1 NAME
HISTORIC
Confederate Breastworks

AND/OR COMMON
Veterans Administration Medical Center

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
2300 Ramsey Street

CITY, TOWN
Fayetteville

STATE
North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
__X BUILDING(S)
__X STRUCTURE
__ SITE
__ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

4 AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)
Veterans Administration

STREET & NUMBER
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN
Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
VA, Land Management Service

STREET & NUMBER
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN
Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
VA Historic Sites Survey

DATE
Continuing

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
VA Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN
Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7

CODE
37

COUNTY
Cumberland

CODE
051

OTHER:
### DESCRIPTION

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

The breastworks which remain are earthen bunkers. They are located north of the VA Medical Center's main building and are on the east side of Ramsey Street (Highway U. S. 401 also known as the Raleigh Road). The area has been landscaped and concrete sidewalks have been constructed to allow visitors and patients easy access to the site. None of the earthworks have been disturbed by the landscaping.

The State of North Carolina has erected a bronze historical marker on Ramsey Street giving a brief description of the site and its purpose.
Fayetteville, North Carolina, and the surrounding area wholeheartedly supported the Confederacy. Though many thousands of men came from this part of Carolina, actual warfare did not come to Fayetteville until March of 1865. General Joseph E. Johnson was retreating before General William T. Sherman's superior forces passed through the city. The rear guard of Johnson's army crossed the river after the advance troops of Sherman had entered the city.

An arsenal was located at Fayetteville, North Carolina, during the Civil War, making this an important city for the Confederacy. Before its capture by the Confederacy in 1861, the arsenal made arms for the United States Government. At one time during the war it was reported to be able to produce 500 rifles a month. In order to prevent Federal troops commanded by General Sherman from taking the arsenal, fortifications were thrown up in great haste. The fortifications were built north of the town for it was believed that Sherman would travel up the Cape Fear River and invade Fayetteville from the north. Among the workers who built the fortifications were: Home Guards - composed of males under 16 years of age; men too old to serve in the armed forces and the handicapped; wounded soldiers and slaves.

Sherman had experienced wet weather and insignificant skirmishes with the Confederate cavalry on his way to Fayetteville. In order to safeguard his forces, Sherman sent messengers to Wilmington to make contact with General Schofield. This was to coordinate a two pronged assault on Fayetteville, one by land and the other by sea. On March 11, 1865, Sherman's army surprised the Confederate forces and invaded Fayetteville from the south. The army met no resistance on entering the city and thus the breastwork fortifications were never used. Sherman's army began destroying machinery, buildings, and any property which could be used by the Confederates. Included was the old United States Arsenal and the machinery brought from Harpers Ferry Arsenal in 1861. Some of the machinery was removed early that morning by wagon and train to Greensboro to be stored in the Egypt Coal Mines.

Sometime on the morning of March 12th, a boat came up the Cape Fear River from Wilmington with news of the "outer world" for General Sherman. Later in the day General Schofield arrived in Fayetteville with his naval units and Sherman decided to continue his march.
By March 15th the army was once again on the move. Much of Fayetteville was left in ruins in the wake of Sherman's invasion of the city. The Federal troops moved out en masse with Kilpatrick's cavalry in front of Slocum's left wing. The soldiers had heavy skirmishes with the rear guards of the Confederacy near Smith's Mill on the Black River and again at the South River.

The following day, March 16, 1865, the Battle of Averasborough began. Four miles south of the town, Sherman's army, under Slocum attacked Hardee's army and successfully closed off the path to Goldsborough. This was virtually the end of the Carolina campaign.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Department of Archives and History, State of North Carolina

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 51.79

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE Sandra Webb - Program Analyst
Karen Tupek - Architect

ORGANIZATION Veterans Administration, Historic Preservation Office

STREET & NUMBER 810 Vermont Avenue

CITY OR TOWN Washington

STATE D. C.

DATE

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
YES___ NO___ NONE___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: 

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER