

MAR 28 1997

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Jackson Hill Historic District  
other names/site number Fort Norton; Fort Jackson

**2. Location**

street & number Jackson Hill  
city, town Rome (n/a) vicinity of  
county Floyd code GA ~~114~~<sup>115</sup>  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30163

(n/a) not for publication

**3. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	3	6
sites	1	0
structures	12	0
objects	0	0
total	16	6

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards  
Signature of certifying official

3/24/97  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Beth L. Savage 4-25-97

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DEFENSE/fortification  
GOVERNMENT/public works  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation  
SOCIAL/clubhouse

### Current Functions:

SOCIAL/clubhouse

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Rustic  
OTHER/Functional

### Materials:

foundation	stone; brick; concrete
walls	stone; brick; concrete
roof	composite
other	wood

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

#### Summary Description

The Jackson Hill Historic District is located to the northeast of downtown Rome and includes three historic developments: the 1863-1864 Civil War fortification, 1892 to ca.1939 water reservoir and filter plant, and the 1935-1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) community clubhouse, stonework, roads, trails, bridges, and gardens. The district is comprised of two adjoining hills with the highest and northernmost hill being Jackson Hill at 809 feet above sea level and the other being unnamed and 741 feet above sea level. The Civil War fortification includes the fort site and earthen trenches which circle the southernmost hill. Many of the trenches remain undisturbed. The waterworks include a 1899-1900 brick filter building with clerestories and 1915 addition, ca.1926-1936 brick chemical feed house, 1892-1893 underground reservoir (originally stone lined, concrete lined in 1939), and c.1926-1936 clear water well no. 2. The 1935 to 1937 WPA work includes a stone community clubhouse, road system, two stone road bridges, foot bridge, culverts, small stone amphitheater, and various other stone walls and landscaping features. The district has steep terrain, curvilinear roads and paths, and is heavily wooded away from the road system. There are several noncontributing buildings within

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the district which are owned by the City of Rome. The city of Rome surrounds the historic district with the Oostanaula River to the west.

Description of Present and Historic Appearance

The general character of the district has been influenced by three historic developments that have impacted the area: (1) the construction in 1863-64 of Civil War fortifications as part of Rome's system of defenses, (2) the construction of a water reservoir and filter plant as part of Rome's second waterworks system from 1892 to c.1939, and (3) the construction in 1935-37 of a community clubhouse, roads, trails, bridges, gardens, etc. as part of a WPA-Rome city park project. The filter plant was abandoned in 1940 and the reservoir in 1967. Also in the late 1960s, the scenic drives through the district were closed by the city and use of the area for park purposes was terminated. Much of the system of scenic drives as well as other features of the park have become overgrown. Some nonhistoric development has occurred within the district, mostly in its southern edges.

The district is comprised of two adjoining hills (two of a series of hills running north-south), the northernmost and highest being Jackson Hill, some 809 feet above sea level and 68 feet higher than the unnamed hill to the south. (The name Jackson Hill is sometimes used to refer to both hills together). The summit of Jackson Hill is 230 feet higher than the east bank of the Oostanaula River, 2,500 feet to the west, and the summits of both hills are 110 to 160 feet above the terrain at the district's boundaries.

The land within the district is not subdivided. Roads or drives are influenced by the natural terrain. Roads generally encircle the base of the hills and scenic drives within the district generally are terraced into the hillsides and follow the natural contours.

The waterworks reservoir is located at the highest point on Jackson Hill. The reservoir and other waterworks structures and buildings relate to one another functionally and are all in close proximity on the crest of Jackson Hill. The building and structures resulting from the WPA-city park development relate to one another by design and materials, which in turn are sympathetic with their mostly natural surroundings within the district.

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The reservoir was originally built in 1892-93 and was stone lined. It was relined and covered with concrete in 1939 (Photograph 3). The circular concrete clear water well No.2 is believed to have been built during the same period as the chemical feed house. The reservoir is a large almost oval-shaped structure which since covered appears to be underground. On the top of the reservoir is a cornerstone (tablet) which lists the date of construction and the city council members at the time of its construction (Photograph 4). The reservoir was abandoned in 1940.

The filter building is a rectangular, one and one-half story, ten-bay brick building of common bond with pilastered walls. The north five bays are believed to be the original portion of the building built in 1899-1900. The south five bays were added by 1915. Original window and door openings have brick segmental arches. Window sills in the north five bays are Georgia marble; those in the south five bays are limestone. Original windows were 6/6 double-hung sash. The east facade was originally symmetrical, with a door in the center bay of each five-bay section and windows in all the other bays. The west facade was the same except the center bay of the north five-bay section has no opening. The composition shingle roof (replaced in late fall 1994) is side gabled. It is a monitor-type roof with two raised, gabled elements centered over each five-bay section at the ridge line. Alterations to the building occurred after 1940.

The chemical feed house is believed to have been built in c.1926-36. It is a small rectangular brick building of common bond with a gabled roof. It is built on concrete piers and has concrete lintels and sills. Openings are boarded.

The WPA-city park building and structures are of the rustic style of architecture, closely associated with Depression-era recreational developments. The building and structures reflect this style in that they are integrated with the landscape and use local materials--especially uncoursed or irregularly coursed rubble stone.

At the time of its construction 1936-37, the community clubhouse was described as a rambling lodge-type building with two clubrooms separated by an open hallway porch. This rectangular building of uncoursed rubble stone has a cross-gabled roof with concave slopes at each end of the building and two exterior, gable-end chimneys of square-cut ashlar, uncoursed or irregularly coursed. The southeast end of the building features a porte-cochere, with square stone pier supports, and there is a partial shed addition at the northwest end.

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The building was remodeled in the early 1960s. At that time, a 40-foot length of the hallway porch wall of the southeast clubroom was removed and the hallway porch was eliminated or enclosed by constructing a wall at either end, giving the building a continuous stone facade on the northeast and southwest sides. The stone removed from the hallway porch wall was used to enclose it at the ends. Roof, windows, and doors were replaced, and in a few cases, new openings may have been made. The interior has several stone fireplaces.

Three road bridges, one with an associated terraced, circular Irish rock garden, and one foot bridge are in the district. All are constructed of uncoursed or irregularly coursed rubble stone.

Considerable Civil War activities occurred within the district relating to the construction and occupation of a fort and other earthworks. Remaining earthworks (trenches) have been roughly mapped and photographed. There has been amateur artifact collecting and digging over the area for many years. Although a great many artifacts have been recovered from the area and some earthworks remain, the district has been seriously disturbed by later activities, most obviously the construction of the waterworks reservoir and filter plant and later terracing and grading for road construction and other possible soil disturbances related the WPA-Rome city park project.

The Jackson Hill area was also the site of several additional waterworks buildings/structures. Research also suggests that the remains or evidence of additional structures/landscape features related to the city park development may exist in the area. There have been no known archaeological investigations within the district, although a professional archaeologist from the State Historic Preservation Office has examined the area on foot and reviewed historical documentation and it is his belief that there is archaeological potential for both the Civil War-era and water-related resources.

The boundary encircles the Jackson Hill area following the outside of Dogwood Drive on the east and north (including the two road bridges), Reservoir Street on the south and southeast, and Vaughn Road and legal boundary lines on the east so as to include only property owned by the City of Rome.

