

JK

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing

Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions Defense Sub Fortification
 Current Functions Education Sub school grounds

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Earth roof N/A walls Earth

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.

XX 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.

XX D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations Not applicable

Areas of Significance Military
Period of Significance 1861-1865
Significant Dates N/A
Significant Person N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A
Architect/Builder Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 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
XX State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Kentucky Heritage Council

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>16</u>	<u>375530</u>	<u>4110460</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>375440</u>	<u>4110470</u>
2	<u>16</u>	<u>375600</u>	<u>4110510</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>375520</u>	<u>4110400</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (see continuation sheet).

Boundary Justification (see continuation sheet).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization History Pays! date May 30, 1998
street & number 4215 Northwest Drive telephone (515) 274-3625
city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50310

Property Owner

name Livingston County Board of Education

street & number P.O. Box 219

telephone _____

city or town Smithland

state KY

zip code 42801

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 listings. 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

name of property Star Fort

County and State Livingston County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

7. Narrative Description:

Fort Star (LV15/LV-15-202) is a well preserved example of a modified-Star shaped "Work of the Third Class" in Dennis Mahan's classification scheme of temporary field works. This class consisted of fully enclosed works, ones which were proof against assaults from any direction. The star-shaped fort consisted of a polygon base with alternating salient and re-entering angles. These contrasting angled lines produced a crossfire on all salient approaches. In its purist form, the star form is symmetrical in its plan. The Smithland version was partially executed in star form, along its east, south and west facing approaches. It is likely that the fort was never fully enclosed as planned. Figures I and II indicate that a protective gun position and walls envisioned for the northwest side (rear) of the fort was not in place as of the end of 1861. There is neither a remnant of these planned walls nor even a level base for the walls given the proximity of a deep gully on that side, so it is likely that the work remained a "redoubt" throughout its history and it was in fact so referenced late in the war. The area proposed for nomination is three in size. The property is treated as both a site and a structure, with both components deemed to be contributing properties.

The fort occupies an area which measures 60 meters square and the site is elevated between 145 and 150 meters above the Ohio River. The earthworks themselves are remarkably preserved and stand between one and four meters in height. Figure III illustrates the survival of almost complete parapets and front ditches on three sides of the work. The "Old Hospital Road," portrayed in Figures I and II runs just east of the fort on a north-south line and the ditches are not present along that front.

Fort Star formed the southernmost defensive anchor of a series of inter-linked batteries and connecting palisades and/or rifle pits (see Figure II). The fort is the only extant component of this system. Figures I and II depict how the ridge which supported the Federal military defensive line. The land falls off abruptly in every direction going away from the fort, save to the north, towards the adjacent city cemetery, to a greater degree than is indicated by Figure II.

Historic Archeological Descriptive Summary:

The fort is identified as site 15LV207 in the Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. Archeological exploration of the site, during 1994-95, examined three test areas, a building site (Test A), a purported magazine site (Test B) and the central gun position (Test C) (see Figure III for testing locations). Surface metal detectors identified a large distribution pattern in the area between Test areas A and B. Test pit C was an L-shaped depression. Related cultural materials were found quite deeply buried (90 centimeters) and did not support the magazine claim. Test C sought to determine the type of mounting support mechanism for the 32-pounder. Nail fragments were found in the center of the gun position. Test A located a brick foundation/hearth and collapsed chimney, found in association with nails and other Civil War-era cultural artifacts, most notably a glass ink well. This building was therefore determined to be of Civil War-era origin and was not a pre-existing building. This work in summary determined that the fort site retains intact cultural materials and consequently has the proven potential to yield significant information about the military presence in Smithland during the Civil War.

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name of property Star Fort

County and State Livingston County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle: The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

