

DATA SHEET

PH0699268

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

N of Meridian off MS 7

STREET & NUMBER

Old State Highway 7

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Leflore

CODE

83

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Estes C. McDaniel and Grace McDaniel

STREET & NUMBER

301 East Claiborne

CITY, TOWN

Greenwood

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 38930

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 STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Leflore is located on Point Leflore, an eighty-acre, roughly triangular tract in Leflore County, Mississippi, at which the confluence of the Yalobusa and Tallahatchie rivers forms the Yazoo River. Bordered by the Yalobusha on the west, the Yazoo on the south, and the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad tracks on the east, Point Leflore rises but slightly above the surrounding typically flat Mississippi Delta terrain, barely escaping flooding during moderately high water and invariably inundated when the rivers reach flood stage. The walls of Fort Leflore were erected on the western tip of Point Leflore, where the point forms a peninsulalike protrusion against the Yalobusha, 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. Five large pecan trees growing on the Yazoo River (or south) side of Point Leflore were possibly planted by early inhabitants of the site, the irregular spacing of the trees perhaps 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, where the confluence of the Tallahatchie and Yalobusha rivers forms the Yazoo, 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 because of its natural barrier to land attack provided by rivers surrounding the point on three sides. 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 nearby Williams Landing 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 ten miles from his landing. 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, located on a narrow strip of land west of Greenwood between the Tallahatchie and Yazoo rivers, 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 PROPERTY 80 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Greenwood, Miss.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

C	X	1,5	7,6,1	6,7,5	3,7	1,5	9,4,0	B	1,5	7,6,3	2,7,5	3,7	1,5	0,0,0
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
A	X	1,5	7,6,2	3,5,0	3,7	1,6	5,7,5	D						
E								F						
G								H						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Left bank of the Tallahatchie at the confluence of the Yalobusha and Tallahatchie rivers where they meet to form the Yazoo River, and west of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad. Section 34, Township 20N, Range 1E.

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 X 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 <u>5.4.79</u>	
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>3/30/79</u>
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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 field west of the Yalobusha River near 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.