

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Fort Nashborough

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Davidson

DATE RECEIVED: 10/09/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/24/15

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000454

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**REMOVED  
from  
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Davidson County, Tennessee

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Fort Nashborough is located in Riverfront Park on First Avenue in downtown Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 13, 2011. This multi-building replica of the circa 1780 fort complex constructed by James Robertson and his band of settlers was built in ca. 1930 and substantially reconstructed in 1962. The complex was listed under Criteria A and C for its local significance in architecture, conservation, and recreation/entertainment. The fort was demolished on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of 2015. As a result, Fort Nashborough has lost the significance for which it was listed and no longer retains integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. Therefore, Fort Nashborough should be removed from the National Register.



Claudette Stager, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Date

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National Park Service

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Fort Nashborough  
Davidson County, Tennessee



Figure 1: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 2: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



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Figure 3: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 4: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



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Figure 5: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



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Figure 6: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 7: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



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Fort Nashborough  
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Figure 8: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.

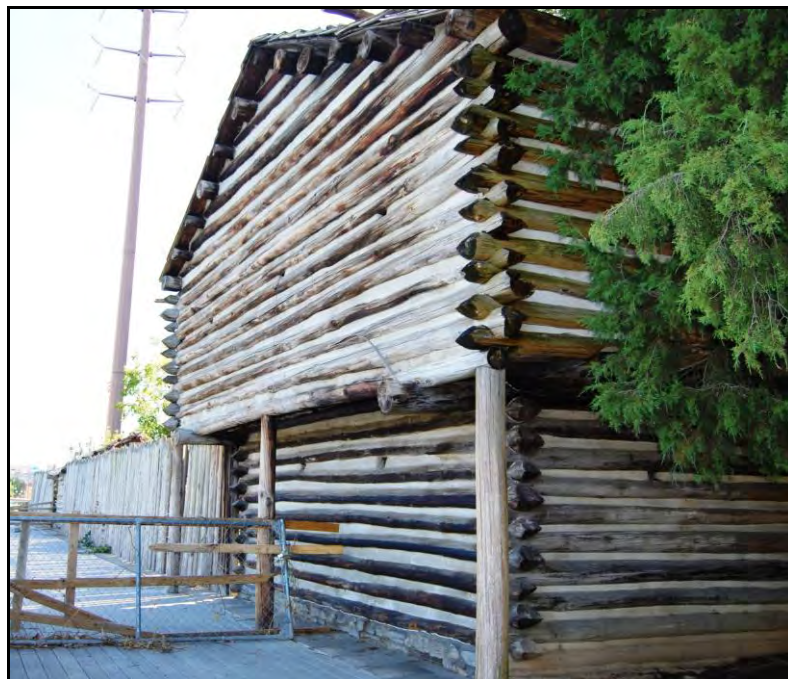


Figure 9: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.

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Figure 10: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 11: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



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Figure 12: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 13: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.

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Figure 14: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 15: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



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Figure 16: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 17: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.

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Figure 18: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



Figure 19: Fort Nashborough in 2011 at the time of National Register listing.



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Figure 20: June 19, 2015 photograph of Fort Nashborough with demolition underway.



Figure 21: June 20, 2015 photograph of Fort Nashborough with demolition underway.



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Figure 22: June 20, 2015 photograph of Fort Nashborough during demolition.



Figure 23: June 20, 2015 photograph of Fort Nashborough during demolition.



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Figure 24: June 20, 2015 photograph showing clean-up after demolition of Fort Nashborough.

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Figure 25: June 20, 2015 photograph showing clean-up after demolition of Fort Nashborough.



Figure 26: June 20, 2015 photograph showing clean-up after demolition of Fort Nashborough.



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Figure 27: June 20, 2015 photograph showing clean-up after demolition of Fort Nashborough.



Figure 28: June 20, 2015 photograph showing clean-up after demolition of Fort Nashborough.

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Figure 29: June 20, 2015 photograph showing clean-up after demolition of Fort Nashborough.



Figure 30: June 20, 2015 photograph of the future development planned for the site.





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# 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 an 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 Nashborough

other names/site number NA

### 2. Location

street & number Riverfront Park on First Avenue NA  not for publication

city or town Nashville NA  vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37202

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

E. Paul Ridge  
Signature of certifying official/Title

May 24, 2011  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain:)

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action  
7/13/2011

Fort Nashborough  
Name of Property

Davidson County, Tennessee  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State            | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal          | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5		buildings
		sites
2		structures
1	2	objects
8	2	Total

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: log revival (frontier revival)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls log  
roof WOOD, log  
other WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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



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Davidson County, Tennessee

## Background

Situated on the banks of the Cumberland River in Nashville, Fort Nashborough was constructed in 1930 to be what was then considered a good, but not exact, representation of the circa 1780 complex built by James Robertson and his band of settlers. It was not built on the site of the original fort and is smaller than the original, but the log construction techniques in 1930 were said to replicate the 1780s techniques.<sup>1</sup> The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), under the guidance of Lizzie Elliot, worked to build and fund the fort. Joseph W. Hart was the architect of what was called "...an accurate reproduction of a pioneer log fort"<sup>2</sup> and the Foster-Creighton company built the complex. Funding for the buildings came from state, county, and local sources. Operated by Nashville government since its construction, in 1962 the fort was substantially reconstructed. The buildings in the fort are set up to interpret various aspects of pioneer life such as cooking or weaving. Fort Nashborough retains its historic integrity from the 1930-1962 reconstruction period.

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Fort Nashborough consists of three separate one- or two-story log buildings, two connected one-story log buildings, and several historic markers all enclosed by a log palisade, forming a stockade or stockade fort. All of the buildings have rear elevations that were built as part of the palisade enclosure. Buildings 4 and 5 were designed to represent blockhouses. All of the buildings have log and stone exterior chimneys, small window openings, log gable roofs, and log interior walls. Shrubs and small trees have been planted inside the complex and in the park that surrounds it. A low stone wall with stone steps at the main entry flanks the exterior of the western palisade. There are ground plantings between the stone wall and the palisade and a Tennessee Historical Commission marker is located near the northwest corner. The Cumberland River is to the immediate east of the fort and First Avenue is on the west. Surrounding areas are parkland or commercial buildings.

The buildings and the palisade are constructed of peeled locust logs. Logs for the buildings are saddle notched with v-shaped ends and concrete mortar. The mortar-covered chinking is nearly as wide as the logs. Chimneys have limestone bases with saddle notched logs above. The palisade log pickets are peeled logs with a conical top. The (side) gable roofs of the buildings are constructed of long shingles/shakes that are held down by a framework of peeled logs. All of the contributing resources were constructed 1930-1962.

<sup>1</sup> The exact location of the original Fort Nashborough is not known but it is thought to be north of the location of the nominated property.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Writers Project. *Tennessee: A guide to the state / compiled and written by the Federal writers' project of the Works Projects Administration for the State of Tennessee*, (Sponsored by Department of Conservation, Division of Information. New York: The Viking press, 1939; reprint ed., St. Clair Shores, MI: Scholarly Press, Inc., 1978), 155.

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## Building 1

Located in the northwest corner of the fort, Building 1 faces east. The east façade contains a single leaf vertical board wood door and a square window opening covered with wood. A stone and log chimney is located on the north elevation and there is a single leaf wood door on the south elevation. The rear or west elevation forms part of the protective palisade of the fort and is only visible from outside the fort. Inside, the peeled logs are visible, the floor is wood, and the underside of the roof is exposed. The large stone fireplace has a peeled log mantel and a stone hearth. Building 1 is interpreted as a kitchen so the fireplace displays a swinging arm with a cast iron pot on it and there are kitchen implements in the building. A sign on the south wall reads "Food Was Scarce During The First Year Of The Settlement As Indian Attacks Kept Families Confined To The Fort. Meats Came Mainly From Domesticated Animals and Corn Was A Staple Food." The single leaf door is visible on this wall. A metal jail-like barrier allows visitors to step into the building but not go all the way inside. (c)

South of Building 1 the palisade is formed by horizontal logs for about the width of a building. A narrow shed roof (or half-gable roof) provides some shelter over this area. This part is connected to Building 2.