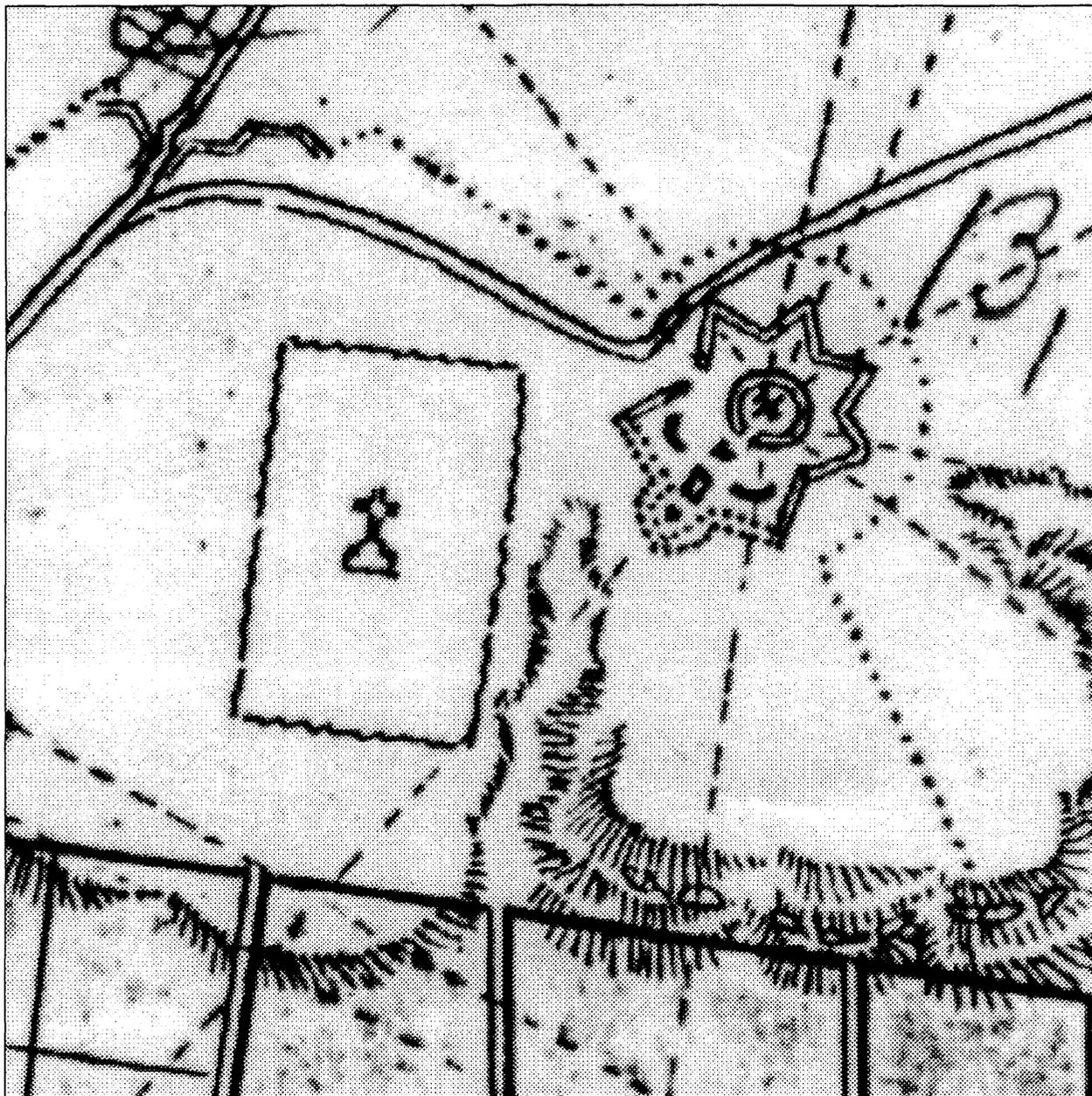


Figure I: Detail, Fort "B," December 13, 1861 Map of Smithland Defenses,
Drawn by U. B. Scheller, Engineer, National Archives Cartographic Collection

The property meets those registration requirements for each Criterion as is set forth in the associated historical context. Under Criterion A the property retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship and materials, as well as the cumulative integrity aspects of feeling and association. The retention of workmanship aspects, embodied in the vertical height and near-original angles of slope make this property an exceptionally well

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preserved example of a "Fort Star" specifically or a designed Civil War-era earthwork generally. Under Criterion C, the integrity aspects of materials, workmanship, and design must be present such that the original scale and form of the property can be understood and visualized. This property, as noted, is exceptionally well preserved that the preserved fort closely approximates its original appearance despite the passage of time.