To the south is Turner-McCall Boulevard (U.S. 27, SR 1, and SR 20) and commercial development; to the southeast and east is a public housing development and other residential development. The area west to the

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Oostanaula River (originally projected to be part of the city park project) has undergone considerably more nonhistoric change than the proposed district--changes including construction of Riverside Parkway (originally Tubize Road); use as a city landfill; construction of the Rome Public Works facilities; the construction of ball fields and the duck pond; and the development of Ridge Ferry Park. The area to the north, Blossom Hill, contains Rome's "new" waterworks filter plant, begun in 1940 and expanded in the mid-1950s and later. There was some WPA-era terracing on the south slope of Blossom Hill, adjacent to the proposed district--still a visible feature.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A     B     C     D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**     N/A

A     B     C     D     E     F     G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

Architecture  
Engineering  
Military History  
Politics and Government  
Recreation

**Period of Significance:**

1863-1946

**Significant Dates:**

n/a

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

James F. Lalor, J.W. Green, and William Ludlow-Military Engineers  
L.J. Wagner-City Engineer  
Robert & Company-Engineering and Architectural Firm



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New York Filter Manufacturing Company  
Ledbetter-Johnson  
Antonio J. Cescutti-Stone Mason

**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Jackson Hill Historic District is a unique resource that incorporates three distinct developments which are related only by geography.

In terms of military and engineering the district is significant for the fort site and the earthworks which were constructed on the highest point in the city by the local citizens during the Civil War. The extant trenches are good and unusually intact examples of earthen fortifications. Also unusual, is that these earthworks were a local initiative, not under the Confederacy command.

Significant for architecture and engineering is the Rome Waterworks which was constructed from the 1890s to the 1930s and represents a good and intact example of civic infrastructure built over a period of time to meet the water needs of a growing city.

During the 1930s, the City of Rome approved the effort to develop the Jackson Hill area into a large city park. With funding and labor from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) the project was started and included plans for a large city park with a system of scenic drives, trails, and gardens in proximity to the community clubhouse. Although the original plans were much larger, the existing WPA work is significant in architecture for the intact and good example of a WPA-era community building with its rustic stone construction built under the supervision of master mason Antonio J. Cescutti. It is significant in landscape architecture and recreation for the informal landscaping using the natural terrain, terracing, Irish rock garden, and stone work designed to provide a natural park setting with walking trails, gardens, and woods. It is significant for engineering for the intact system of roads and trails which include stone bridges and walls. All of the WPA work in this area is an excellent example of the WPA-type projects undertaken during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration.

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In the area of politics and government, the Jackson Hill Historic District is significant for the longstanding role that the City of Rome has played in the three developmental periods of this area, as well as for the WPA work which represents the federal government's effort to provide employment and assist local communities during the Depression.

The district may have additional significance in archaeology for the Civil War-era resources and the water-related resources; however, an in-depth archaeological investigation has not been conducted.

**National Register Criteria**

Jackson Hill Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C for its significance in the military, engineering, architectural, political and governmental, recreational and landscaping history of Rome.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

**Period of significance (justification)**

The 1863 date marks the construction of the Civil War earthworks and 1947 marks the 50-year cutoff for historical significance for the waterworks and park resources in continuous use through 1947.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The contributing resources include the intact, historic resources in the Jackson Hill area. They include three buildings (community clubhouse, filter plant, and chemical feed house), one site (Irish rock garden), and twelve structures (4 stone bridges, road beds, 3 water related brick structures, stone terraced ditch, stone walls, Civil War earthworks). The noncontributing resources are all buildings which were built outside the period of significance.

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**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

The western two-thirds of the district lies in lot 236 of the 23rd district, 3rd section of originally Cherokee, now Floyd County. About one-third of the district is in lot 235 and a very small strip at the northern edge of the district is in lot 206.

Lot 236 was drawn in the land lottery of 1832 by James Nelson Franklin of Troupe County. Franklin sold the property to Henry B. Lary, also of Troupe County, in 1834. The lot was sold to Z.B. Hargroves of Cobb County in 1834 and to Jobe Rogers in 1838. A large section of this property was sold to Micajah Hawkins in 1850. The same parcel was purchased by Lewis D. Burwell in 1851. He built a plantation home at the base of the hills on the south and was living on the property in the early 1860s.

Rome's Civil War Fortifications, May 1863 - November 1864

The construction of Rome's fortifications. In early May 1863, Union Colonel Abel D. Streight led a raid through northwest Alabama toward Rome. On the evening of May 2, shortly before the capture of Streight's main force by Confederate cavalry under the command of General Nathan B. Forrest about five miles east of Gaylesville, Alabama, Streight had sent a detachment of 200 ahead to reconnoiter Rome. This advance reached the environs of Rome early on May 3 but later retreated down the Alabama Road where it too was captured by Forrest's advance. General Forrest arrived in Rome with the Union officers on the evening of May 3, and on May 4, the rest of both forces entered the city.

Streight's Raid alerted Rome and Floyd County to its vulnerability, and by May 9, the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* announced a meeting at Rome to be held on May 14 for the purpose of forming a military organization for local defense. On May 14 the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* had the following to say about "The Situation":

It is now known that Rome is seriously threatened with invasion, . . . Rome in her rivers and adjacent hills, possesses advantages for fortifying, which but few cities can boast, and with the same energy that has been displayed in strengthening other places, may be made invulnerable. . . . The Cemetery Hill and the Hill back of Judge Burwell's, could never be taken by assault. In front the rivers could not be

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crossed, while the rear presents gorges through which it would be death of the enemy to pass.

It will be seen before the close of this war, that the safety of Chattanooga and East Tennessee, as well as that of the State Road and Atlanta, will depend on the strength of Rome. The next attempt to take Chattanooga will be in this direction, and nothing will prevent it but such a show of resistance at this point as will prevent the movement or render it abortive.

In this work of fortifying, the citizens must be active and liberal as well as the Government, or it will not be done.

As a result of the meeting on May 14, the citizens of Floyd County organized a "legion" for local defense under the act of the Confederate States Congress approved October 13, 1862. The Floyd Legion consisted of ten companies, with a provision in its regulations for the admission of one or two more. By June 11, 1863, the organization was complete and the legion numbered between four and five hundred. Field officers had been elected and were as follows: Colonel, J.G. Yeiser; Lieutenant Colonel, James Word; and Major, T.W. Alexander.

On June 27, 1863, the City Council of Rome passed a resolution appropriating \$2,000 from the city treasury for the erection of earthworks and fortifications at suitable and proper points in the city and its environs. The council asked the cooperation of the Floyd County Inferior Court and appointed a committee to consult with the court and take into consideration the propriety of employing a skilled and competent military engineer to superintend or at least lay off and plan the defenses. On June 29, after conference with the city council committee, the Inferior Court ordered that the county appropriate a sum not to exceed \$3,000 for fortifications about the city. The court also ordered that a committee be appointed to act in conjunction with Colonel Yeiser and such committee as the city council may appoint in superintending the erection of fortifications and agreed with the suggestion that the work be done under the direction of a competent and experienced military engineer.

In letters to Colonel Yeiser on June 26 and July 1, 1863, Henry C. Wayne, Adjutant and Inspector General to Governor Brown, recommended General Gustavus W. Smith, then associated with the iron works at

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Etowah, as military engineer to aid in planning Rome's defenses. In his letter of July 1, General Wayne stated, "You had better get General Gustavus Smith, now of Etowah, to plan your defenses. He is the best Military Engineer in the Confederacy without exception." (It is not known if General Smith ever came to Rome or assisted in planning the city's defenses.)