## Building 2

Except for not having a door in the south wall, Building 2 is a copy of Building 1. This building is interpreted as a dwelling. An interpretive sign reads "In The Original Fort, All Small Cabins Were Family Dwellings. Parents Slept In The Bed; Infants Slept With The Parents For Warmth And Safety Older Children Slept On Mats On The Floor. A Loft Could Have Provided Extra Floor Space." Outside the building on the south wall is an interpretive sign about James Robertson and the original fort. (c)

## Building 3

Located across the courtyard of the fort near the southeast corner, this building resembles the first two buildings described. The west façade has a single leaf door and a window opening covered with wood. The north elevation has the stone and log chimney. The chimney has been truncated and a modern clay flue placed on top, where logs have been removed. A bronze plaque to James Robertson has been placed on the stone part of the chimney. The plaque recounts his early settlement and calls him the father of Tennessee. Like the first two buildings, the horizontal logs of the rear (east) elevation are part of the protective enclosure for the fort. Inside, the floor in this building is packed earth and there is a stone chimney on the north wall. Interpreted as a work room, the sign in this building states "This Cabin Displays Woodworking Tools And Farming



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Implements Similar To Tools Used In The 1700's. Nashville's First Settlers Built Log Cabins Since Trees Were Plentiful. And Cabins Are Easily Assembled. The Spaces Between The Logs Were Chinked With A Mixture Of Clay, Sand, And Wood Ash." (c)

## Building 4

Building 4 is located in the northeast corner of the fort and is one of two building constructed to represent a blockhouse. The two-story log building is cantilevered on the south façade and north and east elevations. A single leaf wood door and square window opening covered with wood are located on the first story of the façade. Three peeled log posts support the cantilevered second story and the ends of the log floor joists are visible. The second story of the façade reveals two symmetrically placed square window openings. A stone and log chimney is seen on the west elevation, as is a bronze plaque commemorating Colonel Richard Henderson. The horizontal logs on the first story of the blockhouse north elevation form part of the fort's palisade. Four peeled log posts support the cantilever. The only openings on this elevation are the loopholes, or slits that could be used to fire weapons, on the second story. The first story of the north and east elevations is part of the palisade. The cantilevered second stories of both these elevations have no openings. Inside the building is a stone fireplace with a log mantel. Modern lighting has been installed on the ceiling of the first floor, but the log structure of the ceiling is not impacted by them. As with the one-story buildings, there are metal bars that allow the visitor to go inside the building but not all the way into it. The second floor is not accessible. The blockhouse is interpreted as a work room for weaving and cloth making. The interpretive sign over the fireplace notes "Here Are Displayed Some Tools Used To Produce Clothing. Fabric Was Made From Sheep's Wool Or Flax Plant Fibers. Cloth Was Produced In The Winter When People Were Confined Indoors. In Warm Weather People Were Busy Raising Food, Gathering Firewood, And Doing Other Activities Necessary For Survival." (c)

## Building 5

This is another two-story log blockhouse constructed in the same manner as Building 4. On this building, the north façade and south and west elevations are cantilevered. The first story of the north façade has the single leaf wood door and a square window opening, which has been altered with new wood facings. The second story of the façade has two symmetrically placed window openings. A stone and log chimney dominates the east elevation. There is a bronze plaque commemorating Colonel John Donelson on the stone part of the chimney. South of the chimney there is a small one-story log extension with a shed roof. The first stories of the south and west elevations are part of the palisade. There are two square windows on the first story of the south elevation. The easternmost window has a solid pane of glass with a "speaker," while the westernmost window has six-lights. A sign on the south elevation of the one-story extension states that the site is operated by the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation; tours are self guided. The only openings on the second story of this elevation are the loopholes which are also

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seen on the second story of the west elevation. There are no openings on the first story of the west elevation. This building was used for office space and storage. The first story is an open space with a wood floor. A ladder-like stair in the southwest corner leads to the second story. A stone fireplace with log mantel is located on the east wall. Adjacent to this is a small restroom that was used by park staff. Like in the other blockhouse, there are exposed logs on the ceiling. The second story of the building is an open space with exposed rafters and beams. This building is not open to the public and is used only for storage. (c)

## Palisade

The palisade surrounds the buildings in the fort; part of it is formed by the buildings. Peeled logs set vertically form most of the structure. The tops of the posts or pickets are sharpened. There are log gates into the fort on all sides but the main entry to the fort is on the west. This double log gate is faced with a protective metal gate. Above the opening is a sign with "Fort Nashborough" incised on it. North of the entry gate is a second sign stating that this is a facility operated by the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation. (c)

## Stone wall

A stone wall constructed circa 1930 flanks the west elevation of the palisade. There are stone steps leading to the main entry of the fort. Low plantings are seen between the wall and the fort. (c)

## Tennessee Historical Commission Marker

Located at the northwest corner of the complex, between the stone wall and the fort, the marker (3A 33) commemorates Fort Nashborough and the early settlement of the city. (nc due to age)

## DAR marker

Bronze plaque on a pole located by the south elevation of Building 2. Below the DAR logo reads "Tennessee Society Daughters Of The American Revolution and Cumberland District Commemorate Fort Nashborough Tennessee Bicentennial 1796 – 1996. (nc due to age)

## Fort Nashborough marker

North of Building 3 is a large stone with a bronze plaque on its west side. Placed in the reconstructed fort in 1930, the plaque has a bas relief of the fort and "The Battle of the Bluff," the D.A.R. logo, and a brief history, given below. (c)



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## FORT NASHBOROUGH

NAMED IN MEMORY OF GENERAL NASH OF NORTH CAROLINA, WHO FELL AT GERMANTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, OCTOBER 4, 1777, IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.

ERECTED ON THE BLUFF NEAR THIS LOCATION, BY THE PIONEERS OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENT IN THE YEAR 1780, AS A CENTRAL FORT OF DEFENSE AGAINST INDIAN ATTACKS.

WAS THE SCENE OF MANY NOTED HISTORICAL EVENTS, ESPECIALLY THE INDIAN ATTACK OF APRIL 2, 1781, KNOWN AS

“THE BATTLE OF THE BLUFF.”

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THIS REPRESENTATION OF THE ORIGINAL FORT WAS BUILT BY APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE COUNTY OF DAVIDSON AND THE CITY OF NASHVILLE, THROUGH THE PATRIOTIC WORK OF THE TENNESSEE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE PERSEVERING EFFORTS OF THE FOUR NASHVILLE CHAPTERS: VIZ.

CUMBERLAND, GENERAL JAMES ROBERTSON, CAMPBELL, AND COLONEL THOMAS MCCRORY

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ERECTED IN 1930 – THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SETTLEMENT OF WHAT IS NOW THE CITY OF NASHVILLE

