

PRAIRIE GROVE BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Prairie Grove Battlefield has been nationally recognized as one of the most intact Civil War sites. The ridge and fields look much as they did at the time of the battle on December 7, 1862. Visitors to Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park can see important places on the battlefield and gain insight into the effect of the Civil War on the people of the Arkansas Ozarks.

The park was started by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1908 as a place for Civil War Confederate veteran reunions. Today, the park preserves an important part of the historic battlefield and has a unique collection of buildings and artifacts depicting life in the region before, during, and after the Civil War.

The museum in Hindman Hall and self-guided walking and driving tours give visitors an understanding of the Battle of Prairie Grove, while the interpretive emphasis in the Ozark village focuses on the effect of war on Ozark life.

THE BATTLE OF PRAIRIE GROVE

On December 7, 1862, a Confederate Army under Major General Thomas C. Hindman engaged the Union divisions of Brigadier Generals Francis J. Herron and James G. Blunt near Prairie Grove Church. Hindman's original plan to strike Blunt, isolated at Cane Hill, Arkansas, was foiled by the timely arrival of two Union divisions under Herron.

Hindman bypassed Blunt at Cane Hill on the morning of December 7, 1862, and marched to meet Herron. The two armies collided at Prairie Grove. Hindman's men took a defensive position on a ridge overlooking the Illinois River. The Battle began with an artillery duel which opened the way for a Union attack. At 2:30 p.m., two Union charges met with bloody repulse.

The battered Union forces were reinforced soon thereafter, by Blunt's arrival on the battlefield. The fighting spread westward, with savage attack and counter attack until darkness ended the fighting. The Confederate Army retreated southward during the night as its ammunition was nearly exhausted.

Prairie Grove marked the last major Civil War engagement in northwest Arkansas. Never again would a southern army attempt to use the area as an avenue of invasion to Missouri.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Programs ♦ Audiovisual programs, musket demonstrations, and other educational activities are available. Guided tours through the historic Latta and Morrow houses are scheduled daily. Schools and other groups should schedule in advance of their visit.

Walking Tour ♦ The one mile Battlefield Trail offers an opportunity to stand where the fiercest fighting took place near the Borden House. Wayside exhibit panels provide information about the battle from the point of view of officers, enlisted men, and a civilian. A free self-guiding brochure is available.

Driving Tour ♦ The park contains 838 acres of the 3,000 acre battlefield. Visitors view important locations on the battlefield outside the park on the five mile self-guided drive. A free brochure is available at Hindman Hall as well as a low cost audio CD.

Special Events ♦ Prairie Grove offers a variety of unique special events. The Clothesline Fair, held Labor Day weekend, is an arts and crafts festival sponsored by State Parks, the Prairie Grove Lion's Club and the Arts Center of the Ozarks. The reenactment of the Battle of Prairie Grove takes place on the first full weekend in December each even-numbered year. Reenactors gather to demonstrate battle tactics as well as the lifestyle of the common Civil War soldier. Check with the park for exact dates on all events and programs.

FACILITIES

Battlefield Museum and Visitor Center ♦ Hindman Hall, built as a memorial to Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman, functions as the park Visitor Center. You'll find an audiovisual program, exhibits describing the park and the battle of Prairie Grove, gift shop, and restrooms.

Latta Barn ♦ Equipped with a kitchen and dining area plus cookware and utensils, the Latta Barn may be rented for group meetings and family gatherings of up to 100 people.

Picnicking ♦ Tree-shaded tables, grills, and barbecue pit, plus a rental picnic pavilion provide a peaceful location for family outings. A playground and rest rooms conveniently adjoin the picnic area.

LOCATION

From Interstate 540 in Fayetteville, travel west on U.S. 62 just 9 miles to the park.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Park ♦ Open 8 a.m. to an hour after sunset (year-round)

Battlefield Museum ♦ Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (year-round)

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day

For further information on park programs, reservations, or events, contact:

Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park
506 East Douglas
Prairie Grove, AR 72753
(479) 846-2990
prairiegrove@arkansas.com

NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.