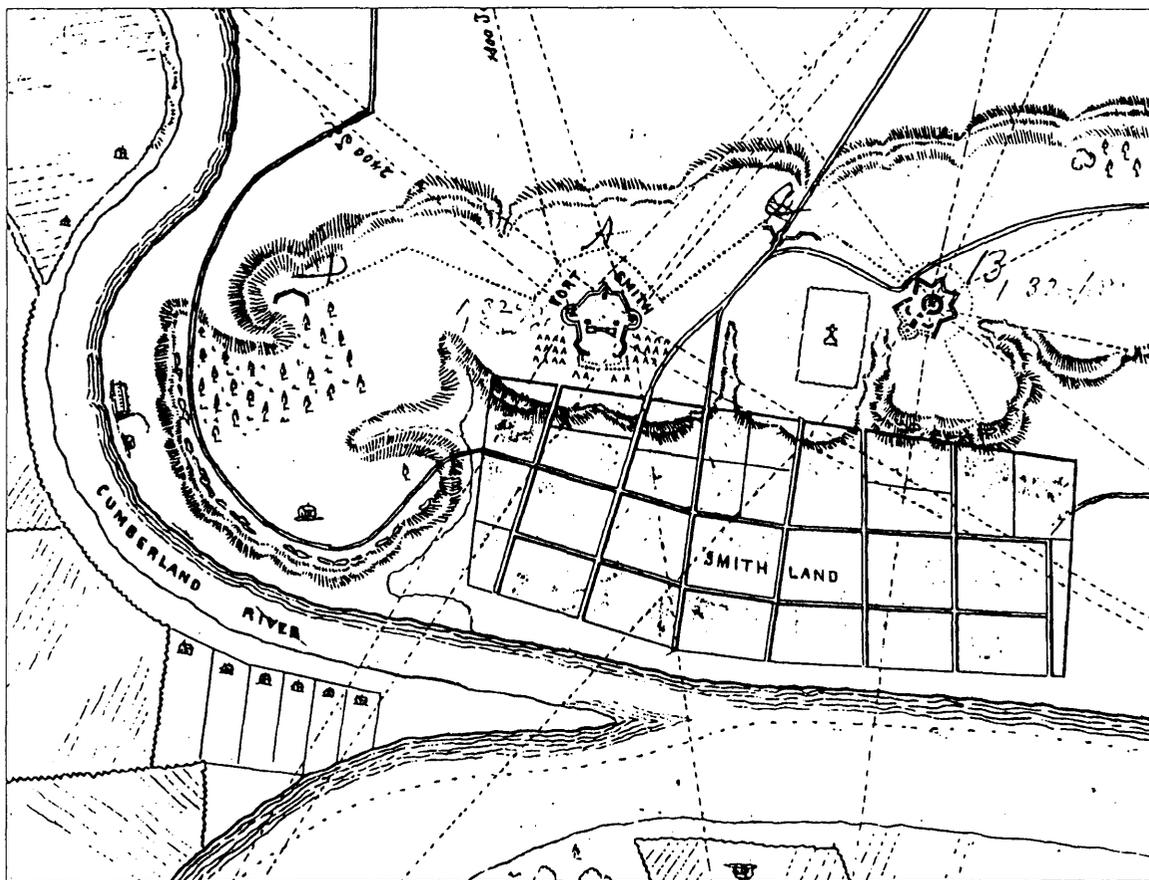


Figure II: Excerpt, December 13, 1861 Map of Smithland Defenses,
Drawn by U. B. Scheller, Engineer, National Archives Cartographic Collection

Under Criterion D the property has a tested capacity to yield significant historical information. Because this fort was the only position to be manned throughout the war, it represents all of the phases of the war, but of particular interest is its association with the black artillery regiment which manned this work. Archeology would address the daily life of black recruits and soldiers at the post. It would also determine how the fort functioned. Questions already addressed include the mounting and function of the single central pivoting heavy gun in the fort's central work, the location of the fort's magazine, and the nature and location of any related support buildings within the fort. Other important questions include determining whether there was a rear wall along the north end of the fort and testing to locate and describe the nature of the picket rifle pit-and palisade wall lines which linked the several forts at Smithland, including this one. The original military cemetery, from which the

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war burials were later removed to the New Albany National Cemetery, while likely located within the nearby city cemetery, might have been closer to this fort. There is always the chance that burials were not found and the black regiment especially suffered over 60 deaths at Smithland.

