Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Mississippi	
COUNTY:	
Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 30 1974	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Federal Fortifications along Bear Creek

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Grant's outer line

2. LOCATION

[redacted]

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	28	Warren	149

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	[redacted]	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
[redacted]

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Vicksburg	Mississippi	28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Chancery Clerks Office, Warren County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cherry Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Vicksburg	Mississippi	28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Civil War fortifications along the ridges and slopes of the loess hills of Warren County stand even today as if they were sentinels against an attack which is yet to come. There is a series of rifle pits and gun emplacements strategically placed to allow a field of fire from almost any direction. Natural deadfall, resembling abatis, fill the hollows and approaches to the fortifications.

Immediately [redacted] of the fortifications was the camp site for the soldiers. There are remains of drainage ditches cut by the soldiers to divert rainwater around the tents and huts. On these locations, nails and bricks used in the construction of the huts and an occasional artifact left by the occupant may be found. The trash pits, or dumps, are easily located by the presence of ration cans, broken glass and discarded equipment remains.

To the [redacted] are the now empty graves of soldiers who died while there. In 1864-1865, these bodies were removed by the American Sanitary Commission which employed freed slaves to disinter the remains for reburial in the National Military Cemetery, but the depressions spaced about three feet apart may still be seen.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1863

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [x] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Near the [redacted], Federal troops constructed extensive fortifications during the summer of 1863. These earth works were the [redacted] salient of a nearly thirty-mile chain of fortifications running [redacted]

The fortifications were erected as a result of a daring raid by Confederate cavalry against the Federal patrols operating a cordon to protect the rear of Major-General Ulysses S. Grant's army which had bottled the Confederate army under Lieutenant-General John C. Pemberton within the environs of Vicksburg, after separating it from the forces of General Joseph E. Johnston [redacted].

On the morning of June 22, 1863, a cavalry patrol of Brigadier-General Wirt Adams' 1st Mississippi and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert C. Wood's 28th Mississippi drove in the vendettes of the 4th Iowa Cavalry [redacted]. The staccato rattle of musketry caused the 4th Iowa cavalrymen, who were busy obstructing the roads, to drop their tools and gallop toward the sound of the firing. Almost immediately, they encountered their pickets retreating. After arresting the rout, the 4th's commander, Major Alonzo B. Parkell, advanced his men one-half mile north [redacted]. Here he placed his dismounted troops behind a rail fence and a 2-pounder gun in the middle of the road. The Confederates wasted no time in attacking. Wood dismounted his 28th cavalry and directed them to flank the left of the Federal line, while Adams' 1st Cavalry charged the gun. When Wood's men turned the left flank, an orderly retreat became impossible for the Federals. There was an obstructed road ahead of them which forced them to disperse in all directions. After policing the field for prisoners and equipment, the Confederates returned to Mechanicsburg.

The news of the rout so alarmed Grant, who feared a surprise attack by Johnston's army crossing the Big Black, that he ordered all available troops to bolster the perimeter. It was these troops that constructed the outer line of earthworks. This work was for naught as Johnston had no serious thoughts of moving to Vicksburg's relief. His contempt for Pemberton was only surpassed by his fear of being defeated in the field.

These fortifications exist today as historical evidence of an event which forced Grant to redeploy his army and divert thousands of troops from the siege lines into a defensive cordon to await an attack which never came.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bearss, Edwin C., Decision in Mississippi, (Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi Commission on the War Between the States, 1962).

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XXIV, Part I.

Personal inspection of the site by Jackie Sarrett and William C. Wright, December, 1973, and January, 1974.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

[redacted]

200

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William C. Wright, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE
4-5-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN:
Jackson

STATE
Mississippi 39205

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 [X] State [X] Local [X]

Name Elbert R. Hilliard

Title Director

Date April 8, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A R Mortensen

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/30/74

ATTEST:

Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-29-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GPO 901.087