned with the orthogonal survey system of townships and ranges. By the turn of the twentieth century, only a few portions of the original roadway were still in use.

Conclusion: Significance of the Fayetteville (Wire) Road

There was good reason for the Greene County Court to take early action for the development of roads. Transportation systems are an indispensable component of civilization, allowing for exchange of goods and services as well as increased communication. When the Fayetteville Road was created in 1836, it became part of a transportation network that connected the Missouri frontier with the rest of the world via navigable rivers and later railroad service.

In 1858, the Fayetteville (Wire) Road became an important part of the first transcontinental stage and mail route, the Butterfield Trail. The addition of a telegraph line along that same roadway in 1860 made it a critical source of both transportation and communication during the Civil War. It saw heavy military use before and after the Battle of Wilsons Creek. Southern troops moved up the road from Arkansas in the days leading to the battle, both sides made use of it during the battle, and hundreds of Federal troops used it and the Little York Road as a route to Springfield as the battle was winding down.

After the war, the road provided access to major towns in the region and a market for the agricultural products of the farmers who lived in the area into the late twentieth century, but as

[302] Bearss, *The Battle of Wilson's Creek*, 94.
[303] Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War,* 289-291.

other road systems developed, it no longer held the same significance that it did prior to the Civil War. The roadway today is a well-documented resource, with many notably intact segments in place within the park boundaries. It was described in a 2004 study as having "a strong spatial character and sense of unity."[304]

Post-Civil War Changes to the Landscape

The area around Wilson's Creek remained in agricultural production after the war, with widely scattered farmsteads located close to the creek or roadways. (See Figure 23, Period map 1905-1928.) Visitors to the battlefield in the late 1800s and early 1900s often commented on the state of the post-war landscape. Early visitors described large amounts of grapeshot and cannonballs on the ground and decimated trees. A soldier from Iowa wrote in 1862 "bullets mark nearly every tree. Some as large as my body has been cut off completely by cannon shots…. especially on the Telegraph Road trees are mown down as though it were done by the Tornado…"[305]

As the years passed, vegetation began to fill some of the areas that had been open during the battle. In 1883, one veteran wrote that "the place had changed very little in appearance…and only in the growth of blackjacks and bushes.[306] In 1910, Dr. Melcher wrote that although he recalled heavy timber along the banks of the creek in 1861, the view in general had been much more open at the time of the battle than it was in 1910.[307] Several accounts noted that Bloody Hill remained largely open over the years, in part because it was "mostly of solid limestone rock with scarcely any vegetation except some stray cactus."[308] Scars of the battle remained for decades; a description of the battlefield published in 1897 remarked that "the older trees bear still the marks of cannon balls and shells."[309] Few trees in the park today are old enough to have been in place at the time of the battle.

The Ray House

The Ray House is the only building extant today that were standing at the time of the battle. (The reconstructed Ray Spring House, which is also extant, was rebuilt to its Civil War appearance late in the twentieth century.) John Ray resumed his duties as postmaster of Wilson's Creek after the war and continued in that role until 1866. When he died in July 1875,

---

[304] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 5-35.
[305] Cpl. W. O. Gulick, quoted in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map,* 86.
[306] Blackjack oaks are smallish oak trees that grow in poor sandy soil. J. F. Snider, quoted in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map*, 90.
[307] Dr. Melcher of Sigel's Brigade, quoted in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover*, 90-91.
[308] F. E. Herrick, 1897, quoted in Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover*, 91.
[309] "The Wilson Creek Reunion: Great Celebration for the National Reunion Next August," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, February 28, 1897, 33.

his land passed to his wife Roxanna Ray. Following her death in 1876, much of her personal property was sold at auction. At that auction, Ollie Dryden, the daughter of John and Roxanna Ray who had started the rock cairn to honor General Lyon, bought the Lyon bedstead and counterpane for $16.00. The bedstead and counterpane were later sold to Bessie McElhaney, who in turn sold them to the National Park Service.[310]

The Ray family farmland was also sold at auction that year. In October 1876, Matthew M. Alexander purchased the Ray Farm during an auction at the Greene County courthouse.[311] The property changed hands several times before 1904, when John McConnell purchased it and other land in Greene County.[312] McConnell owned the house for the next thirty years. Changes made during that period included adding a new room by enclosing a porch on the back of the house and enlarging the cellar.[313]

McElhaney Farm

In 1910, John McConnell gave his daughter Bessie and her husband William McElhaney forty acres of his farmland south of the Ray House to serve as a farm and home. Bessie McConnell also inherited the Ray House and Springhouse after her father's death in 1934. Over the next ten to fifteen years, the McElhaneys built a house (Resource 8), barn (Resource 8a), outbuilding (Resource 8b), and a root cellar (Resource 8c) on that land.[314] Those buildings are still in place; they form the last surviving post-Civil War farmstead within the park boundaries. Although they were not in place at the time of the battle, they are representative of the rural development that began in the area before the war and continued into the twentieth century.[315] They were retained and remodeled by the National Park Service during the early years of park development, and they contribute to the Commemorative period of significance discussed below.

Railroad and the Town of Wilson's Creek

In 1905, the Missouri Pacific Railway (Springfield Railway Company) purchased a 100-foot right of way from McConnell to build a railroad line through the area.[316] Over the next two years, the Missouri Pacific laid tracks through the area as part of a line that connected Springfield and Stone County, Missouri. That line remained in operation through the early 1970s, after which the

[310] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 77.
[311] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 76.
[312] Klapp, *The Ray House*, 20.
[313] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-74.
[314] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-75.
[315] "National Register Determination of Eligibility," cited in John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 5-6.
[316] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 54.

National Park Service removed the rails and ties. Much of the path of the railroad is still apparent in aerial images of the park. Small portions of the 1987 Tour Road (Resource 112) and the Southwest Boundary Trail (Resource 129) use the old alignment.

Soon after that land was sold to the railroad, speculators began purchasing additional land in the area. In 1907, one of those speculators purchased several tracts from John McConnell and other nearby landowners and filed a plat for the Town of Wilson's Creek just east of Wilson's Creek. (See Figure 23. Historic Period Plan 1905-1928).[317] The town never became firmly established, and only a handful of businesses and homes were ever built there. Most of the residents of the Town of Wilson's Creek had left by 1920, and the town was officially disincorporated in 1935.[318] The townsite today exists only as an archeological site (23GR00243).

Nearby portions of the old Wire Road were still in use as a county road in the early 1900s, including a segment that crossed Wilson's Creek at a ford a short distance southwest of the McConnell and McElhaney farms. In 1914, Greene County replaced the old ford with a permanent bridge to carry that road across Wilson's Creek.[319] That steel bridge (Resource 13), which has a fifty-foot span and a Pratt Pony Truss structural system, is still in use as part of the park's trail system.

Criterion A, Social History: Commemoration of the Battle.

Period of Significance: 1861-1972

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has statewide significance under National Register Criterion A, in the area of Social History as a national park that was created as a result of a century-long movement to commemorate the Battle of Wilson's Creek. It is the only National Battlefield in Missouri. Memorialization of the site began within days of the battle, with the creation of a rock cairn (no longer extant) to mark the location of General Lyon's death, followed by annual reunions to mark the anniversary of the battle, and a long campaign to have the battlefield declared a national park. The battlefield was authorized in 1960 as Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, to recognize and preserve the site of the Civil War battle that took place there on August 10, 1861. Park authorization was followed by an intensive period of land acquisition and development, and the park was formally established as the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

[317] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-75.
[318] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 1-21 and 2-78.
[319] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-79.

in 1970.[320] On September 22, 1972, officials and supporters gathered for a formal dedication and celebration of the new national park.[321] The commemorative period of significance begins with creation of the first battle memorial in 1861 and it continues through dedication of the new national park in 1972. The significance of that development is illustrated below by a description of the commemorative activities that took place between the battle and the creation of the national park.

National Battlefields in the United States

Wilson's Creek is one of twenty-five National Battlefields within the National Park Service system; twenty of those are associated with the Civil War.[322] (See Table 6 below.) Wilson's Creek was the twenty-third site to be so designated. National Battlefields fall into four different categories, which are listed below. The different designations are loosely based on the resource's size, with National Battlefield Sites being the smallest. National Battlefield Parks and National Military Parks are generally the largest.

- National Battlefields (11) : Antietam (est. 1890), Big Hole (est. 1963), Cowpens (est. 1929), Fort Donelson (est. 1928), Fort Necessity (est. 1931), Monocacy (est. 1934), Moores Creek (est. 1926), Petersburg (est. 1926), Stones River (est. 1927), Tupelo (est. 1929), and Wilson's Creek (est. 1960).
- National Military Parks (9): Chickamauga and Chattanooga (est. 1890), Fredericksburg (est. 1927), Gettysburg (est. 1895), Guilford Courthouse (est. 1917), Horseshoe Bend (est. 1956), King's Mountain (est. 1931), Pea Ridge (est. 1956), Shiloh (est. 1894), and Vicksburg (est. 1899).
- National Battlefield Parks (4): Manassas (est. 1940), Kennesaw Mountain (est. 1917), Richmond (est. 1936), and River Raisin (est. 2009).
- National Battlefield Site (1): Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site (est. 1929).

Alternate Battlefield Designations

Other military units of the National Park Service system have more general designations, including most established in recent decades. The site of the Battle of Fort Sumter, for example, is a historical park, as is Washita Battlefield (est. 1996), and the Palo Alto Battlefield (est. 2009). Ten fort sites are designated as national historic sites, and seven forts are designated as

---

[320] National parks are authorized via federal legislation, but not formally established until enough land has been acquired to create a viable National Park Service unit. It is not unusual for those two events to be several years apart.

[321] "Wilson's Creek now Formally Established: Battlefield is 'Place of Remembrance,'" *Springfield Leader and Press,* September 23, 1972, 9.

[322] Laura B. Comay, *National Park System: What Do the Different Park Titles Signify?* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, 2013), https://www.nps.gov/subjects/battlefields/visit.htm, and various entries in Wikipedia.

national monuments.[323] Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park (est. 2002) commemorates the Civil War Battle of Belle Grove, and the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument (est. 2020) honors the Civil War Battle of Mill Springs in Kentucky.[324]

Battlefield Preservation in the United States

The battlefield preservation movement was begun, and for decades sustained, by the men who participated in the war. Civil War soldiers tasked with the gruesome job of burying dozens and sometimes hundreds or thousands of dead at a time often took it upon themselves to mark the burials. Those modest monuments also marked the battlefields that had been the site of such bloodshed, and, as one history of battlefield preservation noted, provided "one of the first inklings of an effort to preserve and mark America's Civil War battlefields."[325] Those efforts began during the Civil War, and have continued to the present.[326] A recently published history of battlefield preservation—*Altogether Fitting and Proper: Civil War Battlefield Preservation in History, Memory, and Policy 1861-2015* by Timothy B. Smith—chronicles the ebbs and flows of battlefield memorialization and preservation since the Civil War. Smith divides the first century of the movement into the five periods described below.

Reconstruction: 1865-1890 (No National Battlefields designated in this period.)

Much of the memorialization of this era was tied to the creation of military cemeteries and informal visits by veterans and interested civilians. Battlefield tourism, supported and encouraged by the railroads, brought thousands of new visitors to Civil War battlefields after the war. This period also saw the rise of veterans' reunions, which at first were exclusively for veterans of one side or the other, but soon developed into joint reunions of "the Blue and Gray."[327] Large annual reunions were held at Wilson's Creek for decades. Formal battlefield markers were also supplied by the states in a few places, and informal markers were also created by visitors. At Wilson's Creek, a massive rock cairn developed at the site of Lyon's death well before the end of the Civil War and remained in place into the early twentieth century. Wilson Creek reunions and the rock cairn are discussed in more detail below.

---

[323] Comay, *National Park System,* 5.
[324] "Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park" and "Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument," *National Park Service eLibrary*, accessed September 2021, http://npshistory.com/publications/cebe/index.htm.
[325] Timothy Smith, *Altogether Fitting and Proper: Civil War Battlefield Preservation in History, Memory, and Policy 1861-2015* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2017), 2.
[326] Since 1991, much of that work has been overseen by the National Park Service's "American Battlefield Protection Program" (ABPP). Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has been surveyed and evaluated as part of that program. The most recent ABPP survey of Wilson's Creek was completed in 2010. "American Battlefield Protection Program," National Park Service, accessed November 2021, https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/whatwedo.htm.
[327] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 23.

Golden Age: 1890-1912 (Five National Battlefields designated in this period, all from the Civil War.)

By 1890, some of the national political strife associated with Reconstruction had settled down, and proponents of permanent battlefield preservation began to make inroads with federal and local officials. Smith labels the era as the Golden Age because intact battlefields were still relatively numerous, and veterans of the battles were still alive to guide interpretation and memorialization. Five major National Military Parks were designated by the U.S. Congress during this period, all to be managed by the War Department and overseen by individual commissions composed of Civil War veterans. The battlefield preservation movement become a victim of its own success after those early designations. Congress became so overwhelmed with applications for additional military parks that the process of designating national battlefields came to a near standstill. Legislation was filed for some fourteen additional national military parks, including one at Wilson's Creek, but none of those bills passed.[328]

Interregnum: 1912-1933 (Twelve National Battlefields designated in this period; eight were from the Civil War.)

The battlefield program remained in near limbo through the 1910s and the advent of WWI, but by the post-WWI era of the 1920s, battlefield memorialization was back in the public eye. Twelve of the current national battlefields were designated during this time period. Congress and the War Department received such a landslide of requests for battlefield designation in the 1920s and early 1930s that the legislative pipeline was again severely curtailed. Legislators and administrators struggled to establish an evaluation and management system. The U.S. Army War College was tasked with surveying and classifying extant battlefields to guide legislative decisions going forward. There was also talk of putting the battlefields under the National Park Service (created in 1916) instead of the War Department.[329] In 1927 and 1928, legislation for Wilson's Creek was among that crush of new bills, and even though local supporters had already surveyed the site on their own to make their case, the bills did not progress.

New Deal: 1933-1945 (Three National Battlefields designated in this period, all from the Civil War.)

The New Deal brought an influx of government funding as well as a change of management to National Military Parks. On August 10, 1933, the Seventy-second anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, two executive orders signed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt transferred responsibility for National Military Parks from the War Department to the Department of the Interior's National Park Service. By that time, almost all Civil War veterans had died, and the

[328] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 75-77.
[329] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 69.

focus on management of existing parks shifted from military commemoration to education and interpretation that would benefit visitors for whom the Civil War was somewhat distant history. Recreation also became part of the management goals; as one National Park Service official noted "Modern 'tourists' are looking for a park as well as a battlefield."[330] Federal reservations about creating too many new battlefield parks continued, however, and only three Civil War sites were added between 1933 and 1945. Wilson's Creek supporters continued their push for federal battlefield designation, which would have created one of the first national parks in Missouri.[331] They came close to at least getting funding for land acquisition via an appropriations bill in 1941, but it failed due to procedural reasons and no other legislation was introduced before the start of WWII.[332]

Centennial Era: 1945-1965 (Three National Battlefields designated in this period, two from the Civil War.)

Despite increased attention to Civil War history due to its centennial, only two new Civil War related parks were created during this period. That was partly because many of the most important Civil War battlefields were already in the system, and partly due to lack of funding or congressional influence. As the centennial of the Civil War approached, most federal Civil War-related funding was directed towards getting existing battlefield parks ready for the centennial. There were two notable exceptions to that trend however: Pea Ridge National Battlefield in Arkansas, which was created in July 1956, and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Missouri, which was created in April 1960.[333] Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park was first dedicated on August 10, 1961, exactly one hundred years after the Battle of Wilson's Creek. (The name of the park was officially changed to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in 1970.)

Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge were the only Civil War battlefields added to the National Park System in association with the centennial of the Civil War.

---

[330] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 134.

[331] As of 2021, Missouri had seven national parks: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (1935) [Redesignated Gateway Arch National Park in 2018], George Washington Carver National Monument (1943), Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (1960), Ozark National Scenic Riverways (1964), Harry S. Truman National Historic Site (1983), Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (1989), and Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park (2020), accessed July 2021, https://www.monationalparks.com/.

[332] "Government Refuses Wilson Creek Park at Cost of $30,000," *Springfield Leader and Press*, May 16, 1941, 1.

[333] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 153; Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-394, 118 Stat. 2247 (2004).

Table 6. Civil War Battlefields, in Order of Federal Designation. The twenty parks listed below are units of the National Park System that include the words battle, battlefield, or military in the park title.

Compiled by Debbie Sheals from Laura B. Comay, *National Park System: What Do the Different Park Titles Signify?* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, 2013), "Battlefields: Visit," National Park Service, October 2021, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/battlefields/visit.htm, http://npshistory.com/publications/misp/index.htm, and various park administrative summaries in Wikipedia.

Name	State	Established	Type	War
Antietam	Maryland	1890	National Battlefield	Civil War
Chickamauga & Chattanooga	Georgia	1890	National Military Park	Civil War
Shiloh	Tennessee	1894	National Military Park	Civil War
Gettysburg	Pennsylvania	1895	National Military Park	Civil War
Vicksburg	Mississippi	1899	National Military Park	Civil War
Kennesaw Mountain	Georgia	1917*	National Battlefield	Civil War
Petersburg	Virginia	1926	National Battlefield	Civil War
Stones River	Tennessee	1927	National Battlefield	Civil War
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania	Virginia	1927	National Military Park	Civil War
Fort Donelson	Tennessee	1928	National Battlefield	Civil War
Cowpens	South Carolina	1929	National Battlefield	Civil War
Tupelo	Mississippi	1929	National Battlefield	Civil War
Brices Cross Roads	Mississippi	1929	National Battlefield Site	Civil War
Monocacy	Maryland	1934**	National Battlefield	Civil War
Richmond	Virginia	1936	National Battlefield Park	Civil War
Manassas	Virginia	1940	National Battlefield Park	Civil War
Pea Ridge	Arkansas	1956	National Military Park	Civil War
Horseshoe Bend	Alabama	1956	National Military Park	Creek War
Wilson's Creek	**Missouri**	**1960**	**National Battlefield**	**Civil War**
Mill Springs Battlefield	Kentucky	2020	National Monument	Civil War

* National Battlefield Site in 1917, National Battlefield Park in 1935, National Battlefield in 1980.
** Authorized in 1934 but did not acquire land until 1976.

Commemorating the Battle of Wilson's Creek

Commemoration of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield began right after the battle and continued at a steady pace until it became a national park a full century later. The significance of the Battle of Wilson's Creek was recognized immediately, and the actions of the soldiers who fought there received national attention within months of the battle. In December 1861, Congress passed a resolution that commemorated the death of General Lyon at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. That resolution also recognized the effort of the Union soldiers during the battle and praised them for "achieving victory against overwhelming numbers…" in spite of the fact that the Union lost the Battle of Wilson's Creek.[334] The bill dictated that it was to be read to all Federal troops. The Battle of Wilson's Creek is one of only five Civil War battles recognized with similar Congressional action.

Rock Cairn

Local efforts to memorialize the Wilson's Creek battlefield had begun by the time the federal resolution of 1861 was enacted. The earliest remembrance at the site is rumored to have been initiated by a young girl. An article about the battlefield that was published in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* in 1897 described a large pile of rocks there that marked the location of Lyon's death. The article noted that "one of the traditions of the Wilson's Creek battle-field says that this pile of stone…was begun by Miss Ollie Ray, a few mornings after the fight, as the young maiden of the Ozarks passed by the 'Bloody Ridge' on her way to school."[335]

Ollie (Olivia) Ray was one of John and Roxanna Ray's daughters who had weathered the battle in the cellar of the Ray House. She was about seven years old when the battle took place. She had seen the body of General Lyon when it was brought to the house after the battle and had been told where he fell. According to the same article, "the reverent schoolgirl gathered together a few loose rocks, and first marked the sacred spot. After that many visitors added a stone to the pile and now several tons of rough rocks attract the eye of the relic hunter to the most interesting feature of the battleground."[336]

Possible artistic license by the St. Louis reporter about the origin of that rock pile notwithstanding, it is known to have been in place within a year of the battle. Multiple sources mention a rock cairn at the site of Lyon's death, including soldiers who visited the site during the war. In November 1862, First Sergeant Benjamin F. McIntyre recorded a visit to the battlefield in his journal: "The place is marked by a huge pile of Stones. A notice on the spot requests of every Soldier visiting the place to haul one Stone—Stone is plenty nearby and if this request could be carried out to any considerable extent the pile must soon be an immense one."[337]

McIntyre was correct; by the end of the century the pile was indeed immense. A photo of the rock cairn taken in the late 1800s shows that it contained numerous large rocks that had inscriptions scratched into their surfaces. (See Figure 24. Photo of the Rock Cairn.) Most inscriptions were visitor names and dates, as well as the names of visiting veterans' companies and the places the visitors had come from. The size of the cairn varied over the years, as some visitors added rocks and others took them away as souvenirs. As the years went by, more rocks were removed than added, and by the late 1920s, the cairn was almost gone. It was described

[334] "Thirty-Seventh Congress of the United States, Session II Resolution 1, 1862," reprinted in Hazelwood and Slaughter, "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and the Amending Act of 1970", 5.
[335] "The Wilson Creek Reunion: Great Preparation for the National Celebration Next August," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, February 28, 1897, 33.
[336] "The Wilson Creek Reunion," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, February 28, 1897, 33.
[337] Quoted in Bearss, *Historical Base and Groundcover Map*, 87. The origin of the notice requesting the addition of stones is unknown.

in 1928 as "a remnant of the great rock pile, which for half a century was the only memorial marker, though most of the rocks have been carried away long since."[338] (No components of that cairn have survived to the present.)

At least one visitor also carved their commemoration directly into the hillside. Near the site of that cairn is an outcropping of rock that bears faint carvings that spell out the names and military company of two men who fought in the battle (Resource 1a, 23GR00241), C. S. Lanning and G. A. Newsom.[339] That carving illustrates that the battleground was memorialized by Confederate as well as Union veterans; it includes the words "Co. E, Hughs Reg. Slacks Devision [sic] 1861. 8-10." That inscription was presumably in reference to the division headed by William Yarnell Slack, who was a brigadier general in the Missouri State Guard during the Civil War.[340]

Reunions and Memorial Associations

The end of the war brought more measures to recognize the impact of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. On July 31, 1865, just a few months after the end of the war, the "Lyon Association," was formed in St. Louis to commemorate "one of the most bloody and brilliant battles for the numbers engaged, that has occurred during the war."[341] The organization was open to members of the military who had fought in the battle, "in the service of the United States" [Union] and they were to meet once a year. They also discussed the placement of a marker of some type at the battlefield. That group probably continued to meet in St. Louis for at least a few years; an article in the St. Louis paper in 1873 noted plans for a Wilson's Creek reunion and banquet, which was to be held at a beer garden in the city on August 10, the anniversary of the battle.[342]

As interest in battlefield reunions grew, veterans and others also began meeting in Springfield and at the battlefield itself. In 1883, the newly formed Wilson's Creek Reunion Association organized a major battlefield reunion that drew some 20,000 people. One article declared that "the gathering of people on the hills and valleys which form the battle-ground was the largest ever known in southwest Missouri since the day of the battle itself."[343]

The event was open to veterans from both sides and was widely publicized throughout the region. Articles about the reunion ran in newspapers in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, and

[338] "Boyish Memories Picture War as Old Differences Are Buried on Wilson Creek Battlefield," *Springfield Daily News*, May 27, 1928, 1.
[339] Bray, *An Archeological Survey and Excavations*, 1967, 9.
[340] "William Yarnell Slack," *Arkansas Gravestones*, accessed June 2021, https://arkansasgravestones.org/view.php?id=24817.
[341] "Local News," *Daily Missouri Republican,* July 31, 1865, 3.
[342] "Military Reunion," *Missouri Republican,* August 3, 1873, 2.
[343] "On the Battlefield," *Quad-City Times* (Davenport. Iowa), August 3, 1883, 1.

Arkansas, and attendees included the governors of Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. Those governors had arranged for reduced rates on Iowa and Illinois railroads and free transportation from St. Louis to Springfield.[344] Much of the press coverage of the event referred to it as "the" Wilson's Creek reunion, which indicates that the event was well-known to readers. There were also frequent references to organizations of Wilson's Creek veterans that had formed in several other states including Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, and Arkansas.[345]

The success of the reunion in 1883 spurred a tradition of annual battlefield gatherings that continued into the late 1930s. They routinely included reenactments and other events on the battlefield as well as gatherings in Springfield. While not every year saw crowds as large as the one in 1883, the tradition remained strong enough to spur another multi-state publicity push in 1897. That year saw what the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* described as "the first national commemoration of an event of the great Civil War."[346] An estimated 10,000 visitors attended the 1897 reunion, including over 200 veterans of the Battle of Wilson's Creek."[347] One description of the crowd declared "If anyone supposes that people are losing interest in the Battle of Wilson's Creek, he should have seen the battlefield as it appeared today."[348]

The 1897 reunion was managed by a group of civic leaders in Springfield. Governors of the six states represented by troops in the battle served as honorary members of the committee, and the reunion received widespread press coverage. An article about it that ran in the St. Louis paper in February 1897 included drawings of the Ray House and selected sites in the battlefield, as well as portraits of Generals Lyon and Price.[349] (See Figure 25. Drawings of Wilson's Creek in 1897.)

