

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Mason	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Point Pleasant Battleground	
AND/OR HISTORIC: 	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main and First Streets (southwest corner)			
CITY OR TOWN: Point Pleasant			
STATE West Virginia	CODE 47	COUNTY: Mason	CODE 053

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
			Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, W. Va.			
STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 47	STATE: COUNTY:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Mason County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 6th and Main Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Point Pleasant	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 47	STATE: COUNTY:
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 1/4 acres			

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

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4. Owner of Property

Reference is made here to the Plat Map of the city of Point Pleasant.

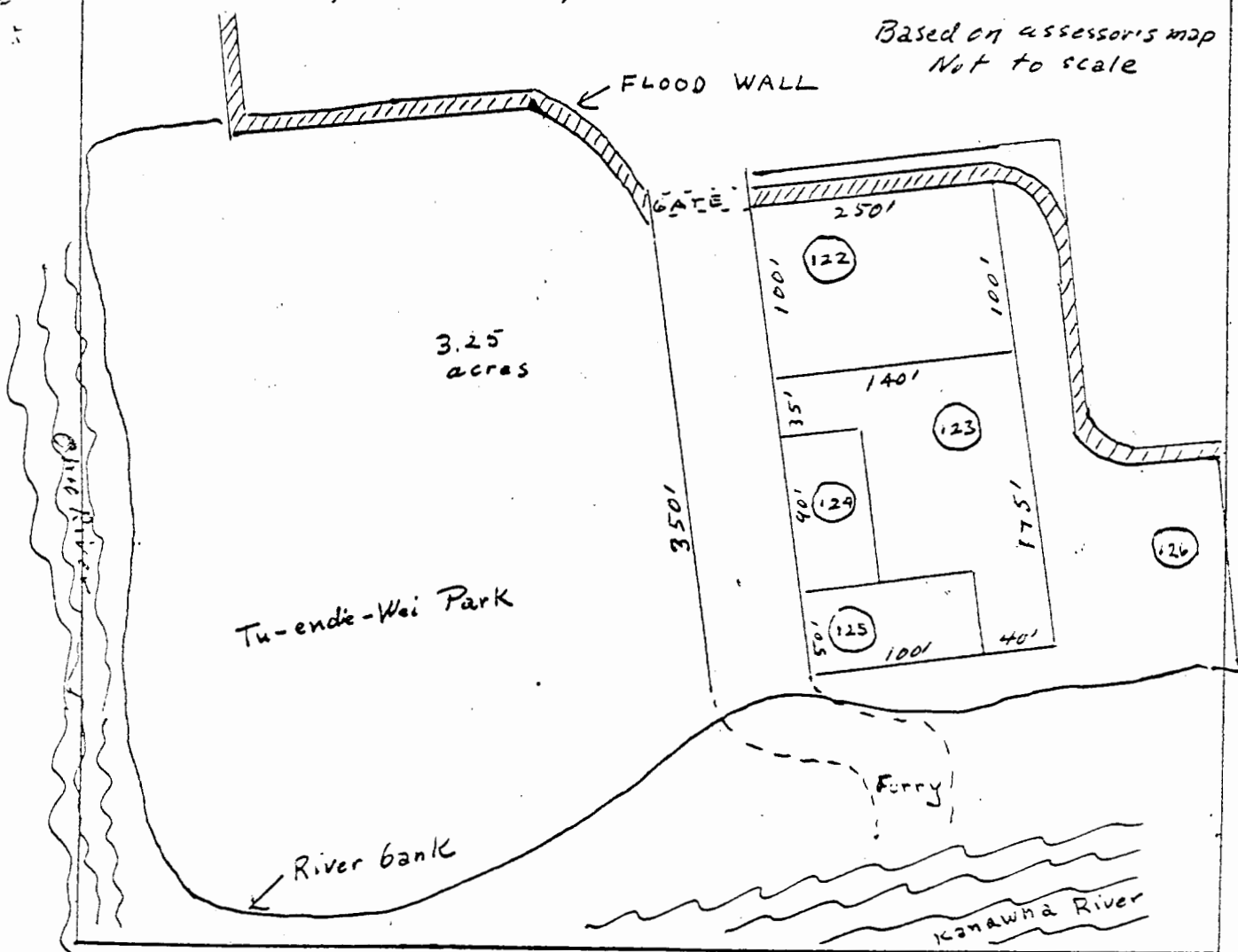
Lot 120 is owned by the Division of Parks and Recreation, as stated.

