Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

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

EXCLUSION		s – complete app	plicable sections)		AUG 3 0 197	4	
<u> </u>	NAME COMMON:						
	Federal Fortificat	ions along B	Bear Creek		. s . "		
	AND/OR HISTORIC:	-					
20000	Grant's outer line						5
2,	LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER:						
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	CITY OR TOWN:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u></u>	<u> </u>	J		~· ~· ~·
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	Site Structure	∑ Private □ Both	Being Con		▼ Unoccupied ▼ Domesting ▼ Domesting	Unrestr	
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		-	Private Residence Religious		Other (Specify) See farm		
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	OWNER'S NAME:						[]
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	Vicksburg			Missis	sippi	28	-
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CONDITION	X Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed							
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	Alter	ed	▼ Unaltered		Moved	🔯 Original Site							

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

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

broken glass and discarded equipment remains.

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



RIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
ECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1863		
AS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	•
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic of Tab.	Industry		egnation in chiano
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	2702 40 600 C
Architecture	Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	_
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	X Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	-

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Near the confluence of Bear Creek and the Big Black River, Federal troops constructed extensive fortifications during the summer of 1863. These earth works were the northeast salient of a nearly thirty-mile chain of fortifications running east from Haynes' Bluff on the Yazoo River to these fortifications and then south along the Big Black River to the railroad bridge.

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

General Joseph E. Johnston east of the Big Black.

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

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

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

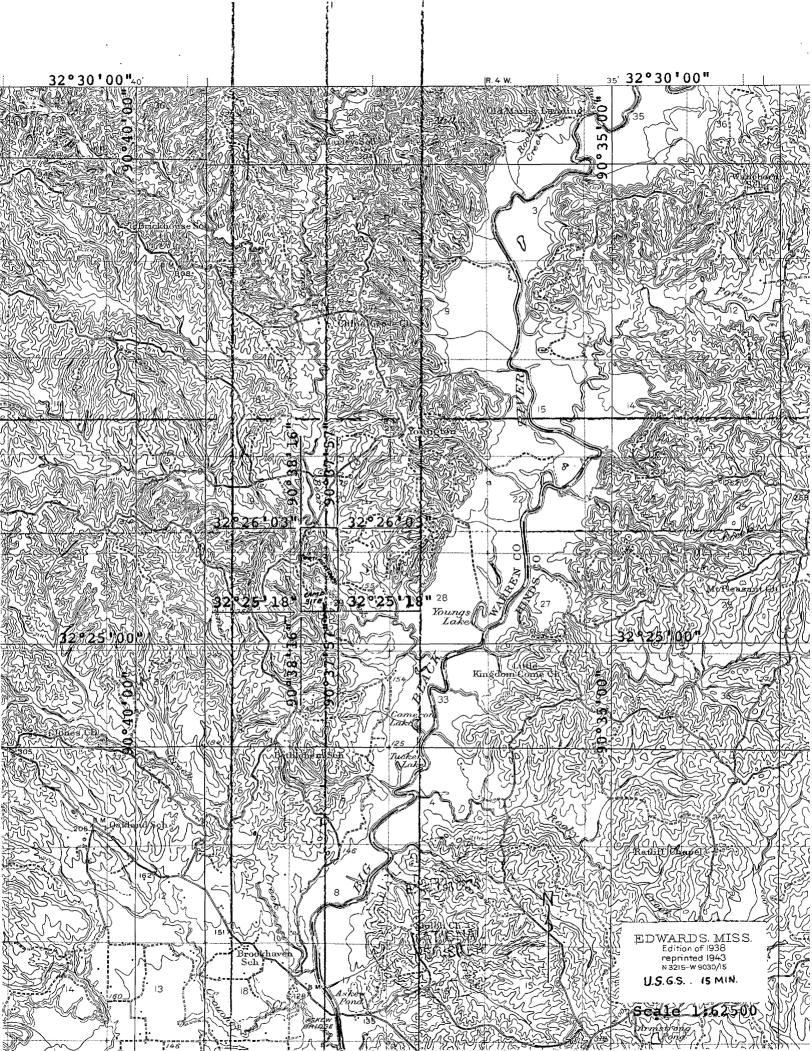
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Bearss, Edwin C., <u>Decision in Mississippi</u>, (Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi Commission on the War Between the States, 1962).

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

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA									
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11. FORM PREPARED BY									
William C. Wright, Historian									
Mississippi Department of Archives	and	History 4-5-74							
P. O. Box 571									
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE						
Jackson		Mississippi 39205	28						
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION							
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na		I hereby certify that this property is included in the							
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public La	aw								
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusi	ion	National Register.	•						
in the National Register and certify that it has bee	n	00							
evaluated according to the criteria and procedures	set	ARMADE SOULA	•						
forth by the National Park Service. The recommend	ded	_ W/ Worldes							
level of significance of this nomination is:		Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Prese	tvation						
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Form No. 10-301 Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
Mississippi	,
COUNTY	
Warren	ì
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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1. NAME	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
COMMON: Federal Fortifications along Bear Creek AND/OR HISTORIC: Grant's outer line	<u>' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' </u>
2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER:	
Section 29, Range 4 W., Township 7 N.	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE: CODE COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi 28 Warre	en 149
3. MAP REFERENCE	
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scale: 15 minute, 1: 62500	PENEURI XX
DATE: 1938	/ ILLIIVI I VIOL
4. REQUIREMENTS	APR 1 6 19/4
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