Reunions were held on a regular basis in both Springfield and at the battlefield site into the late 1930s.[350] The gatherings proved to be a boon for tourism in Springfield as well as a popular recurring social event. Many people came year after year. Battle veteran Captain Posey Woodside of Thayer, Missouri, for example, claimed in 1901 to have never missed a reunion. Other regular attendees included non-veterans who lived in the area at the time of the battle. That included area resident Ollie I. Bruton (formerly Dryden), the daughter of John Ray rumored

344 "On the Battlefield," *Quad-City Times* (Davenport. Iowa), August 3, 1883, 1.
345 Dozens of articles about the 1883 reunion were found via searches on Newspapers.com in 2021.
346 "The Wilson Creek Reunion," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, February 28, 1897, 33.
347 "Wilson Creek–Thousands Attend the Reunion on the Historic Battle-Field," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, August 11, 1897, 1.
348 "Wilson Creek," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat,* August 11, 1897, 1.
349 "The Wilson Creek Reunion," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat,* February 28, 1897, 3.
350 The last reunion is said to have taken place in 1938. John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 1-21.

to have established the first rock cairn on the site of Lyon's death. Mrs. Bruton, then in her mid-70s, was interviewed for a long article in the Springfield newspaper in 1930 that included her account of hiding in the cellar during the battle. The article concluded with a note that she never missed an opportunity to attend the reunions and to visit "the old Ray home, where she spent the early years of her life."[351]

Ray House as a Touchstone of the Battle

The Ray House (Resource 6) continued to be associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek long after the war was over. Drawings and photos of the house accompanied numerous articles about the reunion in St. Louis and Springfield newspapers, which frequently described it as the place where Lyon's body was taken after the battle. (See Figure 25.) A photo of the house published in a Springfield paper in 1928 bore the caption "Lyon's Last Shelter."[352]

As one of the few Civil War era buildings left in the area, it was valued as an easily recognizable link to the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The Sharp House was burned by Union sympathizers in 1862, the Gibson House and Mill were destroyed by fire prior to 1881, and the Short House was gone by 1910.[353] By the 1960s, the Ray House and Springhouse were the only buildings to survive from the Battle of Wilson's Creek.[354]

The Ray House's continued survival was due in part to owners who valued its place in history. John McConnell, who purchased it and several hundred acres of the battlefield in 1904, was aware of its connection to the famous battle, and took pride in its history. McConnell lived there until his death in 1934, when it passed into the hands of his daughter Bessie McElhaney. Bessie McElhaney still owned the house when National Park Service historian Merrill J. Mattes visited the property in 1965. Mattes met her and several of her relatives at the house during his visit. He later wrote that she had been taking care of the property in anticipation of it being turned over to the National Park Service in the near future. Mattes observed that McConnell "recognized its special historical importance, and it is largely through his interest and sacrifices that this authentic historic structure survives with few alterations."[355]

Advocating for Park Status

---

[351] "Mrs. Ollie Bruton Recalls Wilson Creek Battle," *Springfield Press*, April 5, 1930.
[352] 1928 Newspaper Clipping included in Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 102.
[353] Bray, *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources,* 1975*,* 17; John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 2-50, 2-75.
[354] The springhouse later collapsed; it was reconstructed using original materials in the 1980s, as explained in Section 7.
[355] "Memorandum," Merrill J. Mattes to NPS Regional Director, April 30, 1965, on file at Wilson's Creek NB.

Calls for permanent commemoration of the battlefield began in the late 1800s, during the first national push for Civil War battlefield protection and recognition. A front-page article in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* that described the large reunion of 1897 observed that "From some points the battle-field makes a beautiful picture, and a comparatively small reservation would preserve its main outlines for all times."[356] It is likely that the 1897 reunion itself was inspired in part by a new national interest in commemoration of Civil War battlefields. That reunion took place just a few years after the creation of the first four federal designations of Civil War battlefields in the United States. Antietam and Chickamauga/Chattanooga were designated in 1890, followed by Shiloh in 1894 and Gettysburg in 1895. A fifth, Vicksburg, was added in 1899.

Those first five parks were among a group of at least nineteen large sites for which federal battlefield designation was requested in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Wilson's Creek was one of those. In 1899, U.S. Congressman James Cooney (from the Springfield area) introduced legislation to appropriate $50,000 to support the creation of a National Battlefield at Wilson's Creek, but the bill did not progress. The large number of new applications had essentially shut down congressional actions for battlefield preservation due to a lack of funding. Wilson's Creek continued to be seen locally as an important historic resource worthy of federal designation, however. Area residents remained hopeful that the battlefield would be added soon, and the *Springfield Leader-Democrat* reported in 1900 that the "subject of national parks has especial interest locally because of the proposition to convert the battlefield of Wilson Creek into one."[357] In 1905, the Wilson's Creek National Monument Association was chartered to continue working for formal commemoration.[358]

Battlefield reunions continued at Wilson's Creek through the first decades of the century and were even held during WWI. With the end of WWI came a renewed national interest in war-related commemoration, locally and nationally. The 1910s and 20s saw a marked increase in battlefield preservation activities which included numerous requests for new national battlefields, along with talk of moving battlefield oversight to the National Park Service, which was created in 1916.[359] In the 1920s, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Shepard of the Hills Association, led by civic leader John T. Woodruff of Springfield, began a concerted effort to have Wilson's Creek designated as a public park.[360] They were aided in that effort by Professor L. E. Meador of the History Department at Drury College and Congressman Sam C. Majors, of Missouri's Seventh District (which included Springfield and Wilson's Creek).

---

[356] "Wilson Creek," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, August 11, 1897, 1.
[357] "Four Fields are Honored," *Springfield Leader-Democrat*, July 18, 1900, 3.
[358] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-90.
[359] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 68-69.
[360] "Wilson Creek Bill is Ready for Congress," *Springfield Leader and Press*, November 30, 1927, 1.

In 1927, Congressman Majors introduced a bill to designate Wilson's Creek a national military park. The bill was supported by a full survey of the battlefield conducted by a local engineering firm, as well as historical research provided by Professor Meador.[361] That bill did not progress, but the U.S. Army War College did conduct a new survey of the battlefield in 1928 to evaluate its potential to become a national park. The War Department suggested that instead of preserving the full battlefield, a large marker be erected, which was their recommendation for the treatment of mid-level battlefields.[362]

Lyon Marker

By the time the War College made that determination, local boosters were already making plans for a permanent marker. In May 1928, one month after the War College survey, a formal marble marker provided by the University of Club of Springfield was installed on the site of Lyon's death.[363] The marker was placed close to the remnants of the rock cairn that was established in 1861 to mark the site.[364] That marker (Resource 1d) is still in place; it is the oldest commemorative object within Wilson's Creek National Battlefield today.

The Lyon Marker was not meant to be a substitute for federal designation of the battlefield site, however. After a three-day reunion at the battlefield in August 1928, a Springfield paper reported that efforts were still underway to "have the grounds made a national park" but noted that budget issues would make it difficult. The article ended with words of encouragement. "Nevertheless, by keeping everlastingly at it the park will be obtained."[365] Those words proved to be true, although it would be another three decades before the plan came to fruition.

Land Purchase

Local boosters advocated for national park status through the 1940s, but also began exploring other possibilities, including adding the site to the state park system and/or acquiring the land outright. Memorial efforts were significantly advanced with the creation of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation in 1950. The non-profit foundation, which is still active, was established by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce to acquire land around Wilson's Creek for a

---

361 "Wilson Creek Bill is Ready for Congress," *Springfield Leader and Press*, November 30, 1927, 1; John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-78 and 2-79.
362 Smith, *Altogether Fitting, 77.*
363 "Club to Dedicate Historic Marker," *Springfield Daily News*, May 26, 1928, 6.
364 "Boyish Memories Picture War as Old Differences Are Buried on Wilson Creek Battlefield," *Springfield Daily News*, May 27, 1928, 1.
365 "Wilson Creek Park," *Springfield Leader and Press,* September 3, 1928, 10.

memorial.[366] One of the foundation's first actions was to raise funds to purchase approximately thirty-seven acres of land around the Bloody Hill that had recently been offered for sale; they completed that purchase in 1951.[367]

As the centennial of the Civil War approached, the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation and area legislators redoubled their efforts. Legislation related to Wilson's Creek was introduced at both the state and federal levels in the 1950s. Missouri Senator Thomas Hennings and Representative Dewey Short introduced numerous federal bills to create a national park at Wilson's Creek in the 1950s. Those bills did not progress, but their efforts did spur a series of on-site hearings in Springfield in 1959.[368]

At those hearings, the Federal Bureau of the Budget opposed another proposal to create a national park at Wilson's Creek, citing financial restraints. There was also a statement from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior that the Civil War was sufficiently commemorated via existing national parks, including Pea Ridge in Arkansas, which was approved in 1956.[369] In a July 1959 hearing held by the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Frank Harrison, an assistant to the Director of the Interior, reiterated the claim that the Battle of Pea Ridge was an adequate memorial for both battles and said that at that time, the National Park Service administrated twenty-six sites commemorating the Civil War.[370]

The hearings also drew statements of support for the project, including information about the importance of the Battle of Wilson's Creek to the Civil War and arguments in favor of the site's natural resources. In one hearing, Idaho Representative Gracie Pfost, a native of Arkansas who had also supported the designation of Pea Ridge, testified that the site had "beautiful terrain," and that "the height on which the major portions of the battle were fought are very picturesque…"[371] She also reported that the Missouri State Park superintendent believed that the site had national significance.

National Park Designation in 1960

Finally, local support outweighed federal reluctance to add another Civil War battlefield to the National Park system. A 1957 site visit from Conrad Wirth, the director of the National Park

[366] Malcom J. Berg, "Partnerships: Planning for Wilson's Creek Battlefield," *Ozarks Watch* 4, no. 4 (Spring 1991): 40, https://thelibrary.org/lochist/periodicals/ozarkswatch/ow404toc.htm; "Who We Are," Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, accessed 2021, https://wilsonscreek.com/about.
[367] "Park Proposal Nearer Reality," *Springfield Leader and Press*, August 23, 1950, 13.
[368] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 155.
[369] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 151-156.
[370] Hazelwood and Slaughter, "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act," 11.
[371] Hazelwood and Slaughter, "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act," 11.

Service, appears to have spurred the introduction of legislation, and on February 15, 1960, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing the creation of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park.[372] It passed shortly after in the Senate.[373] On April 22, 1960, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 86-434 authorizing Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park.[374] A formal dedication was held at the battlefield on August 10, 1961, the 100-year anniversary of the battle. At that time, however, the park existed in name only; the federal government did not yet own any land. Over the next decade the National Park Service worked with state and local partners to acquire land and restore the cultural landscape that was the scene of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. By 1970, much of the battlefield had been returned to its mid-1800s configuration, and authorization of the new national park ensured the continuation of a century of commemoration of the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Land Acquisition and Park Development: 1960 to 1970

In keeping with what had become standard practice in the creation of new national parks, the bill that created Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park included little funding for land acquisition. State and local partners were expected to donate land to the Park Service, which would then take charge of development and administration of the new national park.[375] The legislative report that accompanied the enabling legislation indicated that plans had already been made to donate the thirty-seven acre parcel owned by the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation, and that the National Park Service had estimated several hundred more acres would be needed.[376] In June 1960, National Park Service historian Edwin Bearss surveyed the battlefield to determine the ideal boundaries for the new park.[377]

Over the next several years, the National Park Service and the State of Missouri worked together to identify and acquire land. In July 1961, the Missouri General Assembly established the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park Commission to obtain land for the park, with a goal of compiling 1,750 acres to donate to the National Park Service. The creation of that commission was seen locally an important step, and the Springfield paper reported that "Springfield leaders in the effort to obtain recognition for the historic spot were jubilant" to see the state committing to the development.[378] John K. Huston, chair of a citizen's steering

[372] "House O. K.'s Bill on Wilson's Creek," *The Kansas City Times*, February 16, 1960, 3; John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-105.
[373] "Senate Okay to Park Bill," *Springfield Leader and Press*, April 11, 1960, 11.
[374] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-105.
[375] Smith, *Altogether Fitting*, 156; "Report to Accompany HR 725," in Hazelwood and Slaughter, "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act."
[376] Hazelwood and Slaughter, "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act."
[377] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 1-24.
[378] "Approval Won by Park Bill," *Springfield Leader and Press*, June 28, 1961, 13.

committee that had worked for years on the national park proposal, stated "we approach the climax of a 75-year fight for proper national recognition…"[379] The following month the National Park Service took possession of the first parcel of land at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park. During the dedication ceremony on the centennial of the battle, the Wilson's Creek Battlefield Foundation presented the National Park Service with the deed to the thirty-seven acres they owned on Bloody Hill.[380]

Early land acquisition was concentrated in Greene County and in May 1965, the state transferred just over 1,000 acres in Greene County to the National Park Service.[381] While the state worked to acquire additional land in Christian County, the National Park Service began a long-term process of improving the portion of the battlefield that was in Greene County. Those improvements included the removal of modern buildings and features as well as the development of a park road system and basic facilities for park staff and visitors.[382]

Early development at the park was guided by a good deal of scholarly research, all of which was sponsored or conducted by the National Park Service. As a well-known building that was strongly associated with the battle, the Ray House was one of the first subjects to be investigated. Early in 1965, NPS historian Merrill Mattes visited the Ray House, which was still privately-owned. He met with members of the McElhaney family and a local historian who was familiar with the property and made notes about existing conditions and changes that had taken place over the years.[383] Once the house was under control of the National Park Service, Edwin Bearss returned to complete an extensive history of the house for a historic structures report that would guide future restoration of the house.[384]

The 1960s also brought attention to archeological resources. In 1966 and 1967, archeologist Robert T. Bray conducted studies to locate and identify features specifically associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek. That include work at Bloody Hill as well as locating the remains of buildings and structures that were in place at the time of the battle but had since been lost. He was able to identify the E. B. Short Farmstead, the Edwards Cabin site (Resource 14), the Gibson House, and the Gibson Mill.[385] Work at the Gibson site included discovery of millstones

[379] "Approval Won by Park Bill," *Springfield Leader and Press*, June 28, 1961, 13.
[380] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-105.
[381] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-105.
[382] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-106.
[383] Memo to the Regional Director from Merrill J. Mattes, NPS Historian, April 30, 1965. (Wilsons Creek NB files.)
[384] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report Part II.* The Ray House was restored in 1984.
[385] Douglas Scott, *Archeological Overview and Assessment for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene and Christian Counties, Missouri*, 9.

and other tools associated with the mill. Bray also located a short section of the Wire Road and conducted an excavation at Short Spring. The excavations at the Short Spring Site are notable as the first in the park that yielded precontact materials.

Early park development also included reversing modern changes that had taken place since the end of the Civil War. By 1960, sections of the Wire Road had been abandoned and rerouted, and numerous small farms occupied the former battlefield. Buildings that had played important roles in the battle were no longer standing, and in many cases, knowledge of their exact locations had been lost. One report noted that at least fifteen "excess" building groupings within the new boundaries that were judged to have "no present or potential value for park purposes" were demolished in the late 1960s.[386] Aside from the Ray House and Springhouse, the McElhaney farmstead (Resources 8, 8a, 8b, 8c and 121) appears to be the only property that escaped wholesale demolition in the early years of park development.

Basic accommodations for visitors were also added, although that effort was limited by the lack of funding or federal ownership of the land. Most of the early interpretive features were located near Bloody Hill or along public roads in the area. The National Park Service entered into an agreement with the Greene County Road and Bridge Department, which stipulated that the county would supply labor and equipment, and the Park Service would pay for materials for any new parking lots or road improvements. By 1967, they had established a self-guided tour along public roads around the north end of the battlefield. (See Figure 26. 1967 Brochure Map.) The tour highlighted features such as Bloody Hill, Sigel's (Third) Final Position (Sharp House Site, Resource 10), the location of General Price's Headquarters (Now Edwards Cabin Site, Resource 14), and the Ray House (Resource 6) and Cornfield.[387] A short walking trail on Bloody Hill accessed the Lyon Marker (Resource 1d) and Burial Sinkhole (Resource 1b). Those changes were greeted with enthusiasm by the general public. In 1967, three years before it was officially a national park, the battlefield saw 41,400 visitors; by 1970, annual visitation had risen to 44,300.[388]

Park Authorization and Dedication: 1970-1972

By 1968, the state was able to turn over another 718 acres of land, all located in Christian County.[389] That transfer brought the National Battlefield to 1,749.91 acres, the same size it was when the National Register form for the park was completed in 1976. It also marked the fulfillment of the state's pledge to supply land for Missouri's new national park and spurred

[386] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-107.
[387] "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri," Park Brochure, 1967.
[388] Attendance records from Wilson's Creek NB.
[389] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-108.

additional federal allocations for park development and operations. Two years later, in December 1970, President Richard Nixon signed an amendment to the original authorizing legislation of 1960 to increase funding by $2,285,000 to support development at the park.[390] The bill also formally established the park and changed the name from "Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park" to "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield."[391] With full federal land ownership and a secure source of funding, the long-sought national park was at last a reality.

On Sept 22, 1972, officials and supporters gathered for a formal dedication of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.[392] Speakers at the event represented numerous groups that had worked to gain federal recognition, including the National Park Service, the State of Missouri, and state and federal legislators. Special guests included local historians and civic leaders who had advocated for years to establish permanent protection for the battlefield.[393] U.S. Representative Durward Hall, who had been a strong supporter of the battlefield for years, commented on the importance of the site and how good it was to have concluded the long process of making it a National Park. "On Dec. 16, [1970] President Nixon signed the bill into law, and we had ourselves a national battlefield, plus an additional authorization for $2.2 million."[394]

Conclusion: Social History

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has statewide significance in the area of Social History as the only national battlefield in the state. It was created after a long campaign to secure permanent recognition and protection for the site of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The battlefield's designation as a national park in 1960 and the restoration of the battlefield by the National Park Service and the State of Missouri that took place before the formal dedication in 1972 ensured permanent protection of the land and ongoing commemoration of the battle.

Long recognized as a nationally significant battlefield, Wilson's Creek is one of twenty national battlefields associated with the Civil War. Attaining that status took just over a century. Memorial efforts began right after the battle and continued after the war with more than fifty years of battlefield reunions. The reunions routinely drew participants from across the state and region. By the late 1890s, Missouri's federal legislators were filing bills to create a national park at Wilson's Creek. After dozens of failed attempts and decades of study and promotion, the Wilson's Creek Battlefield became one of only two battlefields added to the National Park

390 "Wilson's Creek Funds Approved," *The Springfield News-Leader*, September 15, 1970, 13.
391 Hazelwood and Slaughter, "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act," 42.
392 "Wilson's Creek now Formally Established: Battlefield is 'Place of Remembrance,'" *Springfield Leader and Press,* September 23, 1972, 9.
393 "Plans Complete for Dedication," *Springfield Leader and Press*, September 19, 1972, 3.

System in association with the centennial of the Civil War. It is the only national battlefield in Missouri

By "keeping everlastingly at it," supporters of preserving the agrarian setting of the Battle of Wilson's Creek were able to achieve their goal of permanent protection for the site of a Civil War battle that had a profound impact on the outcome of the war.[395] As a result of those efforts, the story will be told, and the land will be preserved for generations to come.

Criterion Consideration F
Commemorative properties are not usually eligible for listing in the National Register unless they have acquired significance through age, tradition, or symbolic value. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has acquired significance through age and symbolic value, and it is justified for listing under National Register Criterion Consideration F: Commemorative Properties. It was created more than fifty years ago after a long campaign to preserve the property and have it declared a national park. The designation as a National Battlefield is, in itself, significant under Criterion A: Social History because it is the tangible result of a full century of spontaneous commemoration and recognition of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The park development that followed that designation restored an important cultural landscape. The commemorative period of significance includes park designation and early development.

Ongoing Park Development and Operations: 1972 to 2021
Once the park was officially established with a federally owned land base that made it a viable unit of the National Park System, the National Park Service resumed restoration of the cultural landscape and created visitor amenities and enhanced interpretive features. Historical and archeological investigations continued, and existing historic resources were studied and rehabilitated or restored. As the sole buildings left from the time of the battle, the Ray House and Springhouse were the subject of intensive study as well as careful restoration.

The buildings of the McElhaney farmstead south of the Ray House were rehabilitated to serve as park housing in the mid-1970s. That farmstead contains the only buildings besides the those of the Ray farm that were not demolished after the National Park Service took control of the property. Although the McElhaney house and outbuildings were not in place at the time of the battle, they do form an intact farmstead that is evocative of the agricultural landscape of the 1860s. That likely contributed to the decision to retain them for use in the new park. As noted in

[394] "Wilson's Creek now Formally Established: Battlefield is 'Place of Remembrance,'" 9.
[395] The phrase "keeping everlastingly at it" was coined in "Wilson Creek Park," *Springfield Leader and Press,* September 3, 1928, 10.

Bulletin 40, "the presence of farm related buildings dating from outside the Period of Significance generally will not destroy the battlefield's integrity. It is important that the land retain its rural or agricultural identity."[396]

Although the cabin that may have served as General Price's headquarters was long gone by the time the park was established, the Park Service was able to acquire another early cabin that was roughly the same age and size in 1973. That cabin was relocated to the park from the town of Battlefield, as a donation from the Greene County Historical Society. After several years in storage, it was moved to what was believed to be the original location of Price's headquarters during the battle.[397] The restored cabin (Resource 130) enhances the interpretive landscape but is counted as a noncontributing building because it was reconstructed and moved to the site in modern times.

The National Park Service also worked to maintain historically open spaces in the landscape through a mix of prairie restoration and agricultural development. They leased fields to local farmers to give visitors a sense of what the area might have looked like when it was being cultivated in the 1860s. Agricultural areas include Ray's Cornfield in the northeast part of the park and the Sharp Cornfield to the south; both of which were important locations during the Battle of Wilson's Creek.[398] In 1988, the park began conducting prescribed burns at selected areas to control invasive and non-native plant species and encourage additional native plant growth.[399]

The 1980s saw a pair of large-scale changes that were made to enhance the visitor experience. In 1979, Congress appropriated $1,300,000 in Fiscal Year 1979 to replace a temporary visitor center that had been in place since the early 1970s. Construction of the large new Visitor Center (Resource 100) and parking area (Resource 109) was completed in 1982.[400] The Visitor Center complex includes a picnic area with a large pavilion and a short nature trail that are still in use (Resources 106 and 108). An addition to the Visitor Center in 2021 nearly doubled the size of the building.

Circulation systems also saw extensive development in the 1980s. The most notable change in that area involved a transition from the use of public roads to a new internal Tour Road (Resource 112). The 4.85-mile Tour Road, which opened in April 1987 and is still in use, was

[396] Andrus, *Bulletin 40*, 12.
[397] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2-109 and 2-120.
[398] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 3-5.
[399] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 1-122.
[400] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 1-23.

designed to give visitors a dedicated route through the battlefield and make it easier to secure access to the park in off hours. (Vandalism was a problem in the 1970s.) It includes eight pull-off areas that contain wayside exhibits and/or access to the park's network of trails.[401]

In keeping with general National Park Service attention to recreational facilities, numerous pedestrian and equestrian trails were created. Many of those trails follow the paths of earlier roads. The largest such pathway follows the route of the Wire Road which cuts at a diagonal across the park. Other trails allow for pedestrian access between stops along the Tour Road and to sites that are not located directly along the road. They include the Pulaski Battery Trail (Resource 131), the Ray House and Springhouse Trail (Resource 123), the East and West Battlefield Overlook Trails (Resources 124 and 107), the Ray Cornfield Trail (Resource 113), and the Edwards Cabin Trail (Resource 132).