Lots 123, 124, and 125 are owned by Mrs. C. C. (Bessie) Stone, —
4-A Main Street, Point Pleasant, W. Va.

Lot 122 is owned by Mr. Thomas J. and Esther Reynolds, 20 Main Street,
Point Pleasant, W. Va.

Lot 126 is owned by the City of Point Pleasant.

Legal descriptions for all properties may be found in the Mason County
Courthouse, Point Pleasant, W. Va.



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY (cabin)	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>We have no conclusive record of ^{prior} occupancy of the land at the point of the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha when the soldiers of Andrew Lewis made camp there prior to the battle. However, a certain Hanson with a party came down the river in 1774 and on April 20, Hanson records that he "found 26 people encampment at the point to cultivate lands, others to attend the surveyors." The point was probably much broader and some longer at that time, for an early map of Point Pleasant shows a Water Street and a row of houses on the Ohio side of the point where now there is merely a slight grassy indentation fronted by rip-rap. Traditions have come down of a corn-field and drill-ground between the present cabin and the river.</p> <p>Immediately after the battle, troops were left behind to erect Fort Blair, said to have included a stockade for animals. It was partly burned down in an Indian attack in 1775, if Dr. Walker's accusation at a conference with the Indians on October 14, 1775, is accurate, but the store inside was left.</p> <p>The present cabin built by Walter Newman was used as a tavern and stood very near a thoroughfare. It has remained substantially unchanged, being repaired in 1901. Around 1911 it seems that the present porches were added on the river side, and the protective overhang on the eastern side.</p> <p>The site where Lewis' troops camped and Fort Blair was built is now a well-kept State park. The Walter Newman cabin is used as a museum open during the tourist season. The museum has a collection of Indian relics of all periods in the attic region. Most of these came from the grounds or from the area. Other rooms are equipped with early American furnishings, along with a trunk of materials once owned by a Dr. Bennett, resident of Point Pleasant, whom the State road sign proclaims to be the first physician to perform a Caesarian operation in the United States.</p> <p>At the beginning of this century, when efforts were made to commemorate the Battle of Point Pleasant, horse stables and pig stys were to be found on the ground where the dead from the battle were interred. There is doubtless still opportunity for the archeologist in the gardens and yards of this area.</p>						

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) 1770 (Washington camp); 1774 Battle; 1796 cabin.

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 ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Point Pleasant was the scene of the principal engagement of Dunmore's War October 10, 1774. Col. Andrew Lewis, commanding 1,100 colonial soldiers, fought with 800 to 1000 Indians to effectively change the boundary of the frontier from the Allegheny Mountains to the Ohio River. This also opened the State of Kentucky to relatively safe settlement, a great assistance to the colonies in the approaching War of the Revolution.

Of the conflict itself, E. O. Randall wrote: "The battle of Point Pleasant was the most extensive, the most bitterly contested, and fraught with the most significance of any Indian battle in American history . . . America has no more historic soil than the ground of the Kanawha and Ohio point, reddened that October day by the blood of savage warriors and frontier woodsmen". (The Dunmore War, 1902, pp 22-23).

According to State historian Virgil Lewis, from the colonial troops in Dunmore's regiments came seven Revolutionary War generals, four governors, three senators and six congressmen.

