

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 5 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 21 1978

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Fort Pemberton Site

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charleston v.c.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

South Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

045

1st

COUNTY

Charleston

CODE

019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: primarily

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET &amp; NUMBER 2 Court House Square

CITY, TOWN Charleston STATE South Carolina 29401

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 (update)  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Pemberton, a Confederate Civil War earthen fortification, [REDACTED] South Carolina. The fort was built largely by slave labor drawn from neighboring plantations. Fort Pemberton was earthen construction throughout, except for the framing of the earth-covered shot-furnace and powder magazines, whose interiors were probably of wood. The original section of the fort was constructed in 1862, and was pentagonal in shape with redoubts. Within the next year, an additional rampart was constructed, directly flanking the original section on the southeast.

The fort has remained essentially intact since its completion in 1863. The original pentagonal section of the fort measures approximately 400 feet by 350 feet. The additional rampart is approximately 700 feet long. The walls of the fort are approximately 10 to 12 feet in height and 20 feet wide at their base.

Fort Pemberton is presently covered with a medium secondary growth of pines and other indigenous trees which give it a parklike appearance. Intrusions on the property are [REDACTED]. Neither structure significantly alters the basic integrity of the fort.

SURROUNDINGS:

[REDACTED] maintains its original wooded characteristics with secondary growths of pines, oaks and other indigenous trees [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] strategic importance. Consequently, this lowland area is of integral importance to the historic integrity of Fort Pemberton and has been included within the nominated acreage.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[REDACTED] Fort Pemberton is an important Civil War fortification used in the Confederate defense of Charleston, South Carolina. The fort was constructed in 1862 by the order of C.S.A. Brig. Gen. John C. Pemberton, commander of the Charleston defenses. Named after Pemberton, it was a "large well built work, heavily fortified", [REDACTED].

A well preserved earthenwork fortification, Fort Pemberton is a notable example of Confederate military engineering.

### MILITARY:

Fort Pemberton is one of the larger forts constructed by Confederate forces for the defense of Charleston, South Carolina. When Charleston was besieged by Federal forces in 1861, [REDACTED] became important as a key strategic element in the defense of the city. The leading military authorities of the period believed that Union occupation of [REDACTED] would leave Charleston open to attack on the south-east and thus make the fall of the city inevitable. Fort Pemberton was a vital element in the Confederate defense [REDACTED]. It therefore served an important function in the defense of Charleston.

Fort Pemberton was an enclosed work designed to function as both a land and water battery. It was strongly fortified and by October of 1862 its armament mounted twenty guns of various calibers. As a water battery, Fort Pemberton was built to deny Union gunboats [REDACTED]. Federal gunboats had virtually complete control of [REDACTED] up to the range of Fort Pemberton's guns. The power of Fort Pemberton's battery effectively stopped Union access upriver and made the fort a convenient haven for Confederate forces on the [REDACTED].

Although strategically important in controlling [REDACTED], Fort Pemberton was also designed to function as a land battery. As an enclosed work, many of Fort Pemberton's guns faced inland in readiness for a land attack. Fort Pemberton also served an important role as the western anchor in the extensive Confederate defense lines that stretched across the [REDACTED].

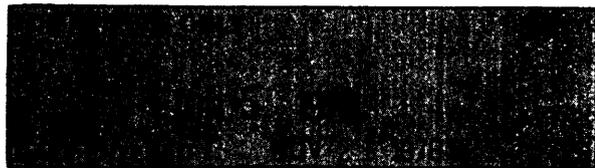
(continued)

<sup>1</sup> John Johnson, *The Defense of Charleston Harbor (1863-1865)* (Charleston, S.C.: Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co., 1889), p. 21.



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ENGINEERING:

As an earthwork, Fort Pemberton is typical of the type of fortification constructed by military engineers during the American Civil War. The introduction of the rifled Parrott cannon during the decade preceding the Civil War rendered vertical masonry walls obsolete as an effective form of defense fortification. These rifled cannons rapidly shattered masonry walls into stone splinters, producing damage that was difficult to repair. Military engineers quickly realized that the rifled cannons were least effective against earth and sand fortifications. Such fortifications offered greater protection against cannon impact and could be rapidly and efficiently repaired. Consequently, Civil War fortifications, such as Fort Pemberton, were almost exclusively earthworks.

Fort Pemberton is a well preserved example of Confederate defensive engineering. Very few Confederate earthwork fortifications in South Carolina retain their integrity. Of the ones that do, the majority are batteries rather than enclosed forts.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Charleston, South Carolina. Washington Light Infantry. T. Simons Grange, "James Island in the Defense of Charleston Harbor, from 1704 to 1865."

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Fitzgerald, Edmund and Hinds, James R. "Fortification in the Field and on the Frontier." Periodical Journal of the Council on Abandoned Military Posts, No. 31 (Spring 1977). Vol. IX, No. 1, pp. 41-49.

Gillmore, Q.A. Engineer and Artillery Operations Against the Defenses of Charleston Harbor in 1863. New York: D.van Nostrand, 1865.

---. Supplementary Report to the Engineer and Artillery Operations Against the Defenses of Charleston in 1863. New York: D.van Nostrand, 1868.

Hagood, Johnson. Memoirs of the War of Secession. Columbia, S.C.: The State Company, 1910. pp. 85, 86, 130, 168-171.

Johnson, John. The Defense of Charleston Harbor (1863-1865). Charleston, S.C.: Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co., 1889. pp. 20-23.

Jones, Samuel. The Siege of Charleston. New York: Neale Publishing Company, 1911. pp. 91-116.

Lewis, Emanuel Raymond. Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970. pp. 21-26, 67-68.

Ripley, Gen. R.S. "Charleston and its Defences in the late War." The Yearbook 1885. Charleston, S.C.: News and Courier Presses, 1885. pp. 347-360.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. xxviii, pt. 1. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1890. pp. 421-422. Series 1, Vol. XIV, pp. 57-59, 69-70, 148.