

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	West Virginia
COUNTY:	Nicholas
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Carnifex Ferry State Park
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Carnifex Ferry Battlefield

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: About 2 miles south of Kesslers Cross Lanes off State Route #129			
CITY OR TOWN: Kesslers Cross Lanes		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third	
STATE West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Nicholas	CODE 067

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: State of West Virginia			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Nicholas County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Summersville	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

STATE: West Virginia	COUNTY: Nicholas	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield consists of more than 150 acres of farmland and wooded area north of the confluence of Meadow and Gauley rivers in Nicholas County, West Virginia. During the battle of September 1861, Confederate and Union forces were camped about the entirety of what is now the park, the former to the south and latter to the north of the grounds. Near the present entrance to the battlefield are evidences of trenches and the road leading to the ferry over which Confederate General John B. Floyd retreated. No less than 150 rifle pits are plainly visible to the left of the entrance in a wooded area.

One of the striking aspects of physical appearance is the abundance of native shrubbery, including rhododendron, little laurel, mountain laurel, service, wild plum, wild crabapple, holly, hemlock, white pine and various hardwoods. The view of the Gauley River from the site of General Floyd's commissary is of rugged cliffs creating a great gorge.

Since 1950 the open farmland has been developed for tourists. A house was erected for the park superintendent, and the old, battle-scarred Patterson house was restored for use as a museum of Civil War relics. This building stood between Union and Confederate lines and was struck by numerous stray shots; after the final engagement it was used as a Federal hospital. Little changed since the time of its Yankee occupation, the farm house is today a white, two-story building with thatched gabled roof, shiplap wooden siding, a porch with sloping thatched roof to the front and a lean-to addition to the rear.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) August-September 1861

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a result of the Battle of Carnifex Ferry, the threat of Confederate General John B. Floyd to the Union positions in the Kanawha Valley was forever diminished. Of still greater importance was the fact that failure of his campaign at the Ferry freed a large part of the Valley to participate in West Virginia's statehood movement through a referendum, scheduled for October 24, 1861, on the question of the division of Virginia.

In August 1861, Confederate troops moved into the Valley; they were commanded by General John B. Floyd, the controversial Secretary of War in President Buchanan's Cabinet and former governor of Virginia. As soon as Union General George B. McClellan learned of Floyd's advance, he sent his subordinate, Brigadier General William S. Rosecrans, into the area to prevent Confederate domination. Rosecrans then established a defensive perimeter from Gauley Bridge to Cheat Mountain, placing the southernmost section under the command of Brigadier General J.D. Cox. Even though this and other precautions were taken, Southern forces succeeded in crossing the Gauley River barrier at Carnifex Ferry and defeating Union troops under Colonel E. B. Tyler at Cross Lanes (now Kessler's Cross Lanes) to the north. Then they fortified at Camp Gauley and awaited Northern retaliation.

Floyd did not have to wait long, for as soon as Rosecrans learned of the Confederate menace he departed from his headquarters at Clarksburg and headed for Carnifex Ferry, gathering about 7,000 troops on the way. When news came of this advancement, Floyd asked for reinforcements, but General Henry A. Wise, another ex-governor of Virginia, was jealous of Floyd's authority and used his own discretion in sending what proved to be too small a number to strengthen Floyd's troops sufficiently.

At Carnifex Ferry on September 10, 1861, Rosecrans ordered Brigadier General Henry W. Benham to reconnoiter the Confederate line. Floyd's troops engaged Benham's party in the afternoon and a battle ensued. By midnight Floyd realized his opponent's superior strength and withdrew his command from the Ferry. His escape was a remarkable feat considering the odds he faced at Camp Gauley and the narrow roads over which he was forced to retreat. This withdrawal, however, was a shattering blow to Confederates in the Valley and took pressure off residents participation in the coming referendum.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lambert, Harold and Jo Lambert. "Old Rosy. . . the Fading General of West Virginia." West Virginia State Magazine, VIII (Mar. 1957) 7, 27, 29.

Lamp, Okey. "Battle of Carnifex Ferry." Outdoor West Virginia, XXXII (Dec. 1968), 22-36 and (Jan. 1969), 15-16.

