Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

THEME: The Advance of the Frontier 1763-1830

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Tippecanoe Battlefield State Memorial

AND/OR COMMON: Tippecanoe Battlefield

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 7 miles northeast of Lafayette

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Battle Ground __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd

STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

COUNTY: Tippecanoe CODE: 157

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	X PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENC
X SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	X ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Battle Ground Historical Corporation (continued)

STREET & NUMBER: Box 225

CITY, TOWN: Battle Ground __ VICINITY OF

STATE: Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Tippecanoe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: Fourth, Third, Columbia and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN: Lafayette

STATE: Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sixteen acres of the battlefield are owned by the State of Indiana:
Department of Natural Resources
State Office Building
Indianapolis, Indiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tippecanoe Battlefield is located in Battle Ground, Indiana off State Route 225. The Battleground is located but five miles north of the city of Lafayette. In the early 20th century an iron fence, which still stands, was constructed around the site of the Harrison army encampment. This area encompasses some 16 acres. The topographic features are very much the same as on November 7, 1811. A 90-foot high monument was constructed honoring General Harrison and his soldiers. Also located within the area are markers and roles commemorating the soldiers who died in the Battle of Tippecanoe.

To the north of the actual encampment, on ground where the initial shots were fired by sentinels, is the present interpretive facility--The Battle of Tippecanoe Museum. The Association admirably interprets both sides of the story as a "Conflict of Cultures." The Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church built a number of buildings (shown and identified by accompanying photographs) which are planned as part of the interpretive center for conferences, accommodations and other related purposes. The large two-story stone and brick building (listed C, the Museum Complex on the accompanying sketch map labeled The Tippecanoe Battlefield Sketch Map) has a section for display, a workshop and the offices of the Battle Ground Historical Society. Plans call for the extension of the present museum to include all of the building. Also located on the property is an early church constructed in the first half of the 19th century.

The area surrounding the Harrison encampment is generally unchanged. The U.S.G.S. 1962 map indicates extensive housing in the museum complex area. This no longer exists.

Two highways traverse the region as does the original tracks of the Louisville, New Albany and Salem Railroad (now the Monon Railroad) which likewise date back to the early 19th century. However, these modern features do not greatly interfere with the historic integrity of the terrain. The buildings, highways and the railroad do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

The area located just east of the northern section of the battleground, though historic, is not included within the boundary due to the presence of a sewage desposal plant.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES November 7, 1811 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811, was indecisive in terms of its immediate result. In its long-range effect, however, the fight between William Henry Harrison's American army and warriors of the Shawnee Nation had a profound influence on western development and was an immediate cause of the second war with Britain, 1812-1815. The narrowly won American victory destroyed the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh's plans for a powerful confederation of northern and southern Indian Nations at blocking white westward expansion, and it sparked agitation for the war against the British, whom the frontiersmen held accountable for Indians struggles to maintain their lands. The Battle of Tippecanoe illustrates well the ultimate effect of westward expansion by land-hungry settlers and the support given by the national Government to this move across a continent.

HISTORY

The Treaty of Greenville in 1795, following the Battle of Fallen Timbers, ended the period during which the Indians, probably inspired by British interest, were on the offensive. After that, with few exceptions, the frontiersmen forced the Indians back during almost a century of rapid westward expansion.

William Henry Harrison, Superintendant of the Northwest Indians and Governor of the Indiana Territory, vigorously followed the program for removing the Indians from the territory under his supervision. Between 1795 and 1809 the Indians of that region parted with nearly 15 million acres of their land by the "treaty" method.

After 1809, owing to the efforts of Tecumseh and his brother, The Prophet, the Indians became less inclined to sign away their lands. Tecumseh undertook to save his people by changing their habits, keeping them away from the whites, and preventing the alienation of their lands. With the able assistance of The Prophet, he sought to combine all Indians into a confederacy. In 1809 Tecumseh and The Prophet began a settlement at the Great Clearing where the Tippecanoe Creek empties into the Wabash River. Governor Harrison in the meantime made a treaty with a small group of Indians whereby Tecumseh would have been deprived of his favorite hunting grounds, and which would have brought the boundary of the whites within 50 miles of the Tippecanoe. Tecumseh refused to be bound by the treaty and continued his efforts to bring all Indian tribes within his confederation.

(Continued)

With the tacit approval of the War Department, Harrison collected a force of about 1,000 men and decided to force hostilities. On November 6, 1811, he encamped near Tecumseh's village at the mouth of the Tippecanoe, while Tecumseh himself had gone south to seek an alliance with the Creeks. Harrison succeded in maneuvering the Prophet into fighting the following morning. After a short battle the Indians were decisely defeated and their village sacked.