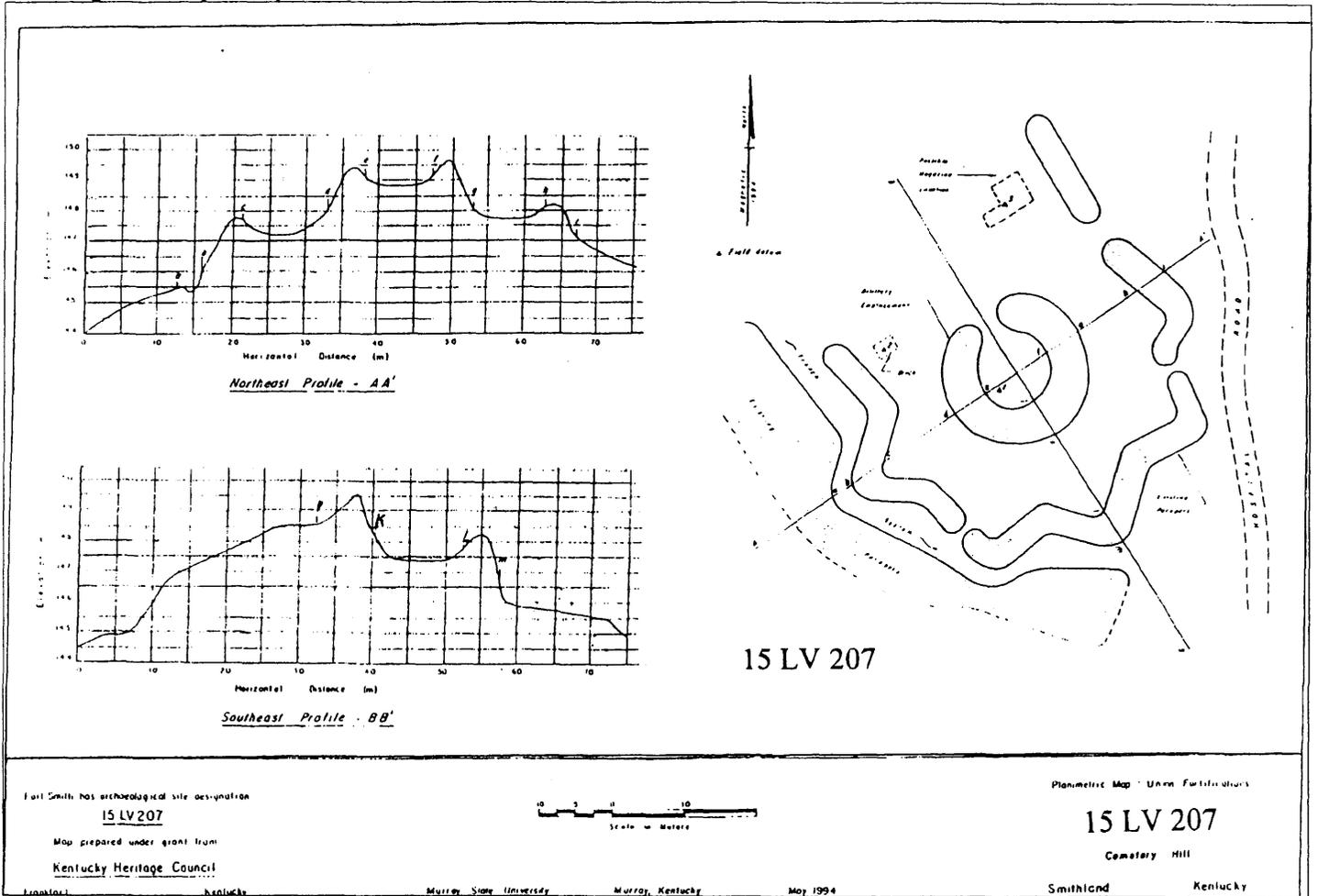


Figure III: Planimetric Map and Profiles, Dr. Ken Carstens, May 1994

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name of property Star Fort

County and State Livingston County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

8. Significance Statement:

Fort Star (LV15/LV-15-202), located on the grounds of the Livingston Central High School in Smithland, is nominated as part of a Multiple Property listing entitled "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River," under the context of Federal military land operations, representing the property type of military earthworks. The fort is locally significant and meets National Register Criterion A, for its association with the Federal military occupation of Smithland, 1861-65, a significant garrison post, its association with the recruitment and service of Black Federal troops, 1864-65, and for its association with military engineering. It is significant under Criterion C, based on the excellently preserved and unusually engineered fieldwork. It is significant under Criterion D for its proven ability to yield significant historical information about the military occupation. The period of significance extends from the fort's construction in September 1861 through its abandonment in November 1865.

The property meets those registration requirements set forth in the associated historic context through its location, on a commanding site which controls key river and road approaches, its setting relative to subordinate land features, the town itself, and the historic road, its feeling as imparted by its well preserved remains and the lack of any modern development. It also retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship and association by virtue of its pristine state of preservation.

Smithland was occupied on September 6, 1861 and its defensive works were begun at that time, being completed by November. The Federal garrison at that point was greatly increased during the Federal buildup prior to the advance up the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. Thereafter, the garrison was quite reduced and basically served to protect telegraphic communications and to guard substantial supplies at Smithland. Smithland also provided facilities for the naval gunboats which served on the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers and it was a coaling point and a pilot-pickup point for boats bound up the Cumberland. Beginning in early 1864, the post was increased by the construction of warehouses, and the initiation of black recruiting. The post increasingly controlled the area around Smithland to the north, and south towards Hopkinsville. The post was attacked only once, in early December 1864, but the most dire threats developed around it in late 1864.

Smithland was used as a recruiting point throughout the Federal military occupation. The 20th Kentucky (Federal) Infantry was organized there in January 1863. A number of other units were formed there through 1864, several of which failed to complete their organization. Most significant, the 13th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery was largely recruited by recruiting officers sent out from Smithland.