On July 10, 1863, *The Rome Weekly Courier* announced that the city was to be fortified at once and that "an experienced and skillful engineer" (not named) was in Rome ready to direct the work. The citizens of Floyd County were asked to furnish laborers, for which they were to be paid, and work on the fortifications began on July 13, 1863. Captain James F. Lalor was the engineer in charge by mid-August, if not from the beginning.

On August 14, 1863, Colonel Yeiser issued several general orders, published in the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* on August 18. Among them were the following:

- V. The Fort in DeSoto, shall be known as Fort At  
ta  
wa  
y.
- VI. The Fort in Hillsboro', (Cemetery [sic] Hill,) shall be known as Fort Stovall.
- VII. The Fort between Rome and Woodville, shall be known as Fort Norton.

The following additional information was provided by the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* on September 12, 1863:

Captain Laulor [sic] has named three of the forts at this place in honor of our gallant dead. Fort Norton to the right and fort Stovall to the left, after Chas. B. Norton and George T. Stovall, of the 8th Ga., who fell at the first battle of Manassas, and fort Attaway in the centre, for Lieut. Thos. D. Attaway, who fell at the second battle of Manassas.

The others have not yet been named.

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Captain Lalor remained in charge of the work on the fortifications at least through October 9, 1863, and probably until November 12 or later.

In mid-November the solely local phase of the construction of Rome's defenses ended, and a new phase began with the involvement of the Confederate government. On November 19, 1863, the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* announced that General Bragg had ordered that Rome's "defenses shall be completed *in proper military style*" and, according to the newspaper, the defenses would be completed under the competent military skill of Brigadier-General Alfred Iverson. The newspaper went on to say the following:

We have already taxed ourselves both as a city and county for the work. But the work to be done will be at Government expense, and not fall upon us. Tools and labor are wanting. Let us furnish them at once. We are informed that 100 hands can do the work in 10 days. If we cannot spare the hands, *let us spare the tools*, and labor will be procured from the troops stationed here.

On December 24, 1863, a circular appeared in the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* by order of General Iverson stating that Captain J.W. Green, Engineer Corps, had been sent to Rome by General Hardee. The notice went on to say that Captain Green was ready to settle claims of citizens for the hire of "negro labor" to work on the fortifications and that he desired to procure as much "negro labor" as possible to speedily complete the defenses. Procuring adequate labor to complete the defenses, however, continued to be a problem. On January 11, 1864, General J. E. Johnston wrote to Governor Brown on the subject of impressing blacks to work on the fortifications of Rome, and on January 18 some twenty men convicted of various crimes by a court martial at Dalton arrived at Rome under guard to serve their sentences at hard labor on the fortifications around the city.

The Floyd Legion was mustered out of service with other regiments and battalions of the Georgia State Guard on or about February 4, 1864, thus completely ending the local phase of Rome's defense. Later in February, Brigadier-General A. Iverson was ordered to Dalton and assigned to command a brigade of Georgia cavalry in Martin's division of Wheeler's corps.

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Through scouting activities, the Union army was aware of the efforts to fortify Rome from just after Streight's Raid. A Union map of Rome compiled under the direction of Captain W.E. Merrill on January 26, 1864, shows Confederate works on a hill on the east bank of the Oostanaula River north of Rome, a line of works on the west bank of the Oostanaula, and works on Cemetery Hill, on the south bank of the Coosa River.

Several Union scout reports from February and March 1864 make note of Brigadier-General John C. Brown's brigade at work on fortifications at Rome. A report dated February 26, 1864, from Brigadier-General Grenville M. Dodge, headquarters Left Wing, Sixteenth Army Corps, at Pulaski, Tennessee, to Brigadier-General John A. Rawlins, Chief of Staff at Nashville, provided information from the reports of a scout sent to Atlanta and Rome. General Dodge gave the following description of the work at Rome:

At Rome General Brown, with a brigade of infantry is at work on fortifications; Captain Green is engineer. Near the bridge over the Oostenaula River, on east side of river, a large fort is being built which commands approach from Alabama on the west. Near it are some 32-pounder guns, not mounted. This line of fortifications, as laid out but only partially built, runs up this river to the mountains north of town and connects with another fort, laid out but not built, that commands the road running in from the north between the two rivers. From this fort four lines of rifle-pits now being worked on run to the Etowah River, some distance above the bridge over this river. Near this bridge a battery is built that covers the bridge and a small village on south side of river called Lick Skillet.

The large fort being built on the east side of the Oostanaula River would have been Fort Norton/Jackson.

The scout reported that 3,000 troops were stationed at Rome but stated that the work did "not look like a vigorous effort to make the place very formidable." Other Union scout reports give contradicting information. One report states that "the rebels are building strong fortifications at Rome," while another states that Brown's brigade was a "very small force, not to exceed 1,500."

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In April 1864, General Sherman, wanting to avoid having to penetrate General Johnston's Rocky Face Ridge defensive lines north of Dalton, considered a wide flanking operation by McPherson's army against Rome through Alabama, while Thomas and Schofield occupied Johnston's attention around Dalton. If McPherson reached Rome, Johnston's railroad would be threatened and he would have to either leave his fortifications and attack northward or retreat deep into Georgia. Johnston, however, anticipated such a plan and moved much of Polk's army into Alabama to shield Rome. On April 24, 1864, Johnston sent the following brief message to the "Commanding Officer, C.S. Army, Rome: Complete the defenses as quickly as possible. Use the labor of the troops. Let the engineers get negroes also if practicable."

By late April circumstances forced Sherman to modify his plan. In early May while Thomas and Schofield stayed near Dalton in an attempt to distract Johnston from his strategy, Sherman sent McPherson south through Snake Creek Gap to try to cut the railroad at Resaca. On May 8 McPherson seized Snake Creek Gap and on May 9 attempted to take possession of the railroad at Resaca. Due to a misunderstanding between Sherman and himself, however, McPherson did not take advantage of his superior force at Resaca and retreated to Snake Creek Gap.

Brigadier-General Henry B. Davidson was given command of Rome on May 8, 1864, by General Johnston. In early May, Rome was the concentration point for General Polk's troops moving from the west to join General Johnston. Polk arrived in Rome on May 10 and departed for Resaca on May 11, shortly after 1:30 p.m. By May 11 much of Polk's corps was at Resaca, and Sherman had ordered his entire army, except one corps, to join McPherson at Snake Creek Gap. On May 12 Johnston realized Sherman had abandoned his position at Rocky Face Ridge and retreated to Resaca. On May 13 the opposing armies took their positions at Resaca.

The Union capture of Rome. On May 14, 1864, as Sherman pressed against Resaca with the main army, he ordered a pontoon bridge to be laid across the Oostanaula River at Lay's Ferry and Sweeny's division to cross and threaten Calhoun. At the same time, he sent General Garrard's division of cavalry from Villanow down the west bank of the Oostanaula River toward Rome, with the idea of crossing the Oostanaula above Rome and cutting the railroad between Calhoun and Kingston.

On May 15 General Garrard ordered Colonel Minty to make a demonstration on Rome to cover an attempted crossing of the Oostanaula River. Minty's brigade met the Confederates strongly posted at



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Farmer's Bridge and, after a sharp skirmish, reportedly pursued them to within three miles of Rome. There he encountered Confederate artillery fire and Brigadier-General W.H. Jackson's division of cavalry, which had arrived at Rome on May 14. Minty retreated to Farmer's Bridge and rejoined Garrard, who had failed to make the crossing. It had been thought that Farmer's Bridge on Armuchee Creek was an Oostanaula River crossing. General Jackson left Brigadier-General Lawrence S. Ross' brigade at Rome and went with his other two brigades to Calhoun.