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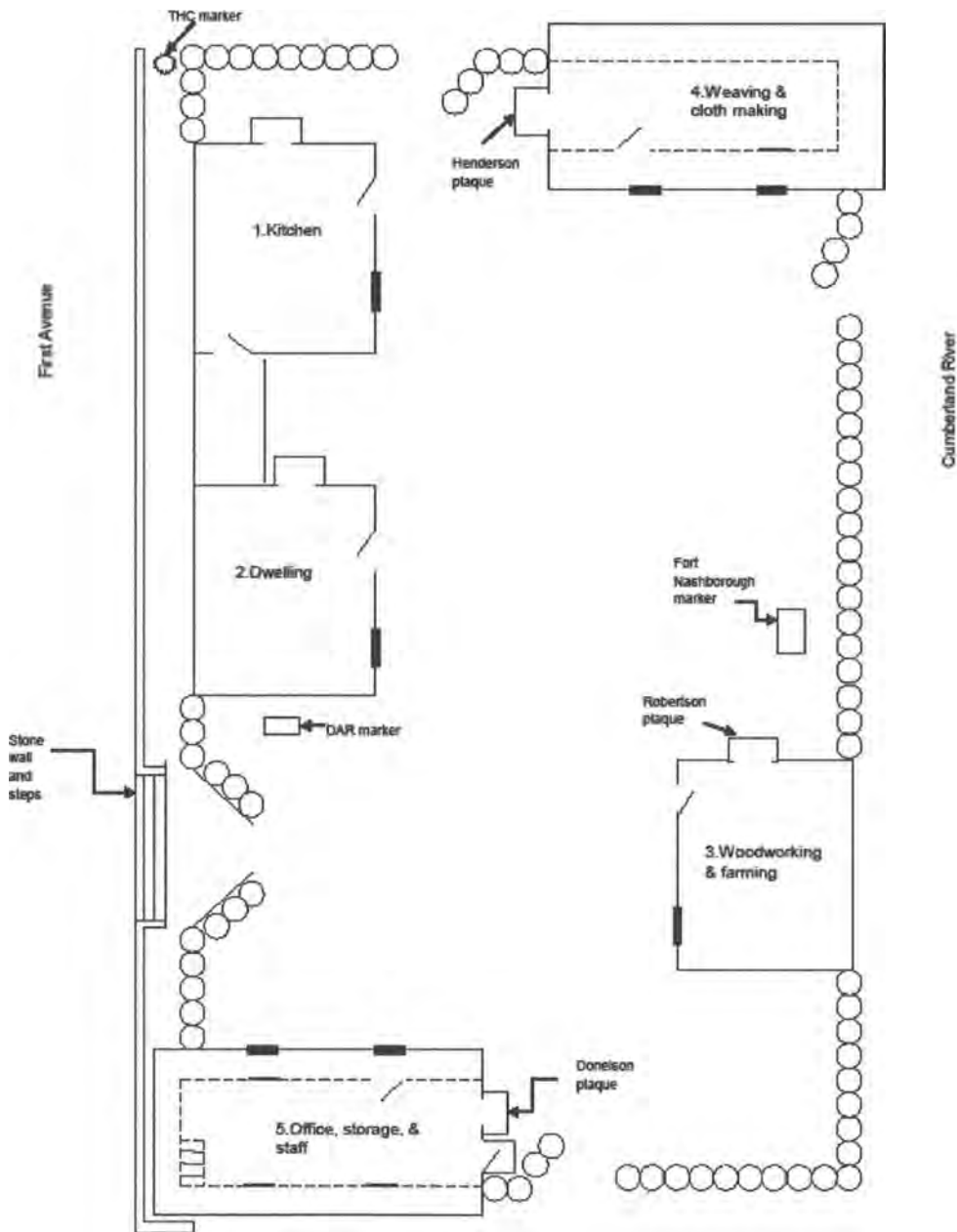


Figure 1. Sketch plan of Fort Nashborough



**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.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION  
ARCHITECTURE  
RECREATION/ENTERTAINMENT

**Period of Significance**

Circa 1930 – circa 1962

**Significant Dates**

NA

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Hart, Joseph W. (1930)

Billis & Johnson (1962)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- 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:

Metro Historical Commission

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Nashborough is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its local significance in conservation, recreation/entertainment, and architecture. From its construction in 1930 to its reconstruction in 1962, the fort complex has been an important part of Nashville's efforts to conserve and promote its early history. Due to the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), in 1930 Fort Nashborough was built as an approximation of the circa 1780 settlement fort. After thirty years of use and realizing the importance of Fort Nashborough to the community, the city planned and built a reconstruction of the 1930 complex in 1962. As a result, Fort Nashborough meets Criterion Consideration E. The buildings have been used for education and recreation by residents, school groups, and tourists. Architecturally, the buildings are good examples of early twentieth century log revival designs. The property retains its historic and architectural integrity.

Following the arrival of the James Robertson and John Donelson groups in the winter and spring of 1779 and 1780, the new settlers in Middle Tennessee constructed a series of forts and "stations" in the area, including Freeland's in present-day North Nashville, Eaton's (also known as Heaton's) on the east bank of the Cumberland in Nashville, Mansker's in present-day Goodlettsville, and Bledsoe's (now Castalian Springs), among others, numbering eight by 1780. Along the western banks of the Cumberland River, the central fort and settlement was called Fort Nashborough. The original Fort Nashborough has been described as approximately a two-acre settlement, rectangular in plan, with two-story log blockhouses in each corner. One-story log cabins formed the sides between each blockhouse, with a surrounding log picket fence.

Wilbur Creighton's *Building of Nashville* reprints a drawing of the plan of Fort Nashborough, by Andrew Castleman, described as an "Indian scout who perhaps lived at the Fort," and drawn from memory in the 1840s. (See Figure 4.) This plan indicates that there were log buildings standing in the center of the fort, as well as along the sides, possibly to house livestock and for storage of food for both the animals and people. According to Castleman's drawing, the fort was roughly 247 feet long and 123 feet wide. Creighton believes that the original fort sat at a right angle to the Cumberland, rather than parallel to the river. The Castleman drawing, however, was not analyzed as to the actual location of the original Fort Nashborough until 1962, when a local historian, Finley McIlwaine, "rediscovered" the drawing in the microfilmed papers of Lyman C. Draper.<sup>3</sup>

Nineteenth-century historians A.W. Putnam and W.W. Clayton have both described the original Fort Nashborough: "The fort at Nashborough was erected upon the bluff, between the south-east corner of the Square and Spring Street.... This place of defense was a log structure, two stories high, with portholes and a lookout station. Other log houses were near it, and the whole were

<sup>3</sup>Wilbur Creighton, *Building of Nashville* (Nashville: np), 1-13; Lyman Draper papers, microfilm, Tennessee State Library and Archives; *Tennessean*, 13 May 1962.



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enclosed with palisades or pickets firmly set in the earth, having the upper ends sharpened.”<sup>4</sup> As the English writer G.W. Featherstonehaugh traveled through the American South in the 1830s, he described a similar fort construction at Ridley’s Fort, “near Buchanan’s Fort, was built thus”

Next to the ground were six round logs, about twenty-one feet long, laid upon each other and well mortised; next came a log about twenty-four feet long, on the west side, and a similar one on the other sides, all well mortised. In this way, a project, even with the floor that divided the upper chamber of the blockhouse from the lower one, is formed beyond the ground tier of logs, upon which an upper wall of round logs is built; after which the building is roofed in. Upon the roof pieces of wood are fixed for the garrison to step upon and extinguish any fire the Indians might succeed in setting to it with their arrows. Loopholes, also, were made in the logs of the upper chamber to enable them to fire at any Indians who ventured to show themselves; as well as others in the projecting part of the floor, from whence they could fire perpendicularly down upon their besiegers.<sup>5</sup>

The historical record of early Fort Nashborough includes dramatic events such as Indian attacks and the famous “Battle of the Bluffs,” the first marriage in present-day Nashville, as well as the signing of the Cumberland Compact, the first representative form of government in the new settlement, allowing for representation from each of the eight stations in proportion to the population. Nashborough, the largest and most central, received three representatives; Eaton’s received two, and the other six had one representative each.

With this knowledge and the desire to honor the early pioneer settlers of Nashville, in the 1920s, local members of the DAR began planning to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the city of Nashville, in 1930. They sought to mark the area where Nashville’s original settlement was, and to provide a way to educate and entertain Nashvillians and tourists, both children and adults, about the lives, hardships, and legacies of those individuals who founded the city. Historical reconstructions were nothing new to Nashvillians, who were at the same time watching the reconstruction of the Parthenon (NR 2/23/72) in Centennial Park (NR 7/15/08).

Lizzie Elliott, a noted Nashville historian and member of the DAR, led the research and efforts to obtain the land and funding needed to reconstruct the fort. She worked with local architect Joseph Hart, who provided a drawing, based on the research of Miss Elliott and others. The city of Nashville provided the land upon which the reconstruction was built, and funding was provided by

<sup>4</sup>A.W. Putnam, *History of Middle Tennessee*, (Nashville: by the author, 1859; reprint, Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1971), 86-87; W.W. Clayton, *History of Davidson County, Tennessee* (Philadelphia: np, 1880; reprint, Nashville: Charles Elder, Bookseller, 1971), 24-25.

<sup>5</sup>Quoted in H.W. Crew, *History of Nashville, Tennessee* (Nashville: Methodist Publishing House, 1890; reprint, Nashville: Charles Elder, Bookseller, nd), 77-79.

