

VLR- 6/13/01
NRHP- 1/24/02

NPS Form 10-900
No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB

United States Department of the Interior
National **Park** Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This **form** is for **use** in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in **How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A)**. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item **does** not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and **areas** of significance, enter only categories **and** subcategories from the instructions. Place **additional entries and narrative** items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a **typewriter**, word processor, or computer, to complete **all** items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Fort Early and Jubal ~~Early~~ Monument 118-5162

other names/site number

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 3511 Memorial Avenue _____ not for publication
city or town Lynchburg _____ vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county independent city zip code 24502

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic **Reservation Act** of 1986, **as** amended, I hereby certify that **this** nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for **registering properties** in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend **that** this **property** be considered significant nationally statewide X **locally**. (See **continuation** sheet for additional comments.)

Catherine Sasser 10/16/01

Signature of certifying official

Date

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

State or Federal agency and bureau

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

Defense---Fortification
Recreation & Culture---Museum
Recreation & Culture---Monument
Social---Club House

Defense---Battle Site
Recreation & Culture---Museum
Recreation & Culture---Monument
Social---Club House

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

earthen fort---no style
Club House---Classical Revival
Monument---Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
roof club house---asphalt
walls fort---earth, club house---brick
monument---granite
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property _____ 1.30 acres _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing	
1	_17_ _661700_ _4139480_	3	_ _ _
2	_ _ _	4	_ _ _

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title__Nancy Weiland and Philip Wayne Rhodes, Staff_____
organization__Jones Memorial Library_____ date__February, 2001_____
street & number__2311 Memorial Avenue_____ telephone_804-846-0501_____
city or town____Lynchburg_____ state_VA_ zip code __246-501____

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Lynchburg_____Fort Early Corporation_____
P. O. Box 60 1120 Heath Avenue, 24501
street & number
Telephone numbers__804-845-1508 804-239-0488
city or town__Lynchburg_____ state_VA_ zip code __24505__

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
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Fort Early, Lynchburg, VA

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary Description

Fort Early is located in the city of Lynchburg, Virginia, near the intersection of Fort Avenue and Memorial Avenue. Confederate forces under the command of Brigadier General Jubal Anderson Early constructed the roughly square earthen fort in June 1864 as part of the outer defenses of Lynchburg as General David Hunter advanced from the north and west in an attempt to capture the city. It is the only section of the Lynchburg defenses still in existence.

The fort is an earthen structure on 1.29 acres and is surrounded by a brick wall and metal fencing. Within the fort, a one-story brick structure was built in 1922 and a brick paved entrance drive cut through the eastern portion of the breastworks. The remaining portions of the breastworks are intact including a sally port in the northern wall used to bring in ammunition and other supplies during the military operation of the fort.

Included in the nominated property is a granite obelisk honoring Confederate General Jubal A. Early for whom Fort Early was named. It sits on a triangle of land formed by the intersection of Fort Avenue and Memorial Avenue.

Historical Background

Lynch's Ferry, later known as Lynchburg, Virginia, was chartered in 1786. The City of Lynchburg was formed in 1805. In 1817, the Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike Company was chartered and constructed a road from Lynchburg to the western sections of the state. The turnpike became the main artery of commerce between Lynchburg and Southwest Virginia. By 1860, Lynchburg had become the terminus for three railroads: the Orange and Alexandria, the Virginia and Tennessee, and the Southside. By the outbreak of the Civil War, the city was considered one of the most important rail centers in the South. Lynchburg was also the site of the Quartermaster Depot for the Army of Northern Virginia. It was along this turnpike to Lynchburg that General David Hunter marched in an attempt to disrupt the flow of men and materiel through Lynchburg to Richmond, Virginia, and other centers. It was also along this turnpike that General Jubal Early established the outer defenses of the city in 1864.

The walls of the fort are approximately 12 to 15 feet in height on the exterior and approximately 4 to 6 feet high on the interior. With the exception of the sally port in the

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north wall, and the driveway entrance cut into the east wall, the earthen walls are continuous. The south and west walls each measure approximately 150 feet in length. The driveway in the east wall and the sally port in the north wall each measure approximately 30 feet in width.

A brick wall, done in running bond, approximately five feet in height and 15 inches thick, extends approximately 510 feet along the south and east sides of the property. A large building adjoining the property forms the north boundary. The west side of the property boundary is marked with a hedgerow and metal fencing. The driveway entrance, measuring approximately 15 feet, occurs in the eastern portion of the brick wall. An archway of brick columns and ornamental ironwork frames the entrance. The columns are approximately 6' 6" with the ironwork rising from each column to form an arch approximately 15 feet high. In the arch are the words, "Fort Early."

