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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Granger, an earthen structure 900 feet long with perimeter walls averaging 6 to 8 feet in height, was constructed in 1863 on Figuers' Bluff at the southeast border of Franklin. The inside face of the walls were shored with wood and were splayed in places at the tops to allow cannon to project through from elevated earthen platforms inside. There were two main blastwalls within the fort along the west walls. The fort was armed with two highpowered rifled seige guns, one being a thirty-pounder Parrot and the other a twenty-four pounder rifled gun, both mounted on revolving platforms. There were also several three-inch rifled The trunks of two trees, used as outposts, were left standing guns. within the fort. The main structure within the fort was a powder magazine approximately 65 feet square and believed to be partially sunken.

At present the site is covered with light undergrowth and saplings, which are being cleared. The trenches, gun emplacements, blast walls, and perimeter walls are clearly discernible. The wood has either rotted or been removed. The powder magazine is no longer standing, but the site is still definable.



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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known)		
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Prehistoric	🏝 Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	🕅 Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After the Battle of Murfreesboro or Stone's River, fought during the latter part of December, 1862, and the first days of January, 1863, Franklin was for a time Confederate territory, but on February 18, 1863, it became a Federal post commanded by Colonel C. C. Gilbert. Soon after the battle of Thompson's Station on March 5, 1863, Major-General Gordon Granger was in command of a large force of Federal troops camped at Franklin and here constructed a large fort to be named in his honor. Fort Granger was used for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years to bombard the town of Franklin and control troop movements north to Nashville. Two Confederate spies who came to the fort seeking information on troop strength were apprehended and hanged on a cherry tree on the slope of the hill on which the fort was constructed. During the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, it was commanded by General Schofield and played an important role in that battle.

Since the end of the Civil War, the fort has remained abandoned, a favorite place for campers and hoboes. Although it has been covered by undergrowth and trees, its physical outlines have remained. Many movements have taken place by various groups in Franklin over the years to clear and restore the site and make some public use of the property, but all have failed. In private hands before, the property has recently been purchased by the City of Franklin to prevent its development as an industrial park. A local civic organization is working closely with the city to prepare a study for the restoration of the fort.

Fort Granger's importance during the Civil War, as well as being one of the few remaining forts displaying the military engineering of the wartime eral restainly warrants preservation and interpretation.

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