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the city, the county, and the state. Hart's drawing is at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, (See Figure 8) and Lizzie Elliott made the following notation on the rear of the drawing

We have no description of our fort. That must be picked up here and there in the old histories. This picture is exactly according to the ideas which I have gathered.... The fort, as we have reproduced it, it's a mixture of other forts around here, with Fort Nashborough. I consider it approximately correct. There is nothing there but that was really to be found in our Forts done here, on Cumberland.<sup>6</sup>

At the time of construction, most local historians considered the site to be approximately accurate; one local newspaper reported that "the replica is located on the bank of the Cumberland River on the exact site of the old fort."<sup>7</sup> (See Figure 5.) The *Nashville Evening Tennessean* reported on 10 December 1930, that the plans were prepared by the firm of Hart and Stone, architects, "and the fortress is being erected by Foster and Creighton." In a 1962 newspaper article, architect Joseph Hart recalled that he had travelled to study log construction in Kentucky in preparation for his work on this project, and that he and the DAR members knew that they were creating a "representation" of the original fort, "being considerably smaller and containing fewer cabins."<sup>8</sup>

Lizzie Elliott, well known in Nashville for her work *The Early History of Nashville*, which had been used for years as a textbook in Nashville schools, was the daughter of (Mr.) Collins D. Elliott, the noted women's educator, founding president of the Nashville Female Academy. Miss Elliott had graduated from Peabody College, and taught at Howard School for thirty years. In addition to her membership in the DAR, she was also a member of the Anti-Saloon League and the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), and was an officer in the Tennessee Historical Society. Her obituary in the *Nashville Tennessean* recalled "her work as a historian served to extend her influence far beyond the schoolroom so that it touched every person interested in the story of their city and state." Miss Elliott passed away in the spring of 1932, shortly after seeing her dream of a reconstructed Fort Nashborough come to pass.<sup>9</sup>

Joseph W. Hart was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on November 6, 1903. He finished school in 1922, worked as a draftsman for Nashville architect Donald W. Southgate until 1924, when he went to Cornell University (1924-1926). He returned to work with Southgate from 1926-1927 doing designs, specs, and drafting. In 1927-1928 he was a draftsman for John Russell Pope. His firm of Joseph W. Hart, Architect was established in 1928 and was active in various forms until at least

<sup>6</sup>Collins D. Elliott Papers, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

<sup>7</sup>Clipping from unnamed newspaper, dated 10 December 1930, in files at Nashville Room, Nashville Public Library.

<sup>8</sup>*Tennessean*, 13 May 1962.

<sup>9</sup>*Nashville Tennessean*, 15 May 1932; *Nashville Banner* 14 May 1932, both clippings in Collins D. Elliott Papers, TSLA. See also John A. Simpson, *Edith D. Pope and Her Nashville Friends: Guardians of the Lost Cause in the Confederate Veteran* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003), 192.



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1956. He established the firm of Hart and Stone with architect J. Ralph Stone in the 1930s.<sup>10</sup> Hart was registered in Tennessee and Mississippi and was a member of the American Institute of Architects from 1930-1939.<sup>11</sup> He designed "Wherry" housing for Smyrna, Tennessee, a hotel at Paris Landing State Park, and worked on several other buildings in Nashville. Hart died in Florida in 1974.

As stated on the marker within Fort Nashborough: "This representation of the original fort was built by appropriations from the state of Tennessee, the county of Davidson and the city of Nashville, through the patriotic work of the Tennessee Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the preserving efforts of the four Nashville Chapters, Viz.: Cumberland, General James Robertson, Campbell, and Colonel Thomas McCrory." The Fort Nashborough plaques were dedicated at War Memorial Auditorium on 20 November 1930, with Judge Lytton Hickman (Davidson County), Mayor Hilary Howse (City of Nashville), Governor Henry Horton (State of Tennessee, Judge John H. DeWitt (Historical Committee Chair), and Mrs. Joseph Hayes Acklen (DAR State Regent) giving addresses on the program. Other DAR members presented the historic tablets, and the Hume-Fogg (NR 10/16/74) school band played at both the opening and the close of the program.<sup>12</sup>

Shortly after the construction and opening of the fort, E.F. Corbin was named "Custodian and Historian", replaced in 1938 by Annie Long Crutcher, who was appointed to that post by Nashville Mayor Cummings on 20 May 1938. Crutcher was a well-known and well-respected Nashvillian. Like Lizzie Elliott, Mrs. Crutcher was a member of the DAR, as well as the Ladies' Hermitage Association, the Daughters of 1812, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, and many other women's groups. She was also a charter member and one-time president of the Nashville No. 1 chapter of the UDC, and was the president of the Tennessee Parent-Teacher Association. Mrs. Crutcher retired from Fort Nashborough in 1952, and passed away in 1955. During the early years of Fort Nashborough, several local families donated valuable artifacts and other items to assist in the displays and interpretation. The disposition of those artifacts is currently unknown (some are possibly used in the 1802 House at Two Rivers [NR 2/23/72]). Artifacts may have been lost due to theft, as burglaries in 1956 and 1969 received some press coverage.<sup>13</sup> (See Figure 6 and Figure 7.)

Newspaper articles indicate that the city of Nashville made a \$10,000 appropriation for repairs at Fort Nashborough in 1950, and that a large-scale reconstruction of the 1930 fort complex was

<sup>10</sup> Hart is listed in the 1956 American Architects Directory, <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/> accessed September 28, 2010. Hart is not listed in the 1970 directory.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. See also Nashville City Directories 1930, 1931, 1933, 1937.

<sup>12</sup> Program, "Dedication of Fort Nashborough," 20 November 1930. Copy in files at Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission; originals in files at Metropolitan Nashville Archives; *Tennessean*, 30 November 1930. See also memorandum from Mary Enoch to Louise Davis, 9 June 1989, copy in files at Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission.

<sup>13</sup> Annie Long Crutcher Papers, Tennessee State Library and Archives; Simpson, 84, 117, 191.

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made in 1962, when \$115,000 was appropriated by City Council. Billis & Johnson served as the architectural firm overseeing the restoration; N.H. Barker & Company was the contractor. According to newspaper reports in 1962, the logs used for the restoration were "peeled 'striped' locust logs", used because of the "striping" treatment to prevent termites and "to prevent some of the bark peeling that has been done by sightseers." Mrs. Ruth Martin was curator of the fort during this time; almost all the newspaper accounts report "summer visitation" in excess of 25,000.<sup>14</sup>

Announcing the reconstruction of Fort Nashborough in April 1962, Mayor Ben West stated: "This pioneer stockade is a valuable part of our city's heritage. The old logs have rotted away but we intend to save this bit of history for future generations through a complete rebuilding."<sup>15</sup> Mayor West also presided over the rededication ceremonies in November 1962.

The 1962 "discovery" of the Castleman map in the Draper papers caused some angst and concern among historians and planners in that it was learned that the DAR reconstruction was not actually on the site of the original fort, however, the city went ahead with the reconstruction work at the current site, and historians, journalists, and visitors lauded the city for its commitment to its historic sites.<sup>16</sup> Following the creation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County in 1963, Executive Order No. 12 (15 June 1963) transferred Fort Nashborough to the management of the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation.<sup>17</sup>

Throughout the 1970s, Wesley Paine served as director of Fort Nashborough. During that time, a popular large-scale living history program was offered, with costumed docents providing historical interpretation to visitors at the fort. It was reported that the fort could average as many as two or three hundred visitors in a day's time, and the fort was a popular field trip destination.<sup>18</sup> Although budget constraints ended the living history program and there is currently no on-site docent, Fort Nashborough remains a popular attraction, featured in many tourist guidebooks, and remains a destination for field trips and tour groups. Unfortunately, the lack of current interpretative signage or a docent hampers historical understanding, and the deferred maintenance and lack of general housekeeping is apparent to visitors.

The reconstruction of Fort Nashborough in 1930 is representative of the larger national movement by the DAR to mark historic sites important in the colonial and revolutionary history of the United States. Similarly, the restoration and reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg (NHL 10/9/60 as

<sup>14</sup> *Tennessean*, 12 August 1962.

<sup>15</sup> *Nashville Banner*, 26 April 1962.

