

Leetown Hamlet

This landscape character area includes the archeological landscape of Leetown Hamlet, a small settlement that played an important role as a field hospital during the Battle of Pea Ridge [Figure 3-80]. The broader surroundings of the town, generally described as south of Old Leetown Road and west of Lee Creek, are included in this landscape character area as is Leetown Cemetery.^{3.47}

Leetown Hamlet was founded in 1840, by John W. Lee, a farmer from Tennessee. Little is known about the town prior to the Civil War. Census and tax records indicated that no more than two or three families lived in the town at one time.^{3.48} Leetown Hamlet is historically significant for its role as a field hospital for Union forces during the Battle of Pea Ridge. Most, if not all buildings and structures near Leetown Battlefield were used as field hospitals including those at Leetown Hamlet and at nearby Pratt's House/Store.

Maps prepared by the military at the time of the battle located the town as generally one-quarter mile south of the battleground, but differ in depictions of number of buildings.^{3.49} All included a central road with buildings on either side. A map drawn by Charlie Squires of the 37th Illinois also located the 'Wix' Mayfield house.

Historians of the 36th Illinois noted Leetown as a "hamlet of a dozen houses crowning the ridge, near the western extremity of the corn fields."^{3.50} They described the area as a small clearing with "yellow hospital flags, fluttering

from the gables of every house."^{3.51} According to Union surgeon D.S. McGugin who treated the wounded, Leetown Hamlet consisted of twelve fairly meager single-story frame houses and log cabins. All had more than two rooms, were dark and poorly ventilated, and had 'apartments' (likely areas above the rafters for storage or sleeping quarters). Water was carried from the creek, "half a mile distant."^{3.52} The last of Curtis' troops moved out of the Benton County area on March 19, 1862, and Leetown Hamlet was abandoned.^{3.53}

Destruction and vandalism was rampant following the battle. Residents were gone, and the structures in Leetown Hamlet may have been destroyed very soon after the battle. In late October 1862, the Army of the Frontier camped on Leetown Battlefield but made no mention of the town or any nearby structures in their reports.^{3.54} Any abandoned structures may also have been dismantled and removed over time with materials salvaged for use elsewhere.^{3.55} By 1881, any remaining residents had moved on, likely due to opportunities offered by the construction of the nearby St. Louis and San Francisco railroad line. By this time all buildings were likely demolished.^{3.56}

Today, archeologists agree on the general location of Leetown Hamlet. However, the exact location of the town and number and arrangement of associated buildings, structures and roads are unknown.

3.47 For this CLR/EA the term "archeological landscape" refers to a site with few extant above-grade contributing features, includes several known archeological sites and can be spatially defined by circulation features, vegetation or topography.

3.48 Bearss, Edwin. "Leetown, Elkhorn Tavern Grounds, Federal Earthworks, and Tanyard as of March 1862." Pea Ridge NMP. 1965.

3.49 Bearss. "Leetown," 76.

3.50 Bearss. "Leetown," 84.

3.51 Bearss. "Leetown," 78.

3.52 Herrmann, Jason T. "Interpreting Leetown through the Integration of Aerial and Ground-Based Remote Sensing Techniques." MA Thesis, University of Arkansas, 2004, 12.

3.53 Bearss. "Leetown," 91.

3.54 Ibid.

3.55 Bearss. "Leetown." 1965. Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown," 12-13.

3.56 Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown," 13.

Edwin Bearss' historical research of the late 1950s, provided military records, plats, maps and surveys of the area, and first-hand (but conflicting) accounts by former area residents. Bearss' map reconstructions and interviews with locals identified the town and several buildings including a Masonic Lodge.^{3.57}

The first archeological investigation of Leetown Hamlet was conducted in 1965, by Rex Wilson. Wilson's survey relied on Bearss' report and property records, but these proved to be inaccurate and he failed to locate any buildings or structures. Wilson documented Leetown Cemetery including seventeen grave sites.

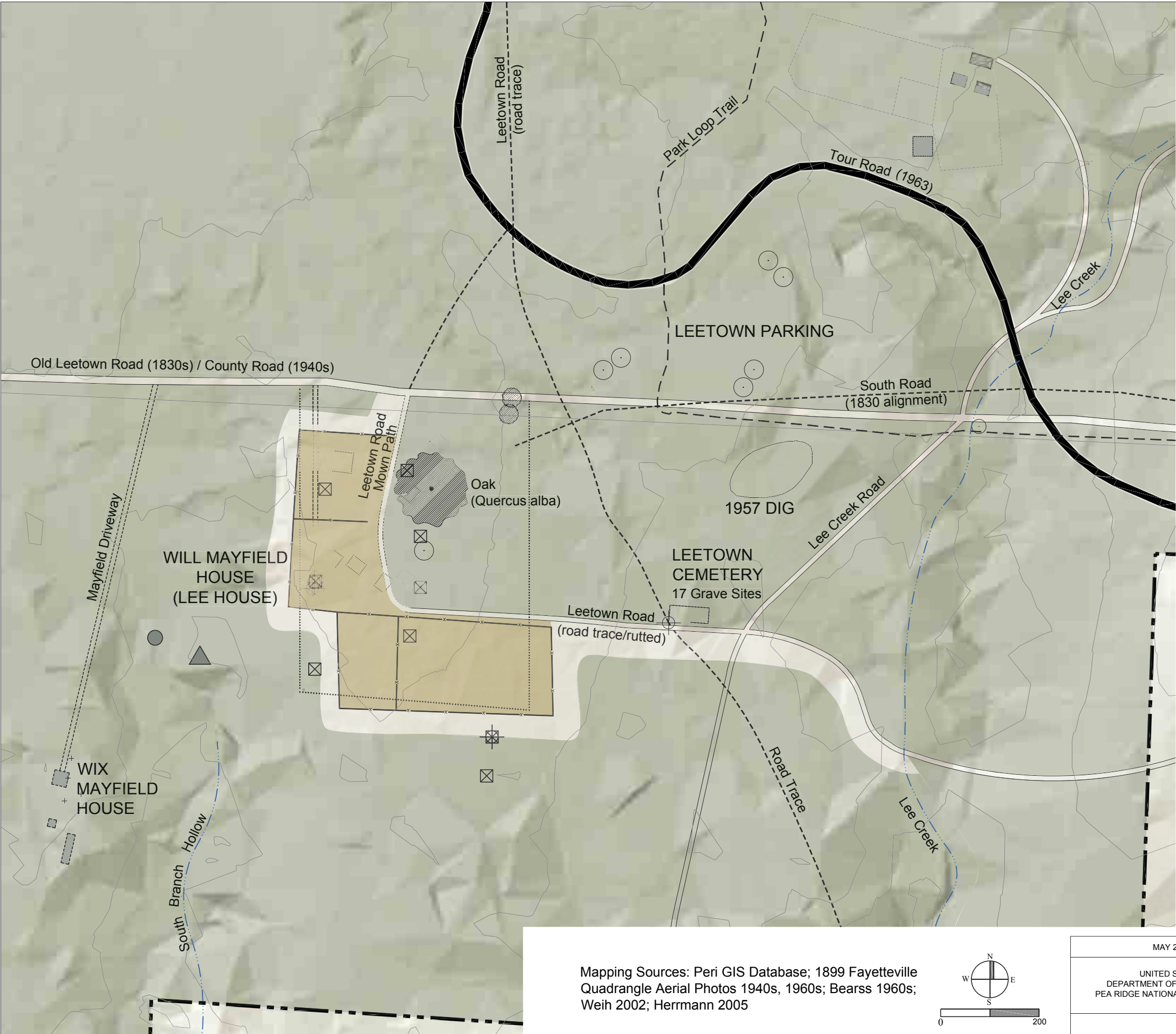
More recently, Dr. Scott of the NPS-MWAC and Dr. Kay of University of Arkansas undertook archeological investigations within Pea Ridge NMP. Scott's investigations focused on distribution of artillery and munitions left from the battle. Kay's research focused on an inventory of both historic and prehistoric cultural resources. Kay identified two historic wells near Leetown Hamlet including a spring house foundation and a stone spring and several dump sites.^{3.58} These are likely associated with the Will Mayfield House (Lee House).