For information on Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1191
www.ArkansasStateParks.com



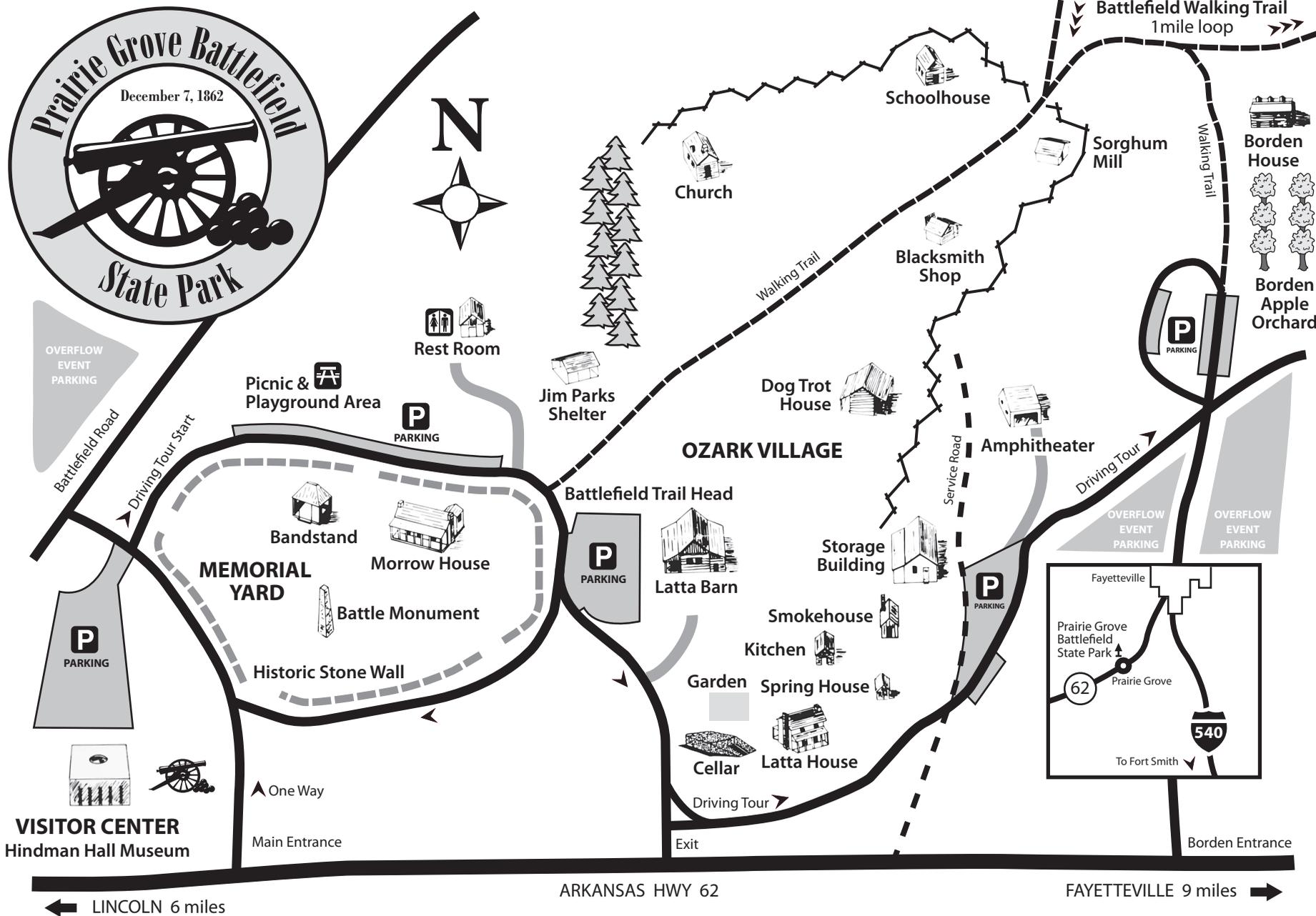
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ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM

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HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Borden House ♦ Archibald Borden built this house in about 1868 to replace the one destroyed by fire the day after the battle. It is the only historic structure in the park located on its original site.

Morrow House ♦ John Morrow's residence, originally on Cove Creek, sheltered Confederate Generals Sterling Price and Earl Van Dorn before the Battle of Pea Ridge in March 1862. General Thomas C. Hindman used the house the night before the Battle of Prairie Grove. Today the building houses exhibits about the effect of the Civil War on Ozark culture.

Latta House ♦ John Latta built this log house at Vineyard in 1834. The building housed the Vineyard Post Office until a new one was started at Evansville in 1836. By 1860 the Latta farm boasted numerous out-buildings including a springhouse, a smokehouse, a detached kitchen and a cellar. Today the house, gardens, and out-buildings offer visitors a vivid reflection of life in early Arkansas.

Battle Monument ♦ The monument is actually a chimney from the steam powered mill at Rhea. The chimney was moved to the park and dedicated to all who fought here.

Other Structures ♦ The schoolhouse, church, blacksmith shop, sorghum mill, and dogtrot house were all moved to the park from various locations in Washington County to help re-create a mid 1800s village atmosphere.

Mission: Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park protects and manages significant portions of the Prairie Grove Battlefield to interpret an inclusive understanding of the Prairie Grove campaign and the effects of the Civil War on the people in northwest Arkansas.



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!