Early on May 16, still believing that Farmer's Bridge was an Oostanaula crossing, Sherman ordered General Thomas to send a division of infantry down the old Rome road to Farmer's Bridge in support of Garrard's cavalry and to cross the Oostanaula and move toward Kingston until it rejoined its own corps. General Thomas dispatched Brigadier-General Jefferson C. Davis' division, which made a rapid march toward Rome from Resaca. Late in the day, about twelve miles from Rome, Davis learned of Garrard's inability to find a suitable Oostanaula crossing between Lay's Ferry, below Resaca, and Rome and of his returning to Lay's Ferry to cross. Thus placed in a dilemma, Davis continued toward Rome until dark and reported the situation to General Thomas, requesting instructions and that pontoons be sent down that night, if possible. If he did not receive instructions during the night, it was his determination to push for Rome. Davis believed the main objective of his expedition could best be accomplished by continuing to Rome and trying to capture the city and secure the bridge there. Early on the morning of May 17, after receiving no pontoons or instructions, Davis resumed the march toward Rome.

In the meanwhile at Rome, Major-General Samuel G. French had arrived on May 16 with two of his three brigades and soon sent Sears' brigade on by rail to join Johnston's army. On the afternoon of May 17, when about to embark Ector's brigade, French was notified by General H.B. Davidson that a Union force was within two and one-half miles of the city and that Davidson had only 150 men. General French took command in an effort to protect the city and wait for the arrival of Cockrell's brigade from Alabama. He sent Ector's brigade across the Oostanaula River to join General Davidson and placed part of the brigade in the works and threw the rest forward as skirmishers at the crest of the ridge in front. Shortly thereafter, Brigadier-Generals Lawrence S. Ross and John T. Morgan, who had been positioned in the vicinity, arrived with some cavalry, and they were dismounted and placed on the crest of hills to strengthen the skirmishers.

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Colonel John G. Mitchell's brigade had the advance for Davis' division and pushed rapidly forward until within cannon range of the works (fort) on DeSoto Hill, which opened fire. Davis deployed Colonel Daniel McCook's brigade on a commanding ridge to the east of the Summerville road. About 5:00 p.m., the Confederates advanced, and a sharp fight occurred on that front for another ridge in front of the one just taken by McCook. Colonel John G. Mitchell's brigade was deployed on the west side of the road in supporting distance of McCook. Batteries were put into position and opened fire for a few rounds. Brigadier-General James D. Morgan's brigade was massed in reserve during the attack on McCook's brigade, but later Morgan was moved to the west flank with orders to push out skirmishers to the Alabama Road. Morgan reportedly accomplished that objective by dark and formed his brigade on the Alabama Road, close to the Confederate works.

After a brief but sharp fight and with the approach of darkness, the Confederate forces moved back within their works. Davis later reported that "the works looked so strong that I thought it imprudent to storm them hastily, and ordered my troops to hold the positions gained." According to Davis, his lines as then established "completely invested the enemy's works on the west bank of the river, my left being so near the Oostanaula and my right so near the Coosa, as to prevent my flank from being turned from either direction." That night the Union line was entrenched with breastworks and arrangements were made for assaulting the Confederate works early the next morning. Davis reported that most of the fighting had been done by McCook's brigade and a few regiments of Mitchell's and that his loss did not exceed 150. C.S. General Ross reported that the loss of his command during the engagement was fifty killed and wounded. General French reported that Hoskins' battery lost two men and that the total number of killed and wounded was about one hundred.

General French was under instructions to leave Rome and join Johnston's retreating army. During the night, Cockrell's brigade arrived and was sent immediately on to Kingston. Ector's brigade was withdrawn about midnight and arrived in Kingston by 7:00 a.m. A small force under General Davidson was left behind to prolong the resistance in order to remove as much as possible of the public stores. At 8:30 a.m. on May 18, General French sent the following message back to General Davidson: "When you evacuate Rome take all the garrison with you and join us where the Atlanta railroad crosses the Etowah River."

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After a dense fog lifted about 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. on May 18, General Davis ordered that the Confederate works be attacked in front of each brigade with a strong line of skirmishers. The works were soon taken possession of as it was discovered that they had been abandoned during the night except for a skirmish line which retreated across the Oostanaula River, burning the bridges behind them. In describing what happened next, Davis reported that:

A few troops advanced into the works on De Soto Hill were sufficient to draw the enemy's artillery fire from the two formidable field-works, one situated on the east bank of the Oostanaula and the other on the south bank of the Coosa. The works were situated on two high hills, and completely commanded all approaches to them from the opposite side of the river, as well as the works just abandoned by the enemy and now held by us. In order to test the full strength of the enemy, I ordered Barnett's and Gardner's batteries to be put into position on De Soto Hill and to open fire. This was done, and after half an hour's practice the superiority of our batteries was gratifyingly manifested by an almost complete silence of the enemy's guns.

The "formidable field-works . . . situated on the east bank of the Oostanaula" refers to Fort Norton/Jackson and the works "on the south bank of the Coosa" refers to the works on Cemetery Hill, or Fort Stovall. This exchange of cannon fire is the only known involvement of Fort Norton/Jackson in the capture of Rome. The fort would have been abandoned shortly thereafter, and many of the large guns captured at Rome are believed to have been those at Fort Norton/Jackson.

To complete the capture of Rome, it was necessary to have troops cross the Oostanaula River. Because Union and Confederate skirmishers were still engaged across the river near the Oostanaula bridge and pontoons, Davis selected a crossing point above the works, near McCook's left during the engagement of the previous evening. A regiment of McCook's, Colonel Dilworth's 85th Illinois Regiment, was selected and the crossing made on rafts constructed of logs and rails. Dilworth advanced his skirmishers down the east bank of the Oostanaula until his line reached the city and extended to the Etowah River, covering the railroad and all approaches to the city between the rivers. During Dilworth's advance, the Confederate skirmishers retreated across the Etowah River bridge, destroying it behind them.

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Davis was then able to reach the Oostanaula River crossings and secure what remained undestroyed of the bridges. The main bridges were entirely destroyed, but the pontoons were repaired; and within a few hours, the remainder of McCook's brigade was crossed into the city. On taking possession of Rome, Davis sent a message to the Fourteenth Army Corps stating, in part, that "I arrived here last evening and had quite a sharp fight with . . . the enemy just before sunset. . . . They retreated during the night, leaving us in possession of the strongest fortified place I have seen in Dixie."

General Davis reported finding considerable public stores, consisting of quartermaster, commissary, and medical supplies and a large amount of abandoned private property, mostly cotton. Also abandoned and falling into Union hands were three field pieces, five 32-pounder garrison guns, and two 8-inch howitzers. The iron works and machine shops of Noble & Company, used by the Confederate army for ordinance supplies and repairs, were reportedly captured in good condition.

On May 19, in a message to the Chief of Staff, Department of the Cumberland, Davis recommended that Rome be held. In another message on May 20, he stated that "according to my instructions I should now be marching to join the corps, but . . . I do not think the general commanding desires to evacuate this place, leaving all these fortifications and stores subject to fall into the hands of the enemy." On May 21 Davis was ordered to remain at Rome with his entire division until relieved by a brigade from General McPherson's command, and Generals Barry and Corse, of Sherman's staff, visited Rome and made a thorough inspection.

