

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **DEC 29 1975**  
DATE ENTERED **MAY 6 1976**

## 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 *wh*  
**Fort #5**

AND/OR COMMON

*Confederate Breastwork*

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*West of Phenix*

*Opelika Highway (at intersection of U.S. 80 & 431)*

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

*Phenix City*

--- VICINITY OF

*003*

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

*Alabama*

*01*

*Russell*

*113*

### 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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: *No curren*

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

*Phenix City Board of Education*

STREET & NUMBER

*1212 Ninth Avenue*

CITY, TOWN

*Phenix City*

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

*Alabama*

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

*Russell County Courthouse*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

*Phenix City*

STATE

*Alabama*

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

*Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage*

DATE

*August 20, 1975*

--- FEDERAL  STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

*Alabama Historical Commission*

CITY, TOWN

*Montgomery,*

STATE

*Alabama*

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

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

Fort #5 is almost completely intact as originally built in 1863. Archaeologist estimate an erosion of approximately four inches.

Located atop a 475 foot hill the breastwork represents a strategic use of dominant terrain. Designed for use by an artillery battery this structure commanded a field of fire and observation for the Mill Creek Valley as well as two of the main routes to Columbus, Georgia.

The fort is pentagonal in shape (30 yards to the side) and accommodates three well preserved cannon emplacements. The breastwork is constructed entirely of earth and stands approximately 30 feet high. A network of trenches bounds the fort on two sides. An overlapping wall on the east side of the structure precluded direct fire from the rear.

# 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 1863-1864 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Major General Jeremy Gilmer

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort #5 was constructed in 1863 as one of a series of eight earthen fortifications guarding the western approach to the city of Columbus, Georgia, and is the best preserved of the remaining two. This series of fortifications was designed by Major General Jeremy Gilmer, whom Ezra Warner in Generals in Gray describes as "perhaps the outstanding military engineer in the service of the South."

During the closing months of the Civil War the major efforts of the Union armies were centered in the area from Atlanta, Georgia to Richmond, Virginia. Sherman had advanced to Savannah and Lee was defending Richmond. Grant prepared for the final blows of 1865.

One campaign was to be a drive through Alabama which would terminate with the occupation of Macon, Georgia on April 20, 1865. Confederate forces at Tuscaloosa and Selma were defeated and Montgomery surrendered without a fight. Under the command of General James H. Wilson (U.S. Calvary), Union forces moved toward Georgia and the bridges over the Chattahoochee at Columbus and West Point became immediate objectives.

As a major producer of war material for the South, Columbus warranted significant protection. All defensive positions constructed in 1864 were oriented to ward off an attack from the north. However in December of 1863, at the direction of General P. G. T. Beauregard, Commander of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida (C.S.A.), Major General Jeremy Francis Gilmer had designed a series of eight fortifications for the defense of the western communication and supply routes.

During the battle (April 16, 1865) unable to muster sufficient troops, the Confederate forces abandoned the outer defense line and concentrated their efforts on the protection of the bridges. Fort #5 was therefore never manned. Nevertheless the fort is in an excellent state of preservation and is the only accessible relic of the battle of Columbus which was fought predominately in Girard (now Phenix City), Alabama.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Colby, Major Ellbridge, "Wilson's Cavalry Campaign of 1865," in Journal of American Military History, Vol. II, 1938.

War of the Rebellion. A compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, XLIX, Series II, Part I, Volume 28, Washington, 1881-1901.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6
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6	8	4	7	0	0
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3	5	9	5	5	4	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 

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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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery,

DATE

12/12/75

TELEPHONE

832-6621

STATE

Alabama

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ✓

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Miss B. Howard, Jr.*

TITLE SHPO

DATE Dec. 16, 1975

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION <i>William J. Meeks</i>	DATE <u>5/2/76</u>
ATTEST KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER <i>Charles A. ...</i>	DATE <u>5-4-76</u>

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Green, Major Layton, and Smith, Major Oliver, "The Last Battle", unpublished paper, Bradley Library, Columbus, Georgia, 1958.

