



## Confederate Earth Works

Craig Barrow Family Papers, Hargrett Library, University of Georgia.

Some of the most prominent features of Wormsloe's topography are the earthen embankments located at the plantation's southernmost point. These fortifications, known as Fort Wimberley, were part of Savannah's Civil War defenses. Wormsloe's fort guarded a watery approach to the city, a potential invasion route that troubled Confederate officials just as it had colonial leaders who worried about Spanish forces. Although Wormsloe's earthworks never saw combat during the war, Confederate troops were garrisoned at the facility for much of the war.

Wormsloe's soldiers retreated without a battle in 1864, and the abandoned earthworks were never used for military purposes again. The Confederate troops may have escaped immediate harm, but the plantation economy was not so fortunate. Union cavalry vandalized the Joneses' home, burned Wormsloe's cotton, and carried off horses and mules. The forest has reclaimed the military works, but the impact of the earthworks continues to affect the landscape. Today plants that favor well-drained soils, such as hickories, grow on the abandoned fortifications, botanical testaments to the lasting imprint of war.