

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | JUL 22 1976 |
| DATE ENTERED | NOV 19 1976 |

**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 ** Federal Siege Trench

AND/OR COMMON



| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------|------|----|--------|--------|------|-----|
| STATE | Mississippi | CODE | 28 | COUNTY | Alcorn | CODE | 003 |
|-------|-------------|------|----|--------|--------|------|-----|

3 CLASSIFICATION

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Alcorn County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Corinth

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The Federal trench located on the [REDACTED] is the best-preserved earthwork remaining from the Siege of Corinth. This trench once extended over half a mile, and it is extant for nearly that distance today. It faces a broad field which has remained either under cultivation or in pasture since the Civil War.

Its construction is typical of breastwork used by infantry. The earth removed was piled on the [REDACTED] side to protect its occupants from enemy fire. When the trench was constructed, it was probably about four feet deep, with the embankment adding approximately two feet. A step, or firing platform, allowed the riflemen to fire through depressions in the parapet, which probably had a headlog along the crest at the time of its construction.

Today, the trench may be easily seen [REDACTED]

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 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 April 29-June 10, 1862 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The [redacted] the best-preserved Civil War earthwork remaining from the Siege of Corinth, which may be easily seen today, was constructed as part of the Federal offensive attempting to encircle the town and its Confederate garrison.

After the battle of Shiloh, April 6 - 7, 1862, Major General Henry W. Halleck arrived to take personal command of the Federal forces there and immediately began preparations to capture Corinth. Corinth was important because of its position on the crossing of two major railroads, the Memphis & Charleston running east to west, and the Mobile & Ohio going north to south.

Halleck began his campaign with over ninety thousand men and reached Corinth with a force of about one hundred ten thousand, composed of three armies under Major Generals Ulysses S. Grant, Don C. Buell, and John Pope. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, C.S.A, in Corinth with approximately thirty thousand of the forty thousand men who had made the march into Tennessee, managed to strengthen his army with the addition of General Earl Van Dorn's army from Arkansas and other reinforcements. This gave Beauregard about sixty-six thousand men.

Halleck's advance met with only minor resistance on the march---at Farmington, Seven Mile Creek, and Russell's House---but the token opposition served its purpose to slow Halleck down by causing the overly cautious general to entrench at the end of each day's march. By May 25, Halleck was on the outer edge of Corinth. It had taken the Federals almost a month to march twenty miles.

On May 28, the 7th Division, Right Wing (Thomas's), Army of the Tennessee, under Brigadier General Thomas W. Sherman, advanced [redacted] and erected earthworks parallel to the road on the east side of a broad field. On the west side of the field was [redacted], with the Confederate line on the opposite bank. Sherman's men had become quite proficient in throwing up works over the past month and experienced little difficulty in their task. But, the work was in vain. By the time the trench was completed there was no foe against which to use it.

After observing the advance of the Federal siege line for four days, Beauregard decided to save his army while he had the chance, and on the night of May 29, he moved to extricate his army. To create the impression that reinforcements were arriving, Confederate troops cheered empty trains entering Corinth from the south. Later, when the trains pulled quietly out of town toward Tupelo, the troops were on board. On the morning of May 30, Halleck's scouts reported that only a few cavalry were occupying Corinth's defenses, and most of those escaped as the Federal army entered the town.

Halleck's hollow victory earned him the position of Commander-in-Chief of all United States forces. Beauregard's brilliant hoax, however, infuriated President Jefferson Davis, who blamed him for the large number of sick and deserters under his command and replaced him with the less capable Major General Braxton Bragg.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United States War Department. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Ser. 1, vol. 10, pt. 1, pt. 2. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889.

1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 363-000
[REDACTED]

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

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

April 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE X

LOCAL X

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 R. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 15, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Active

Key [Signature]

DATE

11/13/76

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

11.10.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER