

PH0355801

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
OCT 12 1976	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	APR 11 1977

# 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

\*

Battery Williams

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Williams

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest corner Fulton Drive at Southern Railroad

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Corinth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE  
28

COUNTY  
Alcorn

CODE

## 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

Corinth Brick and Tile Company, Inc., Mr. Ernest Fowler, President

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Corinth

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Alcorn County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Corinth

STATE

Mississippi

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Battery Williams is the best preserved of Corinth's Federal fortifications. Much of the earthwork remains today. Its construction was typical of the other forts in Corinth, being basically earthen walls thrown against gabions. The railroad cut on the north side provided a natural escarpment, and to the west, south, and east, approaches were protected by abatis made by felled trees with branches pointing away from the fort.

A present-day brick company has altered a minor portion of the south side with the construction of a road, but the major, and most significant portion of the fort is virtually undisturbed.

# 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 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

October 3-4, 1862

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

---

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After the Battle of Iuka, September 19, 1862, Major General (Provisional Army) Sterling Price moved to Ripley, Mississippi, where he was joined by General Earl Van Dorn, C. S. A. Van Dorn had devised a plan to attack the Federal garrison at Corinth under the command of Major General William S. Rosecrans, who had about 23,000 men at Corinth and at least 25,000 Federal troops stationed at Bolivar, Memphis, and Jackson, Tennessee. Van Dorn, with his 22,000 troops, hoped to make a successful attack on Rosecrans, capture the vast Federal supplies, and take possession of the railroads, before Rosecrans could be reinforced from these other garrisons. This battle for possession of Corinth was probably the best example in the Civil War of the value of a good interior line system.

When the Federal scouts discovered Van Dorn's movement north from Ripley on September 29, they had no way of knowing which of the four garrisons was the objective. Van Dorn turned east from Pocahontas and, on the morning of October 3, began sharp skirmishing with the Federal outposts along the Chewalla Road northeast of Corinth. By the end of the day Van Dorn and Price had successfully forced the Federals into their last line of defense within Corinth, but darkness, thirst, and exhaustion forced a halt to the fighting for the day. Van Dorn would later have charges brought against him by Brigadier General John S. Bowen because he did not press the advantage of the last few minutes of daylight and of the night, if necessary.

Major General Ulysses S. Grant had ordered reinforcements to Corinth as soon as he learned of the attack. Major General James B. McPherson arrived in Corinth from Jackson, Tennessee, about two hours before the fighting ended on the third. Major General Edward O. C. Ord was also at this time approaching with some 6,500 fresh troops from Bolivar, Tennessee. They would not, however, arrive in time to participate in the action at Corinth, but would encounter the Confederates on October 5 at Hatchie Bridge.

During the early morning hours of October 4, after Van Dorn and Price planned their objective for the day, the Confederates occupied positions within musket range of the Federal line. Van Dorn was to attack the redoubts on the west, while Price's men were to launch a frontal attack against the line extending from Battery Robinett on the west to Battery Powell on the north. Shortly before daylight the artillery were at work. When the Confederate batteries ceased firing, their infantry quickly launched an attack. Price's men overran their objective, and entered the streets of Corinth. Van Dorn's attack, centered on Battery Robinett, was having a hard time. Battery Williams,

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Battle of Corinth, McKean Papers.

United States. War Department. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Ser. 1, vol. 17, pt. 2. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

UTM REFERENCES

A 360-550  

1	6	3	5	9	5	6	2	3	8	6	6	6	0	2
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B														
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C														
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D														
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

September 30, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

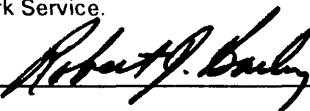
NATIONAL xx

STATE xx

LOCAL xx

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



TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

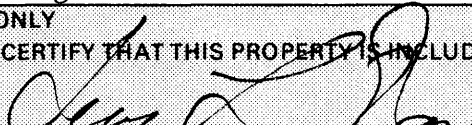
DATE

September 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF



DATE

4/11/97

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:



DATE

3-18-73

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 12 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 11 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

named for Captain George A. Williams, 1st U.S. Infantry, was the major cause of Van Dorn's failure to capture Battery Robinett. Williams was situated south of Memphis & Charleston Railroad and slightly southeast of Robinett. Its armament consisted of at least five 30-pounder Parrott rifles and one eight-inch siege gun, and it was supported by infantry. The position of Williams, in relation to Robinett, allowed its gunners a clear field of fire to the west and east. Even the elevation of Williams afforded the advantage of allowing its men to fire over Robinett against the attackers from the north. Several shells, exploding among the Confederates on the very walls of Robinett, sent them reeling back beneath the embankments for protection. Inability to take the western redoubts forced Van Dorn to order a withdrawal across the Hatchie River.