The use of "Fort Star" is rightfully challenged by those who are familiar with the traditional naming of major field works. Traditionally these are named for Federal officers, especially for fallen commanders. Indiana soldier Jabez Cox (134th Indiana, 100-days unit) arrived by steamboat at Smithland on May 31, 1864. He penned the following description of that post:

"The scenery is beautiful here in Smithland the fort mounting one grove [gun] is on a high hill right back from the town and is manned by Co G 48th Ky. Vols. and a Co of the 34th [New

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Jersey] are quartered in the town. There have been some guerrillas near here within a short time and about five miles distant over the Tennessee river there are plenty. They (Federals] have four picket posts one on each road. The village has been a very prosperous little place but the war has brought a great change over the place...As I stood on the parapet of Ft. Sten [Star] and looked up the river the little green Isles and far off shore looked lik[e] a band of light blue stretched across the river and down beyond the town, the broad river looked like a street of gold. Seen at a distance the Ohio looks of a whitish hue while the Cumberland looks a deep blue."

The typed transcription is obviously less than precise but offers apparent documentation that this fortification was indeed termed "Fort Star" (Cox, p. 43-44).

Second Lieutenant Ira C. Nichols (13th U.S.C.H.A) was detailed to take charge of Fort Star" on November 26, 1864, being relieved in turn by Lt. McDowell (same regiment) on December 9, 1864) Second Lieutenant David Hopkins, Company C, 13th U.S.C.H.A., was relieved as commander of "Fort Star" on January 23, 1865 by Second Lieutenant Edward Latch, Company C, 49th Illinois. The name "Fort Wright" first appears in the post records in early February, 1865, when 2nd Lt. (later captain) David Hopkins is assigned to its command. The fort's permanent garrison then consisted of just two non-commissioned officers and 20 men of the 13th Regiment. He was relieved about May 10. It is probably that the honoree was Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright (1820-1899), commander of the Department of the Ohio in 1863. The August 1865 post return reported "Fort Right [sic] dismantled and ordnance shipped to arsenal by order of Col. Jas. N. McArthur" (Special Orders #41, November 26, 1864, #51, December 9, 1864, #14, January 23, 1865, #1, February 9, 1865, 30, March 9, 1865, Post Returns, Smithland, Record Group 77, National Archives).

The commander at Fort Wright was ordered to fire the garrison's morning and evening gun effective March 24, 1865. Perhaps the final firing of the single heavy gun at the fort were the saluing rounds which were ordered fired in to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln which were expended on April 18, 1865. The Lincoln tribute lasted from sunup to sundown, with discharges every half hour. Every Ohio River Federal post and gunboat participated in the mournful salute. The military post at Smithland was closed down in December, 1865, and the gun removed from the fort the previous August (Special Orders No. 13, March 24, 1865, and No. 22, April 15, 1865, Post at Smithland).