<sup>16</sup> See for example, *Tennessean*, 18 May 1962 and 12 August 1962; *Nashville Banner*, 21 November 1962; and an undated article in *The Christian Science Monitor* (in files at Metropolitan Nashville Archives).

<sup>17</sup> Leland R. Johnson, *The Parks of Nashville: A History of the Board of Parks and Recreation* (Nashville: Metropolitan Nashville Board of Parks and Recreation, 1986), 165, 240-241.

<sup>18</sup> Interview with Wesley Paine by Tara Mitchell Mielenik, 9 April 2010; see also Fort Nashborough Scrapbook, 1975-1976, in files at Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission.



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Williamsburg Historic District) in Virginia led the way for a larger Colonial Revival movement in architecture and interiors. In Tennessee, Fort Nashborough is one of the most important "Frontier Revival" reconstructions, while the style became moderately popular for new residential construction as well. There are log houses in the North Edgefield part of Nashville and in south Nashville. However, none of these 1930s residences attempt to represent the settlement period buildings of Nashville. Most have a Craftsman influence and all use modern construction methods. Fort Nashborough is the best local example of reconstructed log buildings that attempt to replicate a historic building. Other examples of architecture in Tennessee that commemorates early settlement buildings include the James White Fort in Knoxville and Fort Loudon (NHL 6/23/65) in Monroe County. James White's log fort has been dismantled and moved twice, the last time being in 1973. Reconstruction of Fort Loudon's buildings and palisade began in the 1930s as WPA project. When TVA created Tellico Lake in the mid-1970s, the fort was raised seventeen feet above the water level and rebuilt. Both of these forts are approximations of the original settlement era buildings that are not on their original sites.

Traveling to see historic sites, whether to a nearby city or a faraway place, has been and continues to be an important American pastime. "See America First" began with the railroads encouraging the wealthy to travel by rail in the US during the first decade of the twentieth century. By the 1930s, when Fort Nashborough was built, traveling to historic and recreational sites in the US had become a popular pastime that was "a ritual of citizenship."<sup>19</sup> During the Depression years, the WPA's Federal Writers' Project state travel guides not only provided work for writers, they let people know what they could see within their own areas, including historic sites. John Jakle notes in *The Tourist* that visiting historic sites "...was usually a well-developed preoccupation in travel."<sup>20</sup> He calls many of these historic places contrivances and states that they are important to the traveler.

Celebrating the past was important to a sense of nationhood, statehood, and locality. It was educational as a means of orientation to one's cultural heritage, but above all, visiting historical attractions could be entertaining and relaxing. Historical sites offered a sense of permanence in an ever-evolving world of new, highly standardized landscapes.<sup>21</sup>

Tennessee's WPA guide showcases Fort Nashborough on the first page of its architecture section. The relatively new fort is mentioned for its log construction and the history of James Robertson's early settlement. The book has a photo of the fort and erroneously states that the property is an accurate reproduction on the original site of the fort. Like many battlefields and collections of

<sup>19</sup> Marguerite Shaffer. *See America First: Tourism and National Identity, 1880-1940* (Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001), 309.

<sup>20</sup> John Jakle. *The Tourist: Travel in Twentieth-Century North America* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1985), 286.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

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historic or reproduced buildings in complexes, such as Colonial Williamsburg or Greenfield Village (NHL 12/21/81 as Edison Institute), Fort Nashborough was not an accurate reproduction. The 1930 fort was built in a park-like setting with plantings that were never at the original fort. The modern setting enshrined the buildings, giving a sense of veneration to the complex. In this sense, a property such as Fort Nashborough, while not original or even accurate, was more than a museum that held artifacts. "Historical places were lived-in landscapes that preserved aspects of context, but which were strongly overlaid by aspects of contemporary life, including the imprints of tourism."<sup>22</sup>

The importance of Fort Nashborough in developing a sense of Nashville history is seen in other published works. Critic and author Robert Penn Warren, one of the Agrarians, in his work *Segregation: The Inner Conflict in the South*, calls the replica of Fort Nashborough "the ground of history and heroism... hallowed ground."<sup>23</sup> Meanwhile, another of the Agrarians, Donald Davidson, cited the reconstruction of Fort Nashborough as the result of a "wave of reverence" to a locale's individualized past.<sup>24</sup> Numerous travel guides for Nashville, Tennessee, and the South, beginning with the Federal Writers Guide mentioned earlier and continuing almost annually to the present-day (including Fodor's, Frommer's, Collier's, and others), call out Fort Nashborough as a site worth visiting.<sup>25</sup>

Along with its importance to tourism, Fort Nashborough is a good example of early- to mid-twentieth century historic preservation and conservation. During this timeframe, the colonial era was the premier area that historic preservation was concerned with and much of the work the DAR did for historic preservation was with colonial era buildings.<sup>26</sup> The idealized past, as rebuilt in the twentieth century, did not strive for an accurate reproduction but only a feeling that the building was historic. Fort Nashborough has many of the features recommended for reproduction buildings.

The building should rest closely on the ground; the pitch of the roof and its eave and cornice line should be correct in relation to the width and height of the wall surface; the windows (double-hung or, in the seventeenth-century examples, casements) should be properly scaled with the appropriate division of lights; paneled doorways,

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 300.

<sup>23</sup> Robert Penn Warren, *Segregation: The Inner Conflict in the South* (1956; reprint, Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1994), 10-11.

<sup>24</sup> Donald Davidson, *Regionalism and Nationalism in the United States: The Attack on Leviathan* (Raleigh: University of North Carolina Press, 1938; reprint, New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Publishers, 1991), 87.

<sup>25</sup> The Agrarians were a prominent early twentieth century group of social critics based at Vanderbilt University. They promoted southern rural culture as an antidote to industrialization and capitalism. Published in 1930, *I'll Take My Stand: The South and the Agrarian Tradition* is one of their best known collection of essays. The Agrarians are closely tied to a literary movement, The Fugitives.

<sup>26</sup> David Gebhard. "The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s." *Winterthur Portfolio* 22, no. 2/3 (Summer-Autumn, 1987), 119.



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fireplace mantels, and stair and other details should be based on historic precedent; and everything should contribute to a sense of delicate and intimate scale.<sup>27</sup>

While the WPA writers were telling people where to travel for historic sites, programs like the Historic American Buildings Survey were recording the architecture and history of buildings throughout the nation. Architectural magazines and journals also depicted some of the colonial era buildings and they had designs for new colonial buildings in their pages.

Throughout the country, hereditary organizations and women's groups, notably the DAR, led the way in the early and mid-twentieth century with restorations and reconstructions of significant early American historic sites. Over 210 DAR-assisted restoration and reconstruction projects were documented in 1941. Wakefield, the birthplace of George Washington, in Virginia; Mount Washington Tavern at Fort Necessity, in Pennsylvania; Stratford (NR 10/15/66), the birthplace of Robert E. Lee, in Virginia; and the Old Exchange Building in Charleston, South Carolina; are just a few of the most notable examples of the work of the DAR in historic preservation in the 1920s and 1930s. Others include the Nancy Hart Cabin in Georgia (constructed 1931, now a part of Nancy Hart State Outdoor Recreation Area); Fort Harrod in Kentucky (constructed circa 1925, now Old Fort Harrod State Park); Thomas Lincoln Cabin in Charleston, Illinois (constructed in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps); and the Pioneer Memorial Cabin in Woodburn, Oregon (constructed in 1931, now a part of the Champoeg State Heritage Area).<sup>28</sup> In Tennessee during this period, the DAR was active in the preservation of Brainerd Mission Cemetery (NR 12/6/79) near Chattanooga, and the preservation of Rock House (NR 8/14/73), near Sparta, in addition to the reconstruction of Fort Nashborough. Perhaps the most significant site associated with the preservation work of the DAR in Tennessee is that of Blount Mansion in Knoxville (NR 10/15/66, NHL 1/12/65), where the Bonny Kate Chapter of the DAR purchased the house in 1925 and opened it as a museum in 1926, forming the Blount Mansion Association in the process. Fort Nashborough is one of several reconstruction projects that the DAR was involved in nationally in the 1920s and 1930s.