In 2005, Jason Herrmann undertook geophysical and aerial remote sensing to identify structures and features associated with Leetown Hamlet. His findings included the footprint of a house attributed to the Will Mayfield House (Lee House), two road locations of which one was later attributed to the removed powerline, a rectilinear pattern of ditches and depressions, and six unidentified rectangular features of which three may indicate structures present in 1862.^{3.59}

3.57 Bearss. "Leetown." 86.

3.58 Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown." 8.

3.59 Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown." 63.



Legend

- NPS BOUNDARY
- TOUR ROAD
- ROAD
- ROAD TRACE
- PARK LOOP TRAIL
- DRIVEWAY
- MOWN PATH
- WORM FENCE
- CEMETERY
- FENCE REMNANT
- TOPOGRAPHY
- STREAM / DRAINAGE
- GPS FIELD POINT 2013
- HISTORIC DUMP (Herrmann, 2005)
- EXISTING TREE
- GLO TREE (extant in 1842)
- NON-EXTANT BLDG/ STRUCTURE (1940s Aerial)
- NON-EXTANT BUILDING (Herrmann)
- NON-EXTANT BUILDING (Bearss)
- 1940s CLEARING
- FIELDS/PASTURES
- WOODLANDS
- OPEN FOREST - ALONG ROADS

Figure 3-80.

MAY 2014		TITLE OF PROJECT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK		TITLE OF DRAWING EXISTING CONDITION - LEETOWN HAMLET	
		NAME OF PARK PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK	
REGION MIDWEST	COUNTY BENTON	STATE ARKANSAS	



Figure 7: Depictions of Leetown

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| ■ A Lee House | ⊕ Cemetery |
| ■ B Masonic Lodge | ◇ Rock |
| ■ C Wix Mayfield House | ● Spring |
| ■ Unidentified Building | ----- Fence |
| | == Road |

Figure 3-81. Herrmann's 2004 study noted depictions of Leetown just after the Civil War and Bearss 1960s studies (Herrmann - Depictions of Leetown.jpg).

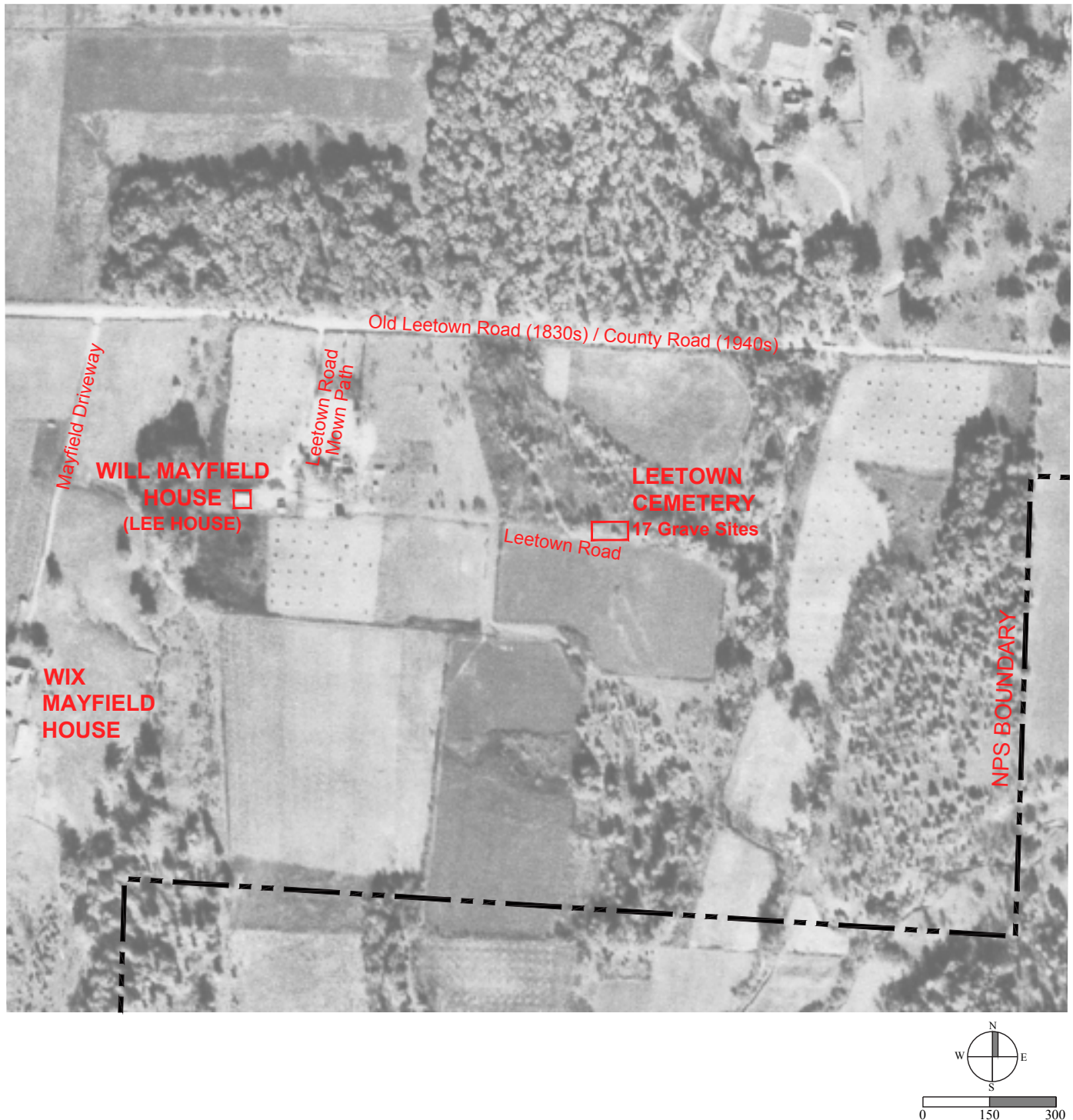


Figure 3-82. Leetown Hamlet during the 1940s (MB-1940-Leetown.pdf).