The defeat of the Indians in the Battle of Tippecanoe destroyed all hope that Tecumseh had for an Indian confederacy and weakened whatever chances the Indians may have had for withstanding the encroachment of the whites into the Old Northwest. Many people believed that all of Tecumseh's activities were inspired by the English, and coming at the time when the United States Government was having trouble with England regarding the freedom of the seas, it supplied the "war hawks" in Congress with much political ammunition in their move to force a declaration of war.

Tecumseh's call for the unification of Indian nations had terrified the fronter and the destruction of his forces by Harrison suited the entire nation. The Battle of Tippecanoe made Harrison the "hero of the West" and gave to him sufficient fame to make it possible for him to be elected President of the United States in 1840.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuance Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 175 ±

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	16	513800	4480160	B	16	513820	4479140
C	16	512380	4479170	D	16	512340	4479810

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuance Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE
5/27/75

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE
202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Landmark Designated: Oct. 9, 196 date

Boundary Certified: Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys date

Boundary Affirmed: Director, OAHP date

Bemis, Samuel F., A Diplomatic History of the United States, (New York, 1936).

Cleaves, Freeman, Old Tippecanoe: William Henry Harrison and His Times (New York, 1939).

Esarey, Logan, ed. William Henry Harrison: Messages and Letters, Indiana Historical Commission, (3 vols.: Indianapolis) 1922.

Jacobs, James R., The Beginnings of the United States Army, 1783-1812 (Princeton, 1947).

McCollough, Alameda, The Battle of Tippecanoe: Conflict of Cultures, Tippecanoe County Historical Association: Lafayette, Indiana, 1973.

Pritle, Alfred, The Battle of Tippecanoe (Louisville, 1900).

The interpretation of the Battle of Tippecanoe until the present has been viewed, as in the words of Bernard De Voto, "...as if history were the function solely of white culture." This narrow interpretation lead to the commemoration of 16 acres, donated to the State of Indiana by John Tipton in 1836, only 19 years after the original battle, as representative of the engagement of Harrison and Indian forces. This site, located at the juncture of the Wabash River and Tippecanoe Creek, is in actuality little more than the Harrison army encampment. Extensive documentation, however, leads to a much broader realization of the historic extent of the hostile actions of both forces. In his Messages and Letters Harrison, himself, recounts that only "Some few Indians passed into the encampment.....before they were killed."[1] This fact indicates that the majority of the fighting did occur outside the encampment perimeter.

Credence is also given to the extension of the boundaries by the only recorded Indian account of the battle. According to Shabonee, an Ottawa who fought in the battle, the area indicated on the accompanying map more aptly gives an accurate historical perspective of the battle. Shabonee recounts that the Indian forces crept through the marshlands and hid in the tall grass completely encircling the Harrison forces. After the battle had raged some several hours, the Indian forces were repelled and the Harrison militia charged the Indians, who retreated in haste through the swamp towards Prophets Town. During all this time the Prophet had remained aloof observing the raging battle from a high vantage point on a hill some distance away. This place has now become to be known as Prophets Rock.

The boundaries of Tippecanoe Battlefield are indicated on the accompanying sketch map labeled Tippecanoe Battlefield Sketch Map and the accompanying U.S.G.S. 7.5' series map labeled Tippecanoe Battlefield both marked with a red line. This line is described as follows: Beginning at the point of juncture of the southern edge of State Route 225 and a red line, drawn as an extension of Pretty Prairie Road on the 1962 U.S.G.S. 7.5' series map for Brookston, Indiana Quadrangle proceed in a northwesterly direction along the south edge of Route 225 to a point which intersects the property

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[1] Logan Esarey, Harrison: Messages and Letters, vol. 1, p. 623.

(Continued)

line of the corner lot, thence around this lot to a point of intersection with the east edge of State Route 225, thence proceed in a southwesterly direction approximately 1,000 feet or to the point where the old Indiana Methodist Conference Day Camp and the northeast corner lot property line is paralleled, thence proceed across State Route 225, following the property line first in a westerly direction, thence northerly to the point of its intersection with Prophet Street, thence proceed in a northwesterly direction along the south side of Prophet Street to a point of intersection with Burnett Creek, thence south along the east bank of Burnett Creek a distance approximately 1300 feet, thence proceed across the lowlands (flood plains) first in a southwesterly direction approximately 400, thence in a northwesterly direction approximately 800 feet to a point which intersects the section line, thence proceed in an westerly direction approximately 1200 feet, thence south approximately 1450 feet to a point which intersects North Road, thence proceed in an easterly direction, following the north side of North Road continuing across the lowlands to a point of intersection with the aforementioned extension of Pretty Prairie Road indicated with a red line, thence proceed in a northeasterly direction along this line to the point of origin.