In Tennessee, another example of early preservation or conservation work, although not associated with the DAR, is the Andrew Johnson tailor shop in Greeneville. The state constructed a brick Colonial Revival building to encase the frame tailor shop and acquired the property in 1923. A local organization called the "Mothers Club" and later known as the Andrew Johnson Woman's Club had "custody" of the building.<sup>29</sup> The building became a part of the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site (NR 10/15/66) when the site was established in 1942. The Mothers Club also erected

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 120.

<sup>28</sup> Lewis Barrington, *Historic Restorations of the Daughters of the American Revolution* (New York: Richard R. Smith, 1941), passim; Martha Lynn Fuquay Cummings and (Dee) Ida Garrett Herod Smothers, *Historical Markers Placed by the Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution* (Knoxville: Tennessee Valley Publishing, 2007), 4-13; Tara Mitchell Mielnik, "Blount Mansion" in *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Carroll Van West, ed. (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 74.

<sup>29</sup> Cameron Binkley, *Andrew Johnson National Historic Site Administrative History* (Atlanta: National Park Service, 2008), 6.

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a reproduction of the capitol building for the Lost State of Franklin in 1966, a few years after Fort Nashborough had been rebuilt.

The reconstruction of Fort Nashborough is one of the watershed events in Nashville and Tennessee's preservation movements, and is architecturally and historically significant not so much for its association with the settlement history of Nashville, but with the cultural history of Nashville and the historical and preservation movements in the twentieth century.



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Fort Nashborough  
Name of Property

Davidson County, Tennessee  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre Nashville West 308 NE

#### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 520279 4002131  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
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.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tara Mitchell Mielnik/Historic Preservation Specialist & Claudette Stager/Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization Metro (Nashville) Historical Commission & TN Historical Commission date November 2010  
street & number 300 Granny White Pike & 2941 Lebanon Road telephone 615/862-7970 & 532-1550  
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37204 & 37214

#### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

Name/title Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, c/o Tommy Lynch, Director  
street & number Post Office Box 186340 telephone 615/ 862-8400  
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37219

**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 listing. 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.*)

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the log palisade and the buildings of Fort Nashborough that are enclosed. It also includes the historic stone wall on the west. The boundary extends north from the northern palisade approximately thirty-five feet to a non-historic marker. The east boundary extends from the eastern palisade approximately fourteen feet and includes the adjacent sidewalk. The south boundary extends from the southern palisade approximately fourteen feet and ends before the modern bathrooms. The west boundary extends approximately five feet from the palisade and includes the historic stone wall. This is part of parcel 09306210300. Outside the boundary is the Cumberland River, a modern park with structures and buildings, and First Avenue. The nominated area includes the most intact area that represents historic Fort Nashborough. The boundary is marked on the attached tax map.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos by: Claudette Stager  
Date: September 2010  
Digital Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission

Main entry gate to Fort Nashborough and stone wall, facing east  
1 of 35

West elevation of fort and stone wall, facing northeast  
2 of 35

West elevation of fort showing stone wall and buildings 1, 2, 4, and 5, facing southeast  
3 of 35

West elevation of fort showing stone wall and buildings 1, 2, and connector, facing southeast  
4 of 35

West elevation of fort showing stone wall and buildings 1, 2, and 3, facing east  
5 of 35

Southwest corner of fort showing stone wall and Building 5  
6 of 35

North elevation of fort, showing Building 4, facing south  
7 of 35

East elevation of fort, facing south southwest  
8 of 35

East elevation of fort, facing north northwest  
9 of 35

South entry to fort, overview showing buildings 3 and 4, facing, north  
10 of 35

South elevation of fort, showing Building 5, facing northwest  
11 of 35

Northwest corner of fort showing Building 4 and north entry, facing southeast  
12 of 35

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      photos      Page   22   Fort Nashborough  
Davidson County, Tennessee

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Building 1 east façade, facing southwest  
13 of 35

Building 1 interior, facing southwest  
14 of 35

Building 1 interior, facing northwest  
15 of 35

East façades of buildings 1 and 2, facing, southwest  
16 of 35

Building 2 interior, facing northwest  
17 of 35

Building 2 interior, facing southwest  
18 of 35

Overview inside fort showing buildings 2, 3, 5, and marker, facing south  
19 of 35

South elevation of Building 2 and main entry, facing west  
20 of 35

North elevation and west façade of Building 3 and marker, facing south  
21 of 35

West façade and south elevation of Building 3, facing northwest  
22 of 35

Overview showing buildings 2, 3, and 4, facing south  
23 of 35

South façade of Building 4, facing south  
24 of 35

Building 4 interior, facing northwest  
25 of 35

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 23 Fort Nashborough  
Davidson County, Tennessee

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North façade of Building 5, facing south  
26 of 35

Building 5 east elevation and south entry to fort, facing west  
27 of 35

Building 5 south elevation, facing northwest  
28 of 35

Building 5 interior, facing southwest  
29 of 35

Building 5 interior, facing east showing former bathroom  
30 of 35

Building 5 interior, facing east  
31 of 35

Building 5 interior, facing south  
32 of 35

Building 5 interior second floor  
33 of 35

Overview of fort showing buildings 1, 2, 3, and 5, facing south  
34 of 35

Overview from across Cumberland River, facing west  
35 of 35

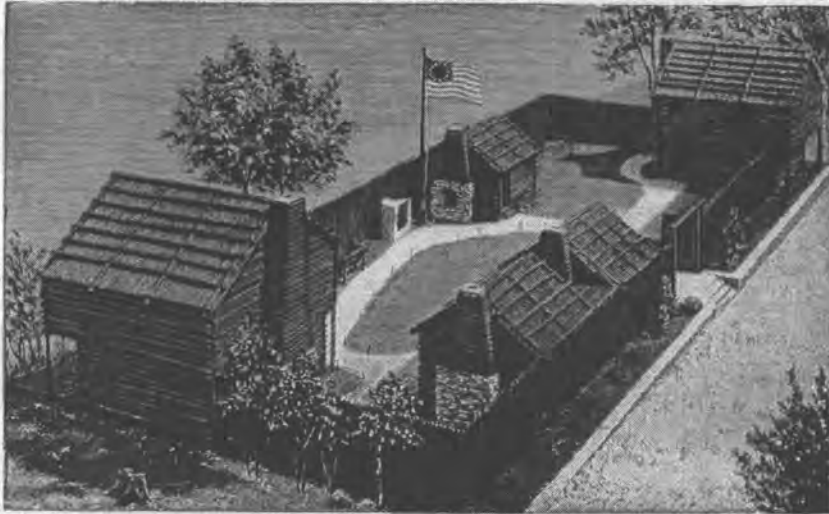


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number        figures        Page   24   Fort Nashborough  
Davidson County, Tennessee

FORT NASHBOROUGH - FIRST AVE. AND CHURCH ST. - NASHVILLE - TENN. - 26



Figures 2 and 3. Undated postcards from the Norton Collection of Vintage Nashville Postcards, 2002

This replica of Fort Nashborough, the stockade and cabins that housed the pioneers, who established the settlement more than 150 years ago, is erected on the site of the original enclosure. It is built entirely of logs and handhewn planks. No nails or metal was used in its construction. Hinges, latches, etc. are made of wood and it is throughout an authentic reproduction of American frontier construction.