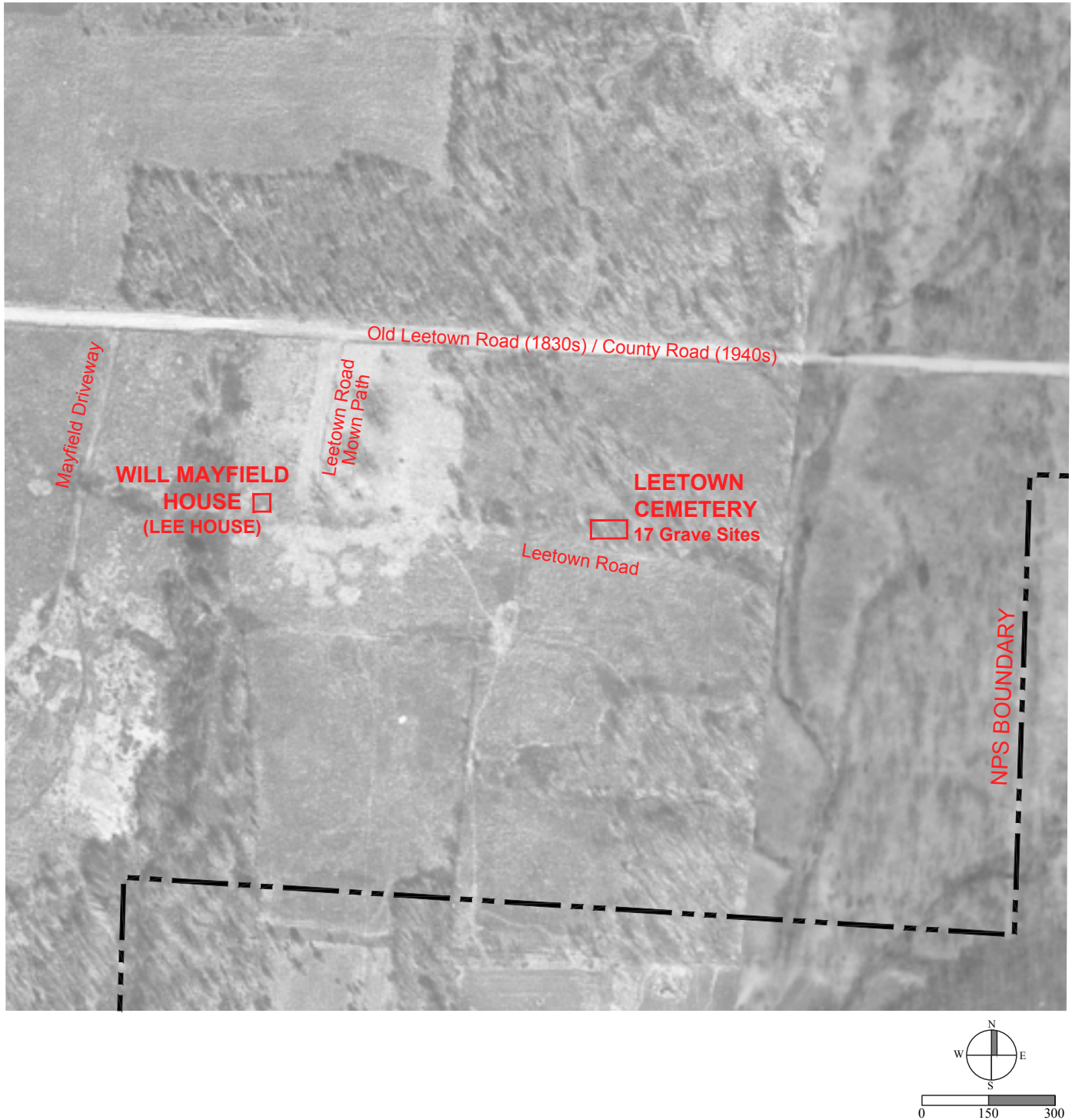


Figure 3-83. Leetown Hamlet during the 1960s (MB-1960-Leetown).

