

**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program**  
**Civil War Sites and Battlefields in Arkansas**  
**PowerPoint Teacher Notes**

- Slide 1: The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) is one of 7 agencies within the Department of Arkansas Heritage. AHPP identifies, evaluates, registers, and preserves historic and cultural resources in the state. A property is usually considered historic if it is at least 50 years old or older. Can you think of any historic places in your community?
- Slide 2: Have you ever seen a plaque or sign like this? This plaque shows that a place is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the country's official list of properties that are historically significant and in need of preservation. **Preservation** means to keep something safe and protected from being destroyed or neglected. Can you think of anything that you preserve? (Examples: food in refrigerator, something you collect – baseball cards, pictures, etc.) The National Register of Historic Places is like an honor roll of historic places and one of AHPP's most popular programs.
- Slide 3: Today we will talk about Civil War places and battlefields in Arkansas. The Civil War was fought in America during the 1860s. During the Civil War, eleven southern states seceded or left the United States of America to form their own country, the Confederate States of America. Although Arkansans voted to secede from the United States and join the Confederate States of America, some Arkansans still supported the Union or the North. Other Arkansans owned larger farms and plantations, were slaveholders, and supported secession. People from all walks of life were affected by the Civil War in Arkansas. Men fought in battles as soldiers leaving the women in charge of tending not only to their families but also the farms. Adults and children alike were impacted by the loss of family members or the destruction of their homes and communities.
- Slide 4: There were many places in Arkansas affected by the Civil War. All the places shown here are Civil War battlefields or sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and have been preserved because of their significance and association with the Civil War. These sites symbolize the men, women, and children who were affected by the Civil War and represent their stories and struggles. We will talk in detail about 6 of these places.
- Slide 5: **Anticipation Guide** [Write on the board or type up and distribute these five statements (or similar statements of your choice) and ask students to mark true or false for each statement. Let the students know that there will be no assessment of the answers before the lesson, but they should pay attention as the lesson progresses to learn the correct answers. Take a poll with a show of hands to see who answered true or false for each statement. Do an informal assessment of student knowledge to guide you on how much time your class will need to spend on instruction on the framework.]

- Slide 6: The first place we will visit is in Little Rock. Little Rock is the state capital today, and it was the capital when the Civil War began in 1861.
- Slide 7: When the war began, Little Rock was a small frontier town with a population around 4,000 people. This is how Little Rock looked around that time. (Skip this question if your school is located in Little Rock – **If students do not live in LR** - Has anyone been to Little Rock?) Compare and contrast this picture with Little Rock today. Does modern Little Rock look the same or different from this picture? How so?
- Slide 8: Does anyone know when Arkansas became a state? (**June 15, 1836**) When Arkansas gained statehood, it was a very rural and frontier place. Arkansans wanted a federal **arsenal** built so they would feel protected, and the federal government approved construction of the Little Rock Arsenal in 1836. An arsenal is a place where military equipment and weapons are stored or made. The Tower Building, this building which stands today, was built in 1840 and used as a warehouse to store ammunition. More than thirty other buildings were added to the arsenal location, but none of these remain today.
- Slide 9: The Little Rock Arsenal had an important role in the Civil War. After Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, people in Arkansas and other southern states began talking about secession, or withdrawing from the United States of America. Captain James Totten was commander of the arsenal at that time. In February 1861, two months before the Civil War began, about 1,000 armed militiamen from southern Arkansas surrounded the arsenal. The **militia** had heard that federal reinforcements would soon be sent to the arsenal and they wanted to prevent the arrival of the reinforcements. A militia is a group of citizens who organize for military service. Captain Totten was outnumbered with only about 75 federal troops; so after a very tense week, he and his men surrendered the arsenal and left Little Rock for St. Louis. Some historians think that if shots had been fired at the Little Rock Arsenal, the Civil War could have begun in Arkansas.
- Slide 10: On March 4, 1861 soon after the incident at the arsenal, delegates from Arkansas met in Little Rock for the first secession convention. (Read slide)
- Slide 11: The Civil War officially began on April 12, 1861 when Confederates in South Carolina fired on the federal Fort Sumter. (Read slide)
- Slide 12: After the firing on Fort Sumter, delegates from Arkansas met for a second secession convention at the state capitol. Has anyone visited this building in Little Rock? Today it is a museum called the Old State House, but at one time it was Arkansas's first state capitol built from 1833-1842. When Arkansas became a state in 1836, the state government offices moved into the capitol. The Old State House was designed as a Greek Revival-style building. The ancient Greeks had a governing style called democracy, or rule by the people. Americans also established a democratic government, so Greek Revival became a very popular style in American architecture. Buildings constructed in this style are usually symmetrical with large columns. How else would you describe this building?