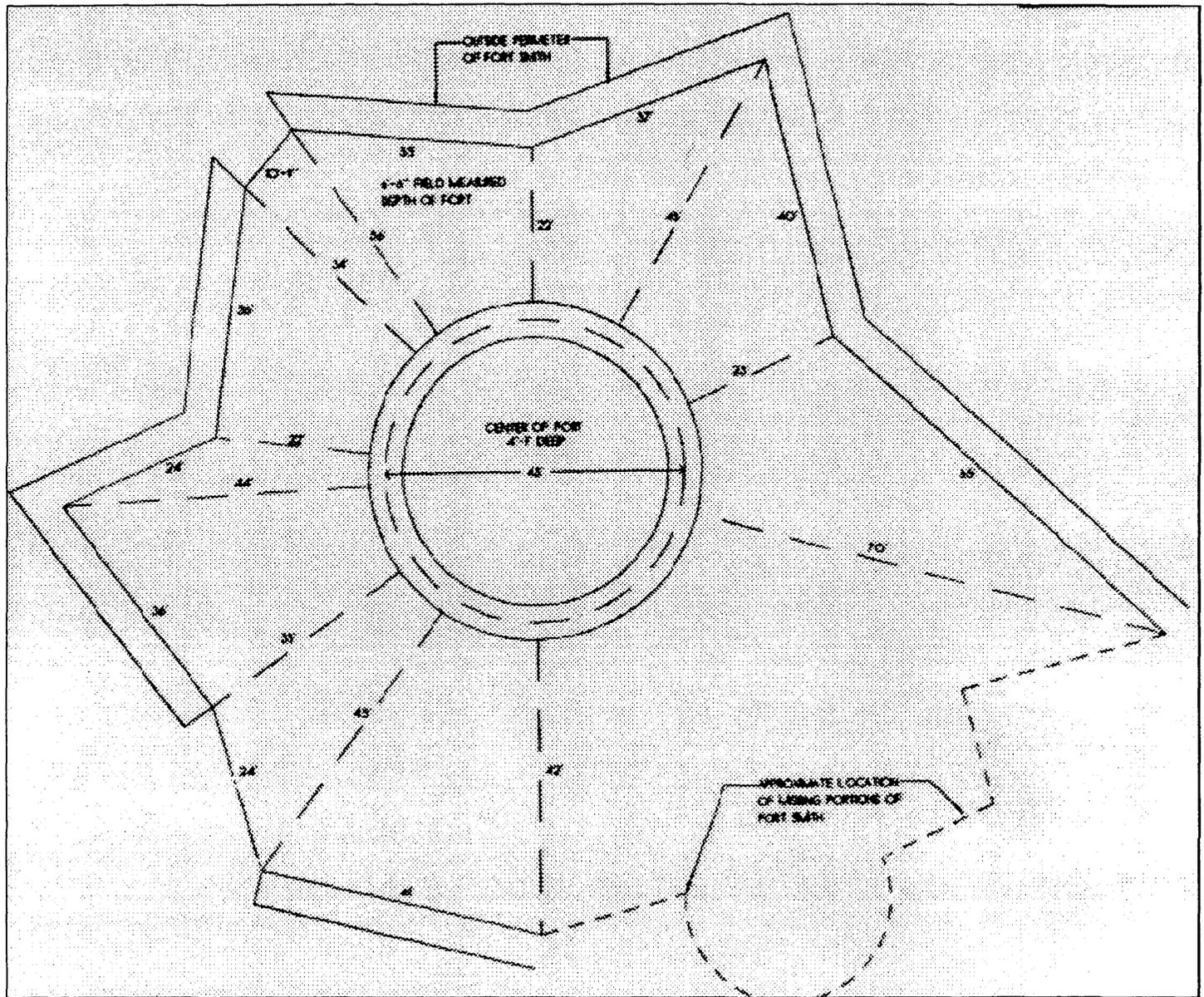
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Fort Star Plan View, top of plan is to southeast
Drawn by Justin Wayne Henson, English IV Class, Livingston County High School, April 1996

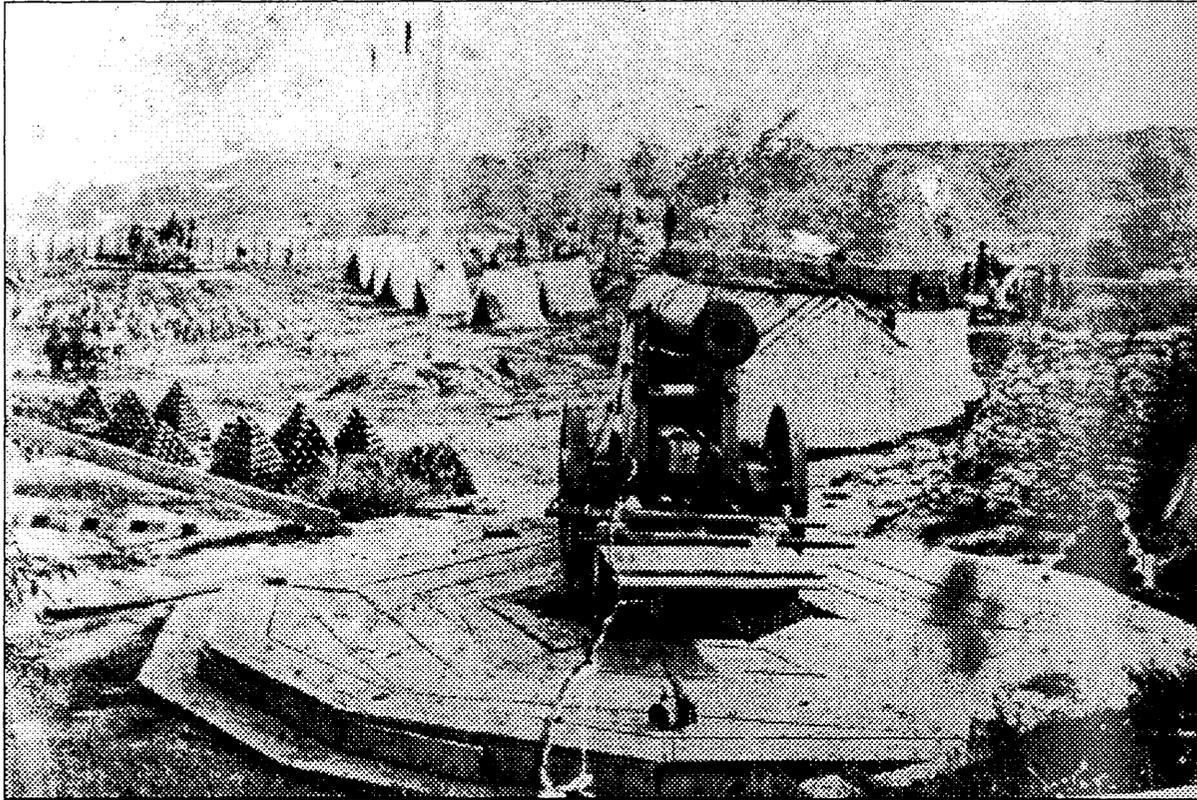
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32-pounder siege gun, mounted on central pivot, Fort Curtis, Helena, Ark.