The city continued to be occupied by McCook's brigade, while Morgan's and Mitchell's brigades camped on the west bank of the Oostanaula occupying the works there. Confederate pickets continued to occupy the south bank of the Coosa and Etowah and kept up intervals of skirmish firing. On May 22 Morgan's brigade was crossed on pontoons to the south bank of the Coosa and, driving the Confederate pickets from that front, occupied the works on Cemetery Hill. The following day, Mitchell's brigade and the batteries crossed and bivouacked, preparatory to marching for Dallas. Regarding the capture of Rome, General Sherman reported simply that:

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General Jeff C. Davis had got possession of Rome with its forts, some eight or ten guns of heavy caliber, and its valuable mills and foundries. . . . I left a garrison at Rome . . . , and on the 23d put the army in motion for Dallas. . . . General Davis' division moved directly from Rome for Dallas via Van Wert.

A portion of the "Map Illustrating the Second Epoch of the Atlanta Campaign", taken from *The Official Military Atlas of The Civil War*, shows General Davis' line of march to Rome and lines of Confederate works at Rome similar to those on the Merrill map. A map in the July 2, 1864, issue of *Harper's Weekly*, illustrating General Sherman's advance on Atlanta, shows symbols labeled "rebel fort" at Rome and at Atlanta --the only two such symbols on the map.

Rome was occupied by Union forces for almost six months --from May 18 until November 11, 1864. A panoramic photograph, bearing the caption "Rome, Georgia in 1864," is believed to have been taken during the Union occupation. This photograph was taken from Cemetery (Myrtle) Hill and, at the extreme upper left, provides a view of the hills on the east side of the Oostanaula River. A detail of this area shows that considerable activity had occurred on the first hill --the hill to the right. The west slope of that hill, north of what is believed to be the Judge Lewis D. Burwell House, is cleared and there are what appears to be several buildings at the crest of the hill. A road or cleared line can be seen leading from the first hill onto the second hill.

Rome's fortifications under Union occupation. After Atlanta fell in September 1864, General Hood's plan to threaten Sherman from the rear initiated additional work by Union forces in strengthening Rome's defenses. On September 26 Brigadier-General John M. Corse, commanding the Fourth Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, was ordered to move with two brigades of his division from East Point to Rome, where his other brigade was garrisoned. On September 29 the commanding officer at Rome was relieved and General Corse assumed command. On the same day a telegram was received from General Sherman alerting him that General Hood was crossing the Chattahoochee in the direction of Blue Mountain. Also on that date, General Corse made an urgent requisition for an engineer officer to inspect and improve the defenses around the city. Captain O.M. Poe, Chief Engineer, Engineer Corps, sent Lieutenant William Ludlow to Rome. General Corse began to organize, drill,

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and equip his command for rapid work. He reported that "the lines were sealed against citizens, the earth-works overhauled and new ones commenced."

General Corse reported that at noon on October 4 General Sherman notified him "that Hood was moving on Allatoona, thence to Rome," and shortly thereafter ordered him to move to Allatoona with his whole command. Able to get rail transportation for only three regiments and part of another (1,054 men), Corse departed at 8:30 p.m. for Allatoona. Lieutenant Ludlow, Corps of Engineers, arrived just as the troops were leaving for Allatoona and volunteered as an aide for the expedition.

General Corse arrived at Allatoona at 1:00 a.m. on October 5 to reinforce Lieutenant-Colonel J.E. Tourtellotte, post commandant, with a garrison of 890 men and 6 guns. Later that day, C.S. General Samuel G. French attacked Corse's entrenched forces. Both sides incurred heavy losses, and at 4:00 p.m., General French withdrew and rejoined Hood's army.

General Corse returned to Rome on the evening of October 8, where he discovered that the pontoon bridges across the Etowah and Oostanaula had been swept away by the recent heavy rains and that all force had been withdrawn into the garrison. In this regard, he reported that:

The peninsula, on which the town is located, embraced our depot for supplies and ordnance and the extensive hospitals organized for the Army of the Tennessee, which, at that time, contained about 2,000 patients. All of these were commanded by the eminence to which we gave the name of Cemetery Hill. If Hood was approaching Rome, as was generally supposed, it was important that we should secure this hill and fortify it, as it was the key to the place.

Corse immediately threw an outpost across the Etowah in boats and ordered a pontoon bridge built across the river at that point. By noon on October 9, he was able to put an infantry force onto Cemetery Hill and secure it.

Intelligence reports received by General Corse suggested that Hood's entire army was moving on Rome, and Corse reported that later on October 9,

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General Sherman telegraphed . . . that he felt satisfied that Hood would strike Rome, and directed me to make a stubborn fight behind breast-works; that he would re-enforce me with 50,000 men as quick as they could be marched to Rome. Every ax, shovel, and pick had been early called into requisition, and every preparation made to receive Hood and his army.

By daylight of October 10, it was evident that Hood did not intend to attack Rome. Hood's army crossed the Coosa River on a pontoon bridge near Coosaville, ten miles west of Rome and moved toward Resaca, where it destroyed a section of the railroad.

For most of the remainder of October, General Corse's division was active in supplying Sherman's army and providing military support operations as Sherman pursued Hood through northwest Georgia and into Alabama. During the second half of October, additional work on Rome's fortifications was also undertaken. Lieutenant-Colonel F.J. Hurlbut, commanding the Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, reported that from October 15 to November 1 his "command was occupied in strengthening and adding to the defenses of Rome." Lieutenant-Colonel Hector Perrin, commanding the Seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, reported that his "command was employed to strengthen and add to the defenses of Cemetery Hill."

General Corse reported that on October 28 General Sherman, returning to Atlanta from Alabama, directed him to have his command refitted and to have all the sick and wounded and surplus baggage sent to Chattanooga in preparation for "a long and arduous campaign." After receiving word to prepare for an active campaign, work on the fortifications was slackened.

In preparation for the evacuation, Corse reported that the pontoons were hauled out of the river and piled up to dry for burning. The machinery in foundries and mills was broken and destroyed, and the larger pieces of ordnance, for which transportation could not be procured, were either burst or spiked and the trunnions knocked off. The final order to evacuate Rome came from General Sherman on November 10. General Corse reported that strong guards and patrols were established, all troops were removed from town, and at 10 p.m., the property designated for destruction was in flames. Reubin S. Norton, a Rome citizen, recorded in his journal at 4 p.m. on November 10 that the evacuation had commenced and the quarters

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of the soldiers were burning. Lieutenant-Colonel Perrin reported that he received orders to have his "command in readiness to move at 3:00 p.m., and to destroy the works on Cemetery Hill, which was accomplished." On November 11, Norton recorded that "the firing of buildings commenced last evening at 5 o'clock, by the burning of the Jail, which was followed by the Forts." At daylight on November 11, the Union force was moving toward Kingston, and the Savannah Campaign had been set in motion.

Fort Norton/Fort Jackson. Today, a number of earthworks (trenches), such as the one on the southeast slope of Jackson Hill illustrated in Battey's *History of Rome and Floyd County*, are visible remnants of Rome's once extensive system of Civil War fortifications. Two additional maps directly associate a Civil War fort, Fort Jackson, with the area of the proposed district.

The first map is a Confederate map discovered in the Howell Cobb papers at the University of Georgia's Hargrett Library and published in the August 1989 issue of *Past Times*. General Cobb was a commander of the Georgia State Guard during the Civil War. The date of this map and the mapmaker, however, are unknown. A line of fortifications on the west bank of the Oostanaula River is much the same as that appearing on the Merrill map, and cannon (indicated by tiny symbols) are shown on the hills on the east side of the Oostanaula River north of Rome, on Cemetery Hill, and at various other strategic points about the city. In addition, the words "Fort Jackson" appear along the hills on the east bank of the Oostanaula (at the left of this map).