The twenty-first century brought a shift from the creation of visitor amenities to more emphasis on landscape management to maintaining and restore the landscape to reflect its appearance at the time of the battle. In 2003, the National Park Service completed a General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for the park, which was followed a year later by the completion of a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR).[402] The CLR documented the cultural landscape of the park, compared existing and historic landscape conditions, and provided treatment recommendations and guidelines for ongoing landscape management and restoration. Many of the recommendations made in that document have already been followed, and a Vegetative Management Plan completed in 2018 addresses additional landscape restoration efforts, with an emphasis on controlling encroaching vegetation. That work includes prescribed burns, physical removal, and chemical treatments to improve viewsheds and control invasive and non-native tree and shrub species. Special attention has been given to managing Eastern red cedar, which invades and damages glade habitats.[403]

Increase of Legislative Boundaries

In 1993, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission issued a report on the condition of Civil War battlefields. That report classified Wilson's Creek National Battlefield as a Priority III battlefield that needed "some additional protection."[404] Around 2000, research and a survey of land adjacent to the park's boundaries was conducted to identify additional areas that were

[401] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 1-23.
[402] John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report,* 1-1.
[403] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*, 2.
[404]Civil War Sites Advisory Committee, *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields* (Washington, D. C.: National Park Service, 1993), 50.

associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek.[405] The survey was done through the American Battlefield Protection Program, a National Park Service Program that was initiated in 1991.[406] That survey helped lay the groundwork for a future expansion of the legislative boundaries.

In 2003, the park issued a General Management Plan that stated that the boundaries of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield at that time included only about "75% of the actual combat areas associated with the Battle of Wilson's Creek."[407] The plan recommended the addition of six adjacent parcels (615 acres in all) that had been identified by that survey. Most of those parcels were located south and west of the park boundaries. They included portions of Bloody Hill, an area that contained segments of the Wire Road and Little York Road, a Confederate rallying point near the Ray House. A parcel to the north included General Sweeny's Museum of Civil War History, which housed one of the best private Civil War collections in the country.[408] (See Figure 27. 2004 Map of the Boundary Increase.)

The recommendations were accepted by Congress the next year. The Wilson's Creek Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004 amended the legislative boundaries of the park to add the 615 acres called for in the 2003 General Management Plan.[409] That act brought the legislative boundaries of the park to just under 2,365 acres. As with the original legislation in 1960, that change did not impact ownership of the added lands, which were at the time almost all privately owned. It instead gave the Secretary of the Interior the power to acquire lands "by donation, or by purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds."[410] The National Park Service has steadily acquired land around the edges of the original park since that time, and as of 2021, federal ownership totaled just over 1,955 acres.

Management of the park since that time has included acquisition and protection of lands within the boundary increase, plus management and restoration of cultural landscape features within the original boundaries. An Environmental Assessment conducted in 2018 pointed out the importance of the cultural landscape at the park, including "features present at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek or evocative of the landscape that those present would have

---

[405] *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield: Final General Management Plan Amendment,* 3.
[406] "American Battlefield Protection Program," National Park Service, accessed November 2021, https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/whatwedo.htm.
[407] *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield: Final General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement* (Omaha, NE: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2002), 9.
[408] *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield: Final General Management Plan,* 10-13.
[409] Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-394, 118 Stat. 2247 (2004).
[410] Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-394, 118 Stat. 2247 (2004).

experienced."[411] The report noted the need to maintain and enhance critical viewsheds and riparian corridors, while simultaneously controlling invasive vegetation such as the Eastern red cedar. Interpretive facilities have been greatly enhanced by the recent renovation and expansion of the Visitor Center. That expansion was done in part to accommodate the collections of the General Sweeney Civil War Museum, which were acquired after the museum property was added to the legislative boundaries of the park.

Continued attention to the cultural landscape of the battlefield, paired with improvements to interpretive programs, ensures that the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will continue to inform the public and pay homage to the Battle of Wilson's Creek long into the future.

Conclusion: Significance of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is one of just twenty Civil War National Battlefields and the only Missouri battlefield that is a national park. As the site of the second major battle of the Civil War, it has national significance. The first Union general to die in the Civil War was killed fighting in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. While the battle was a Confederate victory, it benefitted the Union by securing Missouri's status as a Union state and highlighted the state's importance in the Trans-Mississippi Theatre in the Civil War.
The battle is also significant for its role in vindicating the common, largely volunteer soldier. Many of the participants were new recruits who expected to be at war for only a short time. For the most part they looked forward to returning quickly to their firesides. For many, the Battle of Wilson's Creek was their first experience under fire. They left a heritage of honor.

The historic Fayetteville or Wire Road, which traverses the battlefield, has local significance in the areas of transportation and communications. One of the first improved roads in Greene County, it was part of a road that ran between Springfield and Fayetteville, Arkansas in the late 1830s. It later became one of the easternmost sections of the Butterfield Trail, the first transcontinental stage line in the country. When the stage line was active in the late 1850s, residents of Wilson's Creek could catch a stage in front of the John Ray House and be halfway across the country in a matter of days. The construction of a telegraph line along the roadway during the Civil War earned it the title of Wire Road, a name that endured long after the telegraph was discontinued at the end of the war.[412] The road was also frequently used to move troops and supplies throughout the war. The Wire Road gradually fell from use after the end of the Civil War, but segments of the roadway are intact within the park boundaries. It is an important link to the early transportation networks in Greene County.

---

[411] Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*, i-ii.
[412] Bearss, *The Ray House: Historic Structures Report, Part II,* 53.

Archeological resources have enriched understanding and interpretation at the park and there is strong potential for future discoveries. The park therefore has statewide significance under Criterion D as an archaeological district. The first archeological studies in the area were conducted after the battlefield became a national park in 1960, and they have continued into the twenty-first century. Early work concentrated on historic resources, to expand the historic record and assist in preliminary development of the national park. Those early studies also yielded information about precontact activity. Subsequent investigations have added to the understanding of the area as it appeared prior to 1700 and identified a strong potential for additional information.

The battlefield has statewide significance in the area of Social History. It took nearly a century for Wilson's Creek to become a unit of the National Park Service, but that delay was not from want of effort. Commemoration of the battle began within a few days of the clash and the battlefield was the site of large reunions for half a century. State and local boosters began advocating for national park status for the property in 1890s, but it was a full seventy years before that dream became a reality. After numerous failed attempts to create a national park at Wilson's Creek, the battlefield attained federal designation in 1960, and it was formally dedicated in 1972. That dedication marked the culmination of a long public campaign to preserve the battlefield, which included noteworthy cooperation among local, state, and federal entities.

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield continues to reflect its role in history. National Park status brought about numerous historical studies, which were used to guide the restoration of the landscape. That work was done with the goal of returning the land as close as possible to the condition it was in at the time of the battle. It involved removal of almost all farmsteads and fencing that had been added in the intervening century, as well as restoration of the Ray House and Springhouse to their Civil War-era appearance. Later additions of a tour road and a large visitor center were designed to impact the historic landscape as little as possible. The Visitor Center is in a corner of the park that saw little action during the Civil War, and the Tour Road was carefully planned to have a minimal impact upon the cultural landscape of the battlefield. The landscape today clearly evokes its sense of time and place and provides a fitting memorial for a nationally significant Civil War battle.

Appendix I: Table of All Resources, in Alphabetical Order by Name.

See Figures 4-8 for resource location maps, and Figure 10 for section locations.
(Archeological resources are not included on location maps.)

Appendix I: All Resources, by Name

#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contributing Status	Section Number	Index Map
16	Archaic Campsite	Site	Contributing		
17	Artifact Scatter	Site	Contributing		
133	Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	26 NE	5
1.3	Bloody Hill Rock Carving	Site	Contributing	26 NE	5
25	Bluff Cave	Site	Contributing	23 SE	
32	Broken Langtry Site	Site	Contributing		
1a	Burial Sinkhole (Sinkhole)	Site	Contributing	26 SW	5
1c	Burial Well	Site	Contributing		5
103	Carpenter Shop	Building	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
18	Cave Scatter	Site	Contributing		
33	Chert Artifacts	Site	Contributing		
124	East Battlefield Overlook Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 SW	3
126	East Battlefield Overlook Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 SW	3
127	East Battlefield Overlook Trail Stairs	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 SW	3
4	Edgar Cemetery	Site	Contributing	24 SW	2
130	Edwards Cabin / Price's Headquarters Exhibit	Building	N/C moved	25 SW	5
132	Edwards Cabin Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 SW	5
14	Edwards, William, Cabin Archeological Site	Site	Contributing	26 SW	5
119	Farm Road 182 Wilson's Creek Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 NW	2
3	Farm Road 182 (Elm Street)	Structure	Contributing	23 E	1, 2
148	Farmstead Archeological Site	Site	N/C lack of information		
7	Fayetteville (Wire) Road	Structure	Contributing	Multiple	3, 4, 5
104	Fire Cache	Building	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
101	Former Wastewater Treatment Plant	Building	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
149	Foundation Ruins/Lithic Scatter	Site	N/C lack of information		
5	Gibson, John and Martha, House and Mill Archeological Site	Site	Contributing	23 SE	2
114	Gibson's Mill Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 SW	2
117	Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 1	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 SW	2
118	Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 2	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 SW	2
136	Guibor's Battery Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of sig.	26 SE	5

Appendix I: All Resources, by Name

#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contributing Status	Section Number	Index Map
144	Hand Dug Tiff or Barite Mine	Site	N/C lack of information		
19	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
20	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
21	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
23	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
24	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
26	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
29	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
30	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
31	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
28	Lithic Scatter	Site	Contributing		
22	Lithic Scatter and Campsite	Site	Contributing		
147	Lithic Scatter/ farm site	Site	N/C lack of information		
1d	Lyon Marker	Object	Contributing	26 NE	5
102	Maintenance Equipment Storage	Building	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
9	Manley Cemetery	Site	Contributing	25 SW	3
122	Manley Uplands Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	36 NW, 36 SW	3
9a	Manley, Caleb and Rebecca, House Archeological Site	Site	Contributing	25 SW	3
15	Manley, T. B., House Archeological Site	Site	Contributing	26 SE	5
8b	McElhaney Outbuilding	Building	Contributing	25 NW	3
121	McElhaney Pump House	Building	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 NW	3
8c	McElhaney Root Cellar	Structure	Contributing	25 NW	3
8a	McElhaney, William and Bessie, Barn	Building	Contributing	25 NW	3
8	McElhaney, William and Bessie, House	Building	Contributing	25 NW	3
105	Mechanic Shop	Building	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
34	Natural Trap Sinkhole	Site	Contributing		
111	Nature Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 NW	1
146	O'Connor, Dixie, Farm Archeological Site	Site	N/C lack of information	26 SE	
37	Open Habitation Precontact Site	Site	Contributing		
106	Picnic Shelter	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
13	Pratt Pony Truss Bridge, County Road 194	Structure	Contributing	25 SW	5
131	Pulaski Battery Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 SW	5
135	Pulaski Battery Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 SW	5
113	Ray Cornfield Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 SW	2
123	Ray House and Springhouse Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 NE, 25 NW	3
6b	Ray House Pump House	Building	Contributing	25 NW	3

Appendix I: All Resources, by Name

#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contributing Status	Section Number	Index Map
6	Ray, John and Roxanna, House	Building	Contributing	25 NE	3
6a	Ray, John and Roxanna, Springhouse	Building	Contributing	25 NW	3
141	Sandstone Quarry	Site	N/C lack of information		
10	Sharp, Joseph and Mary, House Archeological Site	Site	Contributing	35 NE	4
2	Short, Elias and Rebecca Farm Archeological Site	Site	Contributing	25 SE	1
2a	Short, Elias B. and Rebecca, Springbox	Structure	Contributing	23 SW	1
129	Southwest Boundary Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	35 SE, 36 SW	4
27	Spring Archeological Site	Site	Contributing		
11	State Highway ZZ	Structure	Contributing	23 SW	5
138	Stone Lined Well #1	Site	N/C lack of information		
139	Stone Lined Well #2	Site	N/C lack of information		
142	Stone Lined Well #3	Site	N/C lack of information		
112	Tour Road	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	Multiple	1-5
115	Tour Road-McElhaney Branch Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 NE	2
116	Tour Road-North Wilson's Creek Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 SW	2
125	Tour Road-Ray House Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	24 SW	3
134	Tour Road-Skegg's Branch Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	26 SE	5
128	Tour Road-South Wilson's Creek Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	36 NW	4
140	Town of Wilson Creek Archeological Site	Site	N/C lack of information		
120	Trail to Telegraph Road	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	25 NW	2, 5
100	Visitor Center	Building	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
108	Visitor Center Nature Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
109	Visitor Center Parking Lot	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SW	1
145	Well Depression	Site	N/C lack of information		
107	West Battlefield Overlook Trail	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23 SE	1
110	West Overlook Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C Outside Pd. of Significance	23SE	1
1	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield - Overall Site	Site	Contributing	All	All
12	Winn, Larkin, House Archeological Site (Gwinn House)	Site	Contributing		5

Sources

Alligood, Nekole. "History of the Delaware Nation." Delaware Nation. Accessed February 2021. https://www.delawarenation-nsn.gov/history/.

"American Battlefield Protection Program." National Park Service. Accessed November 2021. https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/whatwedo.htm.

Andrus, Patrick. *Bulletin 40: Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992.

Archeological Site Forms: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Lincoln, NE: Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC), National Park Service.

Bearss, Edwin C. *The Battle of Wilson's Creek*. Cassville, MO: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, 1992.

Bearss, Edwin C. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene and Christian Counties, Missouri.* Denver, CO: National Park Service, ca. 1970.

Bearss, Edwin C. *The Ray House: Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, Historic Structures Report, Part II*. Washington, DC: U.S Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1968.

Berg, Malcom J. "Partnerships: Planning for Wilson's Creek Battlefield." *Ozarks Watch* 4, no. 4, (Spring 1991): 40. https://thelibrary.org/lochist/periodicals/ozarkswatch/ow404toc.htm.

Boardman, V. "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek," June 12, 1885.

Boyle, Shanna, and Julie March, eds. *Crossroads at the Spring: A Pictorial History of Springfield, Missouri*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 1997.

Bray, Robert T. *An Archaeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, Missouri.* Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, 1967.

Bray, Robert T. *Inventory and Evaluation of the Archaeological Resources, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, 1975.

Center for Archeological Research. "Delaware Town: Where the Wilson Meets the James." Springfield, MO: Missouri State University, 2005. Accessed April 2021. https://delawaretown.missouristate.edu/delaware.html.

"Old Wire Road Bridge." Bridgehunter.com. Accessed July 2021. https://bridgehunter.com/mo/greene/old-wire-road/.

"Bull Run: First Manassas." American Battlefield Trust. Accessed May 2021. https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/bull-run.

Busch, Thomas P. "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield." National Register of Historic Places Inventory–Nomination Form, National Register # 66000113. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 11, 1976.

Butterfield Overland Trail: National Historical Trail Special Resource Study. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2018.

"Butterfield Overland Mail." *Wikipedia.* Accessed June 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfield_Overland_Mail#/media/File:Butterfield-Overland.gif.

"Carding Mill," Old Sturbridge Village. Accessed April 2021. https://www.osv.org/building/carding-mill/.

Catton, Bruce. *Terrible Swift Sword: The Centennial History of the Civil War, Volume Two.* Garden City, NY: Doubleday,1963.

Catton, Bruce, and James McPherson, eds. *The American Heritage New History of the Civil War.* New York: Viking Penguin, 1996

"Christian County: Its First 100 Years." Rootsweb.com. Accessed 2021. https://sites.rootsweb.com/~moccl/CCMo1st100/ccfirst100.htm.

Chapman, Carl, and Eleanor Chapman. *Indians and Archeology of Missouri.* Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1983.

Civil War Sites Advisory Committee. *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields.* Washington, D. C.: National Park Service, 1993.

Comay, Laura B. *National Park System: What Do the Different Park Titles Signify?* Washington D.C.: Congressional Research Service, 2013.

Commonwealth Heritage Group and Sargent, Liz. *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations*. Omaha, NE: National Park Service, 2018.

"Douglas D. Scott." *Historical Archeology*, 2015 49 (2): 1-9.

Fairbanks, Jonathan, and Clyde Edwin Tuck. *Past and Present of Greene County Missouri: Vol. 1.* Accessed June 2021. https://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/paspres/ch5pt2.html.

Glassie, Henry. *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.

"Gray-Campbell House," *Ozarks Watch*, Vol IV, No. 2, Fall 1990.

"Gray/Campbell Farmstead." The Gray/Campbell Farmstead. Accessed May 2021. http://www.graycampbellfarmstead.org/index.html.

Hazelwood, Laura and Slaughter, Connie. "Legislative History of the 1960 Enabling Act of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and the Amending Act of 1970." Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999.

Hess, Earl J., Richard W. Hatcher III, William Garrett Piston, and William L. Shea. *Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge & Prairie Grove: A Battlefield Guide with a Section on Wire Road.* Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2006.

Hine, Robert V., and John Mack Faragher. *The American West: A New Interpretive History.* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000.

Hoelcke, William. "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861." St. Louis: U.S. Army, Headquarters, Department of the Missouri, 1865.

Holcombe, R. I., ed. *History of Greene County, Missouri*. St. Louis, MO: Western Historical, 1883.

John Milner Associates, Inc. *Cultural Landscape Report: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, Missouri*. Omaha: NE, National Park Service, 2004.

"John Smith Phelps." Wikipedia. Accessed June 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_S._Phelps.

Kay, Marvin, and Jason Herrmann. "Archaeological Predictive Modeling of Land Use at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, and Wilson's Creek Historic Battlefield, Missouri." Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 2005.

Kingman, Winslow A. "Two Important Pioneer Roads of the Ozarks." *Ozarks Mountaineer*, March 1960, 5.

Klapp, August K. *The Ray House*. Springfield, MO: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, 1981.

Marshall, Howard. *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie.* Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1981.

"Manassas." National Park Service. Accessed September 2021. https://www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm.

McCandless, Perry. *A History of Missouri, Vol. 2.* Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1972.

McPherson, James. *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era.* New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

McPherson, James M. *Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982.

"Milestones: Transcontinental Telegraph, 1861." IEEE Denver Section. Accessed June 2021. http://ethw.org/Milestones:Transcontinental_Telegraph,_1861.

Monk, Susan M. *The Archeology of the Ray House*. Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 1983.

National Park Service. "Boundaries: Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park." U.S. Department of the Interior, 1961.

National Park Service. "Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park." Park Brochure. Kansas City MO: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1967.

Parrish, William E. *History of Missouri: Vol. III, 1860-1876*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1973.

Patrick, Jeffrey L. *Campaign for Wilson's Creek: The Fight for Missouri Begins.* Abilene, TX: State House Press, 2018.

Piston, William Garrett, and Richard W. Hatcher III. *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It.* Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2000.

Phillips, Christopher. *The Battle of Wilson's Creek.* Fort Washington, PA: Eastern National, 2008.

Plat Book of Christian County, Missouri. Chicago, IL: Western Publishing, 1912.

Plat Book of Greene County, Missouri: Compiled from County Records and Actual Surveys. Missouri Publishing, 1904. From Library of Congress. Accessed September 2021. https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4163gm.gla00018/?sp=1.

"Primary Documents in American History: Missouri Compromise--March 6,1820." Library of Congress. Accessed June 2, 2020. https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&fileName=038/llsp038.db&recNum=668.

"Rhoda Ray Jones (1839-1897)." Find a Grave. Accessed September 2021. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129567926/rhoda-jones.

"Rhoda Ray and John Jones, July 10, 1868." Greene County, MO, Marriage Records. Ancestry.com. Accessed September 2021. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/509438206:1171.

Scott, Douglas D. *Archeological Overview and Assessment for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene and Christian Counties, Missouri.* Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 2000.

Scott, Douglas D., Harold Roerker, and Carl G. Carlson-Drexler. "*The Fire Upon Us Was Terrific": Battlefield Archeology of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri*. Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 2008.

Sigel, Franz. "The Flanking Column at Wilson's Creek." In *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Volume 1, edited by Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel, 304-306. New York: Century, 1887.

Simpson, Brooks D., Stephen W. Sears, and Aaron Sheehan-Dean, eds. *The Civil War: The First Year Told by Those Who Lived It*. New York: Library of America, 2011.

Smith, Timothy B. *Altogether Fitting and Proper: Civil War Battlefield Preservation in History, Memory, and Policy 1861-2015*. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2017.

"Springfield to Fayetteville Road—Elkhorn Tavern Section." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Washington D.C., 2004.

Sullivan, Gary. "Map, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield." National Park Service. August 6, 2015.

Watson, William. *Life in the Confederate Army.* New York: Scribner and Welford, 1888.

Wescott, Wes. *The Ray Family*. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Republic, MO, n.d.

"William Yarnell Slack," *Arkansas Gravestones*. Accessed June 2021. https://arkansasgravestones.org/view.php?id=24817.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield: Final General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement. Omaha, NE: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2002.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, H.R. Rep. No. 108-371, 2004.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004. Public Law 108-394, 118 Stat. 2247, 2004

Wolferman, Kristie C. *The Osage in Missouri.* Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1997.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are indicated in a heavy dashed line on the map in Figure 3. They are the same boundaries laid out in the 1976 National Register nomination. That parcel includes 22.38 acres of publicly owned road right of ways and 1,717 acres of federally owned land.

Boundary Justification

The property discussed in this document encompasses the same 1,749.91 acres that were documented in the 1976 National Register form.

Figure 1. Copy of the 1976 Boundary Map, with UTMs. The boundaries have not changed.

A.	15 Zone	462300 Easting	4107980 Northing	C.	15 Zone	464700 Easting	4103600 Northing
B.	15 Zone	464850 Easting	4107980 Northing	D.	15 Zone	462920 Easting	4103950 Northing

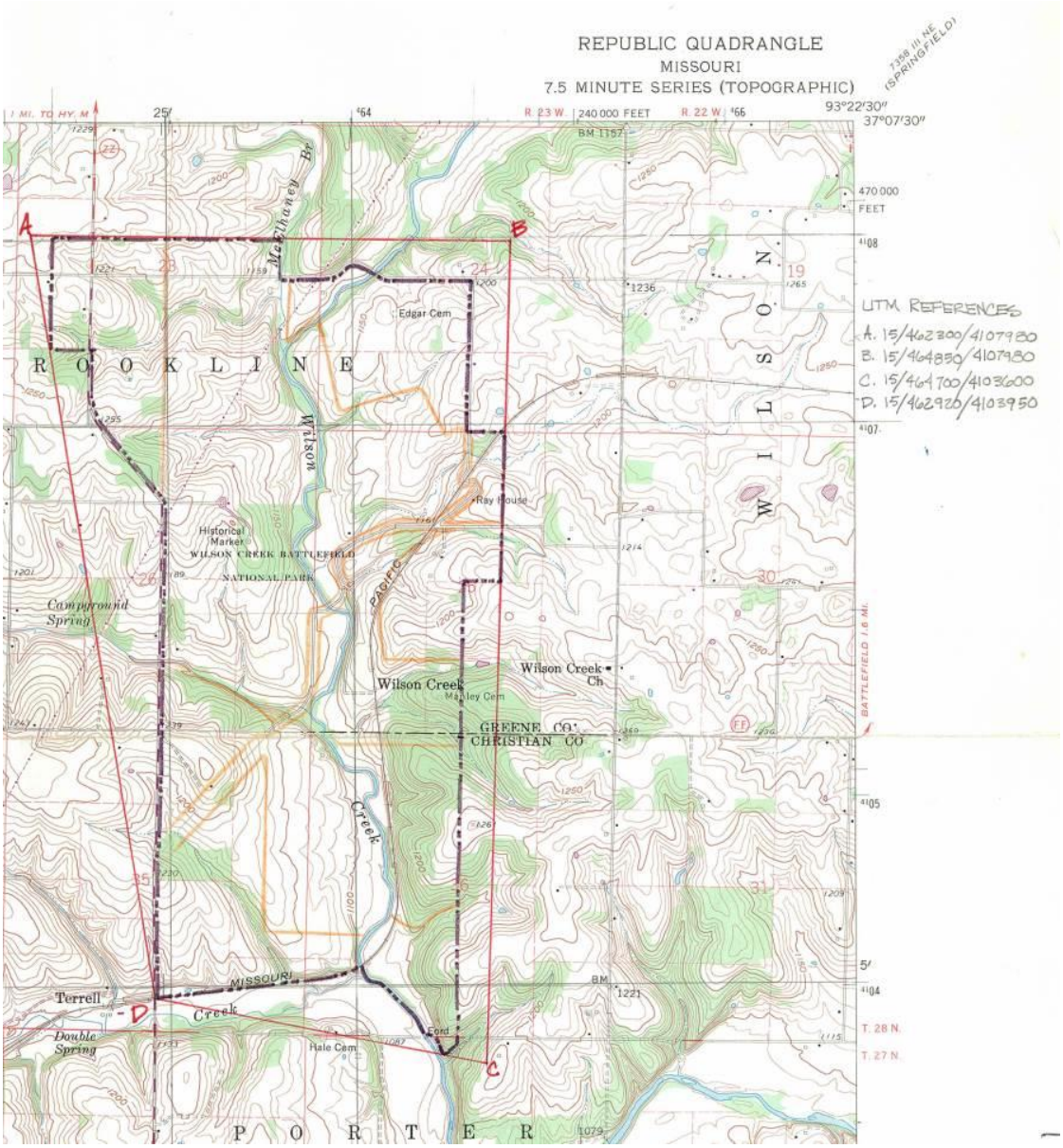


Figure 2. Context Map (Source: Google Earth, accessed May 2021.)