Note other examples in background, the rear wheels of the carriage run on a metal track which is just visible behind and below the wooden platform, at lower left (Arkansas Historical Commission)

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name of property Star Fort

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name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

9. Major Bibliographic References:

Carstens, Kenneth C., "MSU Excavations at Site 15Lv207: 1994-1995, Phase II: Interim Report, August 1995.

Carstens, Kenneth C., Tucker, Kathleen, Caswell, Meranda, "Archaeological Investigations at Site 15Lv207, a Federal Civil War Gun Emplacement at Smithland, Kentucky," November, 1994.

County Court Order Books, Book "L" (1851-60), Book "M" (1860-1869), County Courthouse.

Cox, Jabez T., "Civil War Diary," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 28, No. 1, March 1932, pp. 40-54.

Frommer's The Civil War Trust's Official Guide To The Civil War Discovery Trail, [need citation], lists "Fort Smith" at Smithland.

History, Legend and Lore-Livingston County, Smithland; Journalism Class, Livingston County High School, 1974.

McDonald, Leslie, and M. Julie Magee, Echoes of Yesteryear, Smithland: The Livingston Ledger, 1972 (Livingston County and Cave-in-Rock, Ill.)

"Livingston County Historic Places, Events and People," n.p., n.d.

Livingston County, Kentucky; *History and Families 1798-1989*, Vol. 1, Marion: Turner Publishing Company, 1989.

Smith, Frank E., Land Between The Lakes, Lexington, The University Press of Kentucky, 1971.

Tucker, Kathleen, "A Preliminary Analysis of Nail Patterns at Feature 1, 15Lv207, a Civil War Gun Emplacement in Smithland, Kentucky," November 3-5, 1994.

Watts, William Courtney, Chronicles of a Kentucky Settlement, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1897 (a romantic narrative, Smithland and Livingston County).

Smithland National Archives Sources:

Order Book, 13th Regt. U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery Regiment (February-March 1865)

Post at Smithland, Order Books 272, 272A, Vol. 116, Record Group 77.

Post and Field Returns, U.S. Forces at Smithland, KY, November 11, 1861-September 1865.

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name of property Star Fort

County and State Livingston County, Kentucky

name of multiple property listing "Caught In The Middle; The Civil War Years on the Lower Ohio River"

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nomination boundary is defined as a concentric circle with its centerpoint set in the center of the round inner battery of the fort. The radius of said circle is 200 meters, thereby describing a circle of 400 meters diameter over the site.

This area is set within the northern portion of the following legal description (a total of 10.72 acres):

Beginning at an iron pipe located where the southerly line of the herein described property intersects the easterly right-of-way line of U. S. Highway 60, said point being the northwest corner of the present Masonic Lodge property and being located about 285 feet, more or less, south of the center line of Wilson Street; thence from the point of beginning N. 09° 32' W. along and with said easterly right-of-way line 29.46 feet to an iron pipe; thence leaving said right-of-way line N. 27°-04' E. a distance of 5.96 feet to the southwest corner of a 6 acre tract of land owned by Robert O. and Helen Warfield of record in Deed Book 139, page 510 of the Livingston County Court Clerk's office; thence S. 64°-14' E. along and with the southerly line of said Warfield property, 345.67 feet to the southwest corner of another 6 acre tract of land owned by Russell J. and Marietta Warfield of record in Deed Book 139, Page 506 of the aforesaid clerk's office; thence S. 64°-14' E. along and with the southerly line of said property, 337.93 feet to the southeast corner of said 6 acre tract; thence N. 27°-04' E. along and with the easterly line of said 6 acre tract, 781.65 feet to the southerly line of the Smithland Cemetery property; thence S. 67°-07' E. along and with the said southerly line of said Cemetery, 214.28 feet to an iron pipe on the westerly line of a 40 acre tract of land now owned by the Livingston County Board of Education; thence S. 12°-15' E. along and with said Westerly line, 1,043.95 feet to an iron pipe located at the northeast corner of another tract of land owned by said Board of Education; thence N. 64°-14' W. along and with the northerly line of said property and the northerly line of the aforesaid Masonic Lodge property, 1,541.73 feet to the point of beginning of the herein described property.

