

Petersburg National Battlefield VirtualCache Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Site 2: Battery #6

N 37° 14'33.923

W 77°21'19.107



Today Battery #6 is rather unremarkable in appearance, but on June 15, 1864 it was at the center of a battle that affected the next 9.5 months of war in Virginia.

One of fifty-five batteries of the ten mile-long Dimmock Line around Petersburg, its only day of use saw its capture and the collapse of nearly 3 miles of the Confederate defense wall. At 7:00pm on the 15th Union forces assaulted the wall to the north and south of here. Taking advantage of a ravine between this battery and Battery #7, to the south, Union troops broke through the Confederate line. Confederate defenders standing here were forced to retreat or were captured by white Union troops and men of the 1st United States Colored Troops entering the battery almost simultaneously.

With the fall of Battery #5, to the north, and Battery #6 Union troops swung south and claimed Batteries #7-#11 before the fighting stopped. The opportunity for seizing Petersburg that evening was quickly lost and it took 291 more days for the Union to capture the city they almost had on June 15, 1864.

Visit Instructions: How many cannons are currently located at batter #6