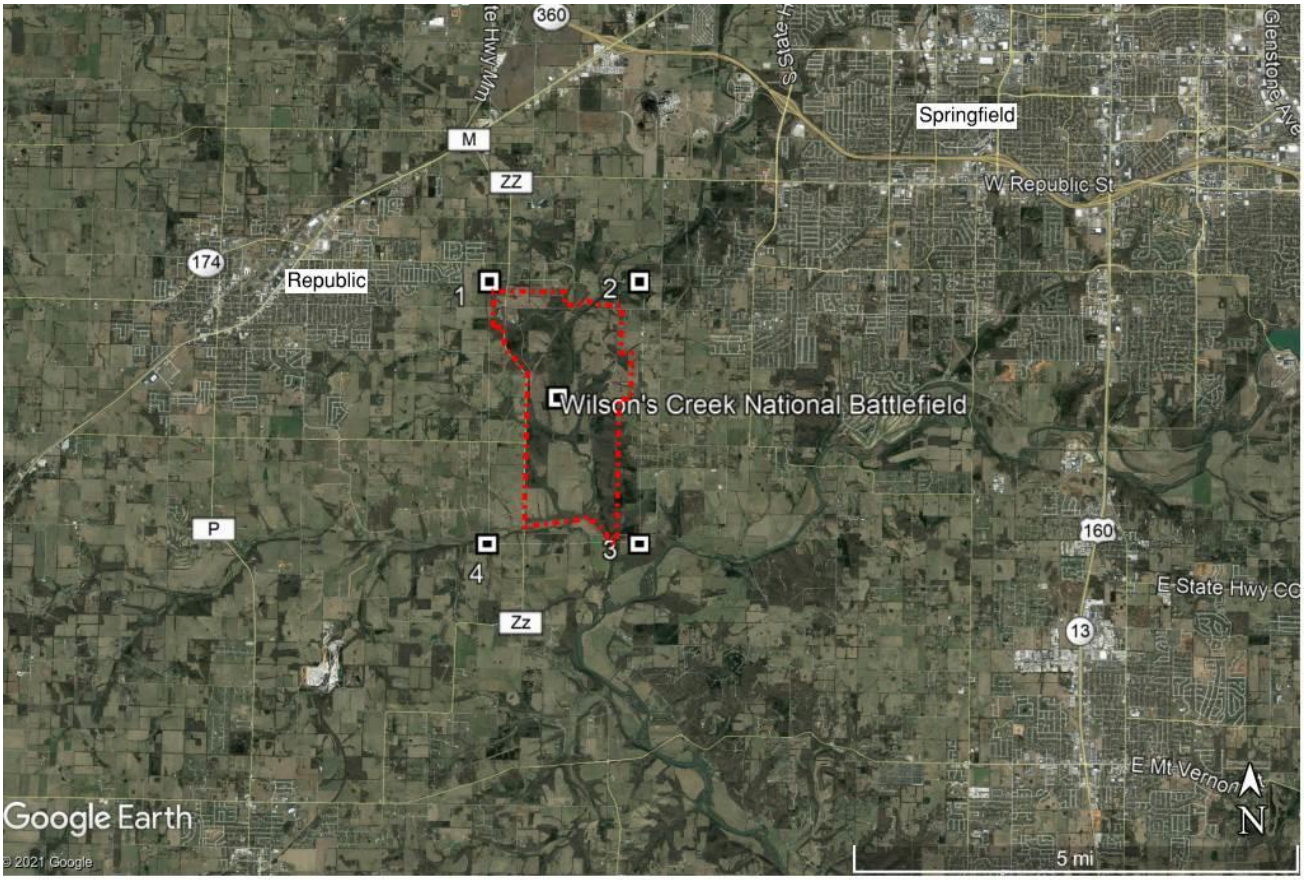


Figure 3. Brochure Map of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Resource 1), with keys to the detail location maps added below. (Map courtesy of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 2020.)

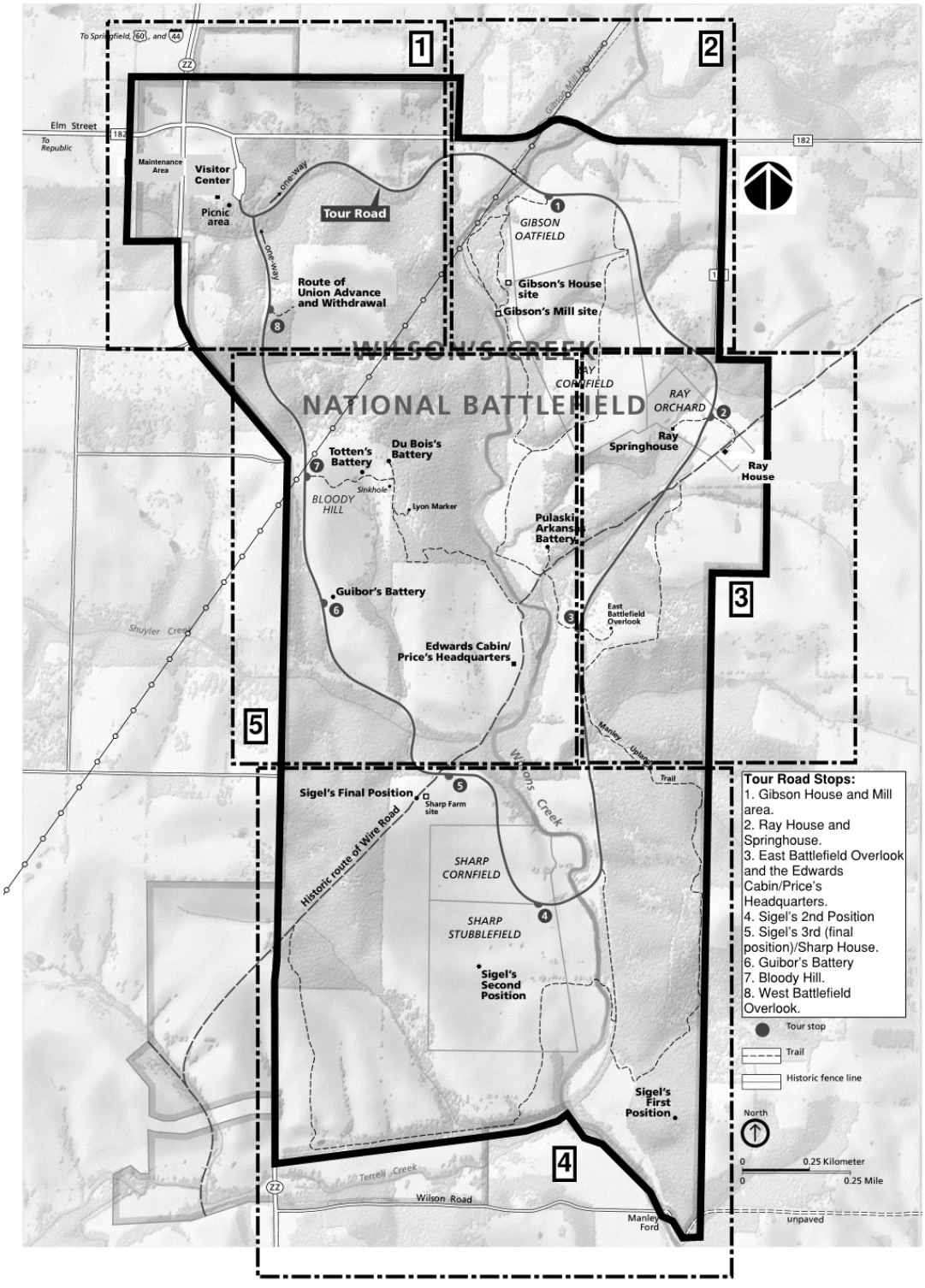
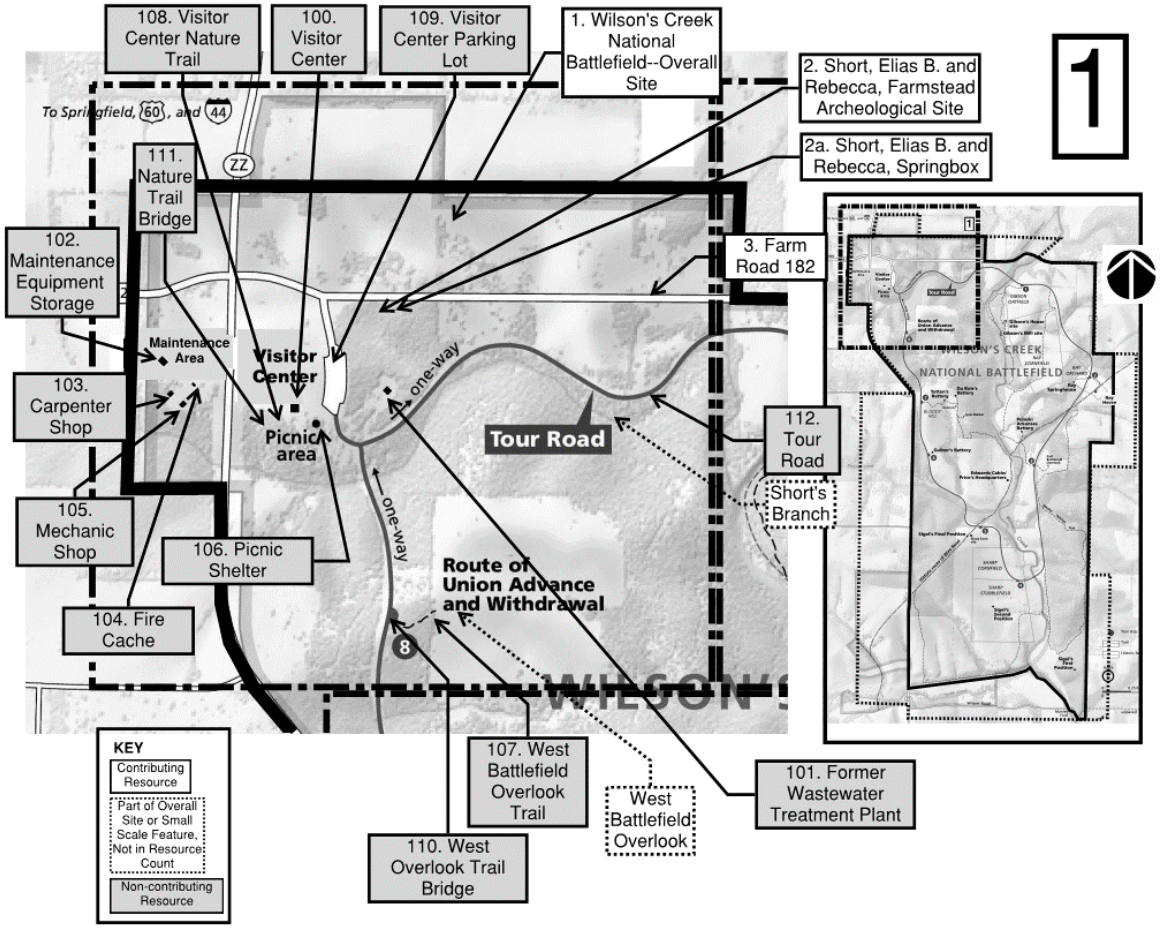
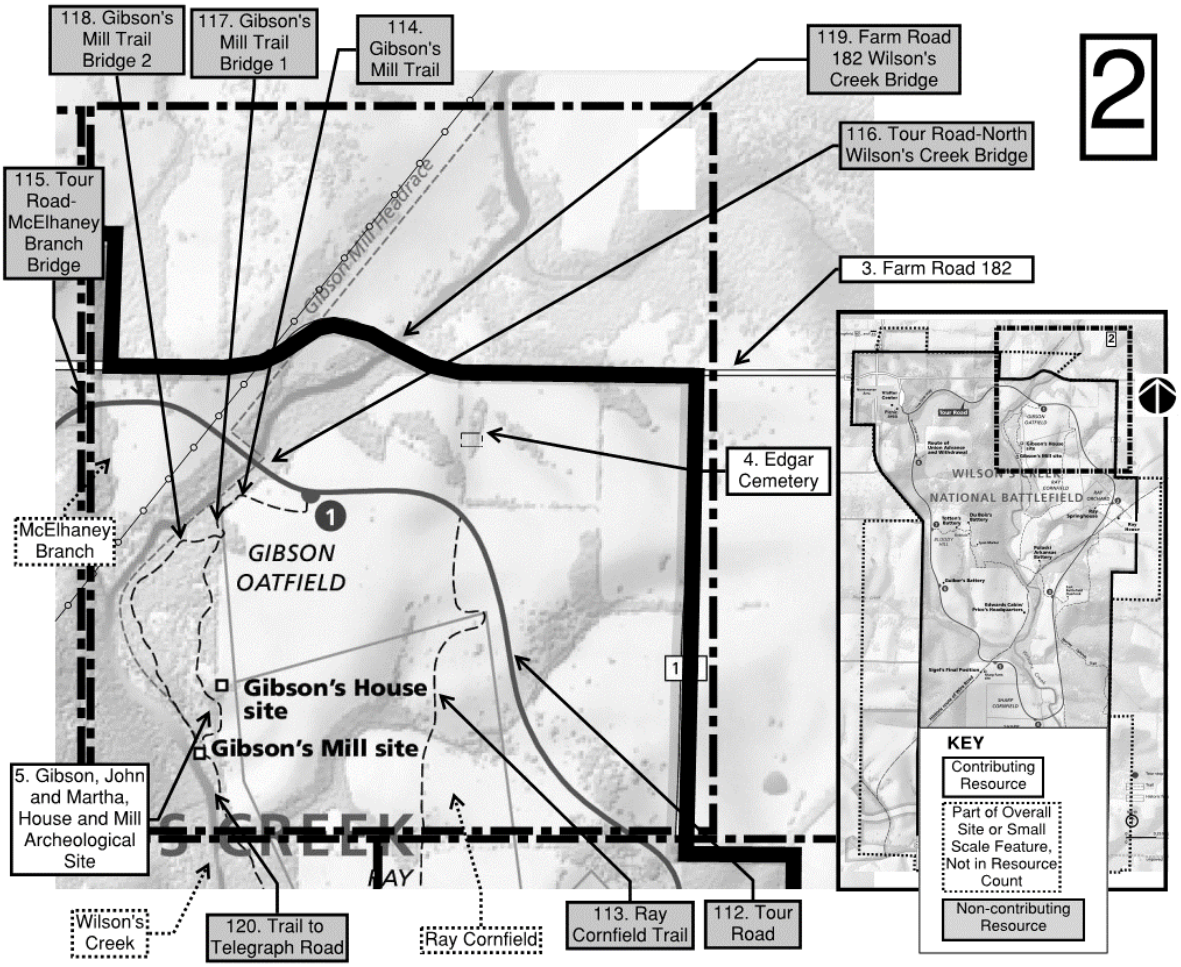


Figure 4. Resource Locations Detail 1: Visitor Center.



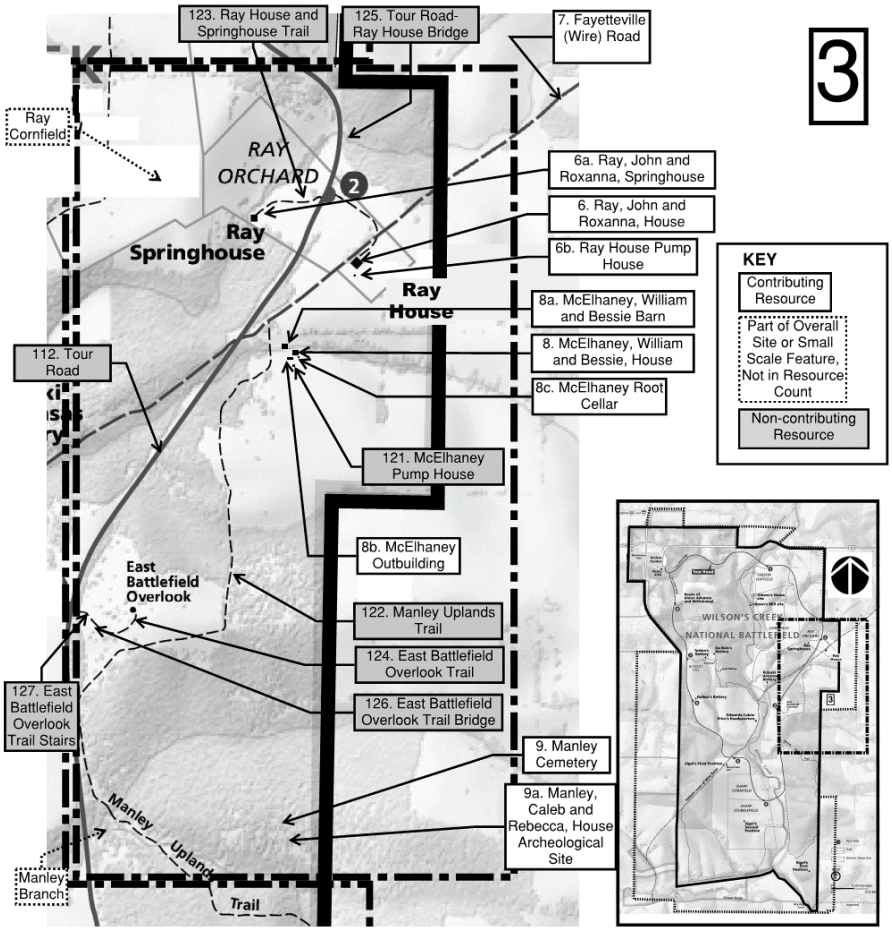
#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contrib. Status
1	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield - Overall Site	Site	C
2	Short, Elias and Rebecca Farm Archeological Site (E. B. Short Farmstead)	Site	C
2a	Short, Elias B. and Rebecca, Springbox	Structure	C
3	Farm Road 182 (Elm Street)	Structure	C
100	Visitor Center	Building	N/C
101	Former Wastewater Treatment Plant	Building	N/C
102	Maintenance Equipment Storage	Building	N/C
103	Carpenter Shop	Building	N/C
104	Fire Cache	Building	N/C
105	Mechanic Shop	Building	N/C
106	Picnic Shelter	Structure	N/C
107	West Battlefield Overlook Trail	Structure	N/C
108	Visitor Center Nature Trail	Structure	N/C
109	Visitor Center Parking Lot	Structure	N/C
110	West Overlook Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C
111	Nature Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C
112	Tour Road	Structure	N/C
	C=contributing N/C=noncontributing		

Figure 5. Resource Locations Detail 2: Gibson's Mill.



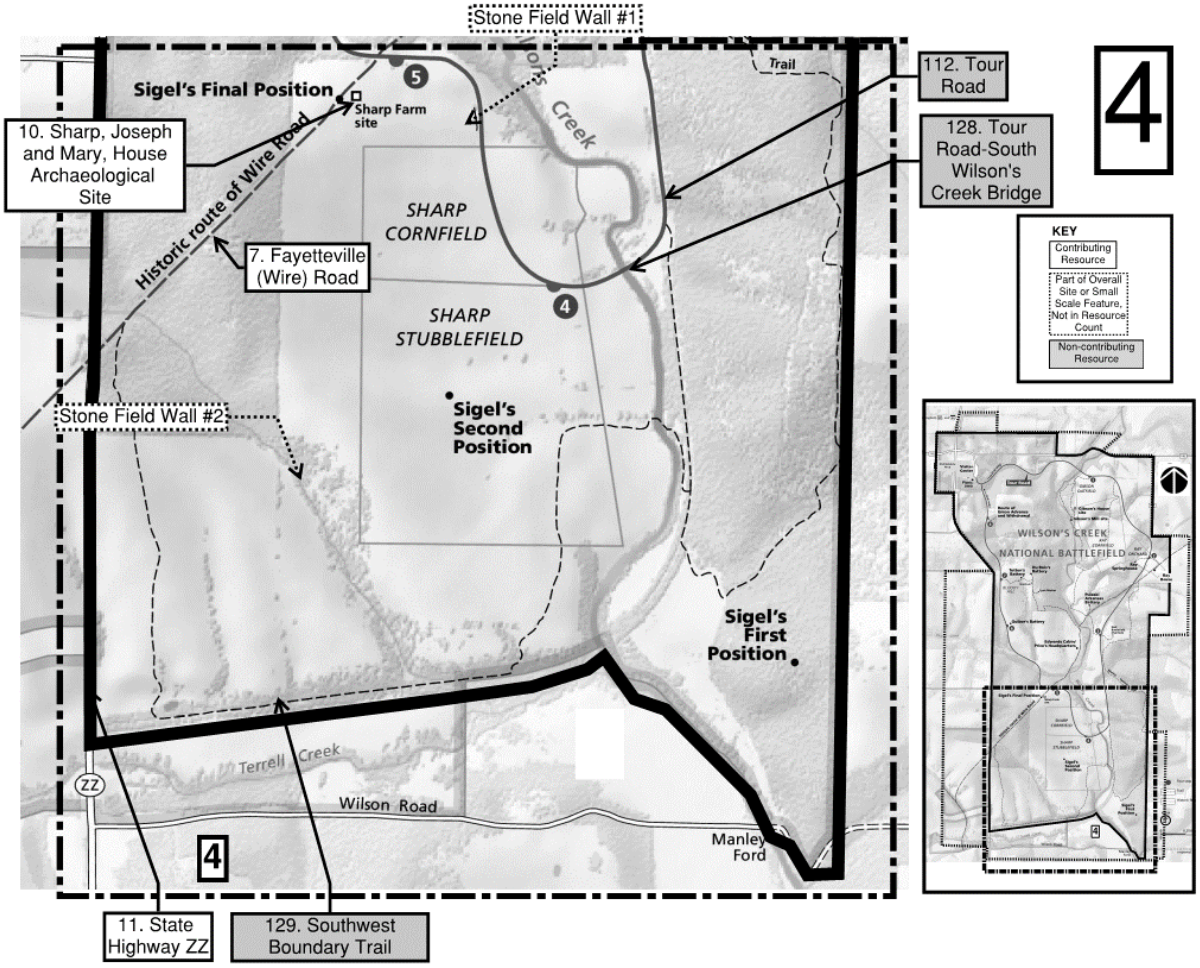
#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contrib. Status
3	Farm Road 182 (Elm Street)	Structure	C
4	Edgar Cemetery (Edgar Cemetery)	Site	C
5	Gibson, John and Martha, House and Mill Archeological Site (Gibson's Mill)	Site	C
112	Tour Road	Structure	N/C
113	Ray Cornfield Trail	Structure	N/C
114	Gibson's Mill Trail	Structure	N/C
115	Tour Road-McElhaney Branch Bridge	Structure	N/C
116	Tour Road-North Wilson's Creek Bridge	Structure	N/C
117	Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 1	Structure	N/C
118	Gibson's Mill Trail Bridge 2	Structure	N/C
119	Farm Road 182 Wilson's Creek Bridge	Structure	N/C
	C=contributing N/C = noncontributing		

Figure 6. Resource Locations Detail 3: Ray House.