FORT NASHBOROUGH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



### FORT NASHBOROUGH

(Named for General Francis Nash, Fort Nashborough was changed to Nashville in 1784)

This representation of the original Fort was erected in 1930, the 150th anniversary of the settlement of what is now the City of Nashville, Tennessee. (see tablet)

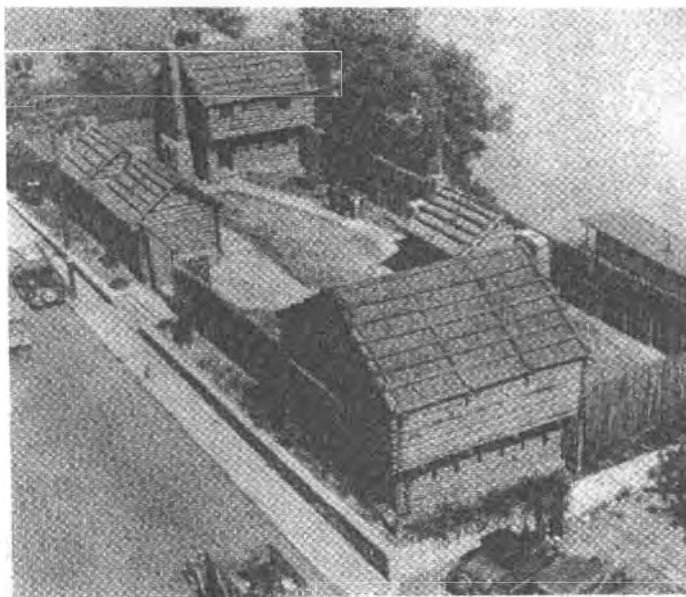
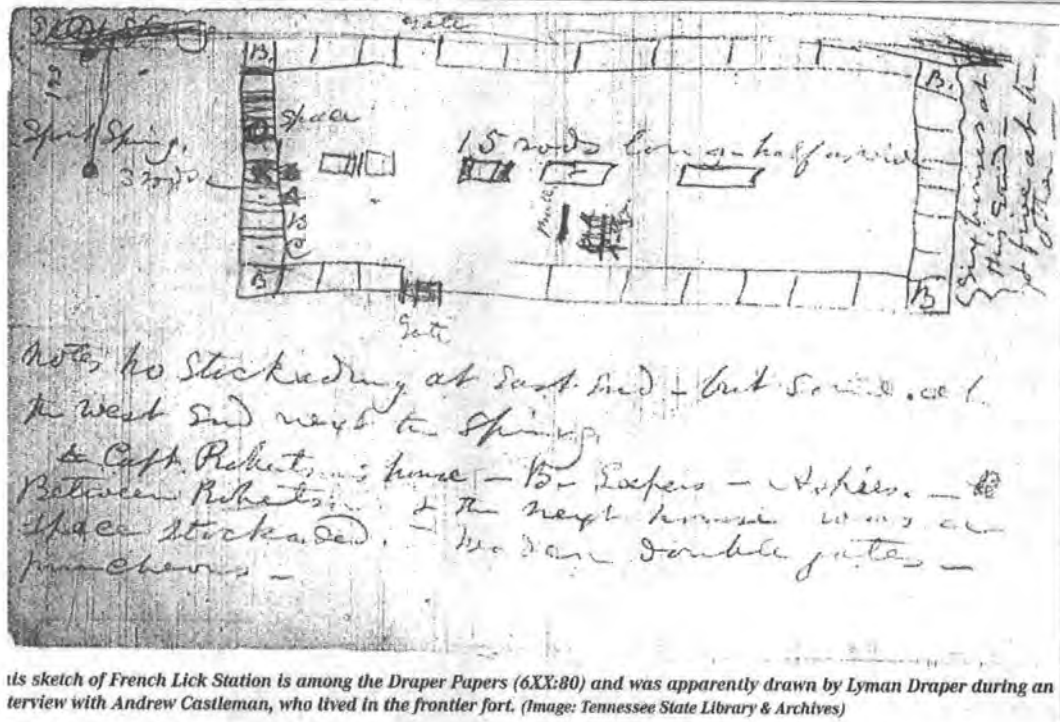
The visitor will be interested in the pioneer construction without the use of builder's hardware, or nails.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number            figures            Page 25 Fort Nashborough  
Davidson County, Tennessee

## THE NASHVILLE RETROSPECT, OCTOBER 2010



This photo of the replica station on the Bluff, Fort Nashborough, was taken not long after its completion in 1930. (Image: Tennessee State Library & Archives)

Figures 4 and 5. Nashville Retrospect, October 2010.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      figures      Page   26   Fort Nashborough  
Davidson County, Tennessee

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Figures 6 and 7. *Nashville Retrospect*, October 2010. Photos are from the *Nashville Banner* Archives at the Nashville Public Library. Left is Curator Ruth Martin and right is Caretaker Dewey Kirkpatrick looking at Building 1 after an October 1956 burglary.

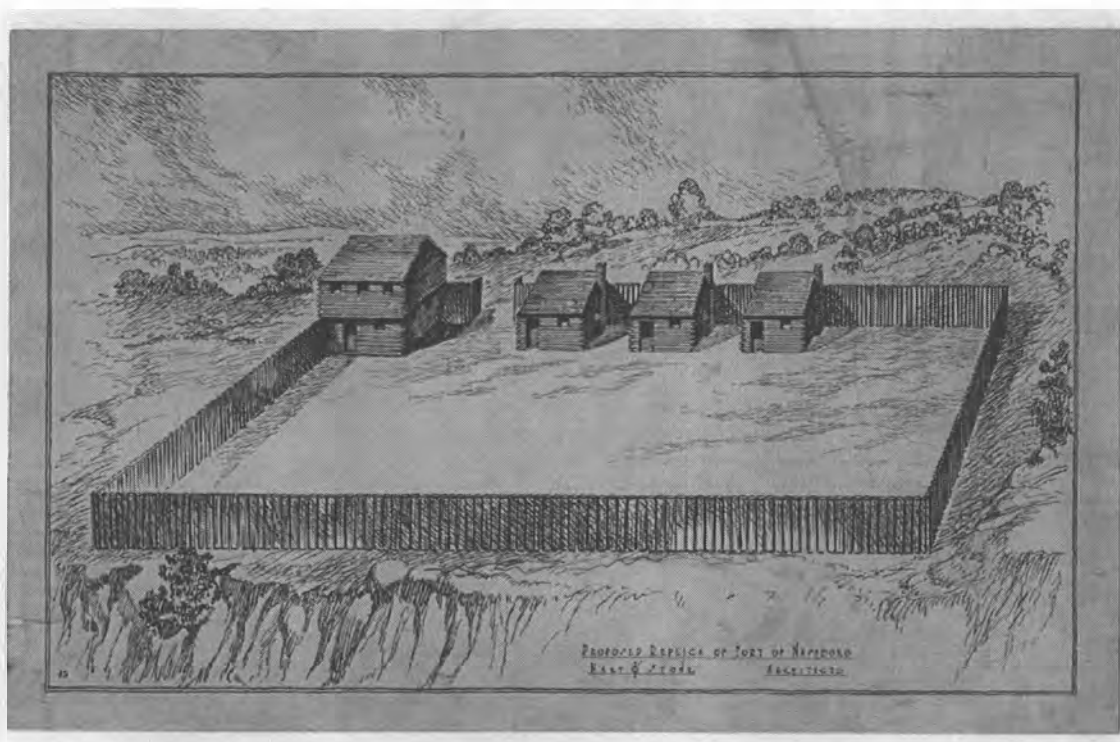


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number figures Page 27 Fort Nashborough  
Davidson County, Tennessee

Figure 8. Hart drawing of Fort Nashborough. Courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fort Nashborough

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Davidson

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/24/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/11/11      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000454

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    7/13/2011 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Reconstruction of fort that was the founding of Nashville. Done in 1980 and rebuilt in 1982, it reflects the wave of commemoration that ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> popularized with Williamsburg. The Fort is not an accurate replica, but the DAR did the best possible job considering the lack of info. Served the community as an icon of local history & as an educational tool.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Ade

REVIEWER J. Gubbert      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



FORT NASHBOROUGH

WELCOME TO  
FORT NASHBOROUGH  
A SELF-GUIDED TOUR FACILITY  
OPERATED BY:  
METRO BOARD OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION



LP  
LUBRICANTS









THE LOG CABIN  
MUSEUM  
This log cabin was built in 1840 by James H. Smith, a pioneer settler of the area. It is one of the few remaining log cabins in the city and is a fine example of early frontier architecture. The cabin was used as a dwelling and a storehouse. It is now a museum and is open to the public. The cabin is located at the corner of 1st and 2nd Streets, N.W.