Shaffer, Dallas B. "The Battle at Carnifex Ferry." Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Recreation, n.d. (Pamphlet)

Vaughn, Gladys. "Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park." Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, n.d. (Typewritten paper)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	38° 12. 50.7.	80 ° 56 .44.7.		° . .	° . .	° . .
NE	38° 12. 50.7.	80 ° 55 .42.9.				
SE	38° 11. 56.7.	80 ° 55 .42.9.				
SW	38° 11. 56.7.	80 ° 56 .44.7.				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 156.37 Acres

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Ted McGee, Field Agent

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

October 25, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN:

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Leonard M. Davis

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 22, 1974

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

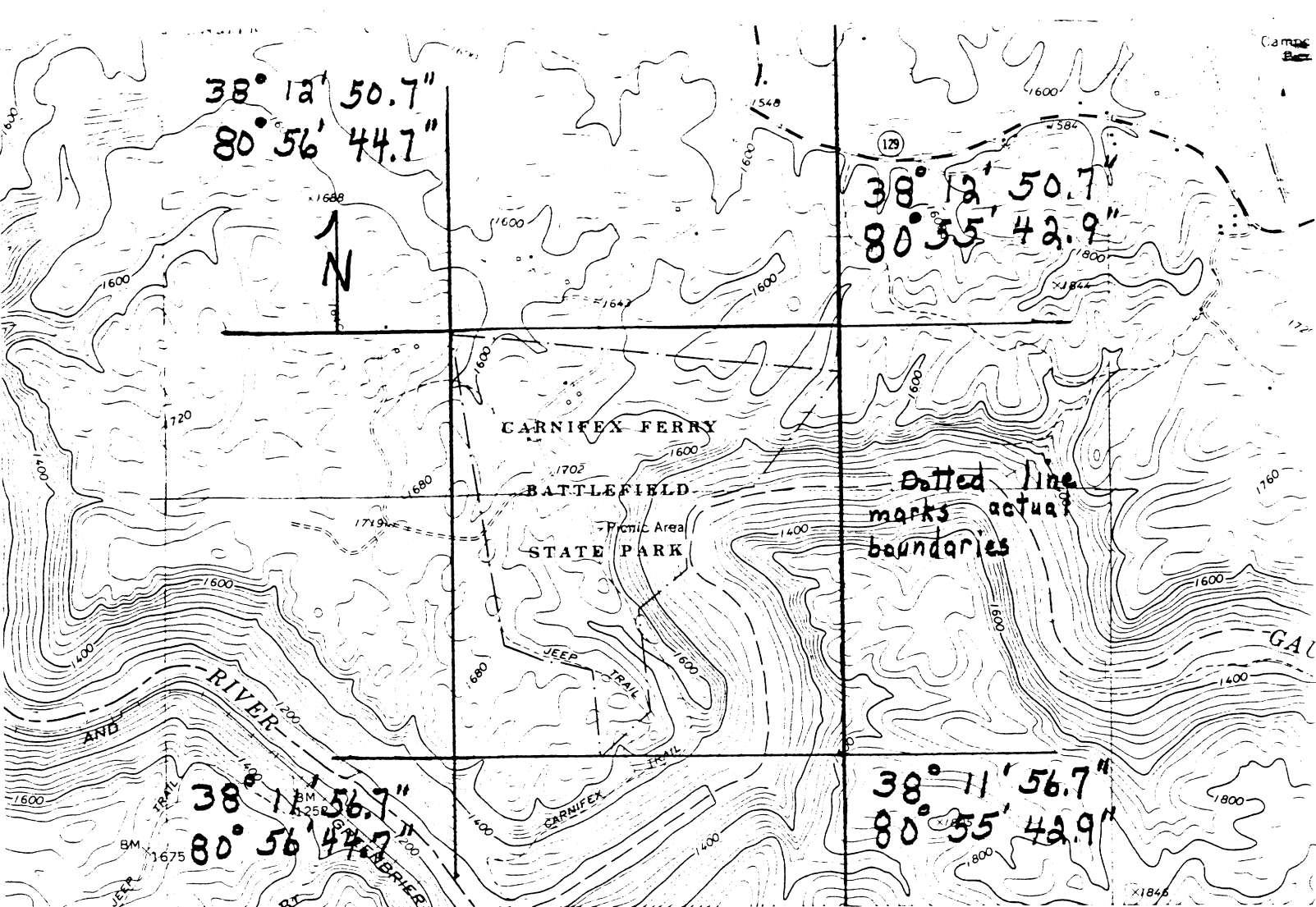
Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Nicholas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Carnifex Ferry State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Carnifex Ferry Battlefield			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Kessler's Cross Lanes			
STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Nicholas	CODE 067
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1969			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