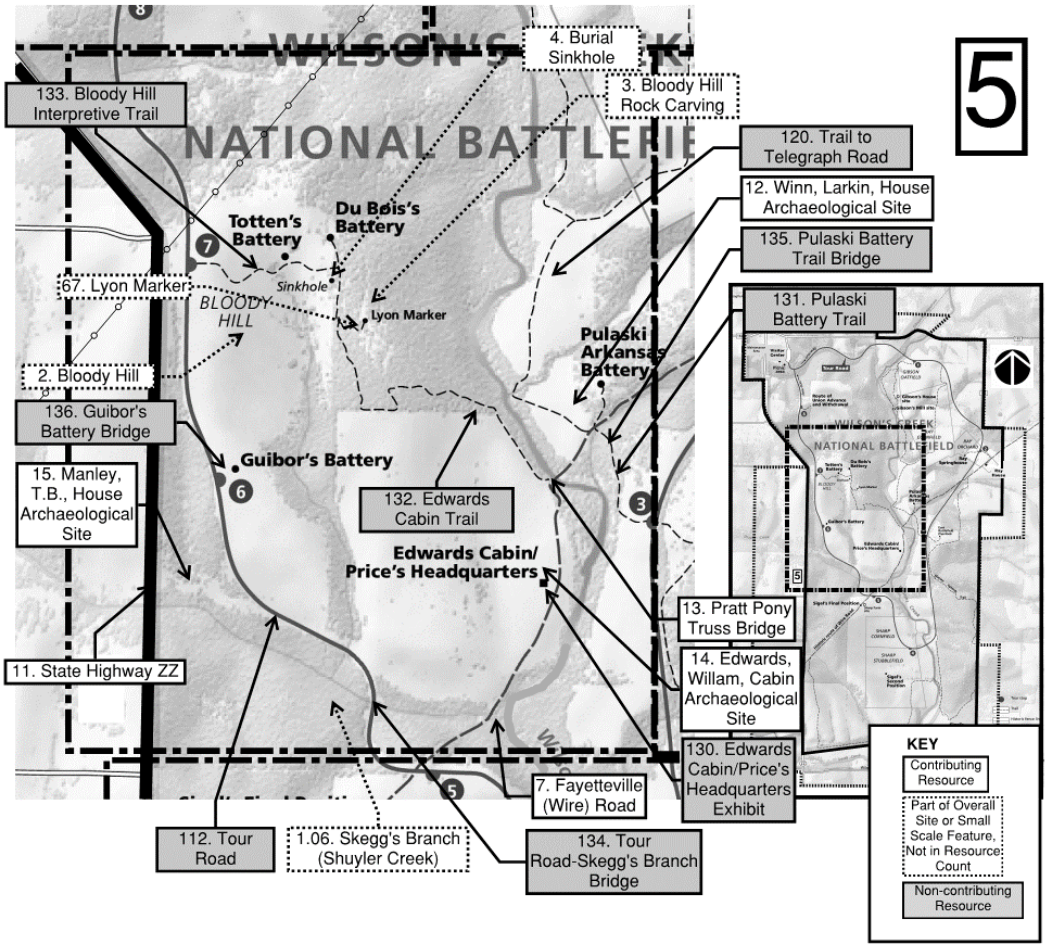
#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contrib. Status
6	Ray, John and Roxanna, House (Ray House)	Building	C
6a	Ray, John and Roxanna, Springhouse (Ray Spring House)	Building	C
6b	Ray House Pump House	Building	C
7	Fayetteville (Wire) Road (Fayetteville or Wire Road)	Structure	C
8	McElhaney, William and Bessie, House	Building	C
8a	McElhaney, William and Bessie, Barn	Building	C
8b	McElhaney Outbuilding	Building	C
8c	McElhaney Root Cellar	Structure	C
9	Manley Cemetery (Manley Cemetery)	Site	C
9a	Manley, Caleb and Rebecca, House Archeological Site (C. B. Manley House)	Site	C
112	Tour Road	Structure	N/C
121	McElhaney Pump House	Building	N/C
122	Manley Uplands Trail	Structure	N/C
123	Ray House and Springhouse Trail	Structure	N/C
124	East Battlefield Overlook Trail	Structure	N/C
125	Tour Road-Ray House Bridge	Structure	N/C
126	East Battlefield Overlook Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C
127	East Battlefield Overlook Trail Stairs	Structure	N/C
	C=contributing N/C = noncontributing		

Figure 7. Resource Locations Detail 4: South.



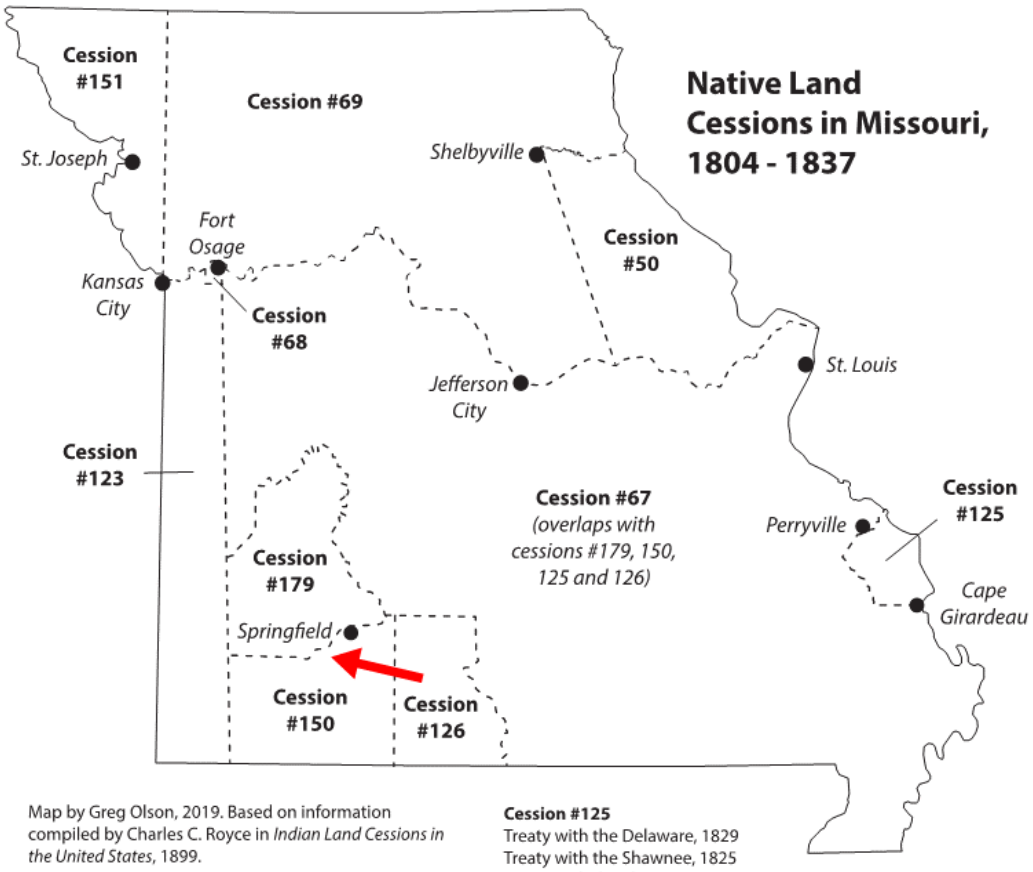
#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contrib. Status
7	Fayetteville (Wire) Road (Fayetteville or Wire Road)	Structure	C
10	Sharp, Joseph and Mary, House Archeological Site (Sharp House)	Site	C
112	Tour Road	Structure	N/C
128	Tour Road-South Wilson's Creek Bridge	Structure	N/C
129	Southwest Boundary Trail	Structure	N/C
	C=contributing N/C = noncontributing		

Figure 8. Resource Locations Detail 5: Bloody Hill.



#	Current Name of Resource	Resource Type	Contrib. Status
1b	Burial Sinkhole (Sinkhole)	Site	C
1a	Bloody Hill Rock Carving	Site	C
1d	Lyon Marker (Lyon Marker)	Object	C
7	Fayetteville (Wire) Road (Fayetteville or Wire Road)	Structure	C
11	State Highway ZZ	Structure	C
12	Winn, Larkin, House Archeological Site (Gwinn House)	Site	C
13	Pratt Pony Truss Bridge, County Road 194	Structure	C
14	Edwards, William, Cabin Archeological Site (Edwards Cabin)	Site	C
15	Manley, T. B., House Archeological Site (T. B. Manley House)	Site	C
112	Tour Road	Structure	N/C
120	Trail to Telegraph Road	Structure	N/C
130	Edwards Cabin / Price's Headquarters Exhibit	Building	N/C
131	Pulaski Battery Trail	Structure	N/C
132	Edwards Cabin Trail	Structure	N/C
133	Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail	Structure	N/C
134	Tour Road-Skegg's Branch Bridge	Structure	N/C
135	Pulaski Battery Trail Bridge	Structure	N/C
136	Guibor's Battery Bridge	Structure	N/C
	C=contributing N/C = noncontributing		

Figure 9. Native Land Cessions in Missouri. (Map by Greg Olson, 2020.)



Map by Greg Olson, 2019. Based on information compiled by Charles C. Royce in *Indian Land Cessions in the United States*, 1899.

Cession #50
Treaty with Sac and Fox, 1804
Treaty with the Sauk, 1815
Treaty with the Foxes, 1815
Treaty with the Sauk and Fox of the Rock River, 1816.

Cession #67
Treaty with the Great and Little Osages, 1808

Cession #68
Treaty with the Great and Little Osages, 1808

Cession #69
Treaty with the Great and Little Osages, 1808
Treaty with the Ioway, 1824
Treaty with the Sauk and Foxes, 1824

Cession #123
Treaty with the Great and Little Osages, 1825

Cession #125
Treaty with the Delaware, 1829
Treaty with the Shawnee, 1825
Treaty with the Shawnee, etc., 1832

Cession #126
Treaty with the Shawnee, 1825
Treaty with the Shawnee, etc., 1832

Cession #150
Treaty with the Delaware, 1829
Treaty with the Shawnee, etc., 1832

Cession #151
Treaty with the Sauk and Fox, etc., 1830
Treaty with the Ioways, etc.,1836
Treaty with the Oto, etc.,1836
Treaty with the Ioways, 1837
Treaty with the Sauk And Foxes, 1837

Cession #179
Treaty with the Kickapoo, 1819
Treaty with the Kickapoo, 1820
Treaty with the Kickapoo, 1832

Figure 10. Historic Period Plan of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, ca. 1838-1861 in John Milner Associates, Inc. *Cultural Landscape Report*: *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, Missouri* (Omaha: NE, National Park Service, 2004). Section Lines and numbers added by Deb Sheals in 2021.

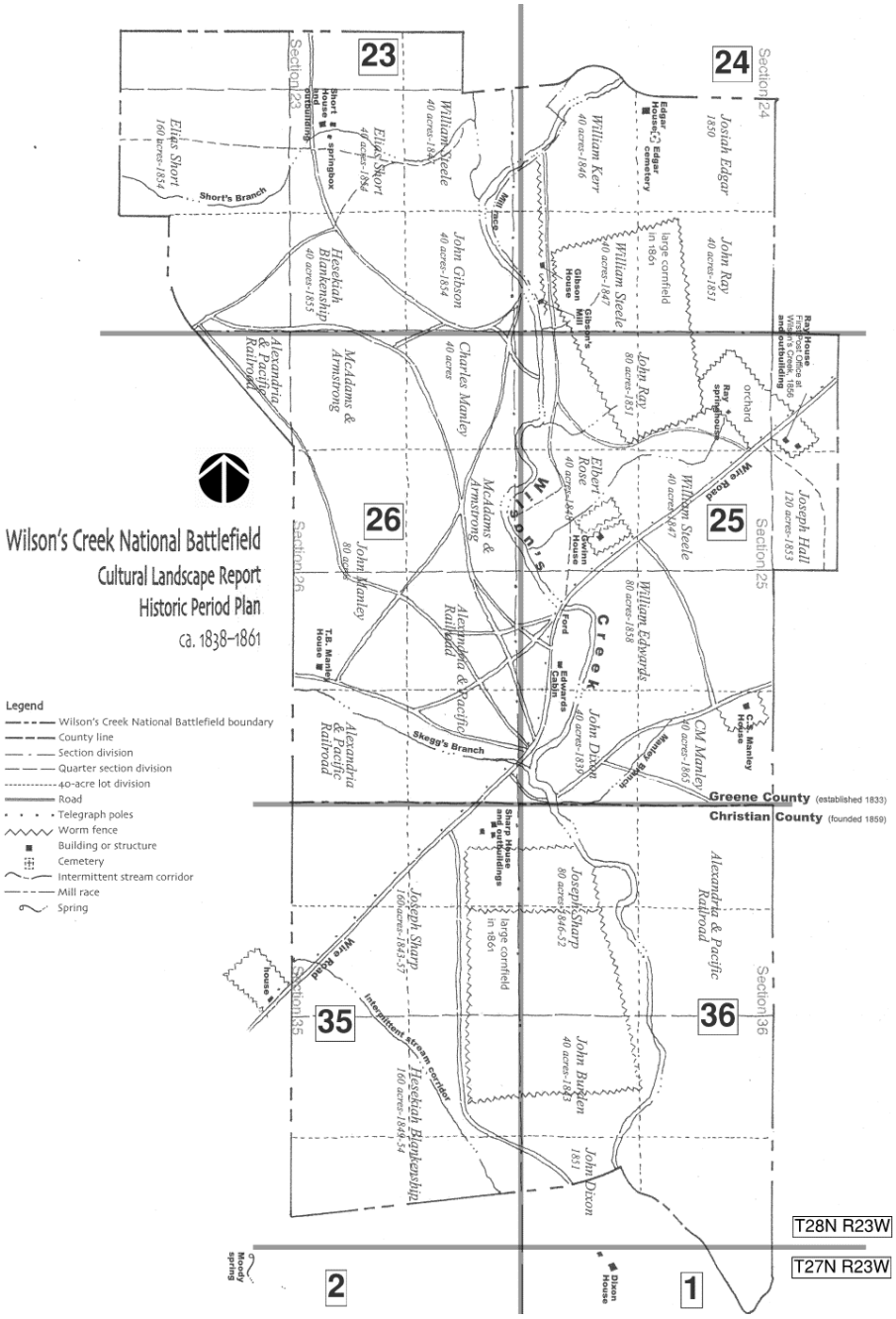


Figure 11. Edwin Bearss, *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Greene and Christian Counties, Missouri*. (Denver, CO: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Denver Service Center, ca. 1970).

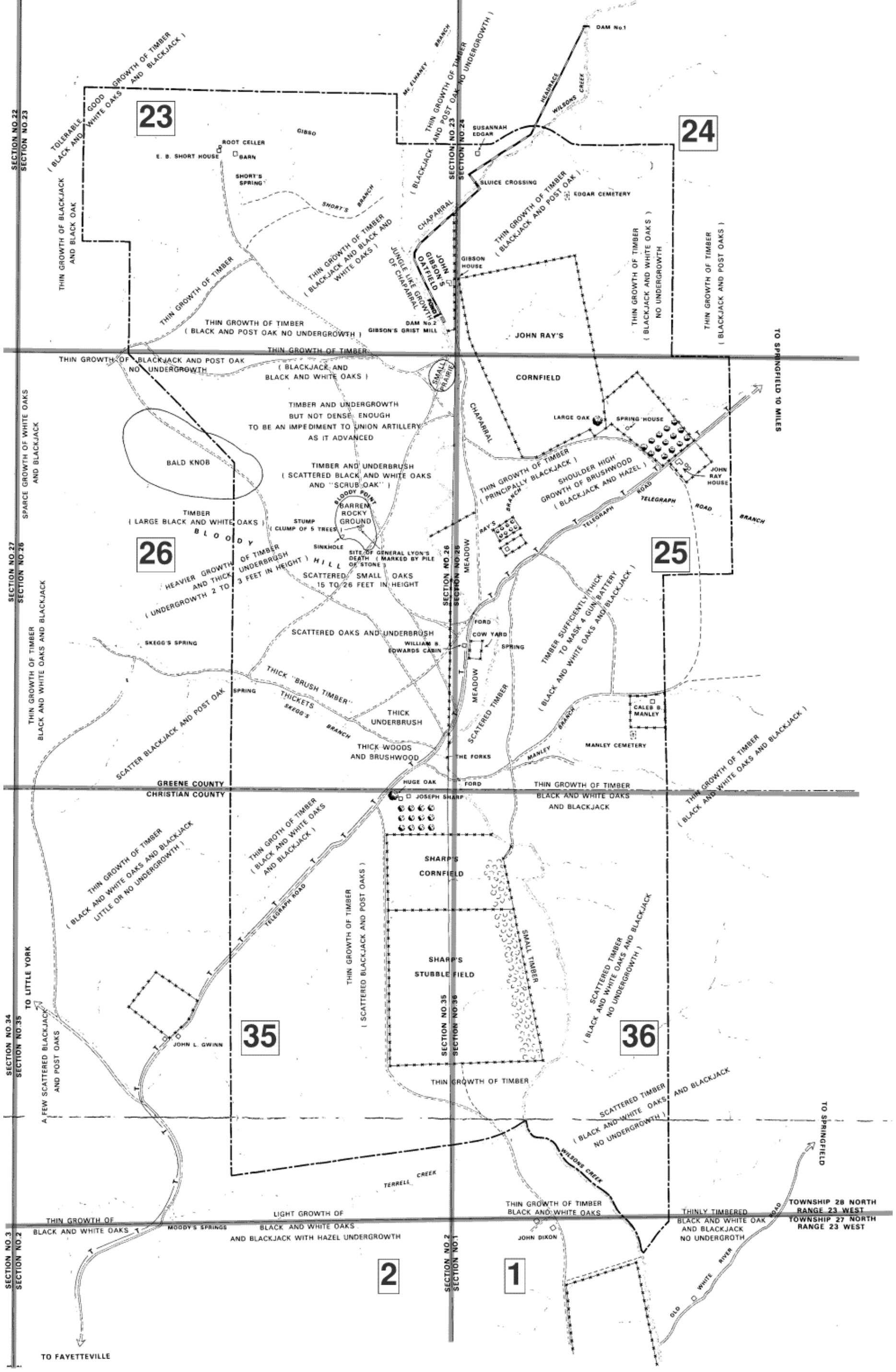


Figure 12. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail 1: Visitor Center.

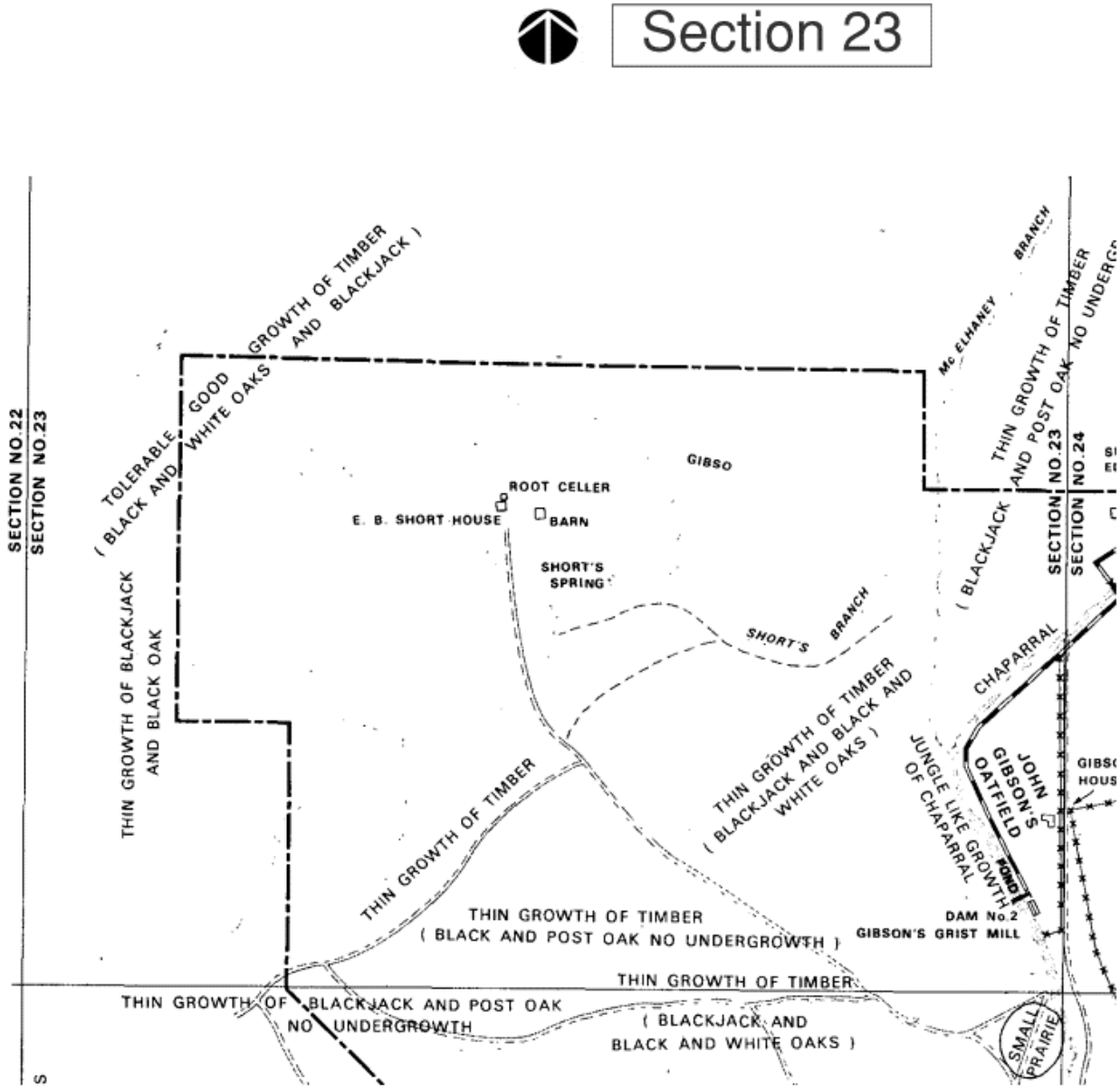


Figure 13. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail 2: Gibson's Mill.

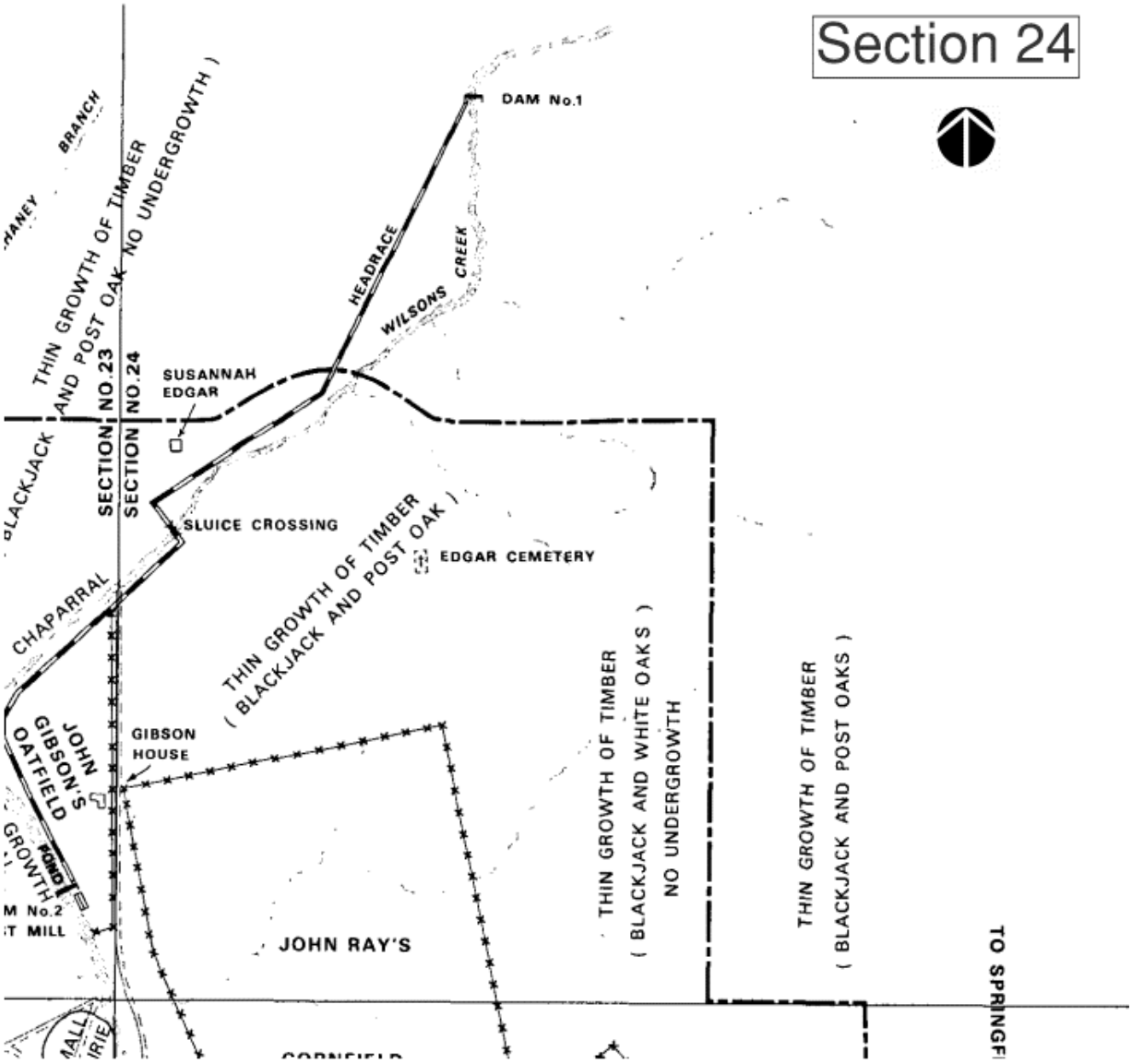


Figure 14. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail 3: Ray House area.