The clubhouse, built in 1922, within the breastworks is a one-story brick building, 72' x 40', done in the Neo-classical Revival style of architecture. It has a concrete foundation and its exterior walls are in Flemish bond. The building has a flat shingled roof. The building is H-shaped with the entrance façade framed by the projecting sides of the H. Three handsome arched glazed French doors open to a terrace that is sheltered between the projecting wings. The ends of the wings each have a single plastered blind arch. The end elevations (the sides of the H plan) have pairs of arched windows flanked by small single windows. The rear elevations of the wings are blank walls and today flank a frame addition that fills the originally recessed center. The rear exit is one double door. A handicapped access ramp has been added to the front entrance.

The monument to General Jubal A. Early takes the form of an obelisk approximately 17 feet in height. It rises from a sloping concave base that supports a rectangular block which, in turn, supports the obelisk itself. On one face of the block is the following inscription: "Memorial to Jubal Anderson Early, Lieutenant General, C.S.A., and to the brave Confederate soldiers under him who came to the rescue of Lynchburg when it was threatened by an invasion of Federal forces and erected this earthworks behind which they entrenched themselves in their defense of the City on June 18, 1864." The monument stands approximately 35 feet from the entrance to Fort Early and is a part of the nominated property.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Early, the only remaining Civil War earthen fort in Lynchburg, Virginia, guarded the Lynchburg Salem Turnpike and provided defense for the city in the Battle of Lynchburg on June 17-18, 1864. The post war brick building inside the fort is the headquarters of the Fort Hill Woman's Club and serves as a museum to the battle. The exhibits in the museum display the events of the Battle of Lynchburg and are open to the public by appointment. A granite obelisk honoring General Jubal Early and his troops is directly across the street from the fort entrance. The monument was erected in 1919 by a niece of General Jubal Early, commander of the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, CSA.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Fort Early is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Battle of Lynchburg and its defense of the city.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

After Union General David Hunter had cut a swath of destruction through the upper Shenandoah Valley, on June 11, 1864, he burned the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington. Hunter's next primary objective was Lynchburg. Through it passed three railroads and a canal: the Orange and Alexandria Railroad running north to Manassas, the South Side Railroad running east to Petersburg, the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad running west to Bristol, and the James River and Kanawha Canal running from Buchanan to Richmond. Most of the supplies going to General Lee's forces and Richmond were sent east from the Valley of Virginia and Tennessee through this transportation network. As trains and boats returned westward, they brought wounded men to the seventeen major hospitals located in the hotels and tobacco factories in Lynchburg. Without this transportation system in operation, Richmond would fall.

To assist General Hunter, General Grant dispatched two divisions of cavalry under General Philip Sheridan to move west and join Hunter's force at Charlottesville after destroying the Virginia Central Railroad. On June 8, 1864, General George Crook's

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infantry and General William W. Averell's cavalry joined Hunter at Staunton bringing his force to 18,000. Hunter then moved toward Lexington and Lynchburg.

General John C. Breckinridge gathered a force of 2,100 to oppose Hunter with skirmishes at Middlebrook, Brownsburg and Waynesboro. Hunter's men had skirmished at Lexington and burned Virginia Military Institute on June 12, 1864. General Lee detached Jubal Early with a force of 8,000 to march west from Gaines Mill, in Hanover County, on June 13 to join Breckinridge in Lynchburg. On June 15, Hunter's force crossed the Blue Ridge at the Peaks of Otter and took the road to Lynchburg.

General Early's men boarded trains in Charlottesville and reached Lynchburg in time to repulse Hunter's attack on June 17-18. General Hunter with a force of 18,000 Union soldiers reached the outskirts of Lynchburg with the plan of capturing this major supply and communications center of Lee's army. When the units reached the Salem Turnpike, their advance was delayed near the Quaker Meeting House by a small force under the command of Generals John McCausland and John Imboden. General Early arrived with less than half of his corps to set up a new line of defense.

General Early rode out to survey Lynchburg's defenses established by Breckinridge. He found a nondescript army of defenders that included Breckinridge's two small infantry brigades, the cadet corps of the Virginia Military Institute, dismounted cavalry which had been with General Jones at Piedmont, reserves, and invalids from the Lynchburg hospitals. He also observed that the Confederate lines of defense were so close to the city as to expose the latter to enemy artillery fire. Consequently, he ordered a new line to be established a further distance from the city. The breastworks, including Fort Early, were hastily constructed and occupied by Early's troops.

