

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Davidson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 21 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Negley

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ridley Blvd. and Chestnut Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Davidson** CODE: **037**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Metropolitan Board of Parks

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dentennial Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Davidson County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

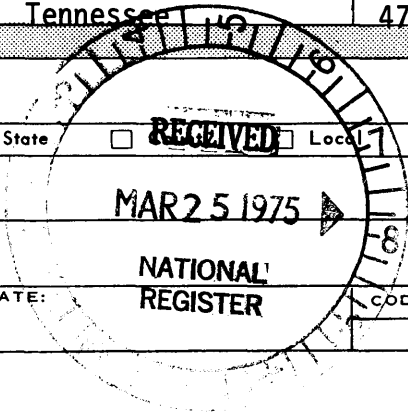
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Negley was a defensive fort built by Federal troops after they occupied Nashville in 1862. It was constructed of stone dug from the fort site and nearby hills and reinforced by steel train rails. The fort was built atop St. Cloud's hill, whose trees were destroyed by the Union soldiers. The hill commands a view of the three major thoroughfares into the city of Nashville from the South.

The fort was 600 feet long and 300 feet wide. It was a large, complex work of octagonal shape with a central structure at the top of the hill, surrounded by stone fortifications and gun positions. This was surrounded by outer fortifications and earthworks over the brow of the hill, which did not obstruct the view from the top. The entire fort occupied four acres of land, having within it two casements protected with railroad iron. Underground tunnels and bunkers gave access to all parts of the fort, as well as providing magazines for storage of ammunition, food and other supplies. 62,500 cubic feet of stone and 18,000 cubic yards of dirt were used in the construction. According to tradition, an underground passage was dug from the top of the hill to a vault in the Nashville City Cemetery, several blocks away, through which the soldiers reportedly went on their trips from the fort to town.

After the war, most of the stone from the fort was taken to build the main city water reservoir, constructed on the site of another fortification nearby, Fort Casino. The fort was neglected and vandalized and fell into complete disrepair.

In the 1930's, Fort Negley was partially restored by the WPA under the supervision of J. C. Tyner, engineer on the job. A road was built circling the hill, and a parking lot constructed. Recreation facilities including a football field and baseball diamonds were added at the foot of the hill. The project was not completed and today the remains of this construction have greatly deteriorated and are overgrown with trees and underbrush. The road, parking lot and much of the outer stone fortifications remain, along with several gun placements and magazines. All are in great need of restoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1862**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Fort Negley was the largest and most important fortification built by Federal troops after occupying Nashville in 1862. It occupied the center of the Federal defensive line which stretched in a wide circle around the Southern part of the city. Three other forts - Casino, Morton and Houston were also built. The fort was named after Union General James Negley, the Provost Marshall of Nashville. The engineer in charge of supervising the construction was James St. Clair Morton. The name was changed to Fort Harker following Negley's questionable leadership of his troops during Gen. Longstreet's breakthrough at the Battle of Chickamauga, but locally the fort has always been known as Fort Negley. The Federal Army was determined to hold Nashville at all costs because of its importance as the gateway to the South and because the South had counted on Middle Tennessee as one of two main areas for supply of provisions for the Confederate Army. Nashville was the most fortified city in America at that time.

The stronghold was completed in three months by conscript laborers from the city of Nashville, who were housed nearby and not allowed to go home until the job was completed. Although it was necessary for the fort to be constructed quickly, the work was well-planned and executed. The best European designs were followed and the fort was considered to be impregnable. The fort was thought to be of such significance as an example of military defense engineering that American Army officers during World War I were sent to study the ruins of the fortification.

The guns from Fort Negley opened the Battle of Nashville the morning of December 15, 1864. General George Thomas and the Federal troops occupying the city defeated a smaller Confederate Army under the command of Gen. John Bell Hood during the two day battle, ending any hopes of victory in the west that Confederates may have had.

After the war, the abandoned fort gained some additional renown when former Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest lead a contingent of KuKlux Klansmen in a march from their headquarters at the fort to the State Capitol in downtown Nashville.

Fort Negley remains as one of Nashville's most important landmarks, significant not only for its military role during the Civil War, but also as an important example of engineering utilized in military fort construction during that war.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beasley, Paul H. and Gotto, C. Buford, "Fortress Nashville: How the
 Federals Fortified the City", Civil War Times Illustrated.
 (Gettysburg: Historical Times Inc., 1964)
 Clarke, Ida Clyde, All About Nashville. (Nashville: N.P., 1912)
 Federal Writers' Project, Tennessee: A Guide to the State. (Washington:
 Dept. of Conservation, 1939)
 Horn, Stanley, The Decisive Battle of Nashville. (Knoxville: University
 of Tennessee Press, 1956)

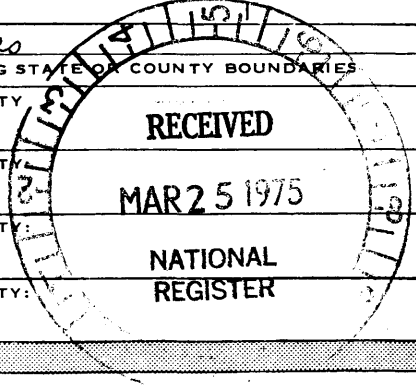
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 08 ' 43 "	86 ° 46 ' 28 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: C. Edwin LeJeune

ORGANIZATION: Metropolitan Historical Commission DATE: 2-21-75

STREET AND NUMBER: 329 Stahlman Building

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Lauren [Signature]

Title Executive Director Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 3/20/75

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/21/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4-18-75

16/520300/399985-0
 UTM FCT-100
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Davidson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 21 1975

(Number all entries)

Item #9

Huddleston, Ed, The Civil War in Middle Tennessee. (Nashville:
Parthenon Press, 1965)
McRaven, Henry, Nashville: Athens of the South. (Chapel Hill,
Tennessee: Tennessee Book Company, 1949)

