Form 10-300

(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
   COMMON:
   Droop Mountain Battlefield
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   On U. S. 219
   CITY OR TOWN:
   About 14 miles south of Marlinton
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 54
   COUNTY: Pocahontas
   CODE: 075

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   District [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ]
   Obj ect [ ]
   OWNERSHIP
   Public [ ] Private [ ] Public Acquisition: [ ]
   In Process [ ] Being Considered [ ]
   Status
   Occupied [ ] Unoccupied [ ] Preservation work
   Yes: [ ] No: [ ]
   in progress [ ]
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   Yes: [ ] Restricted [ ] Unrestricted [ ]
   COMMENTS

   PRESENT USE. (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   Agricultural [ ] Government [ ] Park [ ]
   Commercial [ ] Industrial [ ] Private Residence [ ]
   Educational [ ] Military [ ] Religious [ ]
   Entertainment [ ] Museum [ ] Scientific [ ]
   Other (Specify) [ ]

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNERS NAME:
   Division of Parks and Recreation, W. Va. Department of Natural Resources
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   Capitol Building
   CITY OR TOWN: Charleston
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 54

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 288 acres
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   STATE:
   CODE:

   FOR NPS USE ONLY

   ENTRY NUMBER
   DATE
Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park is today a densely wooded mountain area cut by deep ravines and traversed by well maintained roads. Buildings, all modern, include a park headquarters, three cabins, small stone shed, shelter, and two overlooks, one in the form of a tower. Cranberry bogs occupy a large oval area in this center of the park. A small grassy field to the east of the lookout tower is the only large break in the foliage. Route U. S. 219 borders this property.

The Civil War road to Lewisburg, however, extended over the mountain, and Confederate Colonel H. R. Jackson disposed his troops to block it against Averell's invasion from the North. At that time the northern slope of Droop Mountain was partially cultivated, strips of woodland partly concealing the approach from the pike. To attack this force from the front, Averell was forced to advance across open fields, but he placed his main reliance on a flanking movement through thick underbrush to weaken the Confederates' center.

There is now little to be seen of trenches and fortifications, which were constructed in part of perishable materials; however, trenches are still visible along the northern boundary.
West Virginia soldiers participated in major battles on many distant fronts throughout the Civil War, but the Battle of Droop Mountain was fought on home soil, with West Virginians fighting West Virginians in close contact.

This battle exemplifies the tragic Civil War descriptive phrase, "Brother against Brother." When the Battlefield was dedicated as a State Park in 1926, it was to be developed as a memorial to both the North and the South.

From a military standpoint, the Federal objective was to clear the Confederate forces from the Greenbrier Valley, which they occupied in its total length. A continuing objective of the North was the severing of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, lifeline of Confederate forces fighting in the eastern part of Tennessee. But access to this railroad was next to impossible as long as the Confederates blocked the Greenbrier Valley.

There are six hundred and thirty-two (632) actions of various types listed for the State of West Virginia; the Battle of Droop Mountain is considered one of the principal conflicts.

Brigadier General William Averell defeated Brigadier General John Echols, CSA, of Virginia, on November 6, 1863. Averell's Federal troops outnumbered the Confederate troops 3 or 4 thousand to 1,700. Echols had the advantage of position from the crest of Droop Mountain. Dr. Dallas Shaffer in a booklet describing the conflict lists Union casualties, killed, wounded and missing, at 119 and Confederate losses at 275. The defeat of the Confederates restrained further Confederate action in all the area west of the Allegheny Mountains with the exception of a few minor skirmishes.

A West Virginia historian notes that from the conclusion of this battle the Confederate forces never had any further success in West Virginia. In December, 1863, Averell was able to reach Salem, Virginia, and destroy the railroad at that point.

West Virginia's part in the war was one of divided loyalties, as illustrated most clearly in the Battle of Droop Mountain.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was in some degree responsible for the creation of the State of West Virginia, while Lincoln referred to Averell's victory to boost the morale of Federals in Tennessee who had recently been defeated by General Sam Jones at Rogersville. Federal Commander Burnside thought this news greatly encouraged his troops.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>38° 07' 10&quot; N</td>
<td>80° 16' 52&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>38° 07' 40&quot; N</td>
<td>80° 15' 48&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>38° 06' 04&quot; N</td>
<td>80° 15' 48&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>38° 06' 04&quot; N</td>
<td>80° 16' 52&quot; W</td>
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.

In contract with W. Va. Antiquities Commission

October 7, 1970

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 [x] Local [ ]

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

Dallas B. Shaffer

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 9, 1970
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>COMMON: Droop Mountain Battlefield</td>
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<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
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<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET AND NUMBER:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. S. 219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 miles south of Marlinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE: West Virginia</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: Henry Topping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF PHOTO: November 6, 1863, date of drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT: W. Va. Antiquities Commission, 39 Mountain Lair (Old), West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.</td>
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<tr>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taken from <em>War of the Rebellion</em>, Series 1, Vol. XXIX. Shows disposition of troops at the Battle of Droop Mountain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROPERTY MAP FORM</td>
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<td>ENTRY NUMBER</td>
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<td>PROPERTY MAP FORM</td>
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**Property: Droop Mountain Battlefield**

**State: West Virginia**

**County: Pocahontas**

**Location: 14 miles south of Martinsburg, U.S. 219**

**Date: January 21, 1963**

**Source:** J. C. Maugh, Department of Natural Resources, 54 County Code: 075

**Map Reference: See Instructions**

**Scale:** 1:200

**NOTES:**

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

**ENTRY NUMBER:**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:**

**STATE PARK:**

**DIVISION OF PARKS:**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:**

**STAFF:**

**PROPERTY MAP:**

**SCALE:** 1:200

**NOTE:**

Include property boundaries on all maps. Use a north arrow, latitude, and longitude reference.
1. NAME
COMMON: Droop Mountain Battlefield
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
U.S. 219
CITY OR TOWN:
14 miles south of Marlinton
STATE: West Virginia

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey (Lobelia)
SCALE: 1:62500
DATE: 1935

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

LAT.
NW 38°07'36"
NE 38°07'26"
SE 38°07'06"
SW 38°07'06"

LONG.
NW 80°16'52"
NE 80°15'48"
SE 80°15'48"
SW 80°16'32.95"