Aside from the Battle of Point Pleasant, the point and its immediate environment under many aspects is remarkable for its historical depth:

- 1) A favorite site of many aboriginal cultures dating from paleo times, artifacts from which are on display in the museum at the Point;
- 2) the spot where the French under Celoron de Blainville buried a lead plate in 1749 claiming the Ohio River territory for France;
- 3) the reported site of a French trading post visited by Captain Matthew Arbuckle with his pelts in 1764; probably linked to French-Shawnee trade.
- 4) the camping place of George Washington on his trip down the Ohio, October 31 and November 3, 1770, to claim land for himself and his officers;
- 5) the site of Fort Blair, built in 1774 immediately after the battle and apparently burned by Shawnee Indians in the following year. Fort Randolph was constructed as a palisade enclosing cabins in 1776 or 1777, a short distance north of Fort Blair, near the site of the Kanawha and Michigan Railroad depot. It resisted a minor and a major attack, the latter in May of 1778, when several colonial troops were killed. It was superseded by a third important fort, 1786-95, garrisoned under the command of Thomas Lewis;
- 6) the scene of the treacherous assassination of Shawnee Chief Cornstalk, his son Elinipsico, Red Hawk, and the father of Tecumseh, held as hostages in 1777 after they had come to warn the colonists of a British and Indian coalition against the Americans; Cornstalk is buried there;

cont'd.

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STATE	
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COUNTY	
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(Number all entries) 8. Significance cont'd., Point Pleasant

- 7) the home of the "Grenadier Squaw," sister of Cornstalk, who throughout remained faithful to the Americans and who disguised two soldiers as Indians and sent them to the Greenbrier country eastward to warn the whites of the coming of their red enemies;
- 8) the chosen site for the capital of Vandalia, a projected Ohio River colony in which leading English and American officials were interested, including Benjamin Franklin. Their plan was abandoned with the coming of the Revolutionary War;
- 9) for several years--probably from 1788 to 1794--the farm and trading post of Daniel Boone, located approximately nine hundred yards northeast from the point near the site of Fort Randolph;
- 10) the proposed terminus of the James and Kanawha waterway, only a third of which was completed;
- 11) the burial place of "Mad Ann" Bailey, a woman frontier scout;
- 12) the site of Walter Newman's house or tavern, built in 1796 or 1797, restored and still standing--said to have been constructed of logs from the Fort Blair stable or store;
- 13) the site of a monument commemorating the battle, toward which the U. S. Congress contributed \$10,000 by an Act of February 17, 1908;
- 14) the place of departure of forces under George Rogers Clark when they set forth on the conquest of the Northwest Territory;
- 15) the site of a ferry established in 1791 by Thomas Lewis, son of Andrew Lewis, who originally owned 9,000 acres of land at Point Pleasant;
- 16) place of assemblage of a brigade of troops under General Joel Leftwich, October 20, 1812, going westward in the War of 1812-1814;
- 17) General Cox' point of entry into Virginia during his Kanawha Valley campaign of 1861, War of the Rebellion, and the site of General Jenkins' raid in 1863;
- 18) close to the highway bridge across the Ohio which collapsed in 1967 with the loss of 46 lives, and also close to railroad bridges across both the Ohio and Kanawha embodying pioneer features in bridge-building;
- 19) the site of "Ann Bailey" Ferry which operated well over a century, until the building of the "Silver" Bridge" in 1928.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thwaites, Reuben Gold and Kellogg, Louise. Documentary History of Dunmore's War. Madison, 1905.

Randall, E. O. The Dunmore War. Columbus, 1902.

Thwaites, Reuben Gold. Daniel Boone. New York, 1903.

Lewis, Virgil. History of the Battle of Point Pleasant. Charleston, 1909.

Poffenbarger, Livia Nye. The Battle of Point Pleasant. Point Pleasant, 1909.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 50 ' 21.49"	82 ° 08 ' 26.91"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		(coordinates placed at battle monument at center of present park)		
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Clifford M. Lewis, S.J., acting for State Liaison Officer	
ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission	DATE July 8, 1970
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 39 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University	
CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown	STATE West Virginia CODE 47

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 Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.
Title Acting for State Liaison Officer