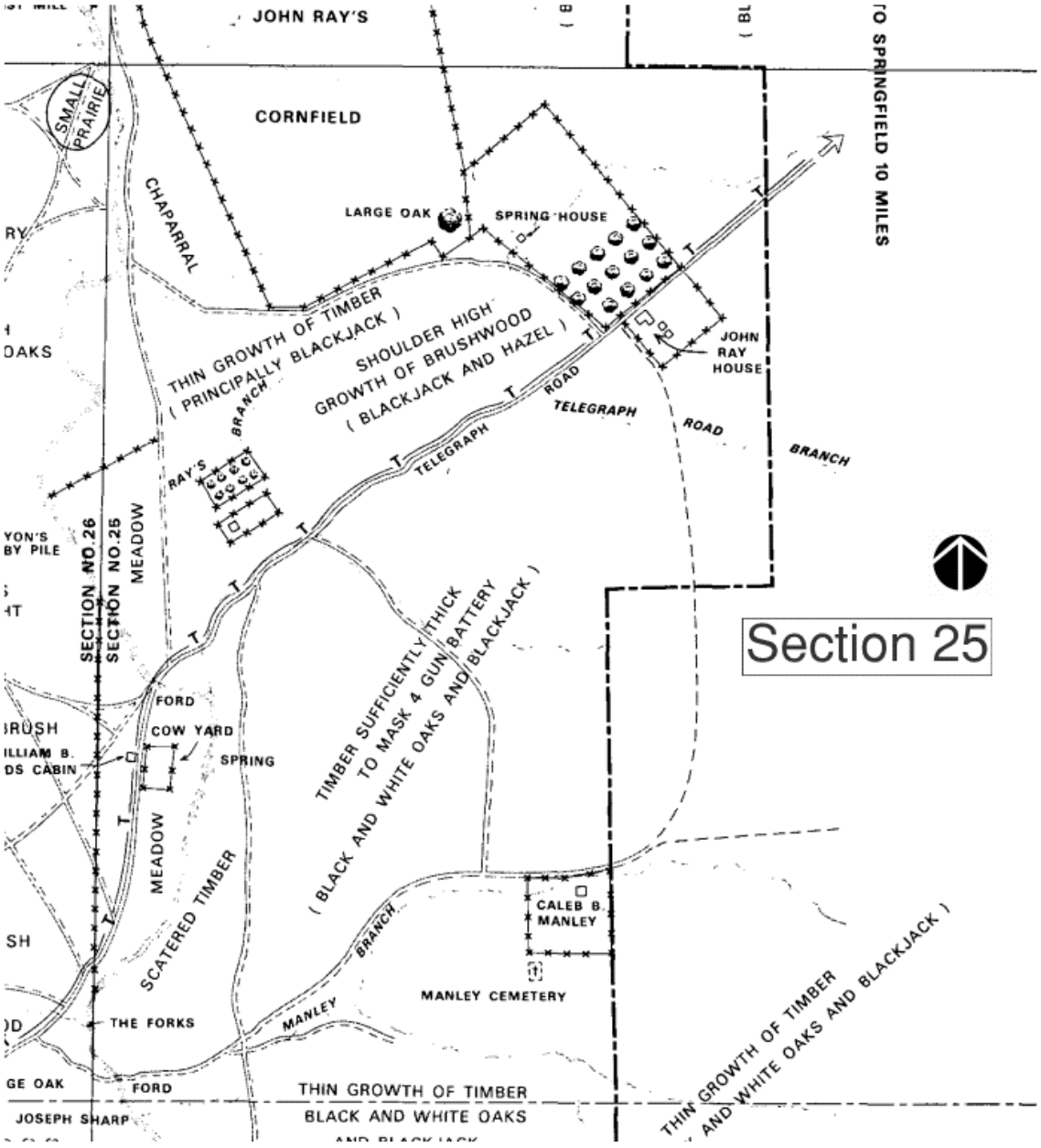


Figure 15. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail 4: South.

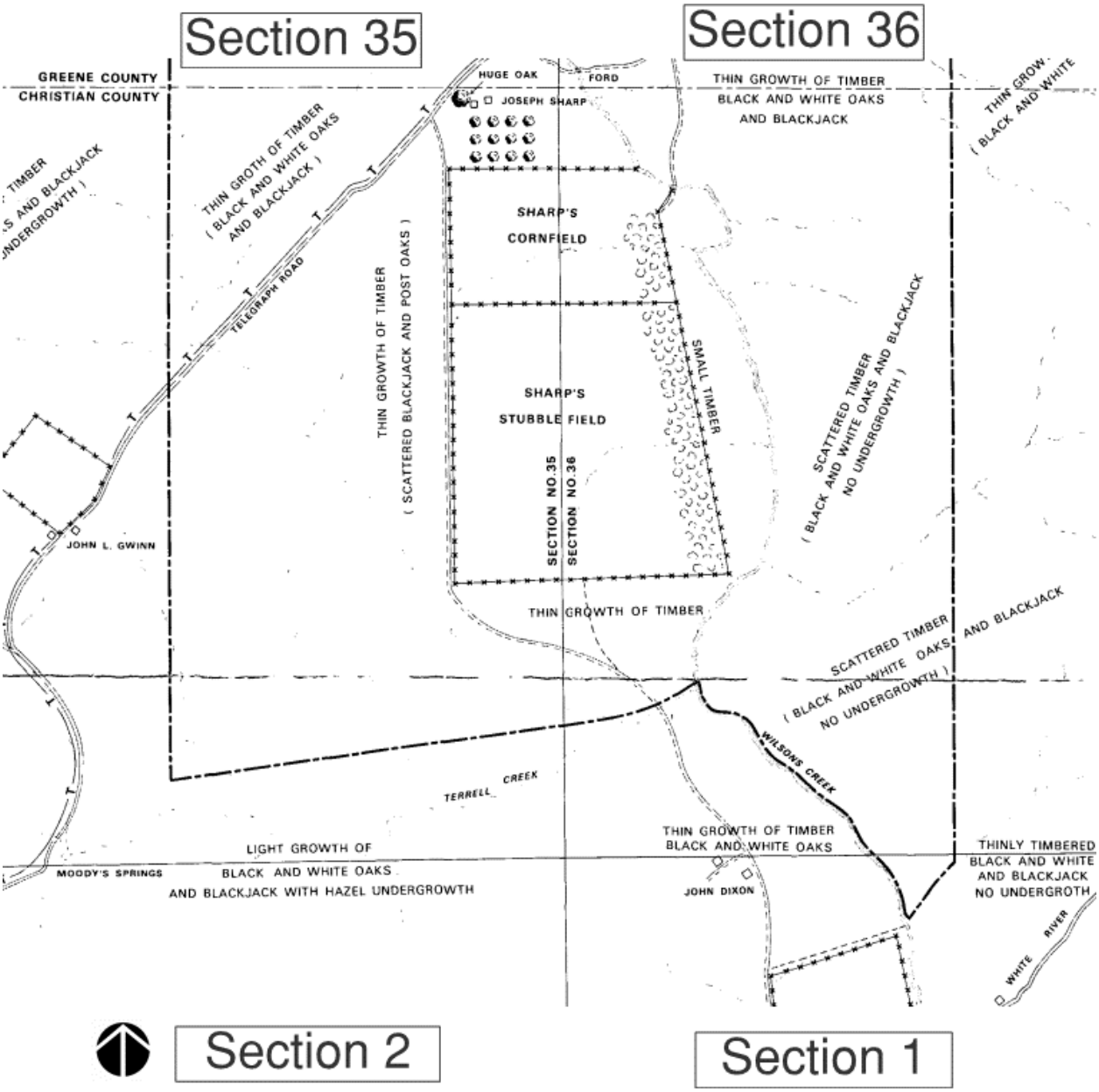


Figure 16. *Historical Base and Ground Cover Map* Detail 5: Bloody Hill.

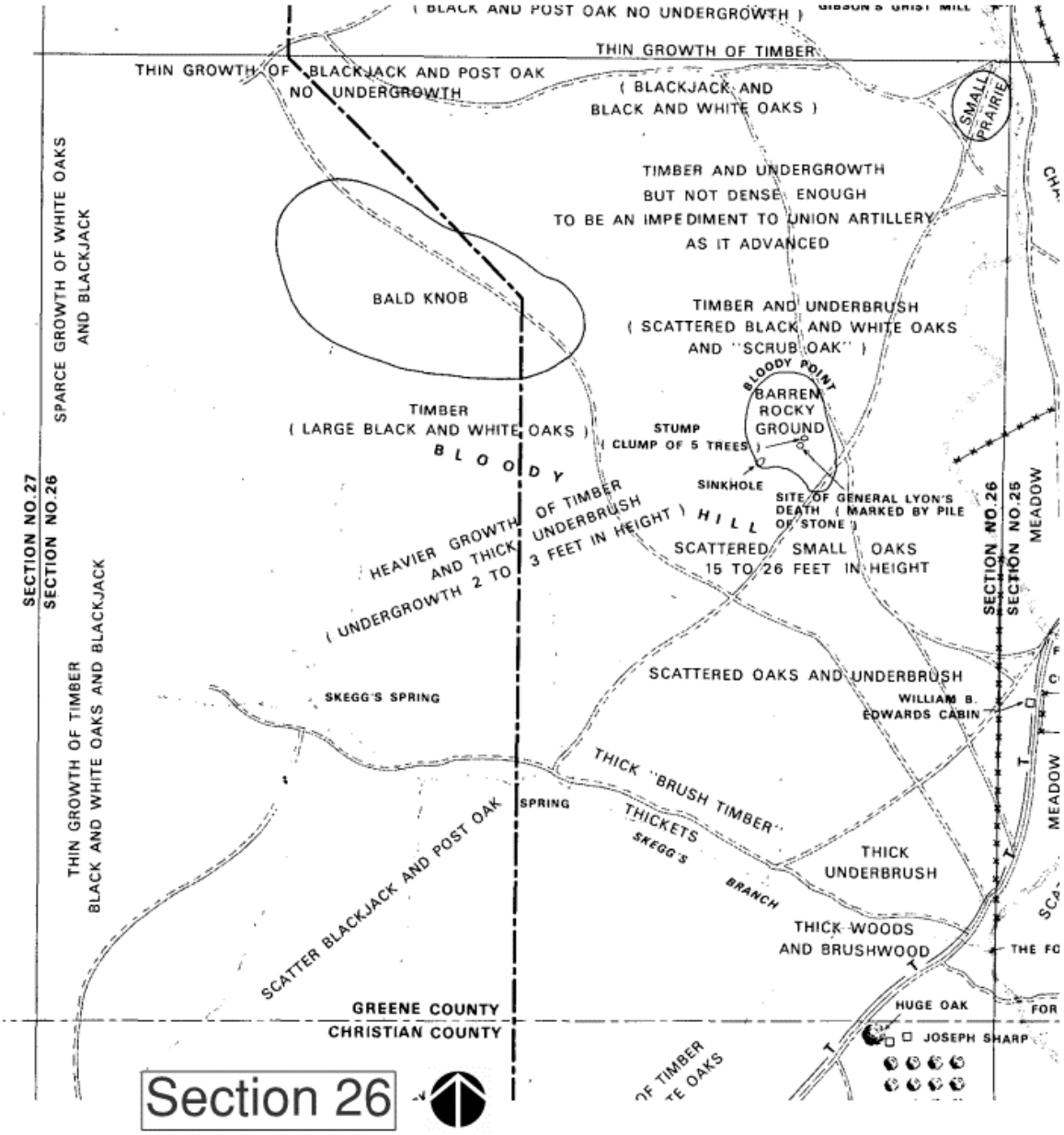


Figure 17. Rhoda Jones. (Source: Wilson's Creek NB Collections.)



Figure 18. Top: Ray House in 1968 (Wilson's Creek NB Archives) Bottom: Historic photo of the Gray-Campbell House. (Gray/Campbell Farmstead," accessed May 2021, http://www.graycampbellfarmstead.org/index.html..)



Figure 19-A. North Part: William Hoelcke, "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861," (St. Louis: U.S. Army, Headquarters, Department of the Missouri, 1865.) Park outlines added by Deb Sheals in 2021. The dotted line is the 1976 boundaries; the solid line includes the Legislative Boundary Increase of 2004.

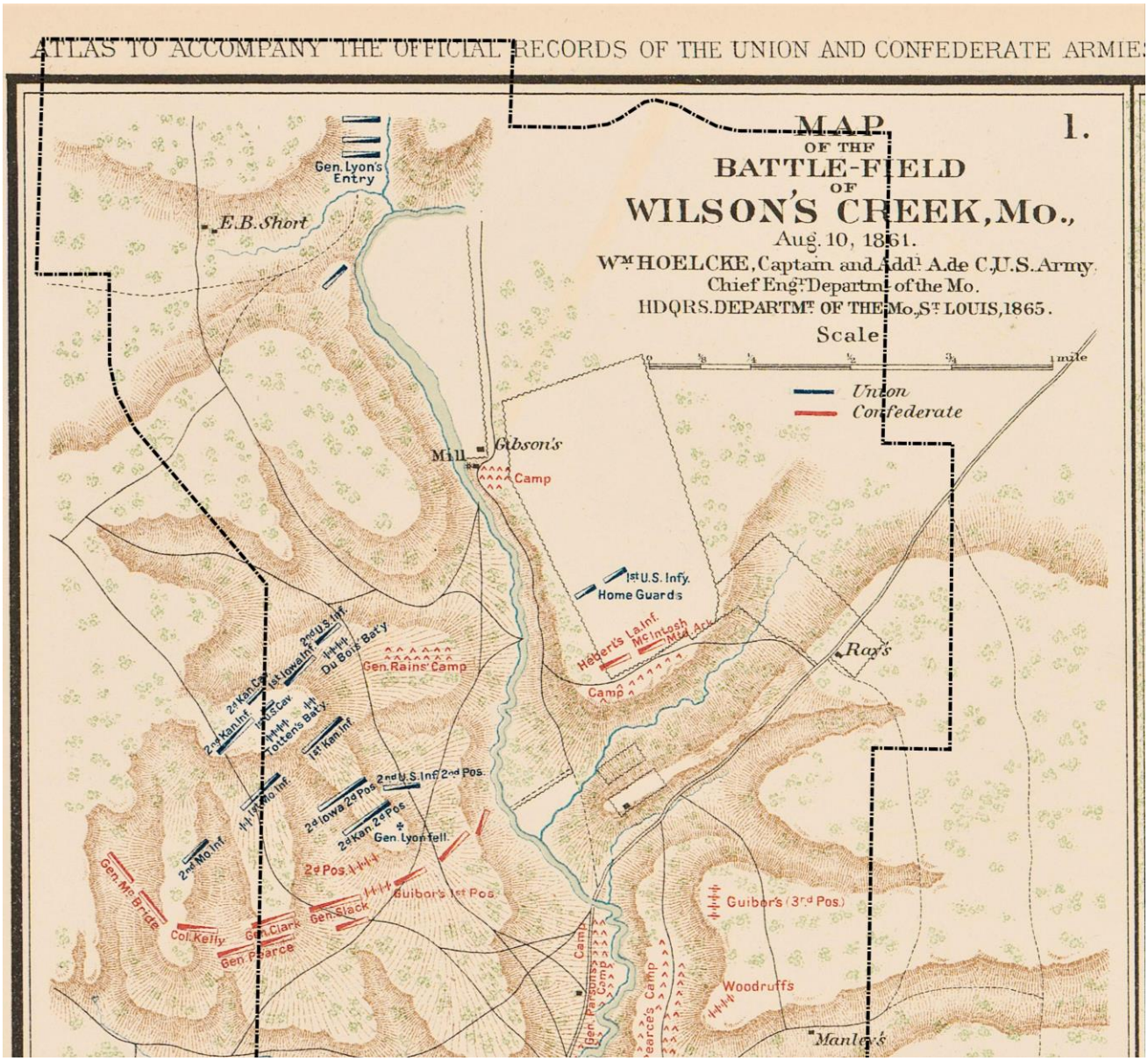


Figure 19-B. South Part: "Map of the Battlefield of Wilson's Creek, Mo August 10, 1861." Park outlines added by Deb Sheals in 2021. The dotted line is the 1976 boundaries; the solid line includes the Legislative Boundary Increase of 2004.

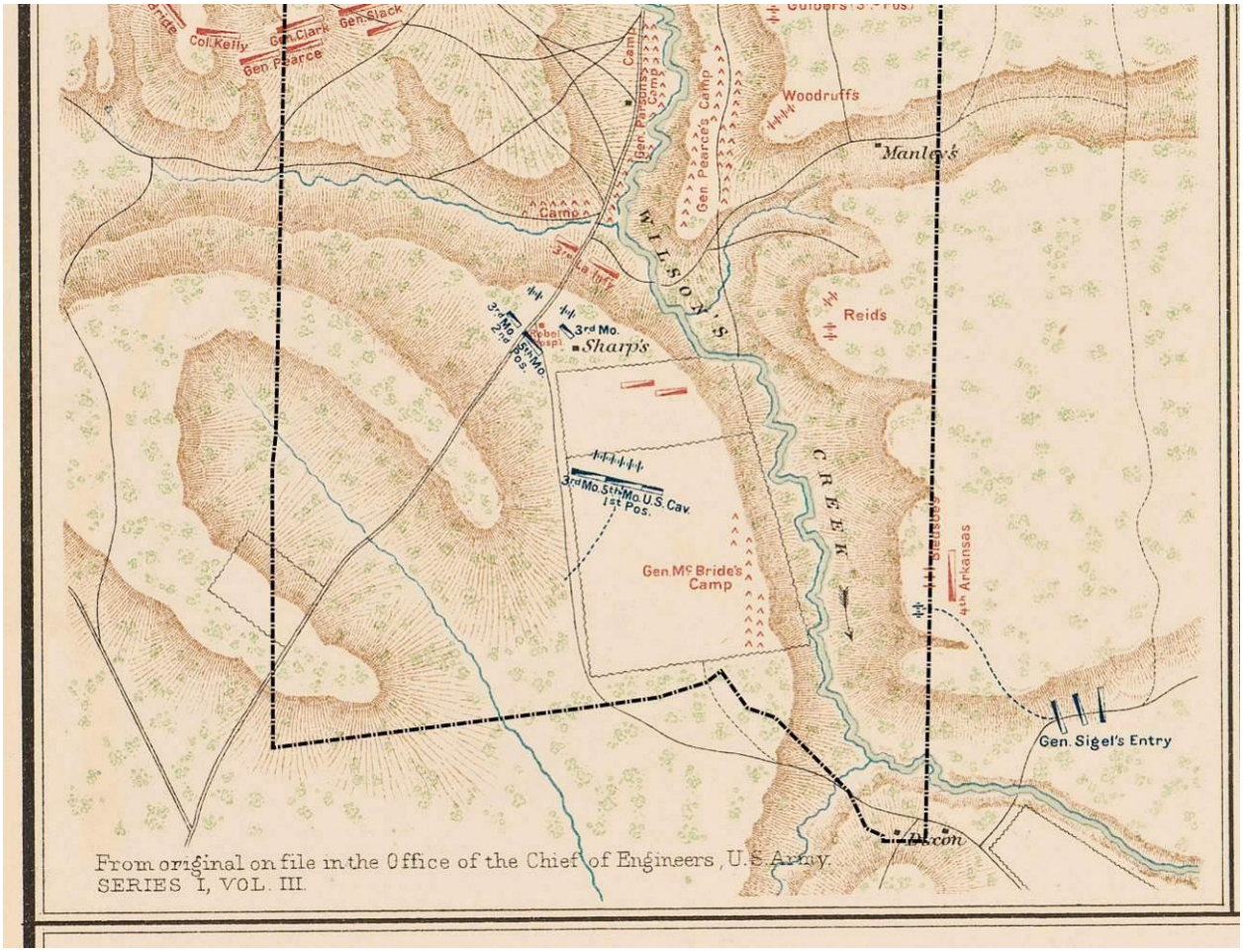


Figure 20. Wilson's Creek Battleground, 5:00-6:00 am, Aug 10, 1861 in Jeffrey L. Patrick, *Campaign for Wilson's Creek: The Fight for Missouri Begins* (Abilene, TX: State House Press, 2018) 135. Current Park outlines added by Deb Sheals in 2021.

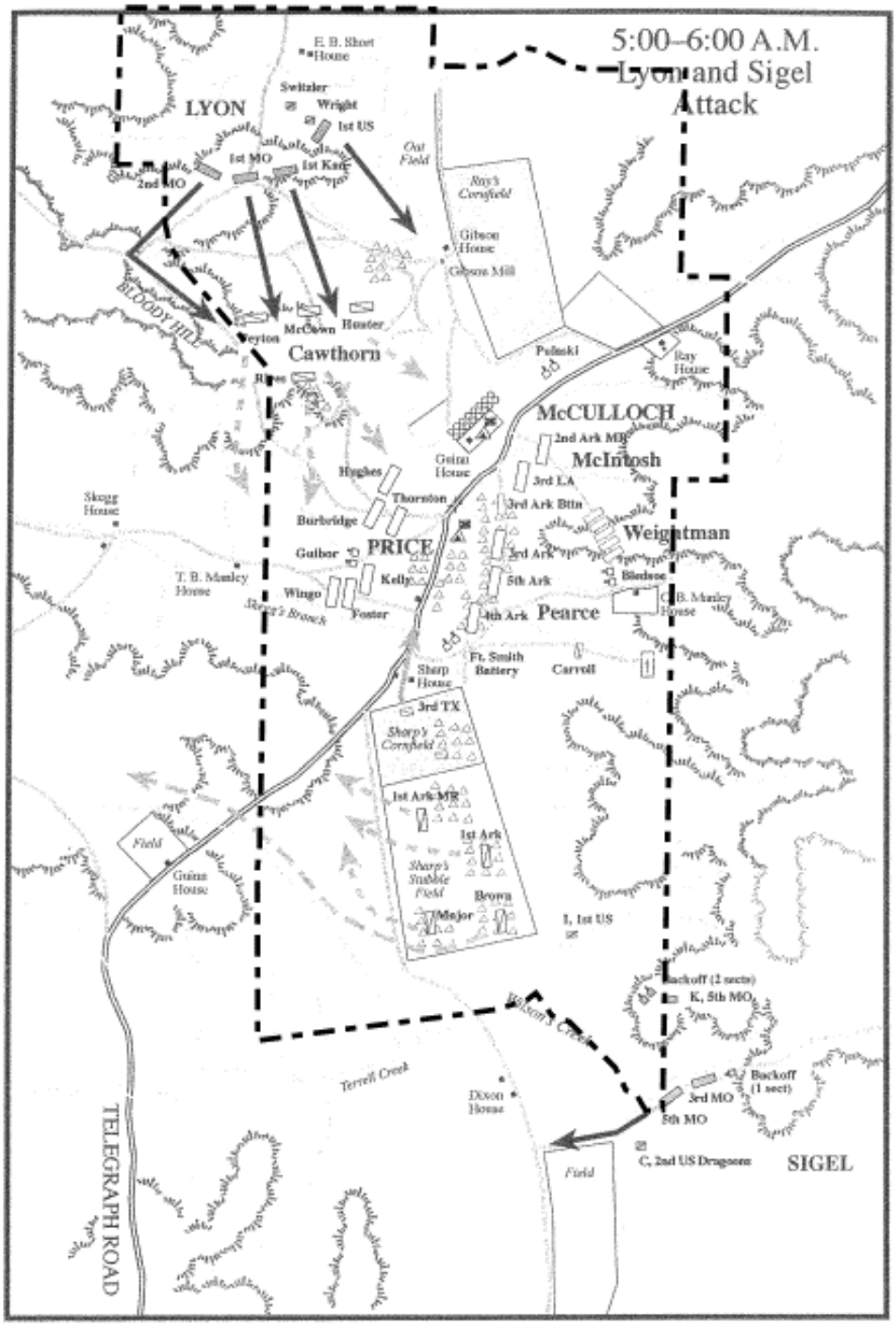


Figure 21. Detail of a map drawn by Colonel Sigel showing his three positions. Base map reproduced in Robert Bray, *An Archeological Survey and Excavations at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, Missouri* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, 1967).

