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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

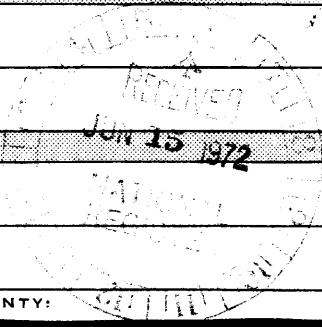
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Mississippi</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Warren</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>FEB 6 1973</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Snyder's Bluff**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Fort Saint Peter - Fort Snyder**



**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:  
[REDACTED]

STATE: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED] COUNTY: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <b>Forest</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Multiple - Private**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] STATE: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Chancery Clerk's Office, Warren County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Cherry Street**

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **149**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
[REDACTED]

DATE OF SURVEY: [REDACTED]  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
[REDACTED]

STREET AND NUMBER:  
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] STATE: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Mississippi**

COUNTY: **Warren**

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 6 1973**

DATE: [REDACTED]

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Saint Peter is described in Dumont's Memoirs Historiques. Sur La Louisiana as follows:

The fort was very large and had to be entered by a bridge crossing a moat. Within the fort was the house of the commander, pavillion of officers, office rooms of the guard, barracks, storeroom, house of the storekeeper and the chamber of the sergeants.

Outside the fort there was a house for the interpreter; a house for the gardener, baking ovens, ten houses for workmen's lodgement, and a landing [redacted] for the debarkment of carriages from large boats. The largest appearing building on the map and farthest from the river had a cupola, over a large main entrance door and a cross surmounting the cupola St. Peters.

To overcome the effects of bad water provision was made to have good spring water, as the Plat of Fort St. Peter shows that outside the Fort there were three large reservoirs for soft water, probably filtered for all the people.

There are no remains that can be definitely identified as being original with the construction of Fort Saint Peter [redacted]

The grounds now contain a three-sided marker giving a brief history of Forts Saint Peter and Snyder.

When approaching the site of Forts Saint Peter and Snyder [redacted] it is easy to understand why the location was chosen. Massive bluffs tower [redacted]

The fortifications of Fort Snyder are very much in evidence. Extensive trenches of both the Confederate and Union occupation remain. The battery positions built by Captain David B. Harris, C.S.A., are readily visible. [redacted]

These trenches were to have been the Federal lines of defense had Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston attempted to come to the aid of Vicksburg's besieged soldiers.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

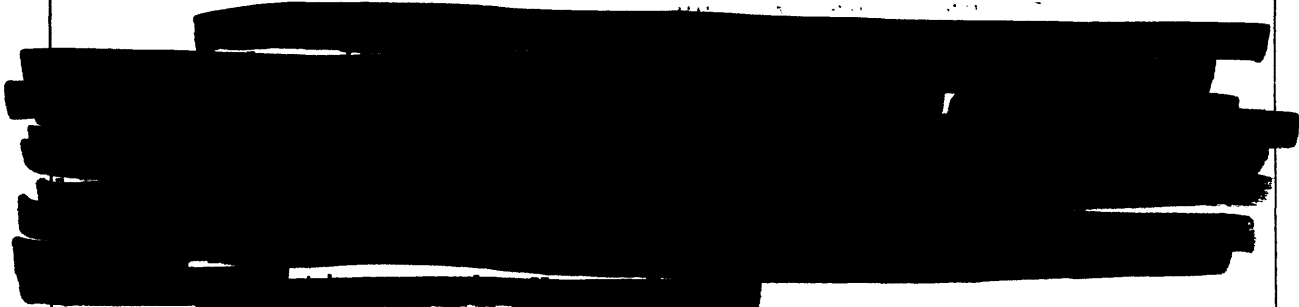
- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1719-1729 1698-1699

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry            | <input type="checkbox"/> Josophy        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



The first white men into this area were four French missionary priests and their party from the Seminary of Quebec. Around the middle of January, 1698, Reverend Anthony Davion, Reverend Thaumur de la Source, Reverend John Francis Buisson de St. Cosme and Reverend Francis de Montegny arrived in the area and were conducted to the site from the Mississippi River by Indians. These Indians belonged to the Tunica Tribe which had a population of approximately 2,000 living in the area.

After a brief stay on the Yazoo Bluffs, the priests returned to Canada to prepare for the establishment of a permanent mission among the Indians. The priests returned a year later, in January of 1699, and began working with the Indians. Missionary work progressed with the priests tending to the health and spiritual needs of the Indians.

The construction of Fort Saint Peter began in 1719. On December 14, 1720, the French ships l'Elephant and l'Dromedier arrived on the Gulf Coast with 250 Frenchmen for the new settlement. Land grants were being issued by John Law's Western Company to Frenchmen seeking the fortunes of the new world.

