



Campsite No. 4: Hailstone Creek, 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. 4: Hailstone Creek

May 20, 1876

Map Location:

Morton County

T139 R86W

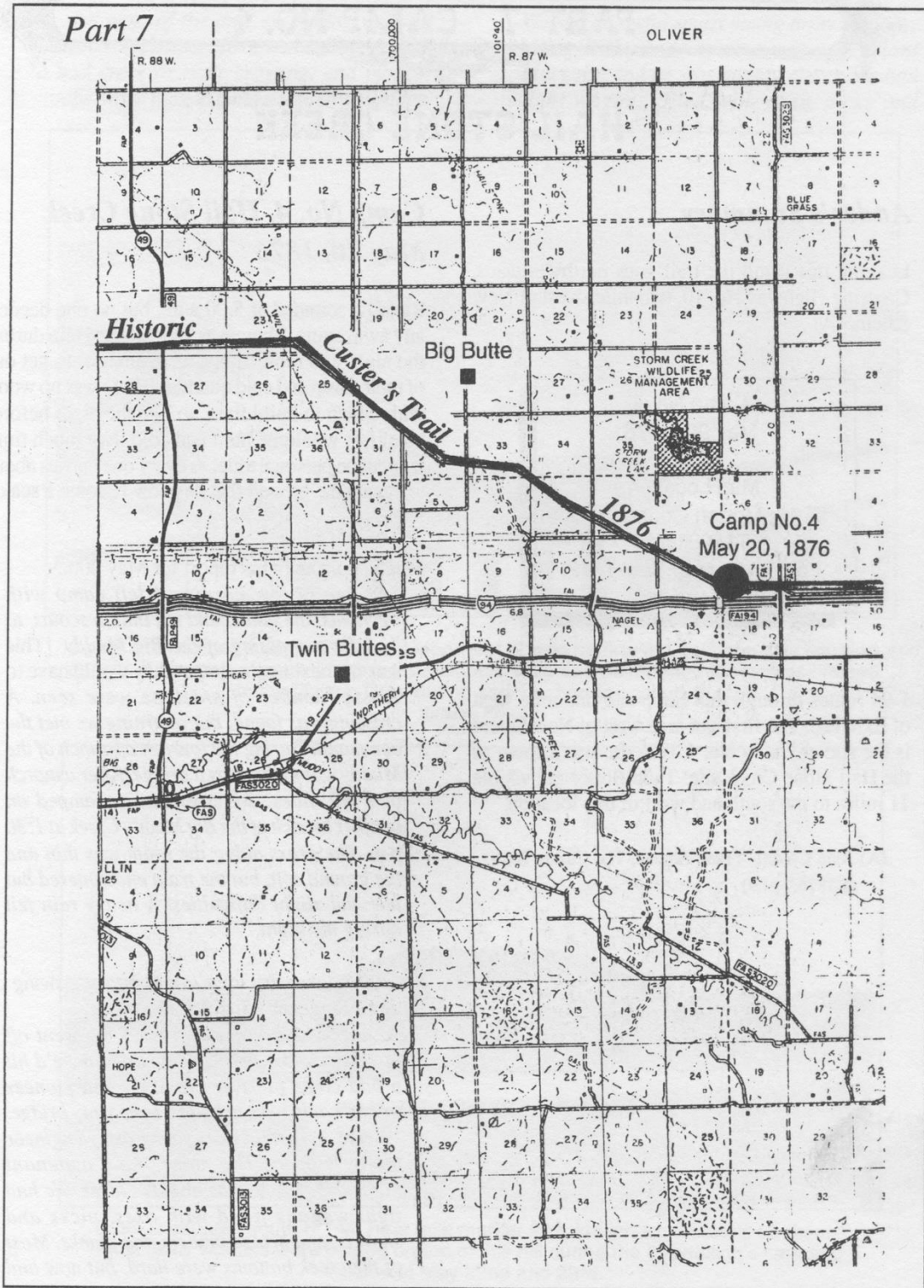
Four corners of Sec. 7, 12, 13 and 18

I-94 routes through this campsite one mile west of Exit-120. The first rest area west of New Salem is the site of Campsite No. 4. This site was known as the Hail Stone Creek site. Twin Buttes are visible 11 miles to the south and west of this location. (Laudie Chorne, "Following the Custer Trail," p40)

The day's march began at 5:00 a.m. and was hampered by rain, muddy conditions, and two difficult crossings of the Little Muddy River. The column only traveled 9 ½ miles to a campsite on the east side of the "Little Muddy". The men were wet and cold and the rain continued through the night.



Aerial View of Campsite No. 4



Laudie Chorne, "Following the Custer Trail," p. 39