

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)
(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Dinwiddie
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME				
COMMON: Five Forks Battlefield				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Five Forks Battlefield				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Five miles north of Dinwiddie, Virginia				
CITY OR TOWN: Dinwiddie		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth (4th)		
STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Dinwiddie	CODE 053	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object		☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both		☐ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
☒ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: 10-12 individual owners				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dinwiddie Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Dinwiddie		STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Most (782 out of 1215 acres) of the land on the battlefield is held by descendants of the Gilliam family, who owned the land at the time of the Civil War. The crossroads itself still exists, with one corner occupied by a recently constructed general store. Not far from the crossroads is the Gilliam mansion, "Burnt Quarter," built in the late 18th century and occupied by Union soldiers after the battle. Of the light breastworks thrown up by the Confederates on March 31-April 1, very little, if any, remain. Most of the area consists of wooded tracts interspersed with fields cleared for cultivation, much as it was during the battle.

BOUNDARIES

The Five Forks Battlefield consists of some 1300 acres, and is delineated on the U.S.G.S. survey maps for "Church Road" and "Sutherland," Va. More detailed is the Petersburg National Battlefield map, National Park Service, Division of Land Acquisition.

The eastern section encloses Va. Route 628, and covers the staging area for the main Union attack. The center section follows Va. Route 613 and the line Pickett's division held throughout most of the battle. The western section continues on 613 beyond Five Forks, and covers the area where Warren's flank attack finally broke the Confederate defenses. 400 yards north of the boundary on Route 627 is the Shad Bake; the intersection of 613 and 661 marks the area where McKenzie's cavalry routed Lee and cut Pickett off from the main Confederate army.

The boundaries are in part described by the heavy dashed line on the accompanying map A entitled "Petersburg National Battlefield" and dated March 31, 1974. The field covers 1215.31 acres and encompasses roughly 13,000 feet of Old Oak Road, to a width of from 1200 to 4200 feet on either side. The line is labelled "Battlefield Boundary" and the enclosed area is marked "Proposed Fee Acquisition."

Also included in the landmark site is a section of land 1200 feet square with its center at the junction of Routes 613 and 661 and its sides running due north-south and east-west. This includes the area where General McKenzie routed horsemen under W. H. Lee, thus isolating Pickett's men from Johnson's infantry to the east.

Another section includes the likely site of "the Shad Bake;" here Pickett and his officers dined on shad after the first day of battle, only to be surprised the following day by Warren's infantry. The section runs about 400 feet along the inside curb of Route 627 to its junction with Hatcher Run, then north along Hatcher Run about 30 feet. Proceed due north about 50 feet, due west about 100 feet and due south about 40 feet to the point of beginning.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

4/1/1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

April 1, 1865, Ulysses Grant's Army of the Potomac at last forced the Army of Northern Virginia from its Petersburg defenses. The breakthrough was effected at Five Forks, twelve miles west of Petersburg and two miles beyond the right flank of the overextended Confederate line. Philip Sheridan's Union forces crushed the defenders under George E. Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee; the defeat led to Federal seizure of the Confederate's last supply line, the Southside Railroad, and their final surrender a few weeks later.

HISTORY

Five Forks Battlefield encloses nearly all the area involved in the crucial April 1 fighting at Five Forks.

On March 25, 1865, General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia attempted to break out of its defense works around Petersburg. The attack failed, and General U.S. Grant, commanding the Union Army of the Potomac, seized the initiative. He began to rapidly shift forces westward in order to outflank the Confederate line. Lee, his forces already overextended, sent a scratch force under George E. Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee to keep the Federals from the Southside Railroad, his last supply line. On March 31 Sheridan's cavalry attacked the Confederate lines, with little success. The next day, while Pickett and his officers confidently feasted at the Shad Bake, Warren's infantry corps made a massive attack on the Confederate right. At the same time the cavalry screen linking Pickett with the main Confederate army was scattered by concentrated Federal cavalry attacks. Pickett had no reserves with which to halt the rout, and the Union forces surged forward to cut the Southside Railroad and force the abandonment of the Petersburg defenses. This defeat led directly to Lee's final surrender at Appomattox just two weeks later.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (70 vols., Washington, D.C., 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vols. XLVI, LI; P.H. Sheridan, Personal Memoirs of P.H. Sheridan, General United States Army (2 vols. New York, 1888), vol. II; Walter Harrison, Pickett's Men... (New York, 1870).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	UTM		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	18.266890.4115630		Degrees	Degrees
NE	18.271470.4114060		Minutes	Minutes
SE	18.269300.4111890		Seconds	Seconds
SW	18.264340.4112410			
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1300				
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES				
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project	
ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service	DATE: 2/20/75
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L. Street, N.W.	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.
	CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

((NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS))

Name _____

Title _____

((NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS))

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

((NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS))

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

((NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS))

Date _____

ATTEST:

