

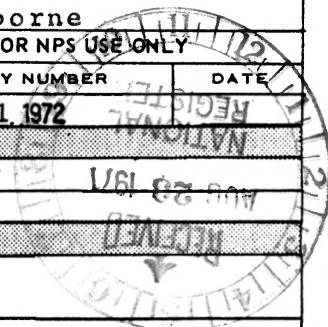


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 11 1972	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Grand Gulf Military State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Grand Gulf, approximately 6 miles west of Port Gibson

STATE:

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY:

Claiborne

CODE

021

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: William C. Wright

DATE OF PHOTO: July 23, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History
Post Office Box 571, Jackson, Mississippi 39205

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

(1)

Site of town of Grand Gulf in foreground, Mississippi River
in background, looking west.

SITE OF HOT SHOT FURNACE

When General John S. Bowen's troops moved to Grand Gulf in March 1863, they had to cope with the ocean-going warships of Admiral David G. Farragut. Knowing that these ships were made of wood, the Confederates determined to use hot shot against them. Two hot shot furnaces were constructed -- one at Fort Coburn, the other at Fort Wade. The Confederates had only two guns capable of throwing heavy round shot, so General Bowen had his gunners fill the projectiles for their rifled guns with either clay or brick dust.

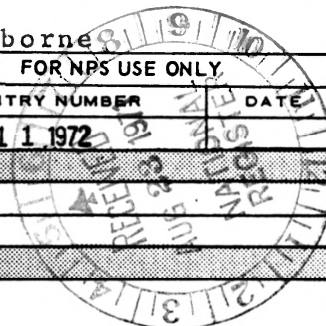
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Marker: Fort Cobun, looking north.			

2.

FORT WADE

On a shelf overlooking the charred ruins of Grand Gulf the Confederate engineers built Fort Wade. Guibor's and Wade's Missouri Batteries manned its four big guns. When Admiral David G. Farragut's squadron passed Grand Gulf on March 31, the guns of Fort Wade roared into action. General John S. Bowen, the Confederate commander at Grand Gulf, had a narrow escape when one of the 20-pounder Parrott's burst as he entered the emplacement.

On April 29, four of Admiral David D. Porter's "City Series" ironclads came down river, and took position one-fourth of a mile from Fort Wade. A terrible artillery duel ensued. They were joined by the mighty "Lafayette". Fort Wade was smothered by the storm of shot and shell delivered by the five gunboats. Two 32-pounder rifles were dismantled, and the parapet knocked to pieces. Colonel William Wade had his head torn off.

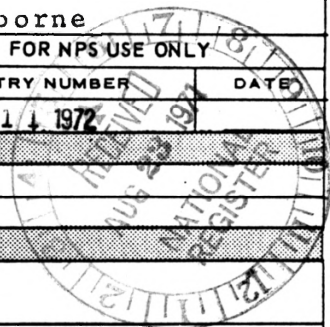
By 11 A. M. Fort Wade had been silenced and Porter's entire squadron concentrated its fire on Fort Cobun.

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(3) Marker: Fort Wade, looking southwest.			



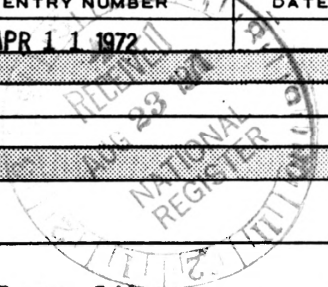
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④

Original site of "Gulf" in background, taken from Lookout Tower, looking northwest.



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5 Museum and 10 pounder parrott rifle with limber, looking southwest.			

FORT COBUN

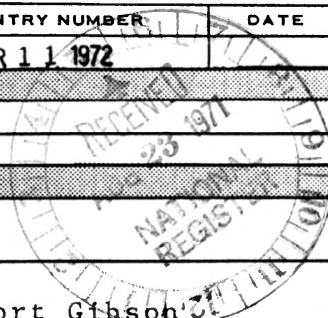
On a ledge 40 feet above the Mississippi, the Confederates in March, 1863, laid out Fort Cobun. Protected by a parapet nearly 40 feet thick were four big guns manned by Company A, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery. The guns of Fort Cobun under command of Captain John D. Grayson fired their first hostile shots on March 31 at Admiral David G. Farragut's squadron as it passed down river. On April 29, seven of Admiral David D. Porter's gunboats attacked the Grand Gulf fortifications. For more than five hours, the Union ironclads and the guns of Fort Cobun duelled. The Confederate artillery disabled the "Tuscumbia". Unable to knock out the Confederate guns, the Union gunboats broke off the bombardment. Following the occupation of Grand Gulf, Admiral Porter said, "Grand Gulf is the strongest place on the Mississippi."

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6. Marker: Fort Cobun, looking north.			

GRAND GULF STATE PARK

GRAND GULF MILITARY STATE PARK CONSISTING OF 104 ACRES, CREATED BY ACT OF MISSISSIPPI STATE LEGISLATURE 1958. VISIT OUR MUSEUM, BATTLEFIELD, LOOK-OUT TOWER, CONFEDERATE RIFLE PITS, FIELD FORTIFICATIONS, FORT WADE, FORT COBUN, ANTEBELLUM HOUSE, OLD GRAND GULF CEMETERY, OLD GRAND GULF JAIL, AND MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

TOWN OF GRAND GULF NEARBY WAS A FLOURISHING TOWN ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN THE 1830's AND 1840's. ABOUT 1857 THE RIVER MOVED IN ENGLUFING 55 CITY BLOCKS BY 1860 THE POPULATION WAS 158. IN 1837 IT HAD BEEN OVER 1000. IN 1860 THE RIVER WAS 250 YARDS WEST OF THE PARK.

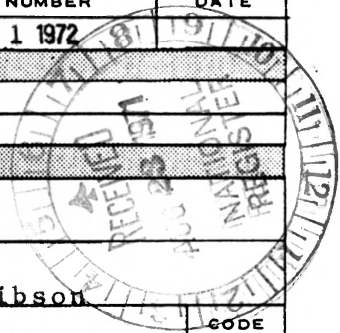


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7

Marker: Entrance to park, looking north.

POINT OF ROCK

In 1863 Point of Rock jutted far above the swirling waters of the Mississippi. Before the Civil War there was a large house with extensive gardens on top of Point of Rock. Before Brigadier General John S. Bowen's troops were ordered to Grand Gulf in March 1863, the dwelling had been burned.

One could see up and down the river for miles from the top of Point of Rock. Bowen chose this point for his observation station, from which he and his officers anxiously watched the powerful Union buildup at Hard Times.

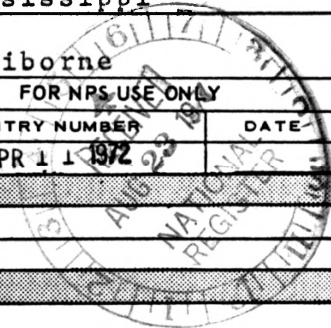
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⑧

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