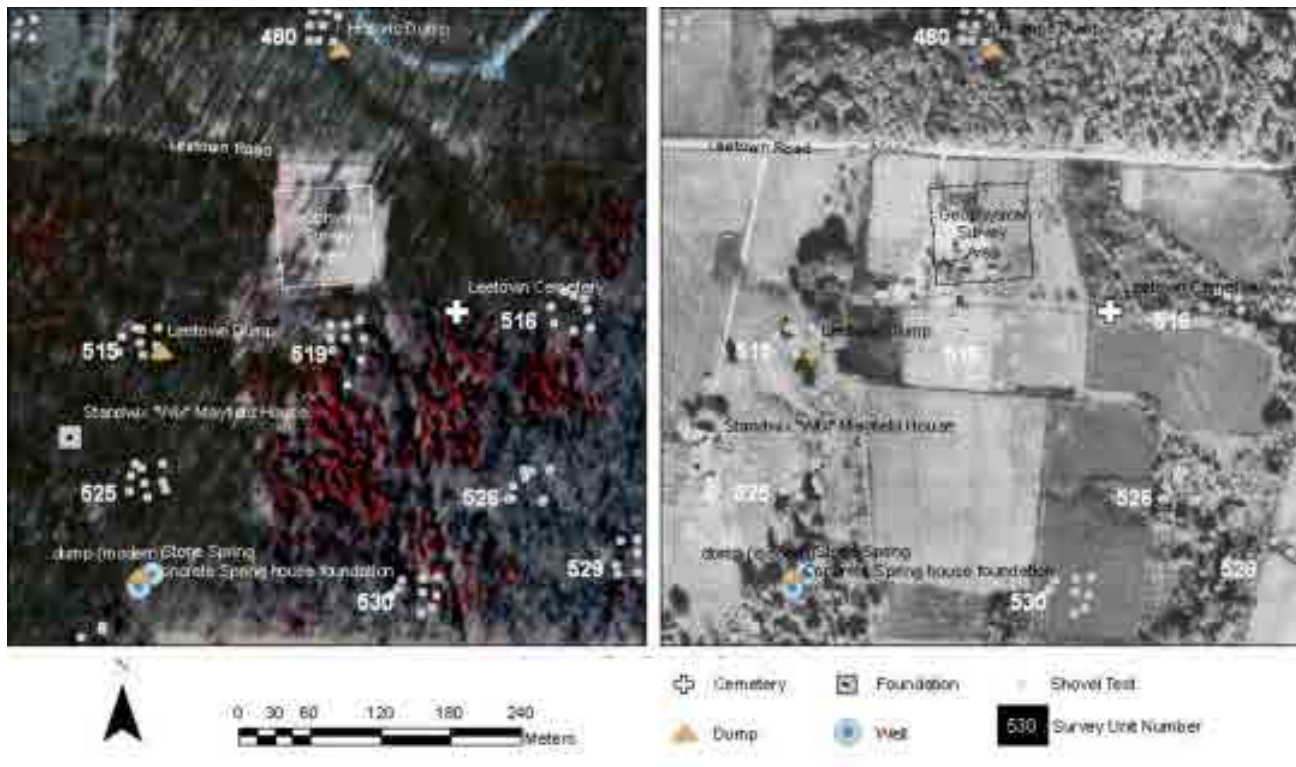


Figure 3-84. Above, Kay's survey of the vicinity of Leetown c. 2000 (Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown." 10).

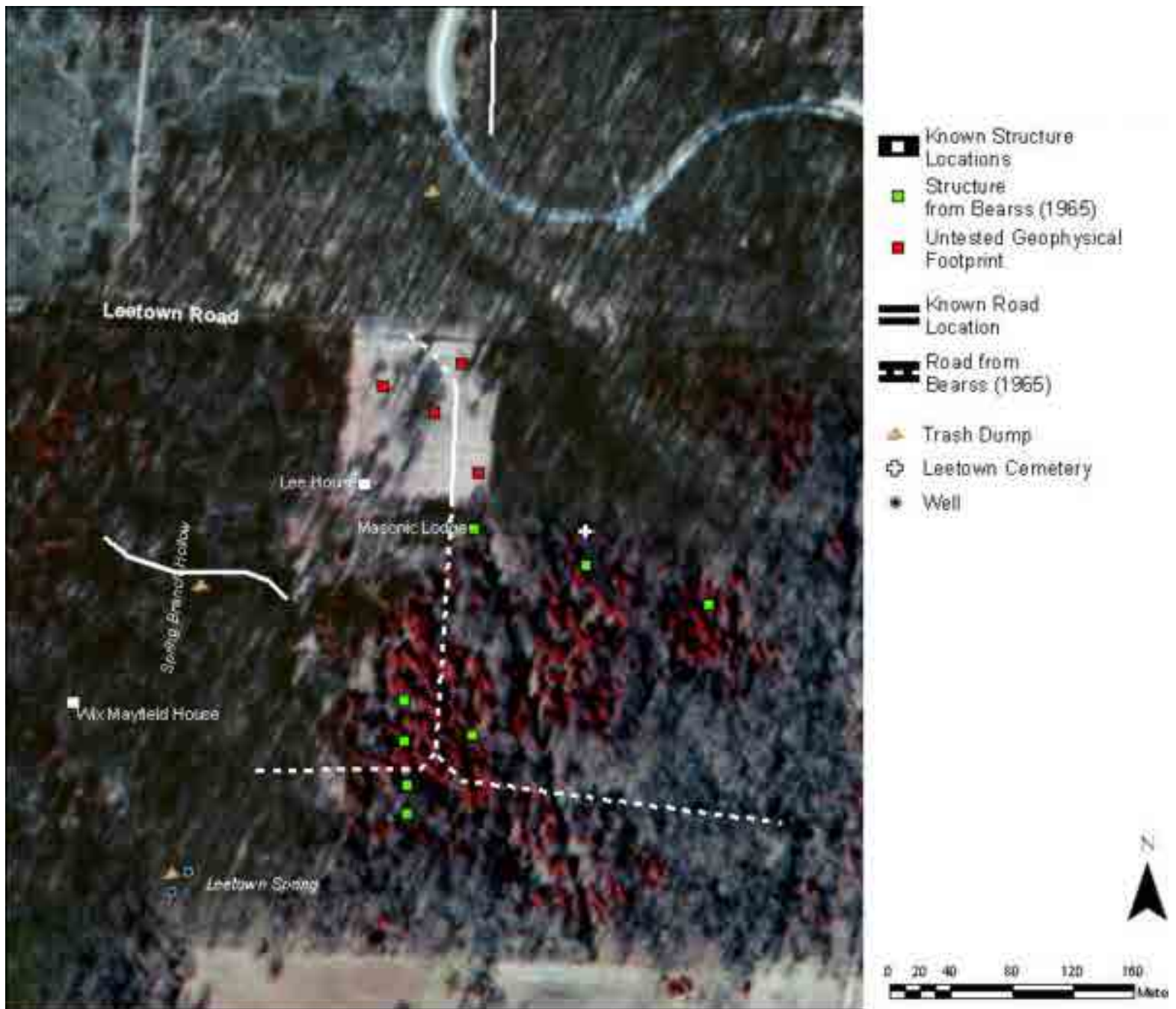


Figure 3-85. Herrmann's survey of Leetown c. 2005 (MB-Herrmann Survey.jpg).



Figure 3-86. A grave marker identified in Bearss' 1965 report (Robert Braden grave in Leetown cemetery, circa Jan.jpg).



Figure 3-87. Leetown Cemetery, 2013 (MB: DSC_0256.jpg, 2013).

Land Use

Existing Condition

The primary land use of Leetown Hamlet is an archeological landscape consisting of the site of the former hamlet, an adjacent cemetery, woodlands, roads and agricultural fields associated with the town at the time of battle. Current land uses include visitor facilities such as the Tour Road and parking area, and interpretive elements. Recreational use includes hiking and walking trails through the former townsite. A cemetery exists within the Leetown Hamlet landscape character area, Leetown Cemetery.

Leetown Cemetery is located east of the area of Leetown Hamlet, along the north edge of Leetown Road. The cemetery is roughly thirty-five feet square and is a raised earthen plinth, slightly elevated above the adjacent ground. Remnants of a low wood fence occur along all four edges. The interior of the cemetery is covered with grasses and a single tree grows just inside the west edge. One tombstone, dated 1868, is readily visible. The full boundaries of the cemetery are unknown.