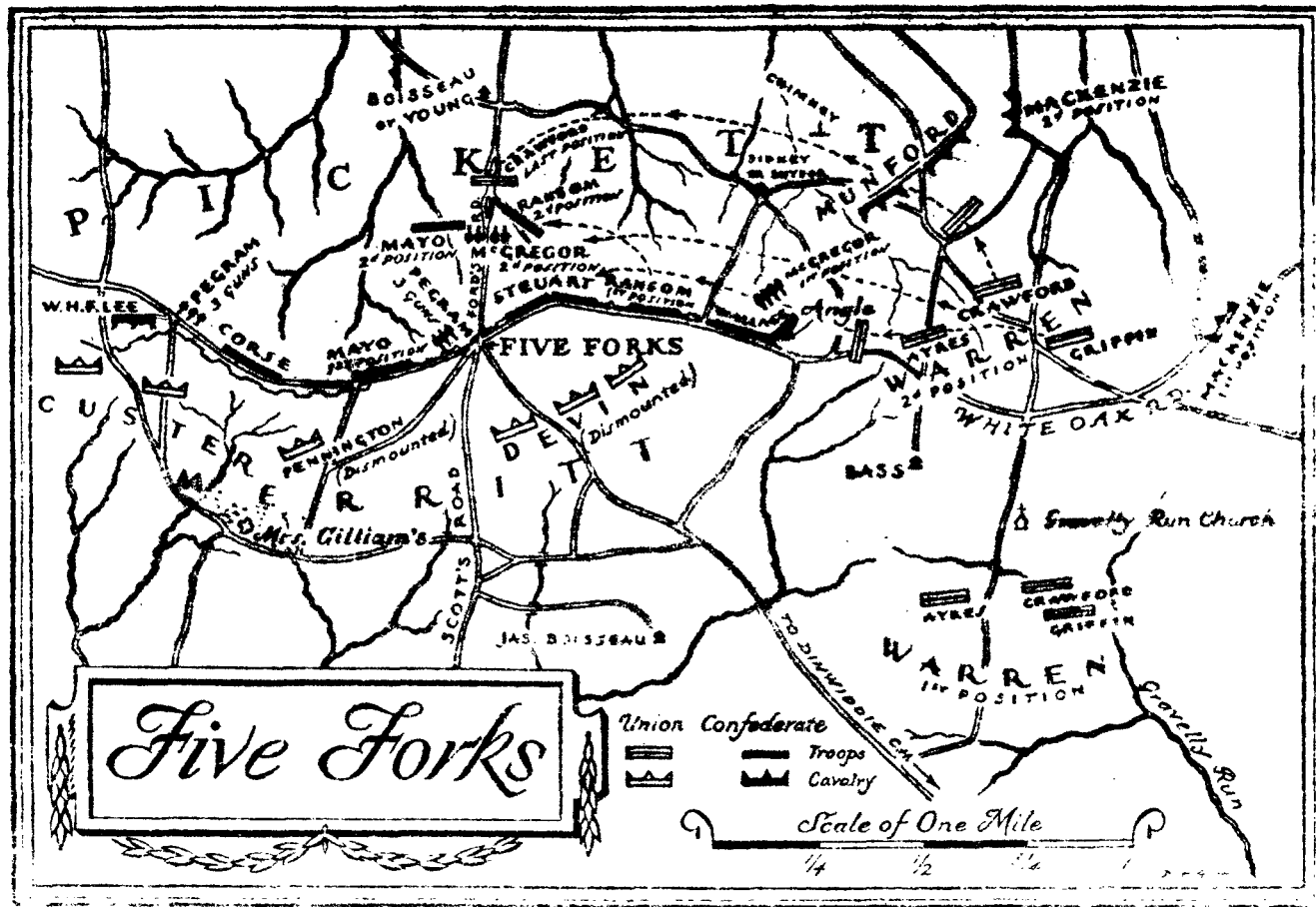
Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

Boundary Affirmed:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Five Forks Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Five Forks Battlefield

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Dinwiddie ☒ VICINITY OF COUNTY Dinwiddie STATE Virginia

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Edwin Bearrs, "Five Forks Battlefield", NPS special report

SCALE 1"=approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile DATE 1973

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



STATE

Virginia

COUNTY

Dinwiddie

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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STREET AND NUMBER:

Five miles north of Dinwiddie, Virginia

CITY OR TOWN:

Dinwiddie

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY:

Dinwiddie

CODE

053

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia State Library

DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1960 (Confirmed July 1974)

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia State Library, Archives Division
Richmond, Virginia 23219

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

From front yard facing north to "Burnt Quarter", front entrance.



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia State Library

DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1960 (confirmed July, 1974)

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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

From backyard facing south to "Burnt Quarter," rear entrance.



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interior, dining room at "Burnt Quarter"



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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

interior, sitting room at "Burnt Quarter" with portrait reputedly defaced by Union soldiers, April 1, 1865.