Hunter and his commanders took over Sandusky, the home of Major George C. Hutter, approximately two miles to the west of Fort Early, and established their headquarters there. General Hunter boasted at supper that Lynchburg would be his the following day. Throughout the night, Hunter's scouts reported hearing train after train pulling into the Lynchburg rail station, each greeted with cheers, drumbeats and shouts from the large crowd that had gathered. The impression was one of welcoming large numbers of new Confederate reinforcements. Actually, it was only a single, empty train running back and

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forth to create the illusion. The remaining 8,000 of General Early's troops would not arrive until June 18.

The Federal infantry and artillery attack came at daybreak along the Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike and the forces met with fierce resistance from General Early's troops. When General Hunter learned that General McCausland was attacking his supply wagons at Forest, some distance to the west, he quietly withdrew his forces. He sent his baggage and supply trains first and waited until dark before dispatching the bulk of his army. By midnight the last line of pickets retired to join the main army. As soon as Early learned that Hunter had retreated, he started the Second Corps in pursuit. He caught up with the Federal rear guard at Bedford and drove them back. Hunter continued his withdrawal through Buford's Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains, to Bonsack's Station on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad and on to Salem. Early pursued Hunter as far as Hanging Rock, in Roanoke County where he suspended the pursuit. The Battle of Lynchburg was short and casualties were light. General Jubal Anderson Early earned the title "Savior of Lynchburg" for his leading role in the battle. After the battle, the earthen fort remained intact, but was no longer used as a military defense.

After the war, the property on which Fort Early stood was deeded to Campbell County for a schoolhouse. A small building was subsequently erected within the enclosure and was known as "The Breastworks School". It began as a one-room school, but shortly after construction, a second classroom was added. A Miss McKinney taught the classes for the older children and Miss Georgia Morgan was the teacher of the younger children. As population increased in the southwest section of the City's Brockville District, a new school was built near the Quaker church and the "Breastworks School" was abandoned. The building eventually decayed and disappeared. The grounds grew up in briars, bushes and poison oak vines. Although an opening was cut through one face of the fort for access to the school, the breastworks were for the most part left undisturbed.

The school board deeded the property to the Old Dominion Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) in 1905. In turn the Chapter turned the land over to the city of Lynchburg and the Fort Hill Woman's Club for preservation.

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By 1912 the residents of the Fort Early area were campaigning for the fort to be preserved and the grounds beautified. At that time, the grounds were overgrown and deteriorating. Citizen interest was sparked also by the establishment of the Seminole trail by the American Automobile Association that would pass directly in front of the property. Improvements would certainly attract tourists.

In 1919 Ruth Early, niece of General Jubal A. Early, contracted for the construction of a granite obelisk in honor of her uncle. This monument to General Early is 17 feet high and located across the street from the entrance of Fort Early at the junction of Memorial and Fort Avenue. (Note: Due to redesigning of traffic patterns of the area, it is a possibility that in the future this monument will be relocated from its current position to a position within the fort walls.) The monument reads: "Memorial to Jubal Anderson Early, Lieutenant General C. S. A., and to the brave Confederate soldiers under him who came to the rescue of Lynchburg when it was threatened by an invasion of Federal forces and erected these earthworks behind which they entrenched themselves in their defence of the city on June 18, 1864." The heirs of Ruth Early offered to deed the fort property and monument to the municipality. Lynchburg City Council voted unanimously in September 1929 to accept the offer as a permanent Confederate memorial.

On April 20, 1920 the Old Dominion Chapter, UDC conveyed the fort property to the City of Lynchburg with the understanding that it was to be used and maintained as a Confederate Memorial. The Fort Hill Woman's Club was given the sole use, occupancy and control of the property to construct a building to be used as a museum and meeting place for the Fort Hill Woman's Club.

The Fort Hill Woman's Club was founded February 21, 1912. It was organized as a social and sewing club with twelve charter members. At its inception, the club met at the homes of members, most of who lived in the Fort Hill area near the Fort Early property. As membership grew so too did the need for a meeting place. According to the Fort Hill Woman's Club history recorded in their Yearbook 1999-2000, a Washington, DC architect, Mr. Ellington, was employed to draw plans for a new facility. In his book, *Lynchburg: An Architectural History*, S. Allen Chambers, Jr. states the one-story brick structure was designed by Craighill and Cardwell. It is unclear which architectural firm actually completed the design. It may have been a collaborative effort.