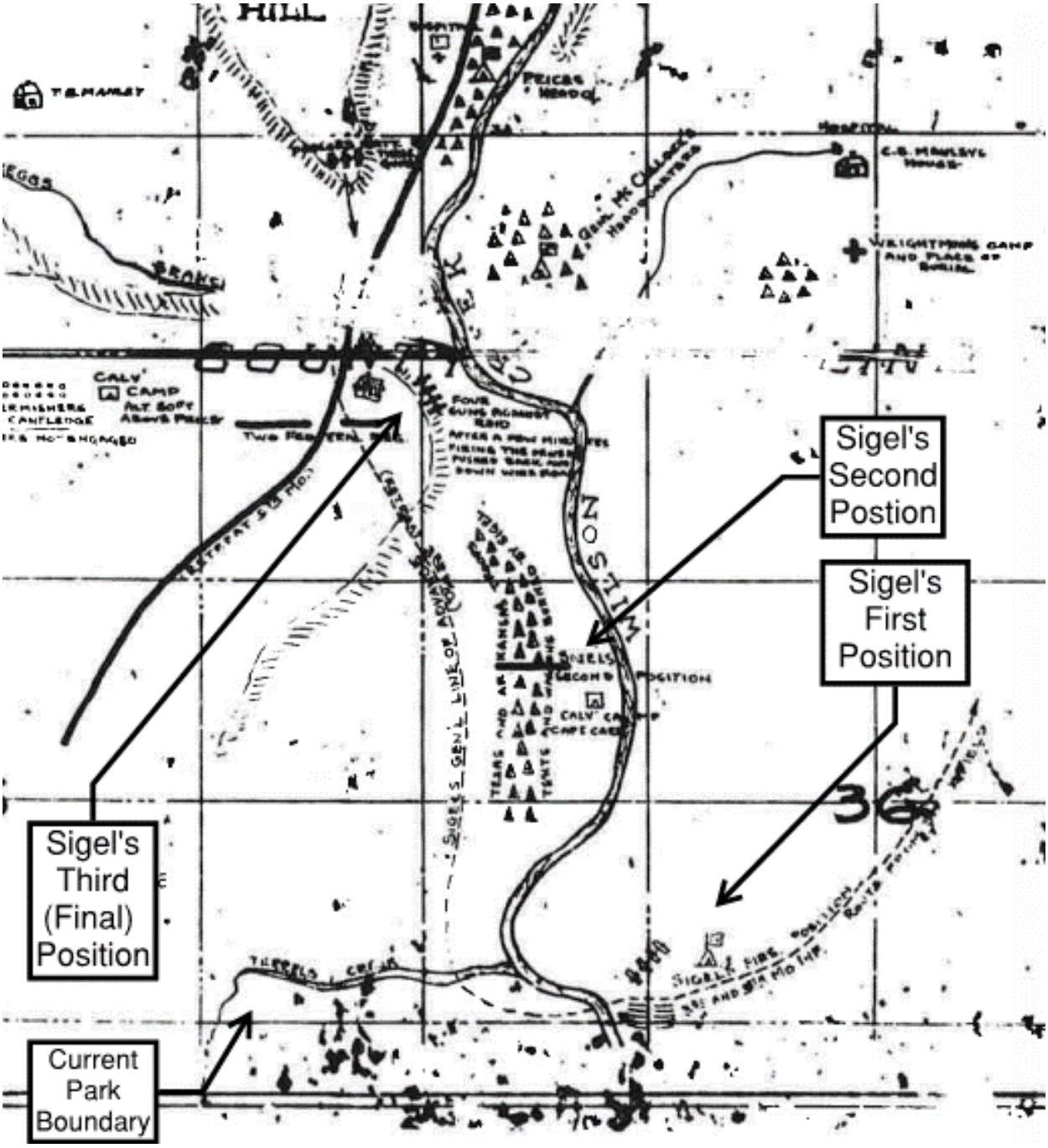


Figure 22. Top: Map of the Butterfield Trail, ca 1857. ("Butterfield Overland Mail," Wikipedia, accessed June 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfield_Overland_Mail#/media/File:Butterfield-Overland.gif) Bottom: Sketch Map of the Butterfield Trail in Southern Missouri (*Springfield News-Leader*, June 10, 1956, clipping on file in Wilson's Creek NB Archives).

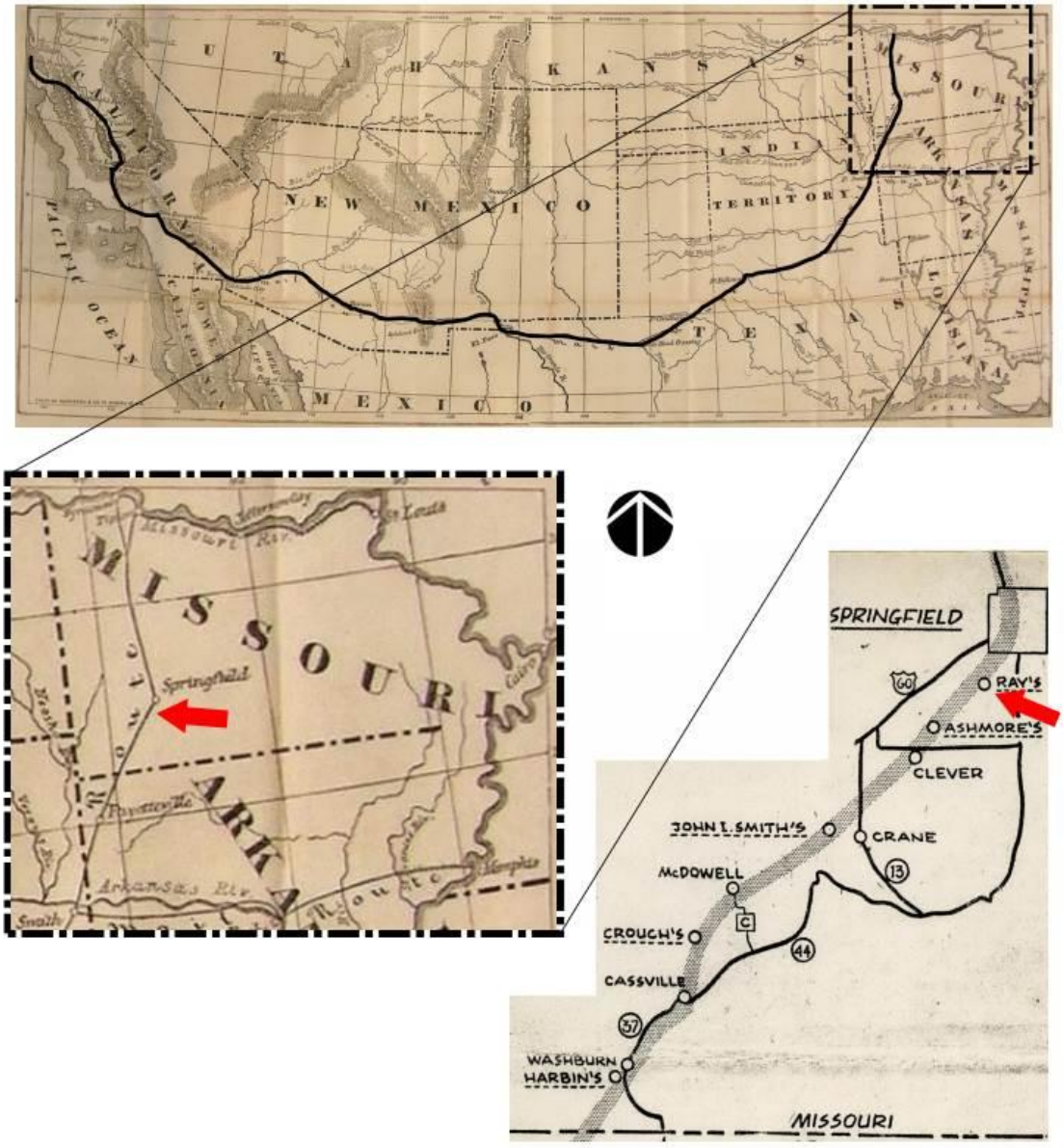


Figure 23. Historic Period Plan of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, ca. 1905-1928 in John Milner Associates, Inc., *Cultural Landscape Report: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, Missouri* (Omaha: NE, National Park Service, 2004).

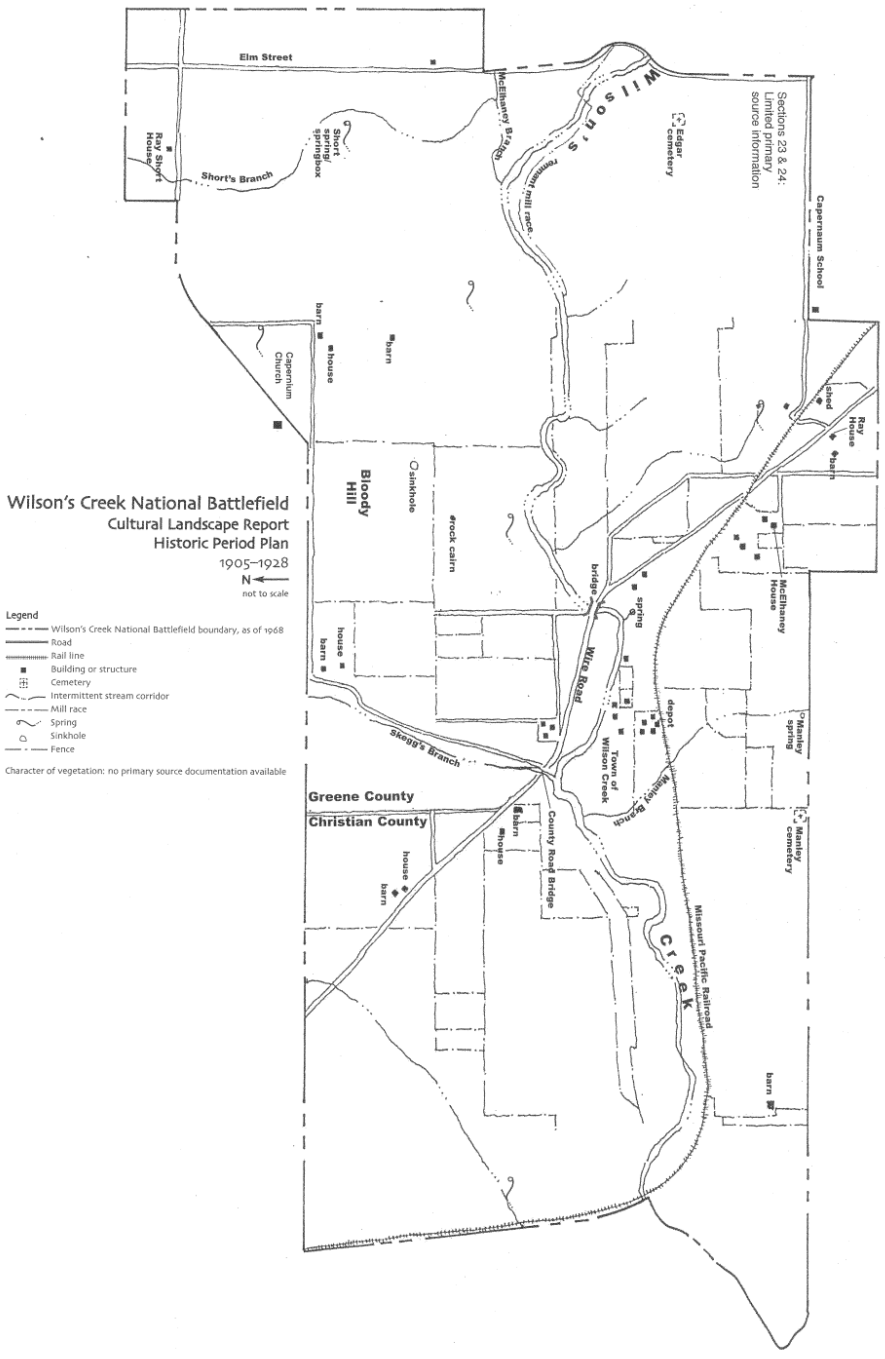


Figure 24. Early Photo of the Rock Cairn at the Site of Lyon's Death, ca. 1890s. (Wilson's Creek NB Archives, #00884.)



Figure 25. Drawings of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield, "The Wilson Creek Reunion," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, February 28, 1897, 33.

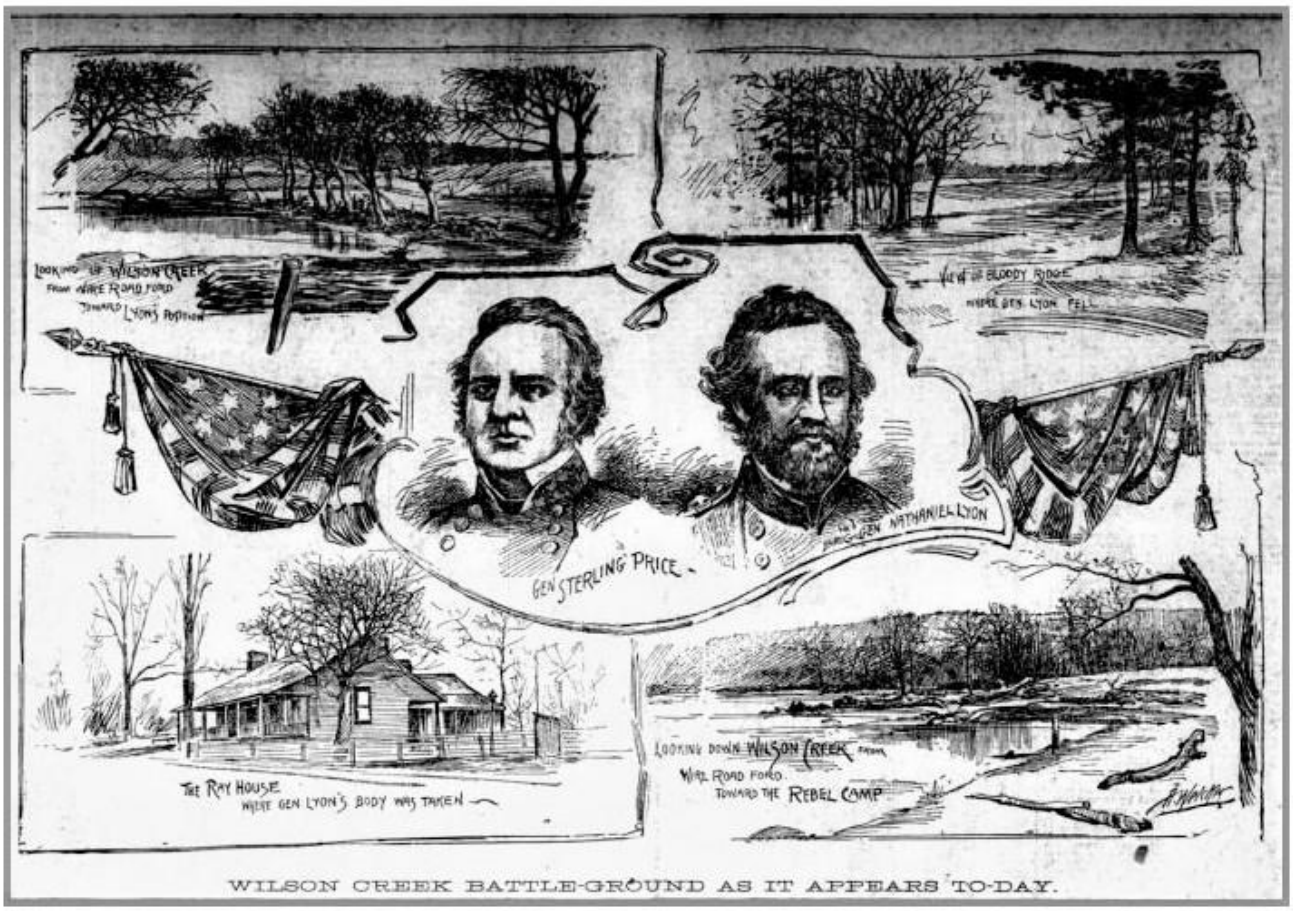


Figure 26. Park Brochure Map of 1967. (Wilson's Creek NB Archives.)

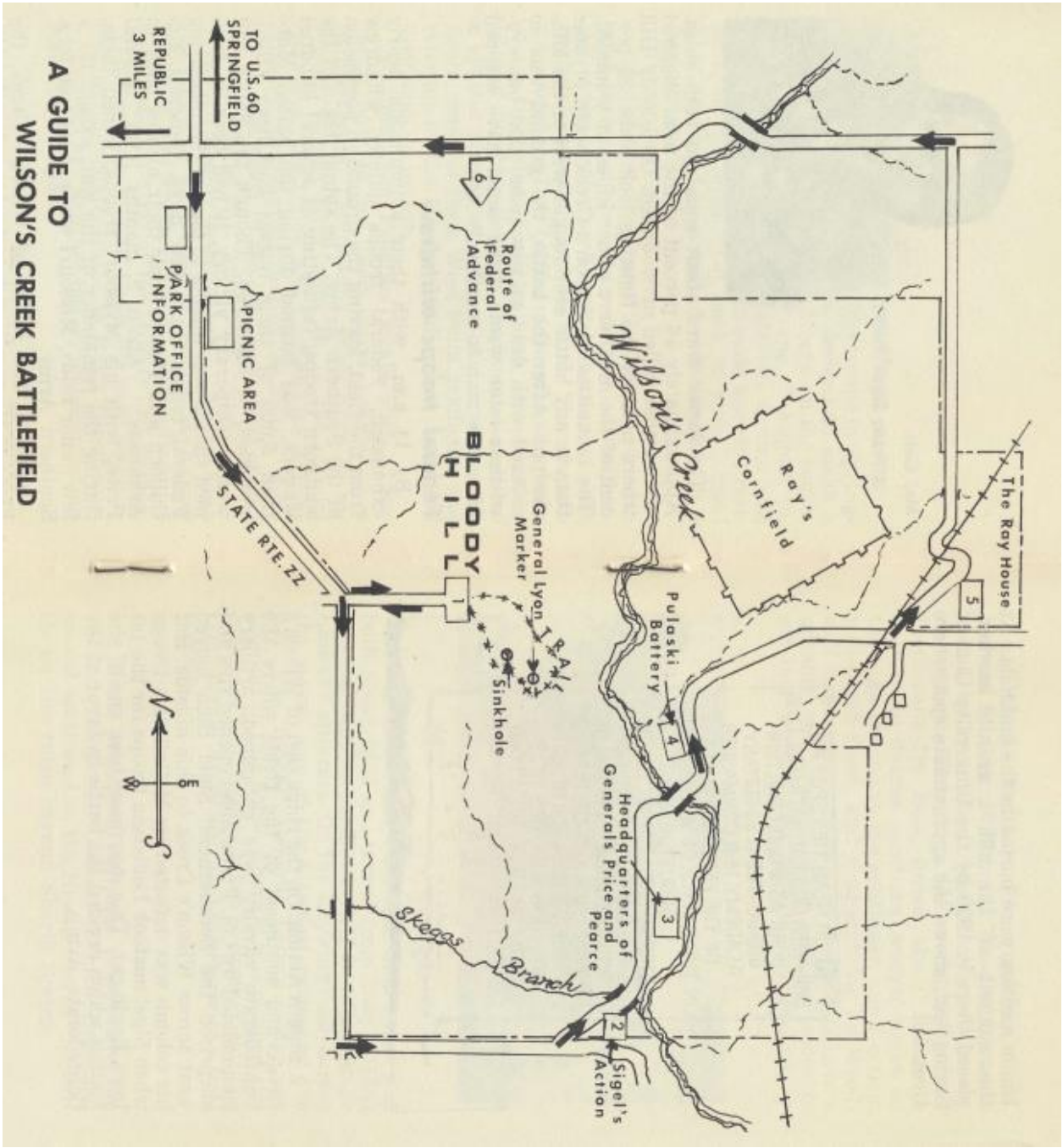


Figure 27. Map of Legislative Boundary Increase of 2004. (Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, Pub. L. No. 108-394, 118 Stat. 2247 and 2248, 2004.)

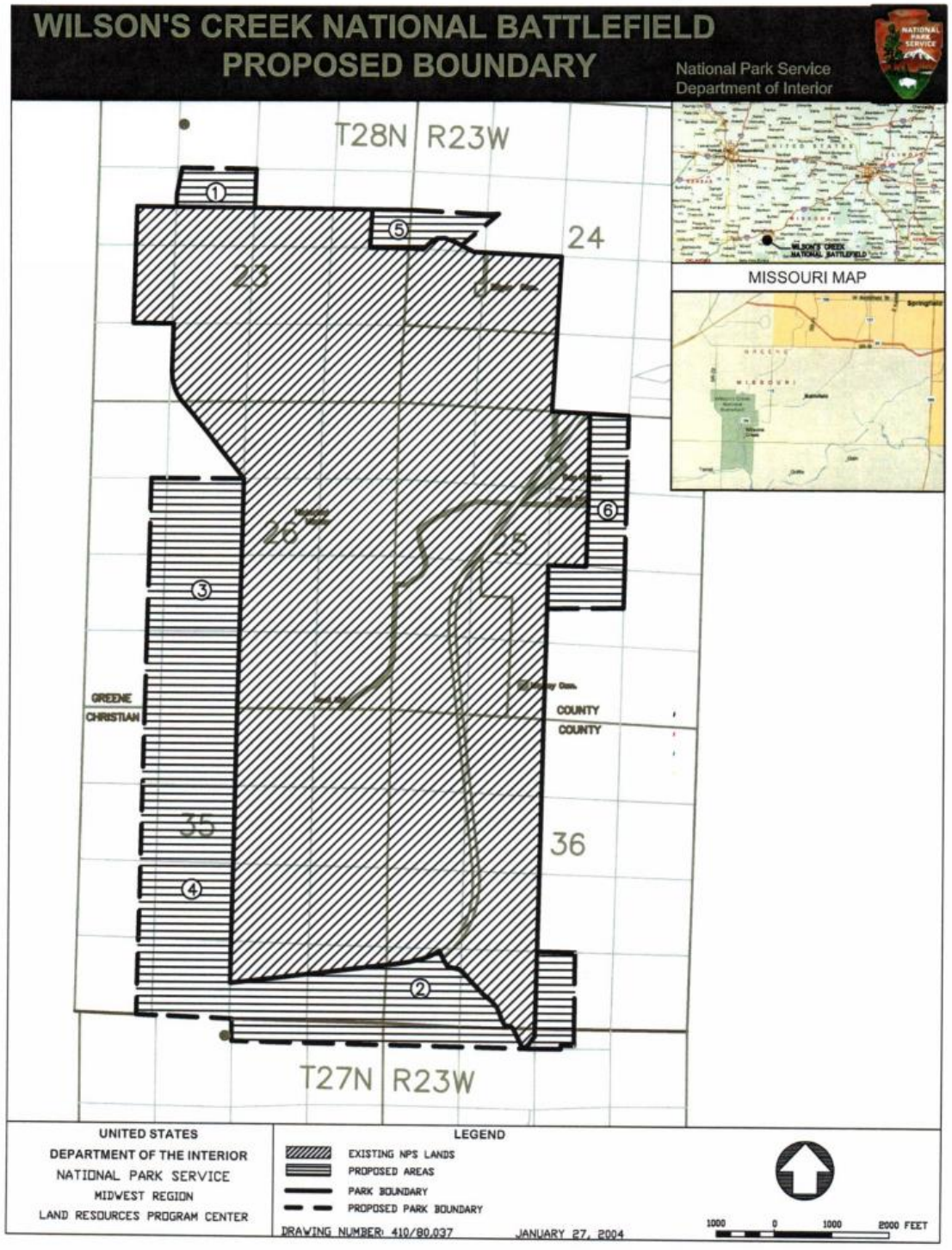


Figure 28. Photo Key Detail 1: Visitor Center.

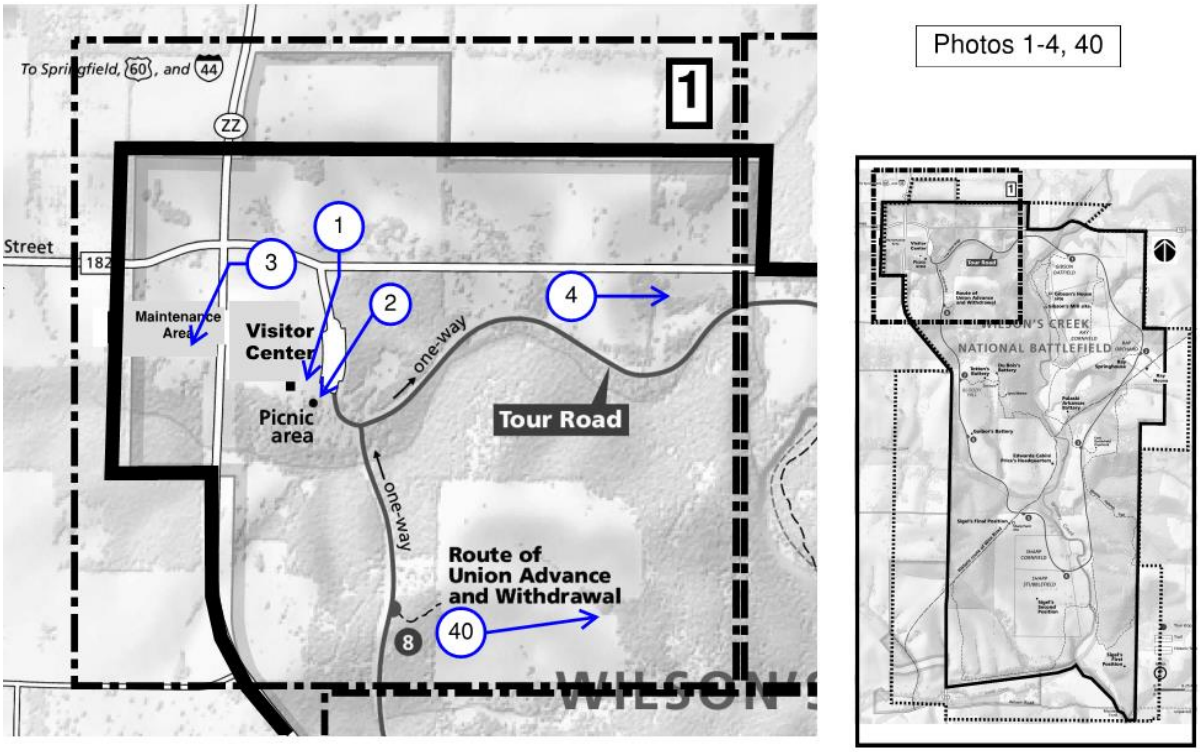


Figure 29. Photo Key Detail 2: Gibson's Mill.