Date July 8, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

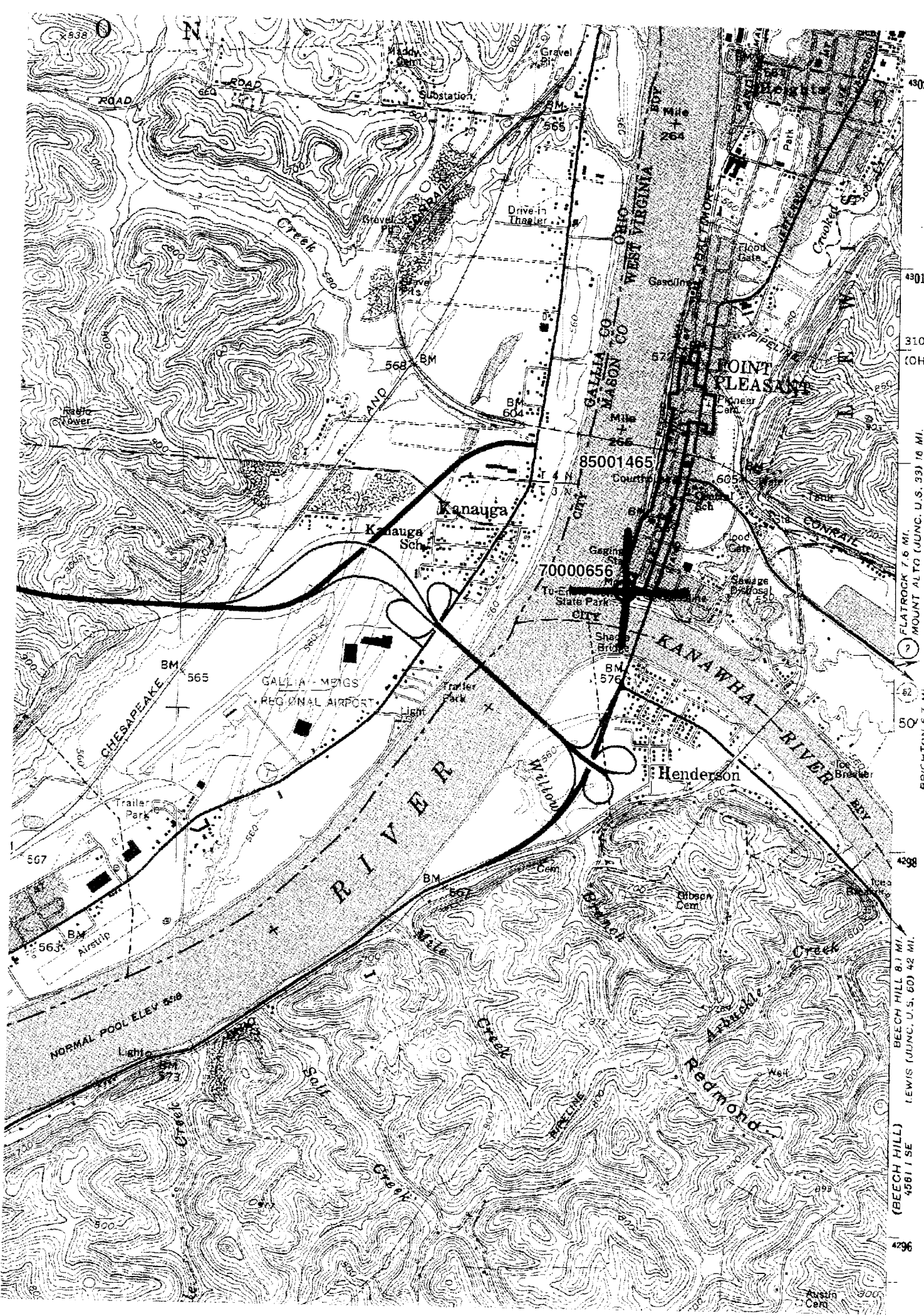
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



POINT PLEASANT BATTLEGROUND

70000656

4302
4301
310 000 FEET (OHIO)
FLATROCK 7.6 MI.
MOUNT ALTO (JUNC. U.S. 33) 16 MI.
BRIGHTON 5.7 MI.
CHARLESTON 5.3 MI.
4300
4299
4298
4297
4296
BEECH HILL 8.1 MI.
LEWIS (JUNC. U.S. 60) 42 MI.
4581 SE