- Slide 13: On May 6, 1861 delegates voted in this room whether or not to secede from the Union. Only one man, Isaac Murphy, a school teacher from Madison County in Northwest Arkansas, voted against secession. Sixty-nine other men decided to leave the United States. (Read excerpt from the Ordinance of Secession on slide)
- Slide 14: Arkansas and ten other southern states formed the Confederate States of America. (Ask students to examine the map key and ask questions about which states were part of the Union, Confederacy, or territories.)
- Slide 15: Since Arkansas was a western state, many people did not think much fighting would take place here, so many soldiers were sent to other states to fight. But a battle did take place in Arkansas soon after the war began. Although the battle took place in Pea Ridge, Arkansas, it was fought over Missouri. Missouri was a slave state that did not secede from the Union. It was one of four **border states** during the Civil War. **Border states** were slave states that decided not to secede and remained in the Union during the Civil War. A Confederate army of Missouri men led by Major General Sterling Price formed to bring Missouri into the Confederacy, but a Union army led by Major General Samuel Curtis pushed Price's Confederate troops out of Missouri and across the border into Arkansas.
- Slide 16: The Battle of Pea Ridge was the largest battle fought in Arkansas. On March 7-8, 1862, the Union army led by Curtis and the Confederate troops led by Major General Earl Van Dorn fought in the fields and forests of Pea Ridge and around a family's home called Elkhorn Tavern. Half of the Union soldiers at the Battle of Pea Ridge were immigrants from Central Europe and Germany, and Confederate soldiers at the battle included Native Americans led by Cherokee Colonel Stand Watie. The Confederates had about 16,000 soldiers while the Union Army only had around 10,000.
- Slide 17: The Elkhorn Tavern, owned by the Cox family, was named after a pair of elk antlers placed on its roof. (Do you see them?) It was built at the intersection of two major roads; one was Telegraph Road that connected Fort Smith with St. Louis. The tavern was a place where travelers often spent the night in peace times. During the Civil War, the roads were used to ship supplies. (Read slide)
- Slide 18: The Cox family lived at the home when the war broke out, and they had to hide in the basement for their safety during the battle! (Read slide) By the evening of March 7, the battle was at a standstill; Confederates claimed the land around Elkhorn Tavern and used the home as a hospital to treat injured soldiers.
- Slide 19: The next day, the Union army surprised and overwhelmed Confederate troops with cannon fire, which led to a Confederate retreat. (Read captain's account of the charge.) The Battle of Pea Ridge was a Union victory that saved the state of Missouri for the Union. But it resulted in a large loss of life for both sides
- Slide 20: Later the same year as the Battle of Pea Ridge, another major battle took place in Northwest Arkansas. It was also fought over control of state of Missouri. General Thomas C. Hindman organized a Confederate army hoping to seize Missouri and defend Arkansas from the Union.

- Slide 21: Hindman's troops and the troops of Union Generals Francis J. Herron and James G. Blunt met on a ridge near Prairie Grove on December 7, 1862.
- Slide 22: At least four families, including the Bordens, lived on the ridge where fighting took place. The Borden family supported the Confederacy. They were warned that a battle was about to take place on their property, so the family escaped a mile away to their neighbor and relative William Morton's farm. Other neighbors joined them in the Morton cellar where a total of about twenty men, women, and children hid from the bloodshed and violence of the battlefield. The heaviest fighting took place around the Bordens' house and orchard. Caldonia Ann Borden was nine years old when the battle took place near her home. (Press Enter to read the oral history she shared years later). How do you think Caldonia felt while she was hiding in the cellar? The Borden family rebuilt their house after the war in the late 1860s and lived there until the early 1900s.
- Slide 23: This is a historical map that a soldier drew of the battlefield. It is a primary source document. (Teachers: Explain primary and secondary sources if your students have not learned about them. Primary sources are direct evidence or first-hand accounts, while secondary sources are interpretations of primary sources.) Examine the map and the map key. What features and places do you see on this map? (Teachers: The Borden House is top-most house surrounded by the orchards and burying grounds. The Morton House is thought to be the home on the middle section of the page towards the right. The structure next to it that looks like a tent is believed to be the cellar.)
- Slide 24: This is a picture an artist painted recently of the battle long after the Civil War. It is a secondary source document. What is going on in this picture? Whose house do you think is in the painting? (**Borden House**) Union soldiers were better equipped than the Confederates with guns, ammunition, and food; so after a day of fighting, General Hindman ordered his troops to retreat during the night. The Battle of Prairie Grove was a Union victory, but casualties were about equal on both sides with over 2,700 total men killed, wounded, or missing.
- Slide 25: There are two other important houses that have been preserved at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. (Read slide)
- Slide 26: In Fayetteville, near Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge there is a house that was important to both the Union and the Confederacy.
- Slide 27: This home was built by Judge Jonas Tebbetts and his wife Matilda Winlock Tebbetts in 1853. Jonas Tebbetts was born in New Hampshire, but moved to Arkansas in 1839. The Tebbetts home was built in the Greek Revival-style with a symmetrical appearance and a pediment above the front door supported by Classical columns. Do you remember another Greek Revival building we talked about earlier? (**Old State House**) (Read slide)