THE LOG CABIN  
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*Welcome to:*  
**FORT NASHBORO**  
A SELF-GUIDED TOUR FAC.  
Operated By:  
The Metropolitan Board of  
Parks and Recreation





*Welcome*  
**FORT NASH**  
A SELF-GUIDED  
Open  
The Metro  
Parks and




3A 33

### FORT NASHBOROUGH

The original stockade fronts the river slightly north of the present enclosure, covering an area of about two acres. On May 15, 1781, representatives of this and other settlements met and adopted the Cumberland Compact for the government of the new settlement. A stockade was built about 500 yards west, April 2, 1781, and was destroyed by dogs, driven by Indians in the battle of the





A black and white photograph of the interior of a log cabin. The walls are constructed from horizontal logs with chinking between them. A wooden door is visible on the right side. A small, dark rectangular plaque is mounted on the wall, containing text about the cabin's history.

Fort Meade Survived The First Year Of The  
Settlement As Indian Attacks Fought Hand-to-  
Hand To The Fort. Meade Came Here  
From Denmarkland Atchafalpa And Can Was  
A. Steph. Ford.




























A black and white photograph of the interior of a log cabin. The walls are constructed from horizontal logs. On the left, a fireplace is built with rough-hewn stones. A wooden mantel is positioned above the fireplace opening. A small, dark rectangular sign is mounted on the wall above the mantel. The sign contains text describing the materials used in the cabin's construction. In the background, a wooden chair and a small wooden stool are visible on the floor. The ceiling is made of logs, and several cylindrical objects, possibly light fixtures, are attached to it.

Here Are Displayed Some Tools Used To  
Produce Clothing. Fabric Was Made From  
Sheep's Wool Or Flax Plant Fibers. Cloth Was  
Produced In The Millar When People Were  
Confined indoors. It Wasn't Weather People  
Were Busy Working From Gathering, Farming And  
Doing Other Activities Necessary For Survival.







*Welcome to:*  
**FORT NASHBOROUGH**  
A SELF-GUIDED TOUR FACILITY  
*Operated By:*  
The Metropolitan Board of  
Parks and Recreation





SETTLERS JOURNAL













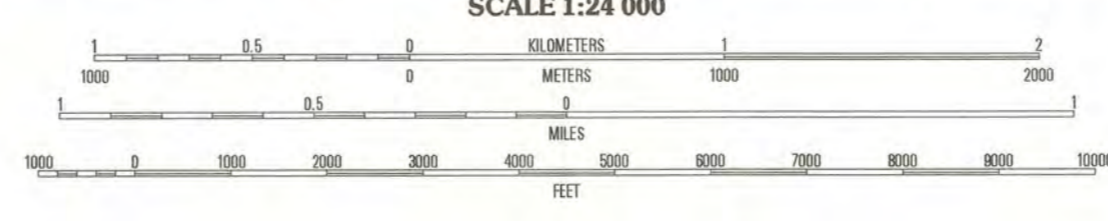
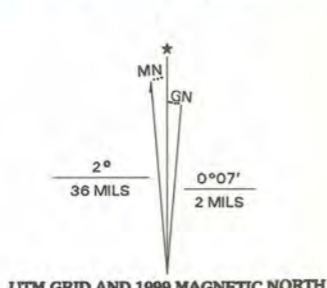






Fort Nashborough Davidson County TN 16/5202A/4002131

Produced by the United States Geological Survey Topography compiled 1951. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1997 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1968 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16 10 000-foot ticks: Tennessee Coordinate System of 1985 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map. Landmark buildings verified 1968. Entire area lies within the Nashville-Davidson County Metropolitan Government.



SCALE 1:24 000 CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 AND TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

ROAD CLASSIFICATION table with symbols for primary, secondary, and unimproved roads, and road types like interstate, U.S. route, and state route.

Table with 8 columns and 2 rows listing adjacent quadrangle names and their corresponding map sheet numbers.

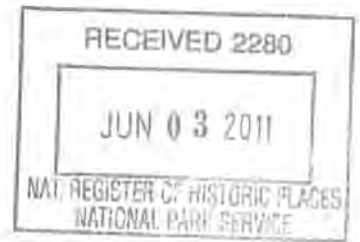
NASHVILLE WEST, TN 1997 NIMA 3656 III NE-SERIES V841







**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442  
(615) 532-1550



May 24, 2011

Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street NW  
8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate *Fort Nashborough* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Claudette Stager @ 615/532-1550, extension 105 or [Claudette.Stager@tn.gov](mailto:Claudette.Stager@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM:cs

Enclosures



**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442  
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550

September 29, 2015

J. Paul Loether  
Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street NW  
8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the documentation to remove Fort Nashborough from the National Register of Historic Places. The building was demolished on June 19-20, 2015.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Peggy Nickell at 615/770-1087 or [Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov](mailto:Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claudette Stager".

Claudette Stager  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Cs:pn

Enclosure



**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

KARL F. DEAN  
MAYOR

SAUL SOLOMON  
DIRECTOR OF LAW

DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE, SUITE 108  
P O BOX 196300  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219-6300  
(615) 862-6341 • (615) 862-6352 FAX

August 12, 2015

Ms. Peggy Nickell  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
State Historic Preservation Office  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

RE: Fort Nashborough

Dear Ms. Nickell:

Please find enclosed the removal document for Fort Nashborough that was sent to Mayor Dean with your letter of June 22, 2015. The removal has been reviewed and the document has been signed by Mayor Dean after review and recommendation from the Metro Historical Commission.

Sincerely,

  
Susan T. Jones



**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW**

**CLG:** Nashville, Tennessee  
**PROPERTY:** Fort Nashborough  
**ADDRESS:** Riverfront Park on First Street, Davidson County, Tennessee


**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL EVALUATION**

**NAME OF OFFICIAL:** Karl F. Dean  
**TITLE:** Mayor, Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County

- ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

The THC staff has made a compelling argument about removing Fort Nashborough from the National Register since the complex no longer exists as it was described when listed back in 2011. The Historical Commission (MHC) voted on this at its meeting on July 20. The MHC concurred with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) staff that Fort Nashborough is no longer eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to demolition and should therefore be removed from the National Register.

**SIGNATURE:**   
**TITLE:** Karl Dean, Mayor, Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County **DATE:**

**THC STAFF EVALUATION**

- ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:**

Fort Nashborough is located in Riverfront Park on First Avenue in downtown Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee was listed on the National Register on July 13, 2011. This multi-building replica of the circa 1780 fort complex constructed by James Robertson and is band of settlers was built in ca. 1930 and substantially reconstructed in 1962. The complex was listed under Criteria A and C for its local significance in architecture, conservation, and recreation/entertainment. The fort was demolished on June 19-20, 2015. As a result, Fort Nashborough has lost the significance for which it was listed and no longer retains integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. Therefore, Fort Nashborough should be removed from the National Register

**SIGNATURE:**   
**TITLE:** Peggy Nickell, National Register Coordinator-Historic Preservation Specialist **DATE:** June 22, 2014

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: May 18, 2015**

**RETURN FORM TO:**

**PEGGY NICKELL  
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442**

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW RECEIVED

JUL 23 2015

TN. HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CLG: Nashville, Tennessee  
PROPERTY: Fort Nashborough  
ADDRESS: Riverfront Park on First Street, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EVALUATION

NAME OF COMMISSION: Metropolitan (Nashville) Historical Commission  
DATE OF MEETING: July 24, 2015  
HOW WAS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING? Meeting agenda posted on website  
 ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

Fort Nashborough was demolished in June 2015. See below.

SIGNATURE: *Servet Chler for Tara Mielnik*  
TITLE: Tara Mielnik, Metro Nashville Historical Commission, Certified Local Government DATE: July 21, 2015

THC STAFF EVALUATION

ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

Fort Nashborough is located in Riverfront Park on First Avenue in downtown Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee was listed on the National Register on July 13, 2011. This multi-building replica of the circa 1780 fort complex constructed by James Robertson and is band of settlers was built in ca. 1930 and substantially reconstructed in 1962. The complex was listed under Criteria A and C for its local significance in architecture, conservation, and recreation/entertainment. The fort was demolished on June 19-20, 2015. As a result, Fort Nashborough has lost the significance for which it was listed and no longer retains integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. Therefore, Fort Nashborough should be removed from the National Register

SIGNATURE: *Peggy Nickell*  
TITLE: Peggy Nickell, National Register Coordinator-Historic Preservation Specialist DATE: June 22, 2015

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: May 18, 2015

RETURN FORM TO:

PEGGY NICKELL  
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2941 LEBANON ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442