Because of the discovery of this map in the Howell Cobb papers and other notations on the map, such as "Floyd Legion, Yeiser", it would appear plausible that this map dates from August 1863 to February 1864, the period during which the Georgia State Guard was organized. It has, however, long been believed that Fort Jackson and Fort Norton were one and the same --Fort Jackson being a later name, possibly acquired during Union occupation. This notion has been based to a large extent on the fact that Fort Norton was described by the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* as being between Rome and Woodville (later North Rome) and to the right of Forts Stovall and Attaway and that George M. Battey, Jr., in *A History Of Rome And Floyd County* (1922), stated in describing the capture of Rome that "cannon had been placed on Fort Jackson, . . . , on the top of a high hill in North Rome, then known as Fort Norton." In addition



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to the fact that the origin of the name "Fort Jackson" has not been satisfactorily determined, the Howell Cobb map has created considerable local debate over the naming of the fort which was located within the proposed district.

A second map, an 1877 plan of Mrs. M.B. Burwell's estate appearing in the Floyd county deed records, locates Fort Jackson on that property. The north-south line forming the eastern edge of the property is the land line between lots 236 and 235, 23rd district, 3rd section of originally Cherokee, then Floyd County. Fort Jackson is located on the map just inside of lot 236. Based on this map, information in the associated deed, and deeds to adjacent properties, it appears that Fort Jackson was located on the site upon which the City of Rome would build a large water reservoir in 1892-1893, as part of the city's second waterworks system.

Fort Jackson Reservoir and Filter Plant, Rome Waterworks, 1892-1967

Because of Rome's rapid growth and development in the 1880s, an immediate, permanent supply of water was the city's greatest need by the early 1890s. In his inaugural address to the Rome City Council in April 1892, Mayor Sam S. King, Sr. spoke of the pressing necessity of increasing the city's water supply.

Rome's first waterworks system had been built by the Noble Brothers in 1871. It consisted of a pumping station at the end (foot) of Fourth Avenue, near the railroad and the Etowah River, and a water tower (Rome Clock Tower, National Register) on Public School Hill. By 1892 the old pump, in constant operation for 21 years, was of insufficient capacity for the city's needs. Experimenting had determined that a permanent inexhaustible supply of water could not be obtained from the present well, so increasing the pumping capacity of the old works was not believed to be the solution.

Consequently, the city's Waterworks Committee set to work to formulate plans by which an entirely new waterworks could be built that would furnish Rome with an inexhaustible supply of water for its present and future needs. The plan thus developed called for locating a new pumping station at the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad on the east bank of the Oostanaula River, from which the water was to be taken. Initial plans called for pumping the river water into the existing stand pipe (Rome Clock Tower), but soon the plans were changed to include a new reservoir of much

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greater capacity on Fort Jackson Hill, one-half mile to the southeast.

On September 26, 1892, the mayor and council instructed the Waterworks Committee to proceed to construct the new waterworks at once. Land totaling approximately eight and one-half acres was purchased on October 27 and November 1, 1892, by the city for the location of the new reservoir and for access to the site on Fort Jackson Hill.

Construction of the new system occurred mostly in 1893 with City Engineer Louis J. Wagner in charge. At a City Council meeting on March 21, 1894, it was decided that the opening of the new waterworks would be celebrated in a public manner on March 29, 1894. In its April 2, 1894, edition, *The Hustler of Rome* declared the occasion to have been "a red letter day in the history of the town."

From the opening of the new waterworks in 1894 and for several decades thereafter, the new reservoir was repeatedly referred to as "the Fort Jackson reservoir," or "the reservoir on Fort Jackson," and in a brief description of the city's waterworks in "Remarkable Rome, Illustrated," a December 1911 supplement of the *Rome Tribune-Herald*, it was referred to as "the reservoir on the brow of historic Fort Jackson." As late as 1940, the reservoir was referred to as being "on Fort Jackson hill."

The analysis of the Oostanaula River water obtained by the Waterworks Committee during the early planning for the new system recommended filtration of the raw river water --by the usual settling and alum process-- before pumping it into the city's mains. Rome's new waterworks did not, however, include a filtration system; and in less than four months, community pride turned into a public outcry for clear water.

The problem of muddy, raw river water remained unresolved for the next four years. In April 1898, incoming Mayor John J. Seay recommended that a filter plant be established at once. Then, on May 22, 1899, after more than a year of investigation and deliberation by the City Council, the Water Commission, the Waterworks Committee, and a "special filter committee," the city council authorized the Waterworks Committee to advertise for bids for a filter which would clarify one and one-half million gallons

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of water per day. On July 31, 1899, the city's Waterworks Committee recommended that the proposal presented by the New York Filter Manufacturing Company for the erection of a filter plant for \$20,000 be accepted. The following day the City Council accepted the proposal and ordered the mayor and chairman of the Water Commission to execute a contract.

A brick filter plant and clear water well (No.1) were constructed between August 1899 and January 1900; and on January 27, 1900, the filter plant was put into operation. It was operated on a trial basis for four months by the New York Filter Manufacturing Company. On May 28, 1900, the City Council ordered that The Water Commission and the Waterworks Committee of the City of Rome be authorized to accept the new filter plant from the New York Filter Manufacturing Company in accordance with the terms of the contract.

By 1915 the filter building had been enlarged to twice its original size. A 1915 Sanborn map of the filter plant shows the filter building already to have been enlarged and to contain seven filters. According to Battey's *History of Rome and Floyd County* (1922), the plant had seven filters and one 500,000-gallon clear water well. The only known historic photograph of the filter building and clear water well is an illustration from Battey's history. A 1926 Sanborn map of the filter plant shows little change from the 1915 Sanborn map. Sometime between the mid-1920s and the mid-1930s, a second clear water well (No.2) was constructed to the south of clear well No.1.

In 1933 Rome city officials asked the federal government to approve a project of \$300,000 to construct a new water filter plant. By 1937 the request had not been approved, and much of the filter plant and the equipment was outdated and in deteriorating condition. The plant was operating at full capacity to treat three million gallons of water daily. To protect the public health and to provide adequate capacity for emergencies and future demand, a new filter system of much greater capacity was deemed absolutely necessary.

A May 1937 plat plan by Robert and Company shows the filter plant in considerable detail. At that time the filter plant consisted of the following: (1) the large reservoir or coagulation basin; (2) a chemical feed house and mixing chamber; (3) the filter building, with nine wood filter tubs; (4) a chlorinator house; (5) one 635,000-gallon clear well and one 370,000-gallon clear well; and

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(6) three small frame buildings --two chemical storage buildings and one office.

In June 1938 Rome was awarded a PWA grant for waterworks improvements, and shortly thereafter construction of a new filter plant with a capacity of six million gallons per day began on nearby Blossom Hill. Robert and Company was the engineering firm in charge of the project. The waterworks improvements included relining and covering the old reservoir on Fort Jackson Hill to be used as part of the new system. On October 20, 1938, the Rome City Commission accepted the bid of Ledbetter-Johnson, contractors, in the amount of \$10,795 for the improvements to the old reservoir. In late February 1940, Rome's water supply was switched from the old filter plant to the new system. Water leaving the new filters was post-chlorinated on its way to a new one million-gallon clear well and then pumped into the refurbished old reservoir on Fort Jackson Hill --25 feet higher. From there it flowed into the city's labyrinth of distribution pipes.