- Slide 28: On the left is a portrait of Mr. Tebbetts and on the right is a letter. These are both primary source documents. (Teachers: The letter is transcribed at the bottom of the slide for easier reading.) Because he was loyal to the Union, Mr. Tebbetts was arrested and held prisoner in Fort Smith for a short time before he was set free. Look at the portrait and read the letter. How would you describe Mr. Tebbetts? Does he look friendly, stern, strong, weak? How do you think Mrs. Tebbetts felt when she received this letter?
- When Union troops occupied Fayetteville after the Battle of Pea Ridge, Tebbetts invited them to set up headquarters in his home. Fayetteville was not a safe place for the Tebbetts family to stay, however, so they left for the safer North in November 1862.
- Slide 29: Union Colonel M. LaRue Harrison lived in the Headquarters House after Tebbetts left while the Union controlled the city. Confederate Brigadier General William Cabell led troops to Fayetteville to attack the Union hoping to claim Northwest Arkansas for the Confederacy. During the Battle of Fayetteville on April 18, 1863, several local families hid in the cellars of the Tebbetts house and his neighbor William Baxter's abandoned home for protection. The battle was a Union victory, but Colonel Harrison and his men left Fayetteville soon after and Confederate troops took over command of the city.
- Slide 30: Does this place look familiar? This is a historic photograph of the Old State House in Little Rock. After Arkansas seceded from the United States, the Old State House became the capitol for the Arkansas Confederate government until the Union army took control of Little Rock in September 1863. Compare and contrast these two photographs. How does the historic picture look similarly or differently from the contemporary photograph?
- Slide 31: Little Rock became the fourth southern state capital to fall to the Union when it was captured on September 10, 1863. Confederate Governor Harris Flanagin ordered that the capital be moved from Little Rock to the city of Washington in Hempstead County.
- Slide 32: Confederate government officials moved into this building which had previously served as the Hempstead County Courthouse. The town of Washington served as the seat of state government from the fall of 1863 to the end of the war.
- Slide 33: Arkansas was truly a divided state with two state governments in operation – the Union government met at the Old State House in Little Rock with Isaac Murphy serving as governor and the Confederate government met in Washington with Governor Flanagin. Do you remember Isaac Murphy? (**The only man who voted against secession during the Second Secession Convention**)
- Slide 34: Two places we've discussed – the Little Rock Arsenal and the Confederate State Capitol in Washington – have special designation as National Historic Landmarks because of their association with the Camden Expedition. In April 1864, Union General Frederick Steele and his troops tried and failed to invade Texas during the Red River Campaign or Camden Expedition. General Steele started and ended his campaign at the Little Rock Arsenal, and Union and Confederate troops

fought at Prairie D’Ane close to Washington. The wounded from the Battle of Prairie D’Ane were brought to Washington and every building and home in town was used as a hospital to treat the injured. Five battlefields – Prairie D’Ane, Jenkin’s Ferry, Elkin’s Ferry, Poison Spring, and Marks’ Mill – and two fortifications – Fort Sutherland and Fort Lookout – are also listed as National Historic Landmarks because of their association with the Camden Expedition.

- Slide 35: The Civil War was the greatest disaster in Arkansas and the United States. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed, injured, or lost their property. However, millions of enslaved people were freed.
- Slides 36-43 Read slides  
Discussion points: **Why should we preserve historic places?**  
**What would happen to these places if they were not preserved?**  
**How can we learn from these battlefields and sites?**
- Slide 44: The teacher will display the same five statements from the previous anticipation guide and ask students to write their answers as true or false. After asking for a show of hands after each statement, the teacher can do an informal assessment in class by observing whether the students have answered more statements correctly as a whole. The teacher will take up the written true or false statements to more specifically determine the knowledge level of each student.
- Slide 45: Do students have any questions?
- Slide 46: If students or teachers would like to research Civil War sites or other historic places in their community or the state, they can visit the AHPP website for a list of Commercial Historic Districts, National Register, National Historic Landmark, Arkansas Register, and/or Civil War properties in Arkansas. Visit [www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com) and click on “Historic Properties.”