Analysis

Today, Leetown Hamlet retains the historic feeling of a townsite despite the absence of buildings and structures. The present-day condition is an open landscape, surrounded by woodlands and marked by mature trees. The site today evokes the setting that would have accompanied the buildings at the time of the battle. Although buildings are not present, the location, setting and feeling remain. The land use contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

During the Battle of Pea Ridge, the land use of Leetown Hamlet was primarily residential, with agriculture activities nearby. The hamlet consisted of dwellings and outbuildings connected by a primitive road system to neighboring fields. Within the hamlet, land

uses included a Masonic Lodge, general store, mill, and the Leetown Cemetery (likely established prior to the battle).

In 1862, during the Battle of Pea Ridge, the land use was a battlefield with the hamlet being primarily used as a hospital site where injured troops received treatment.^{3.60}

After the battle, this land use disappeared leaving few traces of battle-related activities. After the Civil War and until 1956, the land use was residential and agricultural, with a few domestic structures and outbuildings nearby.

It is unknown when Leetown Cemetery was first established. Bearss first documented the cemetery in 1956, and noted that it likely dated to the period just after the Civil War. In 1965, Wilson identified one grave marker, engraved with "Robert Braden who was born Feb. 14, 1864, died Feb. 5, 1866."^{3.61}

According to Bearss, area residents believed the cemetery included the gravesite of a freedman named 'Ike,' freed as a result of the Civil War.^{3.62}

As a land use, Leetown Cemetery is a contributing feature as it was built within the period of significance and has a direct connection to the Battle of Pea Ridge. The cemetery retains integrity as it remains in its original location, retains original features including grave markers and grave sites.

3.60 Bearss. "Leetown," 84.

3.61 Bearss. "Leetown," 90.

3.62 Bearss. "Leetown," 91.



Figure 3-88. Leetown Hamlet is a large clearing within a densely wooded forest (MB-DSC_0029.jpg).

Spatial Organization

Existing Condition

Leetown Hamlet consists of two clearings within a densely wooded forest, connected by road traces and trails. The Tour Road and tour stop 3 are located to the north of the clearings as is Old Leetown Road that extends east/west along the section line. A third clearing, located southwest of Leetown Hamlet, is likely the remains of the non-extant 'Wix' Mayfield House. This area was not reviewed during the June 2013 field investigations.

The larger of the two clearings is the area known as Leetown Hamlet. It is generally a rectangular-shaped clearing, approximately five-hundred feet by eight-hundred feet, delineated by worm fencing, and surrounded by forested vegetation with a dense understory. The clearing includes a few mature Oak trees and the remnants of a stone and brick foundation, thought to be that of the Will Mayfield House (Lee House) or of an adjacent barn or structure that existed at the time of the battle.^{3.63} Bisecting the clearing from north to south is a mown path depicting Leetown Road. The path turns towards the east at the south edge of the clearing, where it becomes a rutted road trace.

East of the larger clearing is the second and smaller clearing. This is Leetown Cemetery. The clearing is approximately thirty-five square-feet, and is enclosed by deteriorated wire fencing with posts at three corners. Dense vegetation surrounds the cemetery clearing. The cemetery is located on bisecting road traces, both of which are lined with trees and defined by low eroded embankments.

To the southwest of the Leetown Hamlet clearing is the 'Wix' Mayfield House site. It is accessed from Old Leetown Road by a long driveway.

There are no visual connections between these spaces.

Analysis

According to historic accounts of the battle, Leetown Hamlet was an open clearing that consisted of buildings and structures with a central road. Due to limited historical documentation and inconclusive field investigations, the exact location and size of the town as well as the number of buildings and locations of roads is unknown. It was likely that the cluster of original buildings, thought to number between ten and fifteen, were enclosed by fences and surrounded by agricultural fields at the time of the battle.^{3.64} These may have extended north to Leetown Battlefield.

Today, the arrangement of the non-historic worm fences, the large rectangular clearing, and the distinction between open space and forest assist in depicting the historic spatial qualities of Leetown Hamlet. In previous years, the park has maintained the clearing as low mown grass. Due to budget constraints, park staff has been unable to maintain the mown area to the extent needed and it is overgrown.

The forest between Leetown Hamlet and the Leetown Battlefield is heavily wooded. The density of trees per acre has increased over time, and there are no visual connections between these spaces. At the time of the winter battle, Leetown Battlefield would have been visible from Leetown Hamlet since the tree density would have been more open in the historic dry mesic forest.^{3.65} Accounts from the battle noted troops leaving their "knapsacks. . .and marching through woody country with a dense underbrush."^{3.66}

3.63 Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown," 16.

3.64 Herrmann, 11.

3.65 Communications with park staff. VMP.

3.66 Bearss. "Leetown," 84.



Figure 3-89. Looking southeast to the Will Mayfield (Lee) house site, c. 1965 (Looking SE to Will Mayfield (Lee) house site, circa Jan.jpg).



Figure 3-90. Leetown Cemetery, c. 1965 (PICT0051.JPG).

At Leetown Cemetery, the boundaries of the cemetery may correspond to the extant fencing, corner posts and topographic changes at the edges. Archeological investigations in 1965 identified seventeen graves within the cemetery.^{3.67}

A determination of integrity for spatial organization for Leetown Hamlet is not possible at this time due to the lack of conclusive documentation on the location of buildings and structures, and discrepancies in locating Leetown Road. However, mowing a large area to reflect the extents of the original town assists in conveying the historic character.

With additional archeological investigations that include tying mapping to real-world ground-truthing and excavations, it is likely that identification of the full extent of the town is possible.

Leetown Cemetery retains integrity in spatial organization as the extent of the cemetery is discernible.

3.67 Wilson, Rex L. "Archeological Investigations in Pea Ridge National Military Park." Richmond, Virginia: U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service. 1965.



Figure 3-91. Old Leetown Road, north of Leetown Hamlet, was modified in the 1940s as a county road (MB: DSC_0028.jpg, 2013).



Figure 3-92. Leetown Road, east of Leetown Hamlet. View is from Leetown Cemetery towards Leetown Hamlet (MB: DSC_0254.jpg, 2013).

Circulation

Existing Condition

The existing circulation within the Leetown Hamlet landscape character area consists of pedestrian and service vehicle routes. Leetown Hamlet is accessed from the Tour Road at tour stop 3, where four parking spaces and an interpretive sign signify the route to the town site.