The old reservoir continued to be used until 1967, when a new four million-gallon water storage tank was built on Blossom Hill. In c.1941-42 the filters and equipment were removed from the filter building and most of the windows and doors were enclosed because of vandalism. About the same time, the chlorinator house and the above-ground portion of clear well No.1, directly east of the filter building, were demolished and the clear well filled in. The filter building has since been used by the city for storage. Today, the covered reservoir, the brick filter building, the No.2 clear water well, and the brick chemical feed house are the buildings and structures that remain on Jackson Hill.

WPA - Rome City Park, 1935-Present

On April 1, 1935, a committee from the Rome Chamber of Commerce informed the Rome City Commission that it had been brought out at a Chamber of Commerce directors' meeting that large amounts of money would be available in Georgia through the new Public Works Program and recommended that the city and county appoint committees to investigate various projects and attempt to secure some of these funds. The public works program would provide financial assistance to local governments for projects such as road construction, bridges, schools, waterworks, street paving, parks, and park facilities. The Rome City Commission authorized a committee of three to cooperate in this matter.

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One of the projects selected was a 200-acre city park to be located just off West Seventh Avenue and the Oostanaula River Road, extending eastward to include Fort Jackson Hill. It was to be a joint project between the WPA and the City of Rome. *The Rome News Tribune* called it one of the outstanding PWA projects in the State of Georgia. The park plans called for a golf course, six permanent top tennis courts, six shuffle board courts, three permanent buildings, a lake for various water activities, an amphitheater, juvenile playground apparatus, picnic grounds, Irish and rock gardens, and many scenic driveways. The park was to serve as the center of Rome's large recreational program and was to encompass features for relaxation and recreation to suit all classes and ages of people.

The proposed 30-acre lake was to be located along the naturally low part of the creek valley (Burwell Creek) to the east of the river road. Therefore, only a part of the area covered by the lake would have to be excavated. At the northwest end of the lake there was to be a "South Sea Tropical Isle" covered by a mixture of sand and white marble dust and abundant shrubbery, including palm trees and willows. The banks of the lake were designed to slope gently down to the water and to vary from heavy shrubbery to stretches of sandy beaches. To the west of the lake's southwest border would be constructed the municipal golf course. From the northeast border would stretch the larger portion of the 200-acre park which would include playgrounds, clubhouses, gardens, and scenic drives.

Among the many structures planned were the scenic drives which were to reproduce typical sections of the entire South. The drives traversing the hilly sections were to be reminiscent of Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and other mountainous sections. The lower drives were to typify the flat coastal sections of Georgia and Florida. From the higher points on the drive, one would be able to view the whole City of Rome and miles of surrounding territory along the river valleys.

The main building according to the plans was to be the community clubhouse. This was to be a single story, rambling lodge-type building constructed of local stone and was to have a tile roof with steel trusses. The two club rooms and hallway porch in the clubhouse were designed so that they could be used for fair purposes, flower shows, community bridge tournaments, dances, and other civic gatherings. Plans also called for a golf clubhouse

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which was to be of single story brick construction of colonial design, housing the club room, showers, lockers, boiler room, and workshop. Plans for a third building, a caretaker's cottage, called for a six-room, single story building of native stone, with the interior to be of conventional dwelling house design.

Landscaping plans called for the major portion of construction materials, plants and trees to be of native origin. Most of the drainage structures were to be of native stone and were said to be of outstanding design, reflecting European type masonry worked in harmoniously. Lawn and park furniture for the picnic grounds was to be of permanent, immovable seats and tables constructed of stone and reinforced concrete. In the planting and selection of flowers and shrubbery for the gardens, it was planned to call upon the various local garden clubs to cooperate.

Due to its magnitude, the project was expected to require about three and one-half years for completion and maximum results, but the city planned for the park to be opened to the public in 1937. Rome City Manager O.M. Lanham believed the large 200-acre park would be one of the finest in the South and would compare favorably with any other big parks in Eastern metropolitan cities. The ultimate cost was expected to reach approximately \$250,000.

On September 16, 1935, the Rome City Commission approved the purchase of the necessary property for the park. This land would cost the city approximately \$12,745 and material was expected to cost the city no more than \$15,000 the first year. The WPA would pay for labor and part of the materials.

Work on the project began in late 1935. A copy of a portion of an aerial photograph taken during the flood of February 7, 1936, and just after a 5-inch snowfall shows the Jackson Hill area a short time after the project began. By March 11, 1936, the first step in the completion of the city's municipal park was made --the completion of a stone archway at the Seventh Avenue entrance. Also by that time, roads and stone bridges were under construction and laborers also had started work on terracing the hillsides. City Manger O.M. Lanham announced that the recent flood did very little damage to the project and that he had closed a deal for a gasoline shovel to be used in pulling down some of the heavier terraces in the building of roadways and walkways. Most of this work, however, was done with pick and shovel and slip scrapes pulled by mules.

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By August 1936, the scenic driveways through the project had begun to take shape, and the Irish gardens, rock gardens, and other structural work was being completed. Excavation on the lake began in September 1936 using two gasoline shovels, and by late September, the northwest end was beginning to take form. Work on the dam and spillway at the southeast end of the lake, to the east of the bridge on the river road, was almost completed.

The WPA Collection at The University of Georgia's Hargrett Library contains two 1936 photographs of the Rome city park project. One photograph shows the community clubhouse building under construction. The second photograph, bearing the caption "Native Stone Bridge and Pool," shows one of the still existing stone structures built in 1936.

Antonio J. Cescutti was the overseer for the stone work at the park. A native of Udine Italy, Cescutti came to the United States in 1904. In 1912 his wife, Caterina, and son, Ettore, joined him and they settled in Atlanta. Working primarily in the Southeast as a Master Mason in the brick and stone masonry trade, Cescutti worked on such projects as the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina, the Reynolds House on Sapelo Island, and the Spalding House in Atlanta. Antonio Cescutti can be seen in a November 1912 photograph bearing the caption "The men who are building the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, N.C.," an illustration from *Built for the Ages: A History of the Grove Park Inn*.

Henry Ford was a frequent visitor to the Grove Park Inn, and it is believed it was there that he learned of Cescutti's skills and hired him as Master Mason to build the Ford Buildings (1925-31) at Berry College in Rome. Cescutti hired many of the men who worked for him at Berry for work on the city park project, among them Ettore Cescutti, Romano Paqura, Tony Colello, and Tommy Fielder.

W.L. "Cotton" Duke contracted with Cescutti to haul the stone for the park project. According to Duke, the field stone for the clubhouse and one road bridge --the bridge on Dogwood Drive at Vaughn Road-- came from the Cooper Farm, as it was then know, about seven miles west of Rome. The owner sold his stone pasture fence for which he was paid \$1.25 per cubic yard of stone. The cobblestone used to build the other road bridge and rock garden (pool) and the foot bridge came from Spring Creek, east of Rome near what is now U.S. 411.

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By the end of 1936, the city-WPA municipal park was well underway. The clubhouse was approximately 60 percent complete and all materials to be supplied by the city had been purchased and stored. The tile and roofing materials, including steel trusses, furnished by the WPA, were stored at the construction site. The main bulk of excavation work on the scenic driveways through the park had been completed. Structural portions of several terraced gardens had been completed and several acres of sodding had been done. Approximately 60 additional working days with dragline equipment was needed to complete excavations for the 30-acre lake, for which the spillway had already been completed.