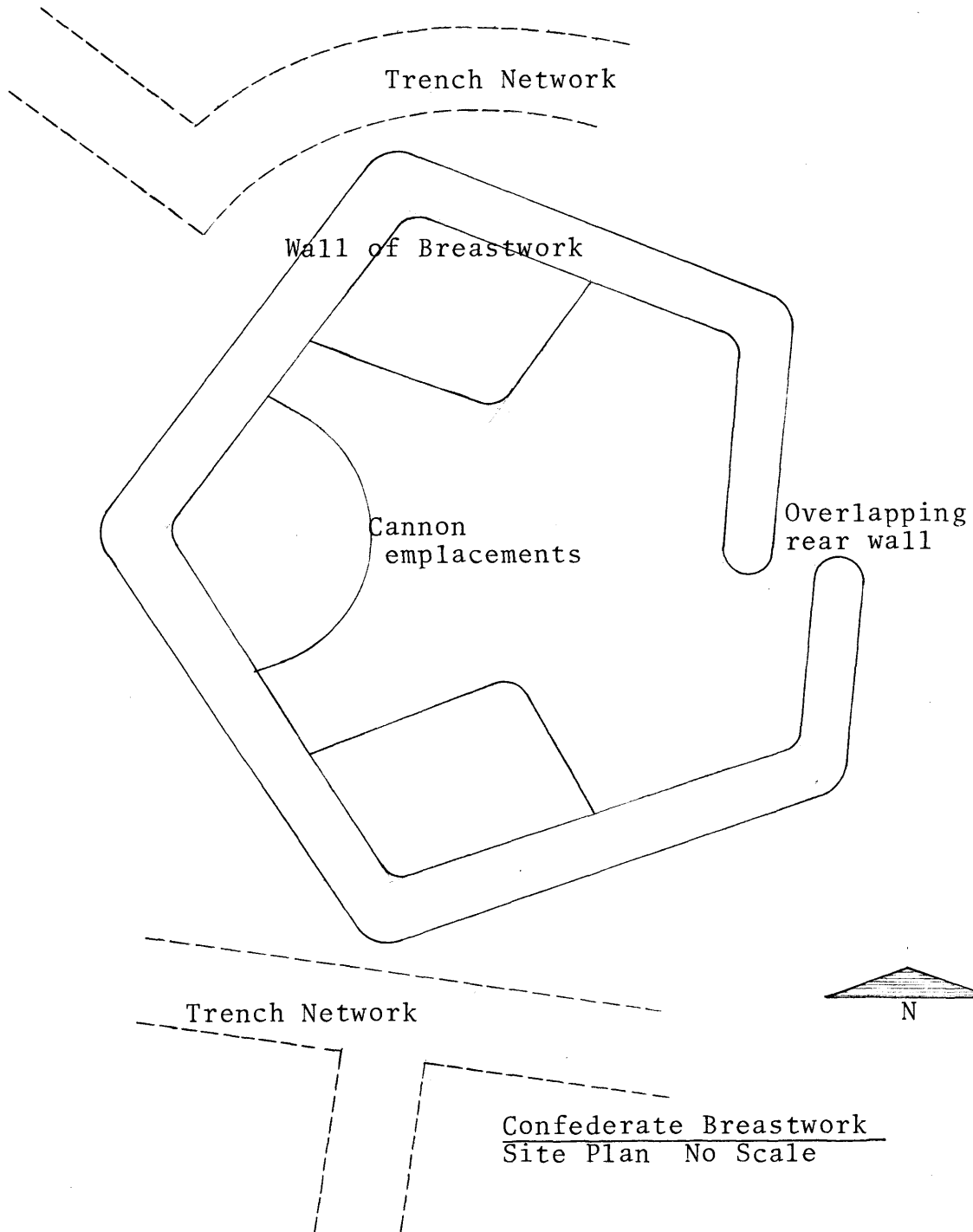
Warner, Ezra J., Generals in Gray. Louisiana State University Press, 1959.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 6 1976

(Number all entries)



Confederate Breastwork  
Site Plan No Scale