Circulation features include a trail that is a portion of the park loop trail, Old Leetown Road / South Road that extends east/west through the area, the mown path of Leetown Road, and two road traces. A gravel driveway that connects the site of the non-extant 'Wix' Mayfield house to Old Leetown Road is also extant. This feature was not reviewed during the June 2013 field investigations.

Trail

A narrow pedestrian trail extends north/south, connecting to the Tour Road at tour stop 3 where there is a small parking area. The trail is a hardened gravel surface approximately five-feet wide. It extends south from the parking area to Old Leetown Road. The trail is in good condition.

Old Leetown Road

Old Leetown Road extends east/west from the park's west border through the Leetown Hamlet landscape character area, to connect to the Tour Road. The road is ten-feet wide, hard packed and gravel paved with vegetation covering portions of the road.

Leetown Road

Leetown Road is a north/south mown path that turns east at the south end of the clearing of Leetown Hamlet. At the edge of the clearing, the path becomes a



Figure 3-93. Leetown Hamlet trailhead and parking area at the Tour Road, tour stop 3 (MB: DSC_0117.jpg, 2013).

two-track road trace covered with grasses that is approximately ten-feet wide. The road trace extends to Leetown Cemetery and on to Winton Springs Branch. The two-track is rutted and eroded in some sections. Overall, the mown path and road trace are in fair/good condition.

Road from Leetown Cemetery

A road intersects Leetown Road at Leetown Cemetery. This road trace is approximately eight-feet wide and generally extends from the cemetery to the northwest to Old Leetown Road. The road trace has embankments on either side, and is slightly rutted. The surface is obscured by vegetation but it is passable. This road is visible in 1940 aerial photographs.

Lee Creek Road

This route extends from Leetown Hamlet to Ford Road following Lee Creek. This road was not reviewed during the June 2013 field investigations. According to park staff, the route is an earthen road trace.^{3.68}

^{3.68} Communications with park staff.



Figure 3-94. This road trace is along the edge of Leetown Cemetery on a northwest/southeast alignment (MB: DSC_0251.jpg, 2013).

Analysis

The extant circulation within Leetown Hamlet somewhat reflects the road system present during the period of significance. Roads noted as being present in 1862 include Leetown Road, Lee Creek Road and a road along the extant alignment of Old Leetown Road east of Leetown Hamlet. In 1899, Leetown Road extended from Old Leetown Road to Telegraph Road. Old Leetown Road extended west from Leetown Road along the section line as it does today.

Smaller roads and paths likely existed in 1862. These may have included routes between buildings, wells, barns and other features. These are not readily apparent today.

Due to scant historical documentation and inconsistencies in archeological investigations, there are several discrepancies. Later development and construction added roads in new locations, modified historic alignments, and graded over earlier routes. More archeological investigations are needed to definitively determine the historic and extant alignments of significant routes. However, a determination of some contributing features can be made.

Old Leetown Road

Old Leetown Road is a contributing feature. The route was unnamed in the 1963 master plan, and was proposed to be obliterated.^{3.69} However, it may have been built in the 1830s as part of the early settlement of Pea Ridge and would have been in place during the battle. On the U.S. War Department Map of 1876, this may be the road that spurs off to the northwest from Leetown Road. The extant alignment of the road first appears on the 1899 Fayetteville Quadrangle map as an east/west route that ends at Leetown Road. In the 1940s, this road was graded and gravel paved as a county road, and extended to the town of Pea Ridge.

3.69 1963 master plan.

Leetown Road

Leetown Road is a contributing feature as it was a critical transportation route and major transportation corridor for the 1862 battle. The road was present during the Battle of Pea Ridge. It was the route taken by the Union army as they advanced north from Leetown Hamlet to fight the Confederates. The road also served as transport for wounded soldiers who were brought back to Leetown Hamlet for care. Because of the significant role of this road, a determination of its actual alignment is critical. Although the mown path of Leetown Road was installed using the most current available information, it may not reflect the physical route. Further archeological investigations would be effective in revealing the alignment of this road.

Road from Leetown Cemetery

The origins of this road is unknown. However, a faint trace of the road is visible in the 1940 aerial photograph. The road may be associated with the power lines that were removed from the park in October 2007.

Lee Creek Road

The 1963 master plan identified this route as Leetown Road, to be preserved as a historic road trace.^{3.70} Both Bearss and Weih identified this road as being in place in 1862. Segments of the road are visible in the 1940 aerial photographs.

Leetown Hamlet Contributing Circulation Features

- Old Leetown Road
- Leetown Road – mown path alignment needs verification
- Leetown Road from clearing to Cemetery
- Lee Creek Road

Non-Contributing Circulation Features

- Park Loop Trail

3.70 1963 master plan.



Figure 3-95. The Will Mayfield House (Lee House). Mr. and Mrs. Pierce Mayfield (c.1906) at the cabin covered in clapboard (Mayfield House_1913_PRNMP.jpg).



Figure 3-96. The Will Mayfield House (Lee House) prior to demolition. The tree to the right of the house still stands (1960s Mayfield house.tif).

Buildings and Structures

Existing Condition

There are no extant buildings or structures within the Leetown Hamlet landscape character area.

One extant foundation was identified during the June 2013 field investigations. The foundation is west of the mown path known as Leetown Road, and to the north of where the path turns to the east. The foundation may be associated with the Will Mayfield House (Lee House), demolished by the NPS in 1963. Archeological investigations undertaken by Herrmann in 2005 identified anomalies that he attributed to the Will Mayfield House (Lee House). The extant brick foundation is in close proximity to Herrmann's anomalies.

Other foundations may exist including those of original structures or of later-built buildings. The tall grasses and overgrown vegetation obscures any physical remains.

Analysis

During the Battle of Pea Ridge, the buildings and structures of Leetown Hamlet were used as hospital buildings. According to historical accounts there were between ten and fifteen structures. Historic reports note a house attributed to John Lee, a Masonic Lodge, a general store and a mill house on nearby Winton Spring at the time of the battle.

Locals interviewed in 1964 / 1965 recalled the area as having three sites with buildings and structures in the 1890s. These included the Will Mayfield House noted as being built over the earlier John Lee House, a log cabin (the Alfred Hardy log home), and the 'Wix' Mayfield House located across Spring Branch Hollow.

An assessment of integrity for the building and structures for Leetown Hamlet is not possible as there are no standing structures.

The following describes the known buildings associated with Leetown Hamlet either during the period of significance or by the 1890s. With additional archeological investigations it is likely that the full extent of the town's buildings and structures can be identified.

Will Mayfield House (Lee House) and Outbuildings

This property was associated with Will Mayfield, and then Pierce Mayfield and his wife who lived in the house when the park was established. The house and outbuildings were razed by the NPS in May 1963 with the approval of then-superintendent John T. Willett.