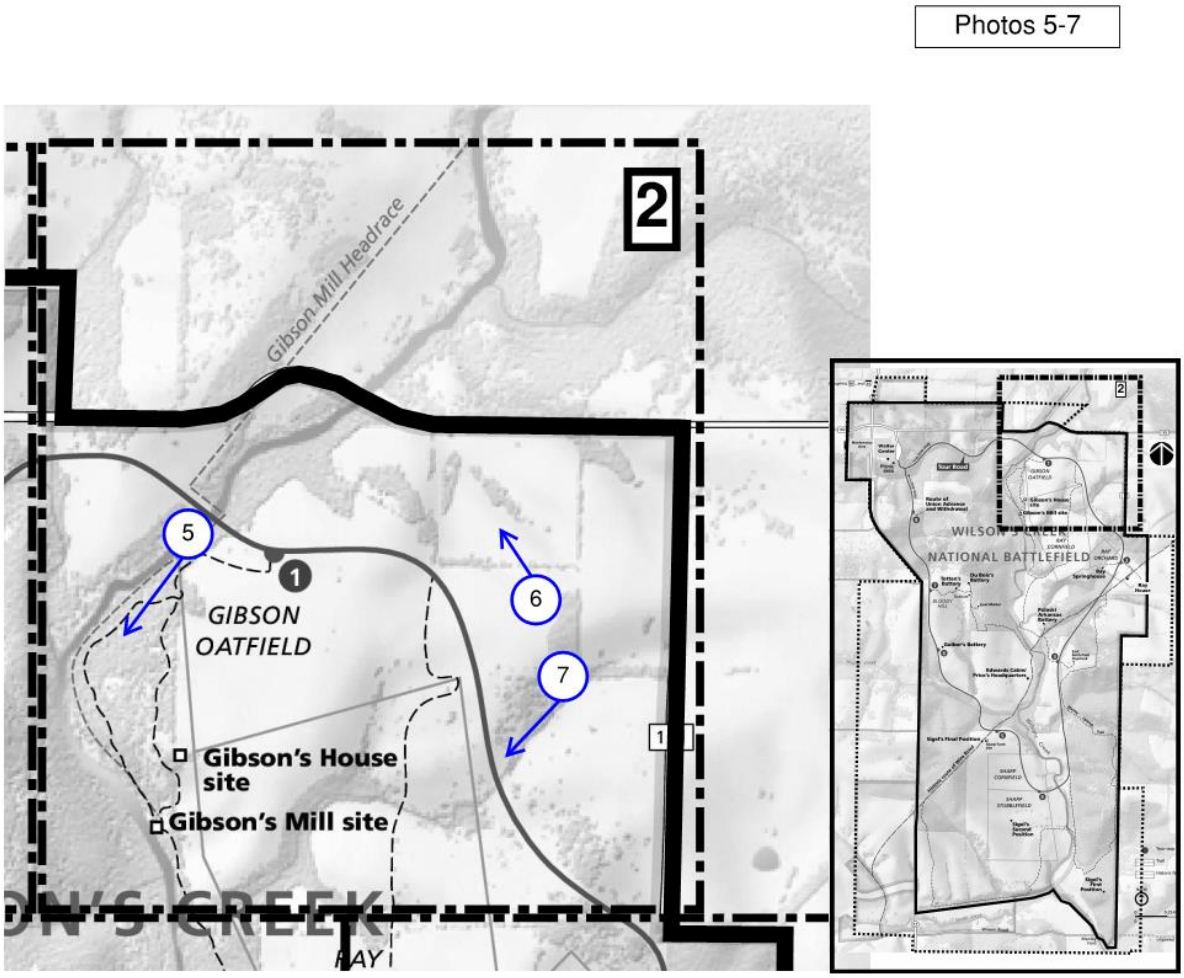
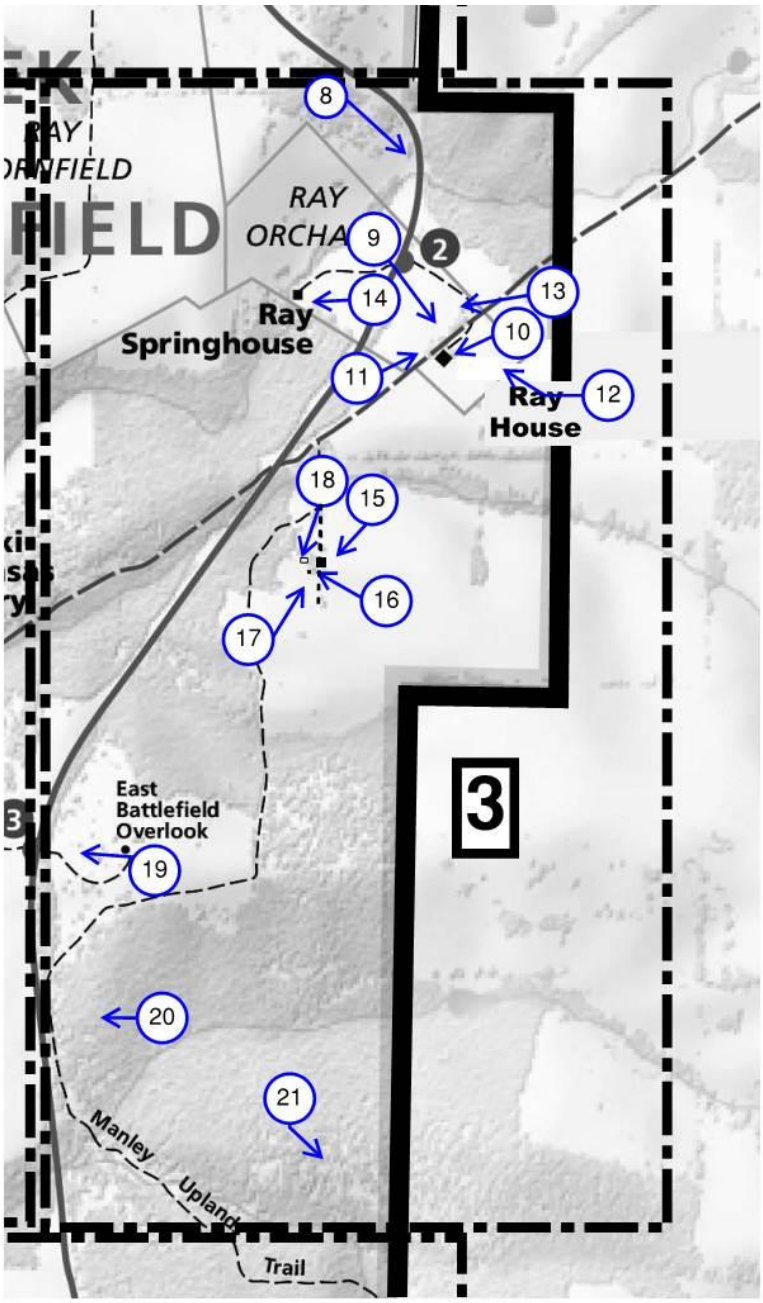


Figure 30. Photo Key Detail 3: Ray House.



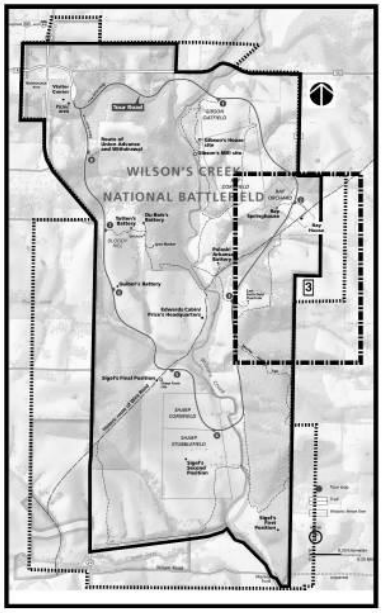


Figure 31. Photo Key Detail 4: South. (Photos 22-25 are on the following page.)

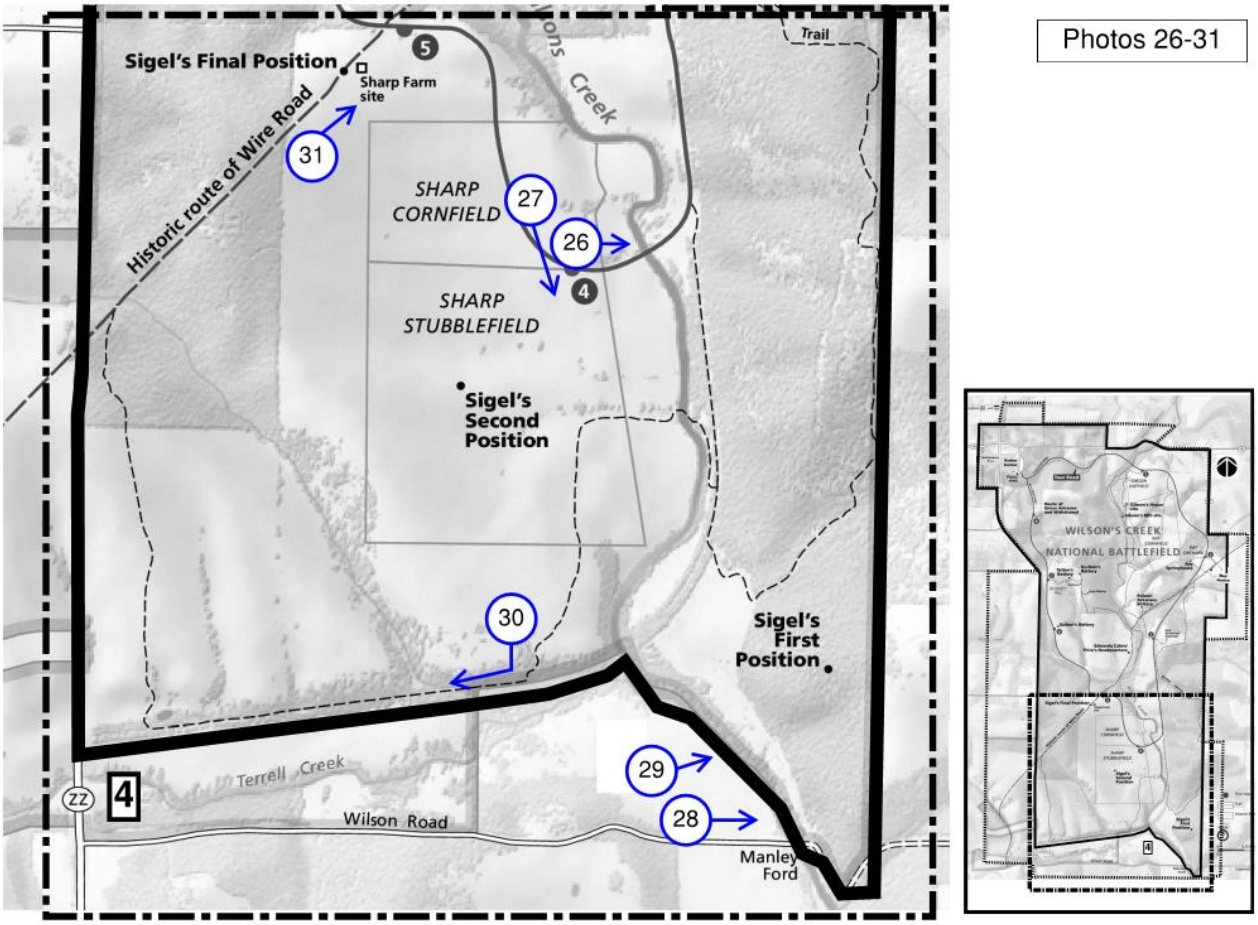
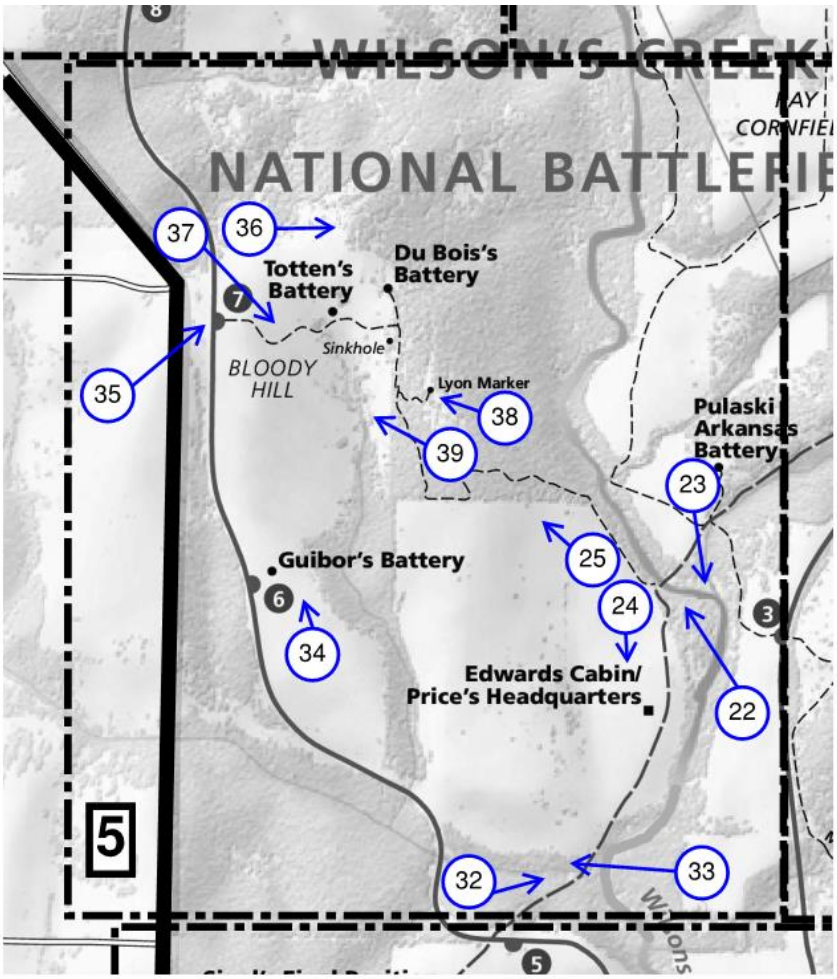
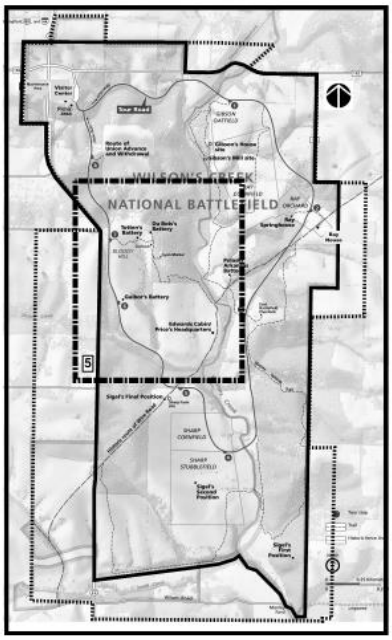


Figure 32. Photo Key Section 5: Bloody Hill.



Photos 22-25 & 32-39



PAGES REMOVED

Table and Figure Removed, Pages 179-184

Some information about this property is restricted under law:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended:

54 U.S. Code § 307103 - Access to information

(a) AUTHORITY TO WITHHOLD FROM DISCLOSURE.—The head of a Federal agency, or other public official receiving grant assistance pursuant to this division, after consultation with the Secretary, shall withhold from disclosure to the public information about the location, character, or ownership of a historic property if the Secretary and the agency determine that disclosure may—

(1) cause a significant invasion of privacy;
(2) risk harm to the historic property; or
(3) impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners.

1. Visitor Center (Resource 31), looking southwest.



2. Picnic Shelter (Resource 38), looking east-southeast.



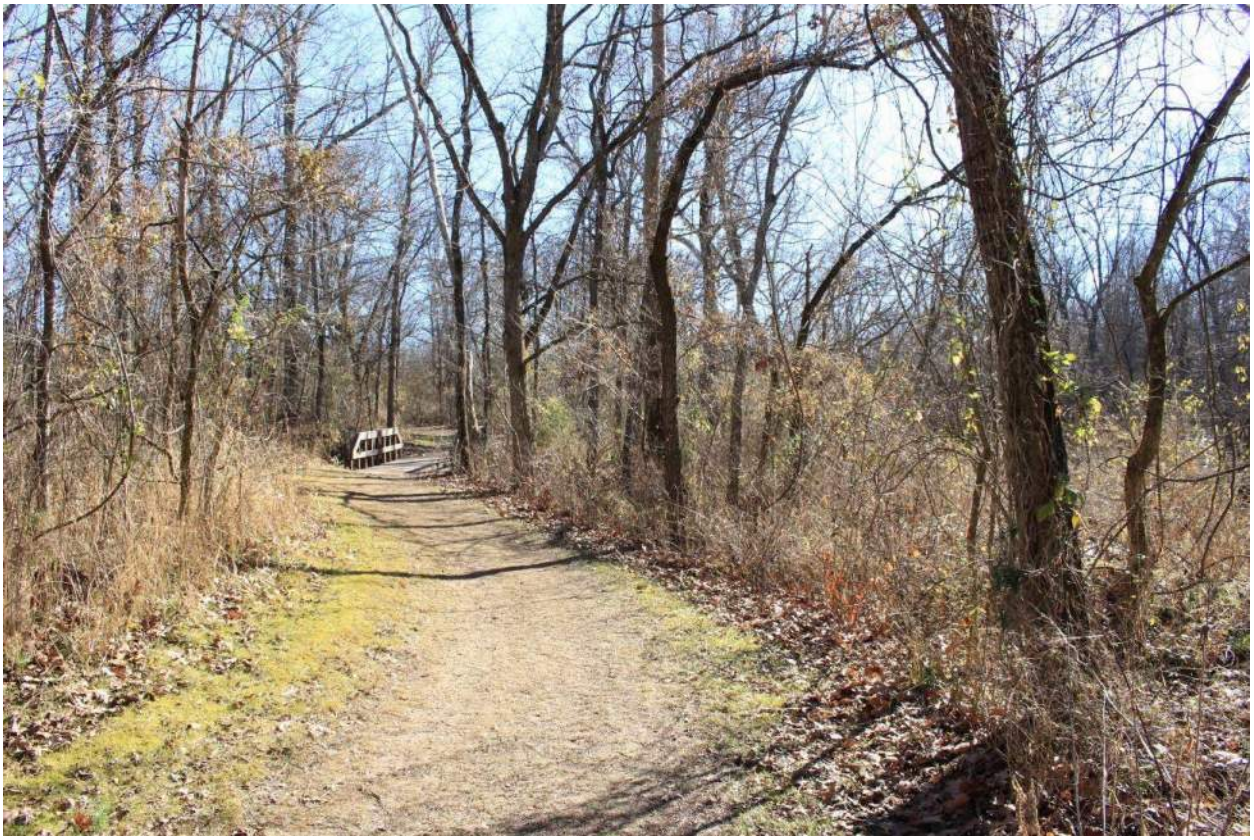
3. Carpenter Shop (Resource 25) in the Maintenance area, looking southwest.



4. Tour Road (Resource 53), looking east.



5. Gibson's Mill Trail (Resource 63), looking south.



6. Edgar Cemetery (Resource 6), looking northwest.



7. Ray Cornfield (Resource 5) and Ray Cornfield Trail (Resource 51), looking southwest.



8. Tour Road (Resource 53) and Ray House Bridge (Resource 58), looking southeast to Ray House.



9. Ray House (Resource 18), looking south.



10. Ray House Interior (Resource 18), southwest front room.



11. Wire Road Trace (Resource 37) in front of Ray House, looking northeast.



12. West edge of Ray yard, looking south. Left to right: Reproduction rail fence, Ray Pump House (Resource 20), Ray House (Resource 18).



13. View from Ray House, looking west. Left to Right: Ray Orchard (Resource 1.07), Bloody Hill (Resource 2), curved top edge of Ray Springhouse (Resource 50), Ray Cornfield (Resource 5).



14. Ray Springhouse (Resource 50), looking west.



15. McElhaney House (Resource 21) and Root Cellar (Resource 35), looking southwest.



16. McElhaney Outbuilding (Resource 23), and Barn (Resource 22), looking northwest.



17. McElhaney complex, looking northeast. Left to Right: Outbuilding (Resource 23), House (Resource 21), and Pump House (Resource 24).



18. McElhaney Barn (Resource 22), looking southwest.



19. View from East Overlook (Resource 1.08), looking west. Bloody Hill (Resource 2) is to the right.



20. Edwards Cabin (Resource 26), looking west from blufftop near Tour Stop 3.



21. Manley Cemetery (Resource 7), looking southeast.



22. Pratt Pony Truss Bridge (Resource 34), looking northeast.



23. Wilson's Creek (Resource 1.01) near Pratt Pony Truss Bridge, looking south.



24. Edwards Cabin/Price's Headquarter Exhibit (Resource 26), and field, looking south. Wire Road visible to the left.



25. Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail (Resource 39), looking northeast to Bloody Hill (Resource 2).



26. Tour Road-South Wilson's Creek Bridge (Resource 58), looking east.



27. Tour Road Stop 4. Looking south to Sigel's Second Position/Sharp's Field (Resource 11).



28. Manley Ford of Wilson's Creek (Resource 1.05), looking east.



29. Sigel's First Position (Resource 10), looking northeast from outside the southern boundary.



30. Southwest Boundary Trail/former path of Missouri Pacific Railroad (Resource 52), looking west.



31. Looking west to Sigel's Final Position (Resource 12), Sharp House Archeological Site (Resource 23CN00076) and Sigel's Second Position/Sharp's Field (Resource 11).



32. Wire Road (Resource 37), looking northeast to ford of Skegg's Branch (Resource 1.06).



33. Skegg's Branch (Resource 1.06) near Wilson's Creek (Resource 1.01), looking west.



34. Cannon at Guibor's Battery, looking north, Tour Road (Resource 53) on left.



35. Entrance to Bloody Hill (Resource 2), looking northeast.



36. View east from the top of Bloody Hill, towards Ray House.



37. Bloody Hill Interpretive Trail (Resource 39), near the top of the hill looking southeast.



38. Lyon Marker (Resource 67), looking west.



39. Bloody Hill (Resource 2), looking northwest from the lower interpretive trail.



40. West Overlook (Resource 1.09), looking southwest towards the Ray House.




1




4X4
Bobcat




5


EDGAR
CEMETERY
1857-1912


7






10










15


16








20






23




BLOODY HILL
TRAIL
1/3 MILE


26


Sigel's Attack




29


30










National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bloody Hill
Wilson's Creek
National Battlefield
You Are Here
Trail Guidance:
Be safe
Be prepared


36


TRAIL


Come on my brave boys, I will lead you forward!
AT OR NEAR THIS SPOT FELL
BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANIEL LYON
BORN ASHFORD, CONN. 1818
GRADUATED U.S. MILITARY
ACADEMY, 1841 COMMANDER
OF THE FEDERAL FORCES
IN THE BATTLE OF WILSON CREEK
AUGUST 10, 1861
THIS MARKER IS ERECTED BY
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB OF
SPRINGFIELD, MO. IN HONOR OF
GENERAL LYON AND THE HUNDREDS
OF BRAVE MEN, NORTH AND
SOUTH, WHO ON THIS FIELD
DIED FOR THE RIGHT AS GOD
GAVE THEM TO SEE THE RIGHT
1928




40