

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: At a bare crossroads in Dinwiddie County, 12 miles west of Petersburg and two miles beyond the right flank of the thin Confederate defense line, Grant, on April 1, 1865, finally achieved the object he had pursued during nearly 11 months of campaigning against the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Here, in an overwhelming onslaught by cavalry and artillery, he swept aside a weak Confederate force to outflank the Confederate army and force Lee from the Richmond-Petersburg defenses.

On March 25, Lee, realizing that his position was untenable, attacked the Union siege line at Fort Stedman, hoping to break out and join Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina. When Lee's attack failed, Grant seized the initiative and began shifting forces westward to outflank the Confederate line. Lee, unable to extend his thin line any farther, sent a scratch force under George E. Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee to Five Forks to keep the Union forces from the Southside Railroad, his last supply line. On April 1, the Confederates were attacked by a Union force of cavalry and infantry under Philip Sheridan. The resistless Union attack swept forward to cut the railroad and force the abandonment of the Confederate defense lines.

Status: Most of the land on the battlefield is held in private tracts of varying sizes by descendants of the Gilliam family, which owned the land at the time of the 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, only a small portion remains, the rest having been destroyed by cultivation. The battlefield probably looks much as it did during the war.

b. BOUNDARIES: The Five Forks Battlefield, consisting of approximately 600 acres, is partly delineated on U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map "Church Road" and the remainder on "Sutherland." The area consists of a 431 acre Gilliam tract, 82 acres Continental Can tract, 50 acre Miller tract, 31 acres Gilliam tract, and 5 acre Hill tract. The boundaries, when sketched on paper, gives the appearance of a high-top boot.

Route 627 runs in a north-south direction and Route 613 runs in an east-west direction through the battlefield. Also, Route 645 runs south from the junctions of Routes 627 and 613.

It may be noted that the southern boundary of the battlefield is 600 feet south of and parallel with Route 613. It may also be noted that the western boundary of the battlefield is 600 feet west of and parallel with Route 627.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

Virginia	
COUNTY Dinwiddie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7 b. CONT'D.

Beginning on Route 627 at a point about 2700 feet north of the junction of Routes 627, 613 and 645, proceed west for 600 feet; thence south for about 2700 feet; thence southwest for about 1500 feet; thence in a south-southwest direction for about 2500 feet; thence southeast for about 1800 feet; thence in a general northerly direction for about 1800 feet; thence northeast for about 1500 feet to Route 645; thence in a north-northeast direction for about 1300 feet to a point 600 feet south of Route 613; thence east (parallel with and 600 feet south of Route 613) for about 3300 feet; thence northeast for about 800 feet; thence southeast for about 250 feet; thence northeast for about 420 feet to Route 613; thence north for about 2400 feet; thence west for about 5100 feet to point of beginning.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) April 1, 1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>History (Civil War)</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Here, on April 1, 1865, Grant outflanked the Confederate army to force Lee from the Richmond-Petersburg defenses.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (70 vols., Washington, 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	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	08'	42"	77°	37'	37"	°	'	"
NE	37°	08'	41"	77°	36'	21"	°	'	"
SE	37°	08'	21"	77°	36'	21"	°	'	"
SW	37°	07'	17"	77°	38'	14"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 600 acres

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:
Frank S. Melvin

ORGANIZATION: Virginia State Office, National Park Service

DATE: 6/30/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 10008

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia 23240

CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

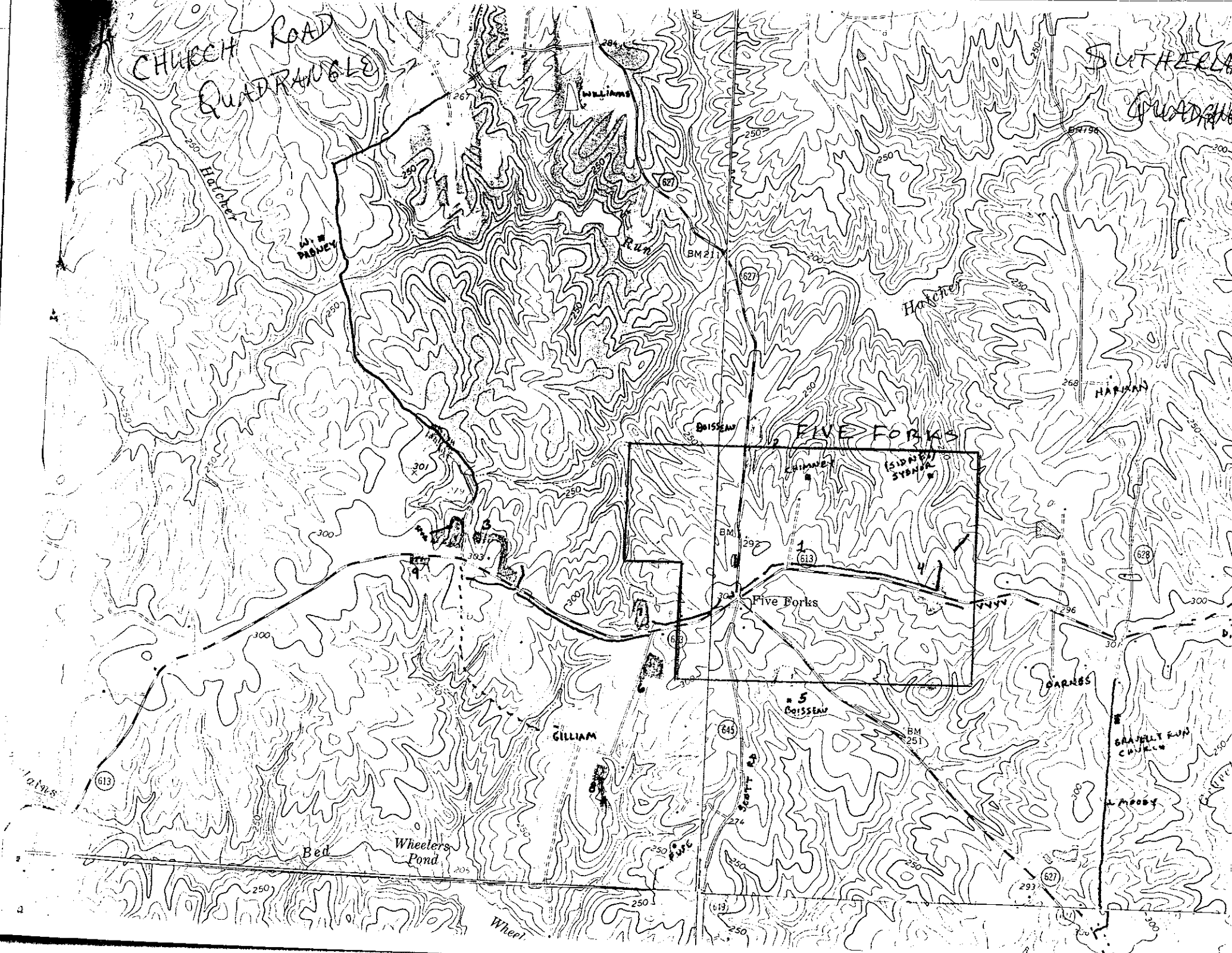
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



CHURCH ROAD
QUADRANGLE

SUTHERLAND
QUADRANGLE

WILLIAMS

FIVE FORKS

Five Forks

GILLIAM

Bed

Wheeler's
Pond

5
BOISSEAU

GARRES

GARRETT FORD
CREEK

MOODY

Wheel