The Western Company occasionally referred to this settlement as Fort Saint Claude.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Fordice, Alcee. History of Louisiana Early Explorers and the Domination of the French, 1512-1768. Vol. I. New York: Manzi, Joyant & Co., Successors. 1904. Pp. 72; 112.

Gayarre, Charles. History of Louisiana, The French Domination. Vol. I. New Orleans: F. F. Hansell & Bro., Ltd., 1903. Pp. 412-449.

Martin, Francois-Xavier. The History of Louisiana From the Earliest Period. Vol. I. New Orleans: Lyman and Beardslee, 1837. Pp. 250-207; 274.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW						
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**William C. Wright, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History** DATE: **May 31, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Post Office Box 571**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: R. A. McLemore  
R. A. McLemore

Title: Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date: May 31, 1972

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert A. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/6/73

ATTEST

Wm J. Smith  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-29-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Warren	
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(Number all entries)

8.

Fort Snyder was again the center of Sherman's attention during the campaigns to take Vicksburg in the spring of 1863. General Ulysses S. Grant requested that Sherman make a diversionary attack against Snyder's fortification while Grant brought the bulk of the Union troops inland to the south of Vicksburg. Grant was fearful that Sherman's feint would be viewed as another defeat which would draw criticism from the Northern papers, but Sherman was game, making the remark that he had respect for the "Secesh" since they were a brave and open enemy and not cowards and sulkers that would stab him in the back like some of the army's so-called friends in the North.

Sherman had the Snyder works shelled by gunboats for several hours on May 1, 1863. The shelling had little effect on the fortifications, but the Choctaw was struck 53 times by the guns of Fort Snyder. The next day Sherman had the fortifications shelled from 3:00 until 7:30 p.m. This diversion against Snyder gave Grant the chance he needed to make a successful landing below Vicksburg, eventually leading to the capture of the city some three months later.

When Vicksburg became invested by Union army on May 18, 1863, the last defenders of Fort Snyder were evacuated and Federal troops moved in. Immediately following the Union occupation of Fort Snyder, earthworks were constructed [redacted] to guard against the Confederate army of General Joseph E. Johnston. Johnston was expected to move to Vicksburg's relief by way of the Mechanicsburg Corridor, but the march never materialized. This strategic position continued to be controlled by Federal forces until the close of the war.

9.

Mulvihill, M. J., Jr. Vicksburg, Fort St. Peter, Fort Snyder.

Vicksburg: Van Norman Printing Co., 1931. Passim 1-79.

Swanton, John R. Indian Tribes of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Adjacent Coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 43.

Washington: Government Printing Office, 1911. P. 230.

The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1889. Series I, Volume XXIV, Part I, Pp. 576-578.

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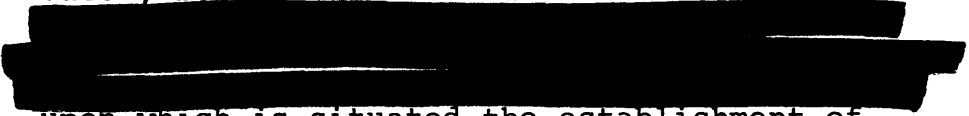
7.

Many Indian, French, Confederate, and Union artifacts have been found in the area. Consequently, it is felt that the site has excellent potential as an archaeological project in the future.

8.

M. de la Harpe, who visited the area in 1722, described it as follows:

About thirty arpents of this concession is cultivated, but the rest of the soil is so thin and sandy, that it can never be cultivated, beside the situation is unhealthy.



upon which is situated the establishment of M. le Blanc. The cabins of the Yasous, Courois, Ossogoula and Ouspie are dispersed over the country upon mounds of earth made with their own hands, from which it is inferred that these nations are very ancient, and formally very numerous, although at the present time they hardly number two hundred and fifty persons.

The growth of the settlement and fort which continued throughout a decade was wiped out in a single day. There was a general uprising of the Indian tribes along the Mississippi in 1729. On November 28, 1729, the settlement at Natchez was destroyed, and the inhabitants of Fort Saint Peter were massacred on December 31, 1729.

No further fortifications were erected on the site by France, Spain, England or the United States. In April of 1862, Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard ordered Captain David B. Harris to erect batteries on the bluffs and to barricade the river with rafts. The task was completed and the fortifications were manned by Confederate troops. The fortified works were called Fort Snyder after Jonathan Snyder, who owned a mill in the area. The first Civil War action in this area was the sinking of the Gunboat Cairo, December 12, 1862, near the lower fortifications. The Cairo was sunk by the first electrically ignited torpedo in history. On December 27-29, 1862, soldiers from Fort Snyder and the Vicksburg fortifications repulsed Major General William T. Sherman's attempt to land his Union army on the north side of Vicksburg. Sherman disembarked at Johnson's Landing and marched along Chickasaw Bayou. The defenders met and soundly defeated the Federals at the foot of the bluffs, causing Sherman to withdraw back to Memphis.