

Five Forks Battlefield (NPS)

12 miles west of Petersburg on County Route 627 at Church Road

The battle that took place here on April 1, 1865, at the juncture of five country roads has been called the Waterloo of the Confederacy. Union troops under Philip Sheridan's command defeated the Confederates under General George Pickett, who had been sent to protect the Southside Railroad, Robert E. Lee's last supply line. The Union victory broke the siege of Petersburg and led to the fall of Richmond. Lee consequently had to abandon his Richmond-Petersburg defenses and began his retreat westward. Appomattox was only eight days away. Five Forks is now part of the Petersburg National Battlefield.