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The one-story brick clubhouse was built in 1922 within the breastworks by the Fort Hill Woman's Club; and in June 1924, sixty years after the Battle, the UDC dedicated a commemorative arch framing the entrance leading to the Club. While the insertion of a building within the fort may be a questionable preservation practice, the Club's presence has at least insured the fort's survival. None of the city's other Civil War fortifications has been preserved, though most remained at the time the Club was built.

The Fort Hill Woman's Club, with the approval of Old Dominion Chapter UDC and the consent of the City of Lynchburg, entered into an agreement with the George M. Jones Library Association in 1923 for creation of a branch library. The library association would provide \$2,500 to aid in the completion of the building in order to have included in it a room suitable for a branch library. The city was asked to accept the property as a "perpetual memorial to the officers and soldiers of the Confederate army." A branch library operated there until 1975.

The Old Dominion Chapter, UDC, erected a Memorial Arch in 1924 at the entrance of the Fort to commemorate the Battle of Lynchburg. The arch faces the monument to General Jubal A. Early just across the street. The inscription reads: "Memorial arch erected June, 1924, by Old Dominion Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, commemorating the battle of Lynchburg which took place June 18, 1864, at this point on the line of defenses facing the old Salem turnpike." On the right side of the arch the inscription reads: "This reservation was secured through the efforts of R. B. Dameron, David Walker and Ruth H. Early, in 1905, from Campbell county school trustees for the Old Dominion Chapter, which in 1920 placed it in charge of the Fort Hill Woman's Club for preservation." On top of the arch, in bronze letters, reads "Fort Early".

Lynchburg City Council accepted the Fort Early property in November of 1928 to maintain it as a Confederate memorial shrine. The property had been offered to the city in May of that year by the Fort Hill Woman's Club and the Old Dominion Chapter, UDC

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to serve as "a perpetual memorial to the officers and soldiers of the Confederate army." Under the terms of agreement, the city received all of the fort property with the exception of the building and the ground upon which it is located. The building remained the property of the Fort Hill Woman's Club and the Old Dominion Chapter.

Today Fort Early is well preserved thanks to the partnership of the City of Lynchburg and the Fort Hill Woman's Club working together to maintain the grounds and provide a museum of the battle of Lynchburg.

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The News (Lynchburg, VA), September 24, 1929, page 8, column 4

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Co., VA (Rustburg, VA) Deed Book 81, page 424.

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"Deed of Sale from Old Dominion Chapter of the Daughters of the confederacy, Inc. to Herbert C. Barrow, David Walker and Howell C. Featherston, Trustees, for Fort Hill Club," 20 April 1920, Campbell Co., VA, (Rustburg, VA) Deed Book 119, page 550.

"Deed of Sale from Herbert C. Barrow, David Walker and Howell C. Featherston, Trustees for the City of Lynchburg to Old Dominion Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy, Inc., The Fort Hill Club and the George M. Jones Library Association" May 1928, City of Lynchburg, Deed Book 165, page 531

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Verbal Boundary Description

- (A) The boundary of Fort Early is designated as Tax Parcel Number 54-1-25 on the Tax Maps of City of Lynchburg VA.
- (B) The area on which the Jubal Early Monument is located is designated as Tax Parcel Number 54-2-3 on the Tax Maps of the City of Lynchburg, VA.

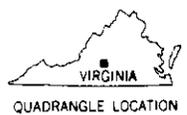
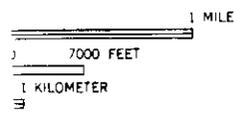
Boundary Justification

The boundary circumscribes the breastworks known as Fort Early and the building known as Fort Hill Club House. The monument sits across the street from the Fort Early entrance in a triangle slightly larger than the monument base.



Fort Early
Lynchburg
Zone 17
Easting 661700
Northing 4139480

PM 3.4 MI
TA 22 MI



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route
- State Route

RDS
STON, VIRGINIA 22092 Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with
VIRGINIA 22903 Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs
 ON REQUEST taken 1982 and other sources. This information not field checked
 Map edited 1984
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

LYNCHBURG, VA.
 NW/4 LYNCHBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
 37079-D2-TF-024

1983
 PHOTOREVISED 1984
 DMA 5158 I NW-SERIES V834

KELLY 4 MI
APPROXIMATELY 19 MI

RUSTBURE
5158 I SE

4138000m N
37°22'30"

2.4 MI. TO U.S. 29
 INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1987
 665000m E
 79°07'30"