



View of Crow's Nest Butte, New Salem, photo taken May, 2015

*The information about the individual campsites located between Mandan and Dickinson was drawn from the book "Following the Custer Trail" by Laudie Chorne, as are the map illustrations. Chorne notes that the trail depicted in the maps is approximate, and intended for the reader to gain an understanding of the terrain through which the soldiers traveled. Many of the landmarks seen by the troops traveling the Custer Trail are visible from Old Highway 10 and Interstate 94.*

*The Map Locations of the campsites were documented by Mr. Frank Anders between 1930 and 1950. Mr. John Carroll compiled Anders' work into a book entitled "The Custer Trail of 1876." The longitude and latitude coordinates are derived from the Map Location descriptions. Keep in mind that each camp was approximately one-half mile square to accommodate the large number of troops and animals that traversed the trail in the spring of 1876.*

*Most of the campsites are on private property. Anyone wishing to visit them must obtain appropriate permission from the landowners.*

## Campsite No. 3: Near New Salem

May 19, 1876

Map Location:

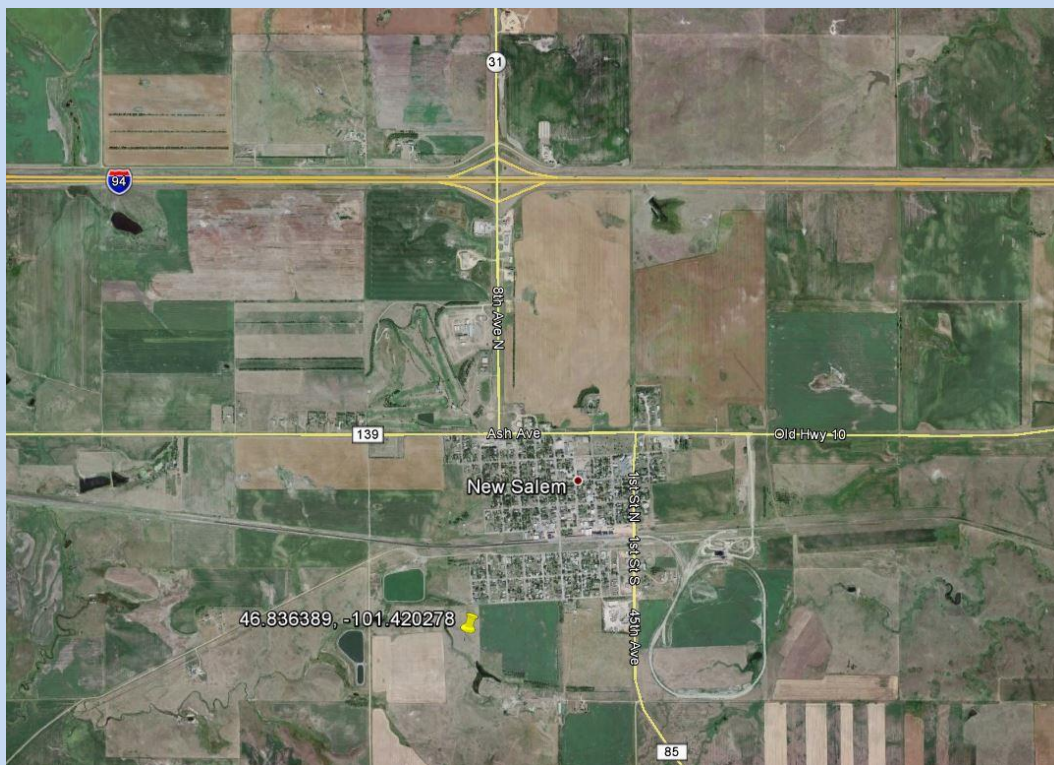
Morton County

T139 R85W

Four corners of Sec. 20, 21, 28 and 29

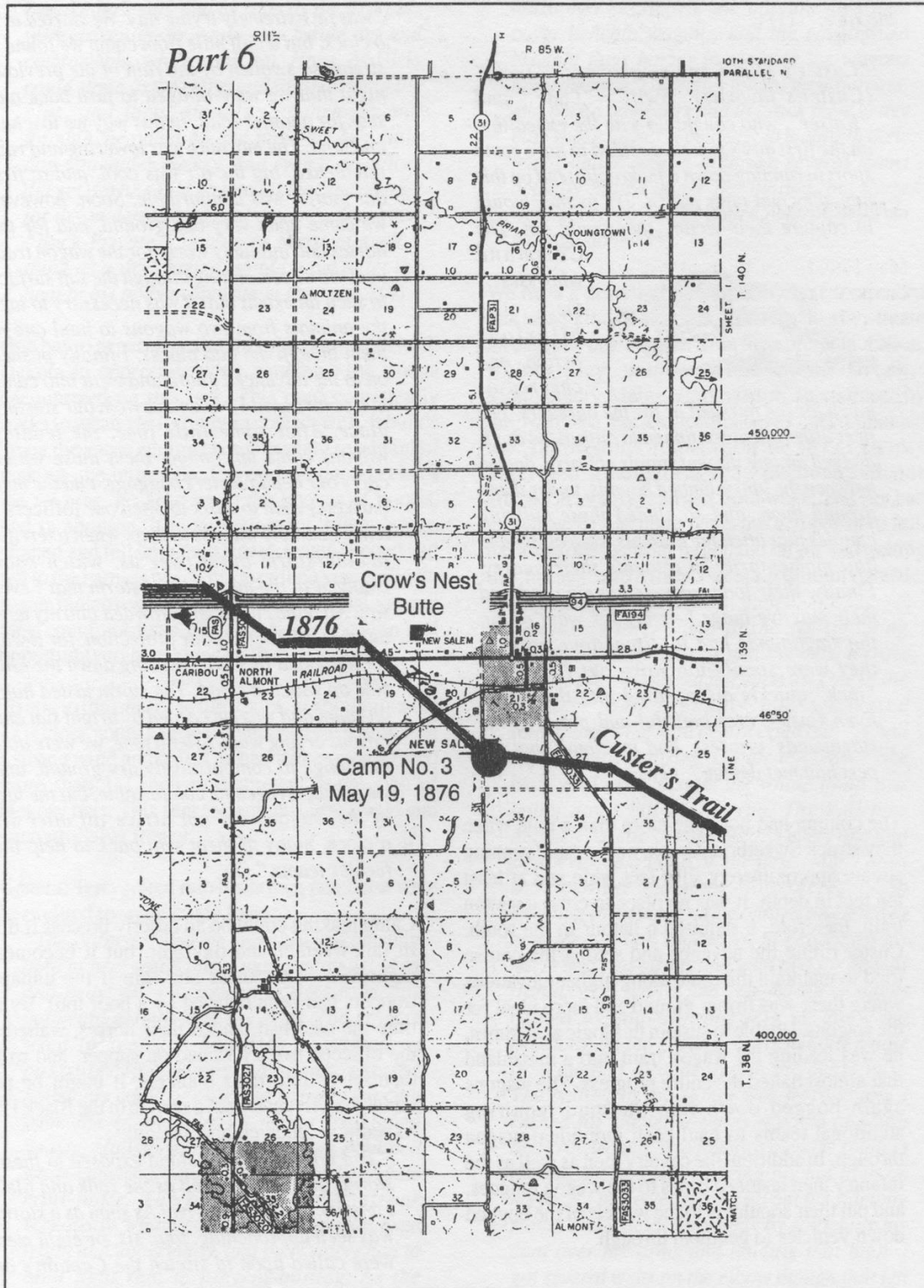
This camp borders on the southwest corner of the town of New Salem. From I-94, take Ext 127 south for one mile, cross Old Highway 10 south to a street that will lead to a gravel road on the western outskirts of the village. Turn left on gravel road for one mile. (Laudie Chorne, "Following the Custer Trail," p30)

The day's march began at 6:30 a.m. and the troops quickly encountered rough country strewn with large boulders, deep ravines, and impossibly mucky bogs. Camp was made mid-day 12 ½ miles from the previous night's camp, but immediately a violent hailstorm struck and the men were pelted with hailstones the size of marbles. The storm caused the herd of beef cattle to stampede, and the hail ripped the wagon covers. This was called the dry camp, because there was no water of any kind for the troops or the animals. The campsite was just south of Crow's Nest Butte, on which the large statue of a dairy cow called "Salem Sue," stands today.



*Aerial View of Campsite No. 3*





Laudie Chorne, "Following the Custer Trail," p. 31