The Will Mayfield house was a two-story structure with a barn to the west of the house, and a cistern and granary to the north. Connected to the house was a shed. According to Mrs. Pierce Mayfield, her husband's aunts had claimed that a portion of the house had belonged to John Lee and was extant during the Civil War. Shepard claimed that the chimney, front room and foundation were part of John Lee's house and that the dwelling or some part of it survived the Civil War battle. Other accounts note the building as being built c. 1840 by John W. Lee.^{3.71}

Standwix 'Wix' Mayfield House and Outbuildings

According to John A. Shepard, the Standwix 'Wix' Mayfield house (on the site of the 1956 Pierce Mayfield's chicken houses) was extant in the 1890s and was located west of Spring Branch Hollow. The house was a two-story dog-trot cabin with white clapboard shingles and weatherboarding.^{3.72}

3.71 Bearss. "Leetown," 88.

3.72 Bearss. "Leetown," 88-89. John A. Shepard was a local resident who grew up within a half-mile of Leetown. He



Figure 3-97. The Standwix "Wix" Mayfield House (Old Mayfield house.jpg).



Figure 3-98. The Standwix "Wix" Mayfield House c. 1903 (Wix Mayfield House 1903.jpg).

The property included a barn south of the house on the ridge overlooking Spring Branch Hollow, and a granary about one-hundred yards north of the house. There was also a cistern.^{3.73}

Mrs. Pierce Mayfield noted that she and her husband had lived in the 'Wix' Mayfield house before it burned, at which time they moved to the Will Mayfield house across the hollow. On the site of the 'Wix' Mayfield house, they built chicken houses.^{3.74} The 'Wix' Mayfield house burned sometime after 1913.^{3.75}

The Mayfield chicken houses were demolished by the NPS in 1963. Some traces of the homestead were recorded in 2004.^{3.76}

This area was not reviewed during the June 2013 field investigations.

Alfred Hardy Log Home

The third structure extant in the 1890s, in the Leetown Hamlet area was a log cabin, located a quarter-mile south of the Will Mayfield house. The log cabin faced west and had a rear shed. The log cabin burned before 1900.^{3.77}

Masonic Lodge

This foundation was not reviewed during the June 2013 field investigations.

The existence of a Masonic Lodge has been disputed by lack of physical evidence. Recent investigations have suggested that while the Masons owned land in Leetown Hamlet, there was likely never a Masonic Lodge built.

In 1857, Martha, George S. and Martha R. Lee sold a tract of land about one-half acre in size to the Pea Ridge Masonic Lodge No. 199. It was also unlikely that the population in and around Leetown Hamlet would have been large enough to support it.^{3.78}

Leetown Hamlet

Contributing Non-Extant Structures or Foundation Remnants

- Will Mayfield House (Lee House) brick foundation remnant
- Barns; Chicken houses; Outbuildings associated with Will Mayfield House and 'Wix' Mayfield House
- Masonic Lodge

Non-Contributing Structures or Foundation Remnants

- 'Wix' Mayfield House
- Alfred Hardy log home

recalled that in his youth, in the 1890s, there had been three houses standing in Leetown: the Standwix "Wix" Mayfield home, the Will Mayfield house, and a log house in the quarter south of the Will Mayfield place (it burned before 1900).

3.73 Bearss. "Leetown," 88.

3.74 Bearss. "Leetown," 89-90.

3.75 Historic photograph, 1913," 89-90.

3.76 Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown," XX.

3.77 Bearss. "Leetown," 88.

3.78 Herrmann. "Interpreting Leetown," 16.



Figure 3-99. Low wood rail fences (non-historic worm fences) define the general area of Leetown Hamlet. (MB-DSC_0029.jpg).

Small Scale Features

Existing Conditions and Analysis

Small scale features at Leetown Hamlet are primarily associated with interpreting the setting that existed at the time of the Battle of Pea Ridge. These features include worm fences, the fence at Leetown Cemetery and interpretive and regulatory signage. In addition, two wells are extant.

Worm Fence

Low wood rail fences, known in the park as worm fences, define the general extent of Leetown Hamlet. The fences are set on an alternating pattern that provides stability without setting a post and results in a slight zigzag line across the landscape. The fences are located to the west and south of the mown path depicting Leetown Road.

The worm fences are reconstructions of original fence types known to have existed at the time of the battle.^{3.79} The fences were installed by park staff after extensive research that included review of Bearss and Weih's mapping, the 1899 Fayetteville quadrangle and aerial photographs from the 1940s and 1960s in order to replicate the historic fencelines. These fences are in good condition.

The worm fences at Leetown are non-contributing features. They are compatible with the extents of the former village and assist in interpreting the setting of the 1862 landscape.

Cemetery Fence

The fence surrounding Leetown Cemetery is a remnant wood post and rail fence that was originally approximately three-feet in height.

It appears that this fence enclosed all four sides of the cemetery at one time. The fence

is in poor condition. Several posts are missing and most rails have fallen or are rotted.

This fence was installed by the park staff, c. 1990s.

Investigations of the cemetery by Rex Wilson in 1965, indicate the presence of the cemetery but do not mention fencing.

Wells

Several wells or cisterns are known to exist within the Leetown Hamlet landscape character area. Two are known to be located between the open clearing of Leetown Hamlet and the Wix Mayfield house.

Further research is needed to determine their exact locations and whether they date to the time of the Civil War.

Leetown Hamlet

Potential Contributing Small Scale Features

- Two historic wells – concrete spring house foundation and stone spring.

Non-Contributing Small Scale Features

- Worm Fence
- Fence remnants at Leetown Cemetery

3.79 Interview with park staff, October 2013.



Figure 3-100. Several trees have been identified as being old enough to have been present during the battle. The large mature oak tree is within the Leetown Hamlet landscape character area, located just north of Old Leetown Road (MB-GLO tree.jpg).

Vegetation

Existing Condition

Vegetation within Leetown Hamlet includes forests of oak and hickory, and ornamental plantings associated with the non-extant settlement of Leetown Hamlet, 'Wix' Mayfield House site, and Leetown Cemetery.

Forest vegetation includes native stands of oak and hickory, accompanied by thick undergrowth. The forest surrounding Leetown Hamlet is primarily young, similar aged trees. The tree canopy is dense and relatively uniform. The edges of the forest are abrupt and frame the opening of the former settlement and create a contrast between open and enclosed spaces.^{3.80}

Leetown Hamlet is generally a clearing of unmown tall grasses with a few mature trees, surrounded by forest and dense underbrush. The largest of the mature trees are oaks. A mown grass path, known as Leetown Road, is present. Ornamental vegetation remains in areas, including lilies and roses.

