

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

FEB 12 1979

DATE ENTERED

APR 4 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Point Leflore or Fort Leflore

AND/OR COMMON

Point Leflore

2 LOCATION

[REDACTED] 7

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mississippi

28

Leflore

83

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

\_\_OCCUPIED

X AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

X UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

X SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

X BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

[REDACTED]

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Leflore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market and Fulton streets

CITY, TOWN

Greenwood

STATE

Mississippi 38930

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1978

\_\_FEDERAL X STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Leflore is located on Point Leflore, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Fort Leflore were erected on the western [REDACTED], where the point forms a peninsularlike protrusion against the [REDACTED], in March, 1863, by Confederate soldiers of the Thirty-fifth Mississippi Infantry Regiment. The fortification, which is L-shaped, consists of a west wall running north to south, and a north wall running east to west, with the two walls forming a northwest corner. The west wall measures approximately 225 feet long, 2 to 3 feet high, 12 feet thick at the base, and has a parapet width of 5 feet. The north wall measures approximately 300 feet long, 3 to 4 feet high, and has base and parapet measurements corresponding to those of the west wall. The relatively low height and wide crest of the earthen walls suggest that cotton bales were probably stacked atop the walls to add necessary height for protection, much as cotton bales are known to have been used for that purpose at nearby Fort Pemberton, a similar fortification.

Today the earthen walls, now grown over with trees, are the only apparent remnant of the Confederate occupation of the site. No structures or visible foundations remain to indicate the location and purpose of buildings reputed to have existed during the point's use as a river landing before the Civil War. It is in fact doubtful that many, if indeed any, of the structures still stood in 1863 when the Confederates built their fortification. Moreover, the existence of cultural debris, scattered on the surface from many years of cultivation, makes it impossible to plot accurately the locations of structures without extensive archaeological investigation.

[REDACTED] were possibly planted by early inhabitants of the site, the [REDACTED] suggesting that other trees were once planted. Since its abandonment by the Confederates, Point Leflore has been in cultivation, soybeans recently having replaced cotton as the principal crop.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

### SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1830, 1863

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on Point Leflore, [REDACTED] Fort Leflore is among the best extant examples of several small earthen fortifications erected during the Civil War by Confederate troops along the river system in the vicinity of Greenwood, Mississippi, to contest the passage of the Federal Western Squadron during the Yazoo Pass expedition in the spring of 1863. Point Leflore was selected by the Confederates as a fortification site [REDACTED]. The strategic fort was built on the site of antebellum Point Leflore, a river landing once owned by famous Choctaw chief Greenwood Leflore. Leflore obtained the parcel of land bearing his name as part of a vast land grant awarded him for his cooperation in effecting the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in September, 1830, soon after which he became a wealthy planter. Reputedly a disagreement with the owner of [REDACTED] prompted Leflore to establish his landing, where he hoped to handle the business of other cotton shippers as well as his own and thereby to drive his nemesis out of business. Despite his considerable investment in the landing, however, Leflore's goals were not realized, probably because he devoted most of his time to leading the social life of a wealthy planter instead of handling business at his landing. Leflore served in the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1835, and in the Senate from 1840 to 1845. By 1854 Leflore had apparently lost all interest in his landing, and spent his time building his imposing house, Malmaison, some [REDACTED]. By 1861, when the Civil War began, Point Leflore was no longer a productive enterprise.

On March 11, 1863, Federal troops of Maj.Gen. Ulysses S. Grant cut the levee at Moon Lake on the Mississippi River in order to flood and render navigable the abandoned waterway of Yazoo Pass in an effort to move troops to an area north of Vicksburg. To counter Grant's offensive, Confederate authorities ordered defenses built at strategic locations around Greenwood. The fortification built on Point Leflore was constructed by the Thirty-fifth Mississippi Infantry Regiment and a section of artillery. During the engagement centered around Fort Pemberton, the largest of the area fortifications, [REDACTED] Fort Leflore saw little action. Pvt. John A. Wilson of Mississippi wrote his wife: "Our pickets meet the Yankee pickets and talk. They propose to trade whiskey and coffee for tobacco, so you see that the picketts [sic] are friendly" (Jackson, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, manuscript collection). Wilson also in his letter expressed anxiety over the inundation caused by the broken levee at Moon Lake, writing that the Confederates were camped "in a low wet place & have to drink river watter [sic]" (Ibid.). (Apparently the buildings of the old cotton landing at Point Leflore were no longer standing in 1863, or the garrison would doubtless have utilized them.) The detente Pvt. Wilson mentioned was

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bearss, Edwin C. Decision in Mississippi: Mississippi's Important Role in the War Between the States. Jackson: Mississippi Commission on the War Between the States, 1962.

Halsell, Willie D. "Migration Into, and Settlement of Leflore County, 1833-1876." Journal of Mississippi History IX (1947):219-237.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED [REDACTED]

QUADRANGLE SCALE [REDACTED]

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	[ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
E	[ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
F	[ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
G	[ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
H	[ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	William C. Wright, Historical Archaeologist Alan Whitehead, Resident of Greenwood, Mississippi		
ORGANIZATION	Mississippi Department of Archives and History	DATE	November 10, 1978
STREET & NUMBER	Box 571	TELEPHONE	601-354-7326
CITY OR TOWN	Jackson	STATE	Mississippi 39205

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elmer A. Hilliard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 6, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5.4.79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/30/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

short-lived, however. On April 2 a Federal reconnaissance scouting for a means of overtaking the Confederate forts so as to allow passage of the Federal fleet skirmished briefly with Confederate soldiers in a [REDACTED] Fort Leflore. Two days later the U. S. First Missouri Light Artillery fired thirteen rounds at the fort. The gunners in Fort Leflore returned the fire with six-pounder caseshot, which were reported as doing "little execution" (Princeton, Diary of Lt. Junius W. MacMurray, entries of April 2, 4, 1863, in John Van Antwerp MacMurray papers).

The fort's walls remain as a vestige of the hastily erected earthworks that denied a Federal fleet passage down the Yazoo River to Vicksburg. Had it not been for strategic defenses such as Fort Leflore there would have been no battles further south in Mississippi at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, and Big Black River; and Vicksburg would have capitulated with little resistance. The success of the Confederates near Greenwood may have prolonged the conflict for four months by tying up the Federal army a whole summer. The Confederate fortification at Point Leflore was far from insignificant, despite the fact that it was not the scene of a major conflict.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. John A. Wilson papers.

Princeton. Diary of Lt. Junius W. MacMurray, U.S. First Missouri Light Artillery, Battery M. John Van Antwerp MacMurray papers.

United States. War Department. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 70 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889.

Whitehead, Alan, resident of Greenwood, Miss. Inspection of Point Leflore, Leflore Co., Miss., Nov., 1978.