On January 4, 1937, a new city administration took office, with only one commissioner returning from the previous administration. O.M. Lanham, a major proponent of the park project, was replaced as City Manager by Sam S. King, Jr.

At the second meeting of the new Commission on January 19, 1937, it was announced that construction of the park clubhouse had been ordered stopped by WPA officials until the city submitted a full detailed plan for the building to be checked by federal officials. City Manager King stated that there were no plans in his office for the clubhouse, but that plans could be drawn for the building so that it could be completed, since all materials had already been purchased. At the same meeting, the Commission voted to stop rent payments for the two draglines used in excavating the park lake and asked the City Manager to make a report at the next meeting relative to the running monthly cost to the city of work on the municipal park and the estimated total cost of the project.

At the February 1, 1937, Rome City Commission meeting, City Manager King reported that a total of \$40,600.82 had been spent by the city alone on construction of the park. He estimated that it would take about \$18,994.14 to complete the clubhouse, tennis and shuffle board courts, roads, skating rink, and swimming pool planned at the park. King also reported that construction plans for the clubhouse had been submitted by the city and approved by WPA officials. The Commission discussed what to do with the vast, partially completed recreational center planned under the previous city administration. The general park problem, however, was tossed by the Commission to the Finance Committee for investigation. It was suggested that this committee confer with committees from various civic clubs in the city on the advisability of completing the municipal park.



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Members of the Commission expressed a belief that public sentiment on the park problem should be ascertained before final action was taken in regard to completion of the work.

On February 2, 1937, work was resumed on the community clubhouse at the park. By the end of February, the clubhouse was nearing completion and work was progressing on the driveways throughout the project. On February 27, 1937, City Manager King indicated that the tennis courts, shuffle board courts, and playground planned for the park would also probably be completed, but that the proposed municipal golf course and lake probably would not be completed.

Definite abandonment of a major part of the city park project was decided by the Rome City Commission on October 18, 1937, when it voted to sell back to the Tubize - Chatillon Corporation an 82-acre farm tract which had been purchased from the corporation by the previous city administration to be used for the park development. The city retained ownership of the remaining park tract, which included the completed clubhouse.

A January/July 1938 map by C.H. Gilmour, civil engineer, shows the city park area shortly after the golf course and lake portion of the project was abandoned by the city. Notice that what is now Dogwood Drive was then named Lake View Drive in anticipation of the construction of the lake along Burwell Creek, just west of the road. An aerial photograph taken during the flood of April 10, 1938, by Jack C. Lester, provides a view of the Jackson Hill area. A photographic copy of that portion of the Lester photograph provides some valuable information about the general landscape characteristics of the proposed district at that time.

A map of public properties from the *Comprehensive Plan for the City of Rome and Floyd County, 1948*, by George W. Simons, Jr. shows the city park tract as it existed at that time. Riverside Parkway (originally Tubize Road) had been constructed through the area once planned for the park lake and golf course. In c.1956 Turner-McCall Boulevard (U.S. 27, SR 1, SR 20) was constructed through the southern extremities of the park tract, resulting in the destruction of the stone arch at the Seventh Avenue entrance and the realignment of the entrance road (Reservoir Street) slightly to the north. The duck pond just north of Reservoir Street and between Riverside Parkway and Dogwood Drive was constructed in the 1960s.

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The system of scenic drives constructed in 1935-37 remains intact today. Although much of the road system is abandoned and overgrown, the road beds still can be identified. Also still existing is the only completed permanent building from the park project --the stone community clubhouse. It was remodeled in the 1960s as the Rome Civic Center. Three stone bridges also remain --one foot bridge and two road bridges along Dogwood Drive (originally Lake View Drive). One of these structures includes a circular, terraced pool/garden. Contemporary newspaper articles about the project refer to Irish and rock gardens and indicate that the structural portions of several terraced gardens were completed. This pool/garden is the only such structure/feature known to exist.

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Recent History of Fort Norton/Jackson Hill

From the mid-1940s until the 1960s, the proposed district functioned, with minimal improvements, as the Rome City Park. During the 1960s, a stone water cascade, located behind the later Convention Bureau Building, was constructed; and the park clubhouse was renovated as the Rome Civic Center. In 1967 the old, refurbished reservoir on Jackson Hill, a part of the city's new waterworks system since 1940, was abandoned. About a year later, a highly publicized assault incident in the park resulted in its closing, except for the area around the Civic Center. North of that area, only the road to the waterworks on Jackson Hill was maintained by the city for access to the filter building, which continued to be used as a storage facility. During the 1970s, the other noncontributing buildings, structures, and objects in the Civic Center area, including the Rome Municipal Office Building, were constructed or moved to the site.

The portion of the district north of the Rome Municipal Office Building has generally remained closed to the public, and the drives and trails have become overgrown. In 1994, after a Georgia Civil War Commission meeting in Rome, the Roman Legion, a local re-enactment group, initiated research on the area and a campaign to raise public awareness. With the cooperation of the city, a portion of one of the drives behind the Rome Municipal Office Building was reopened; and the Roman Legion has conducted several tours and living history demonstrations on the site. On August 15, 1994, the Rome City Commission unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Roman Legion's efforts to have the district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The city has come to realize the potential value of the Jackson Hill area and has begun to discuss plans for its redevelopment. In 1995 the city expended \$75,000 for stabilization work on the old filter building on Jackson Hill, and plans to construct a senior citizens center within proposed district boundaries were changed by the selection of a new site for the project.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Latham, Dan. "Jackson Hill Historic District," Historic Property Information Form, December 1995. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- ( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ( ) previously listed in the National Register
- ( ) previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ( ) designated a National Historic Landmark
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Approximately 53 acres.

### **UTM References**

- A) Zone 16 Easting 668940 Northing 3793180
- B) Zone 16 Easting 669330 Northing 3793160
- C) Zone 16 Easting 669030 Northing 3792310
- D) Zone 16 Easting 668650 Northing 3792430

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The Jackson Hill Historic District includes the historic, intact resources as indicated on the enclosed map with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

## Boundary Justification

The Jackson Hill Historic District includes the historic, intact, contiguous resources owned by the City of Rome and associated with the Civil War, water works, and WPA developments in the Jackson Hill area. Due to the hilly terrain of the district, the boundary generally follows road beds and topographical lines which define the hills.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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**name/title** Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth St., NW  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** 3/17/97

### Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)

**name/title** Dan Latham, Preservation Planner  
Gilbert Smith, Rome Resident  
**organization** Coosa Valley Regional Development Center  
**street and number** P.O. Box 1793  
**city or town** Rome **state** Georgia **zip code** 30163-1001  
**telephone** (706)295-6485

- consultant  
 regional development center preservation planner  
 other:

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Jackson Hill Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Rome  
**County:** Floyd  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** December 1997

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 14: Filter Plant; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 14: Stonework and northeast corner of Filter Plant; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 14: Underground Water Reservoir; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 14: Cornerstone on Underground Water Reservoir; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 14: Chemical Feed House and side of underground water reservoir; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 14: Round Water Tank; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 14: Trenchwork; photographer facing south.
- 8 of 14: Trenchwork; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 14: Roadbed; photographer facing north.
- 10 of 14: Trenchwork; photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 14: Community House; photographer facing north.
- 12 of 14: Community House; photographer facing north.

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Photographs

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13 of 14: Irish Rock Garden and Stone Bridge; photographer facing northeast.

14 of 14: Stone Bridge; photographer facing northwest.