Leetown Cemetery is a small clearing of primarily unmown grasses, surrounded by dense forests of oaks and hickory.^{3.81} Some vegetation is overgrown, including small shrubs and a medium-sized tree growing within the west edge of the cemetery.

Several trees have been identified as being old enough to have been present during the battle. One is within Leetown Hamlet, located just north of Old Leetown Road. This large mature oak tree has a trunk of approximately three to four-foot diameter. Other trees of the same or similar age likely exist within the landscape character area.

Analysis

During the period of significance, Leetown Hamlet would have been an open clearing, dotted by the town's buildings and structures,

and some vegetation. Vegetation likely consisted of low grasses and plantings near structures with agricultural fields nearby. This setting would have been surrounded by an oak and hickory forest.^{3.82}

The forest was a dry mesic woodland that transitioned to dry open woodland towards Leetown Battlefield. Dry open woodland contained ten to twenty trees per acre, and had an understory of native grasses. After years without fire, it was "woody country with a dense underbrush" according to soldier accounts. Leetown Battlefield would have been visible from Leetown Hamlet in the winter months. Today, there is no visual connection because the woods has become more dense.^{3.83}

Through the 1940s, the area remained agricultural. Fields, along with trees and shrubbery associated with buildings and structures was the primary vegetation. By the 1960s, the vegetation had become more dense but a visual connection remained between the 'Wix' Mayfield House and the Will Mayfield House (Lee House) in Leetown Hamlet.

Extant mature trees, primarily oak, indicate that trees were either planted or allowed to grow between non-extant buildings. These mature trees and a few ornamental species were likely associated with the houses. The extant ornamental vegetation is likely remnant species planted by the Mayfields in the mid-20th century.

Historically, the vegetation of Leetown Cemetery would have been low mown grasses or forbs, and the area would have been kept clear of trees and shrubs. Today's vegetation is similar, however the extant vegetation is very overgrown. Small shrubs and one medium-sized tree encroach into the cemetery.

Leetown Hamlet

Contributing Vegetation

- Historic trees (primarily oaks)
- Irises, Daffodils, Narcissus (potential remnants from historic plantings)

3.80 Park staff, verbal communication during June 2013 field investigations.

3.81 VMP Draft 2012, p. 51.

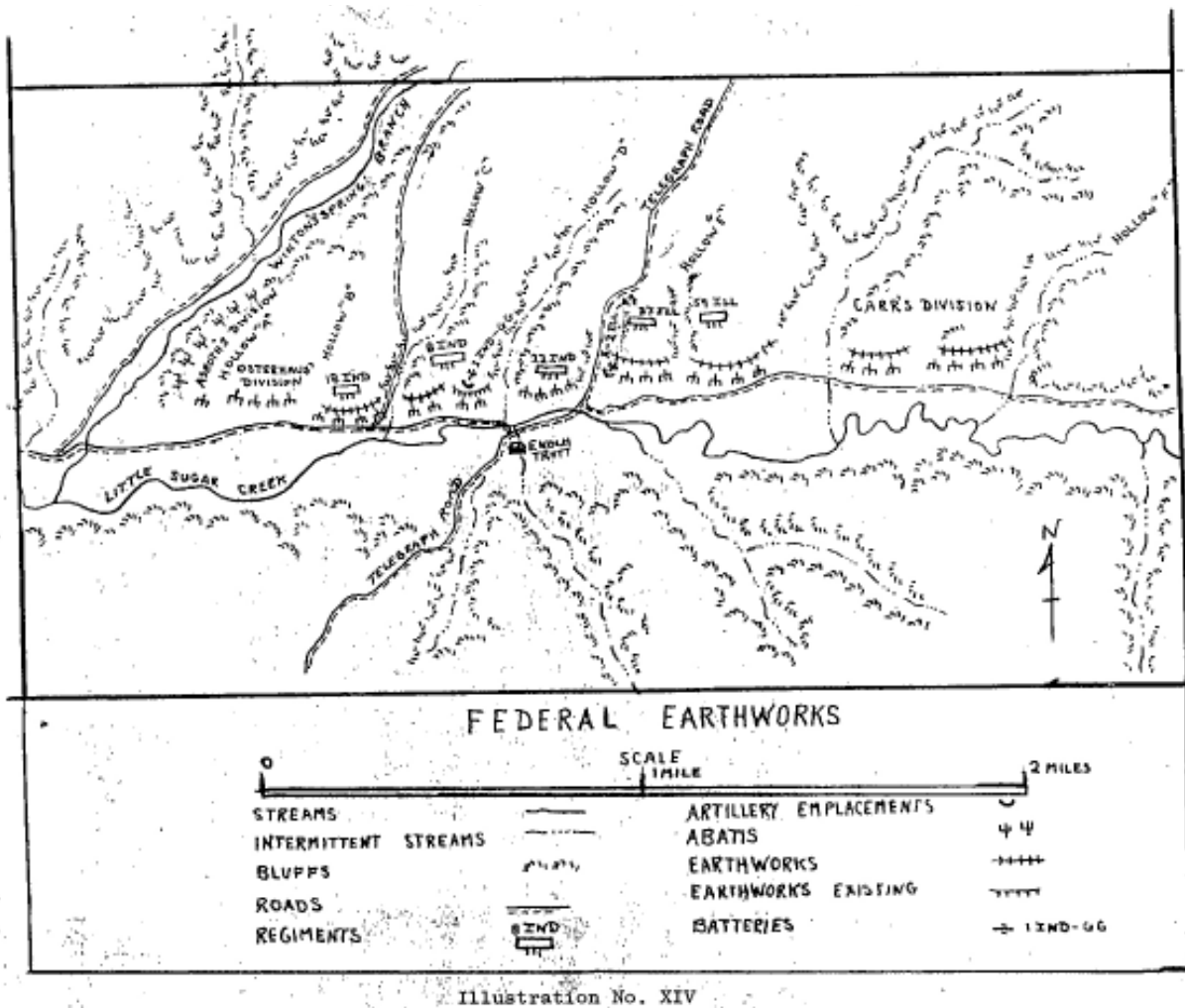


Figure 3-101. The Federal Trenches encompasses the area where, in the days just prior to the Battle of Pea Ridge, General Samuel E. Curtis fortified his position on the bluffs above Little Sugar Creek. The Union army hastily built earthen breastworks, cleared trees and underbrush, dug rifle-pits, and set up artillery emplacements in anticipation of an advance from the Confederate army from the south (Illustration No. XIV Federal Earthworks).