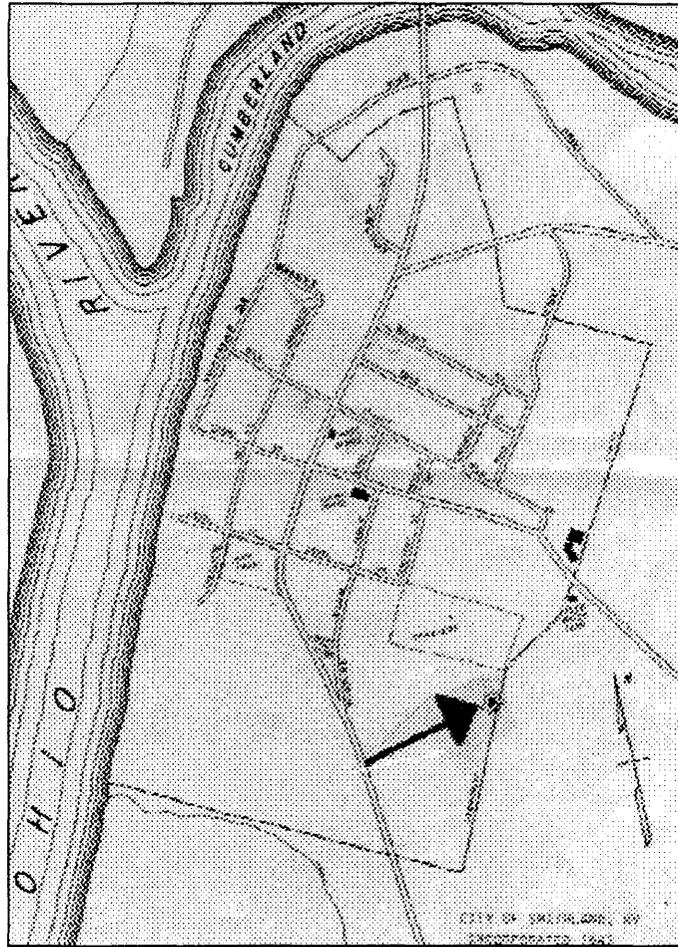
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The arrow locates the fort site in southern Smithland

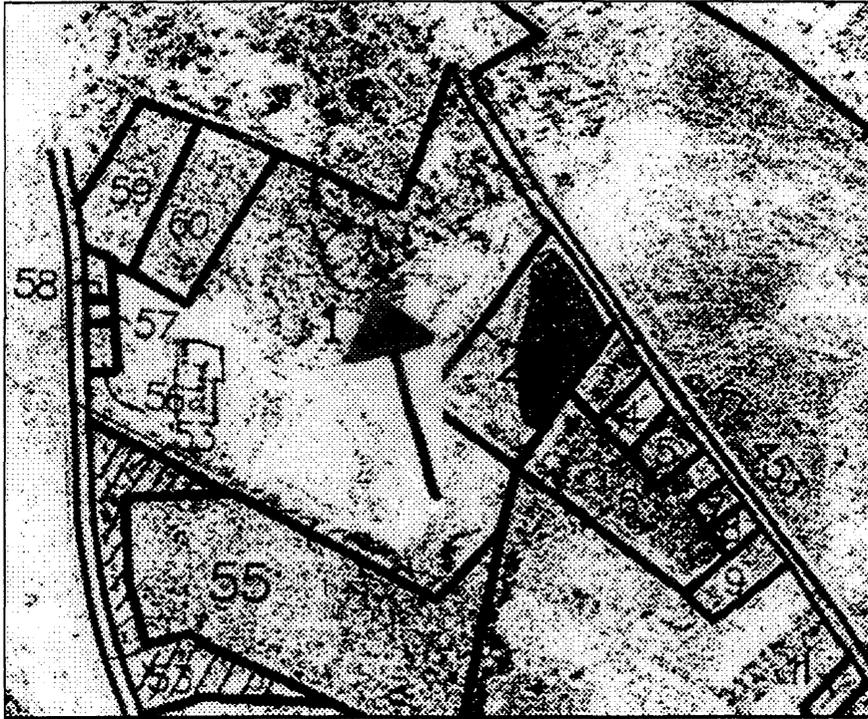
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Parcel "1" identifies larger school property
Arrow indicates general fort location (north to top of map)

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the nominated property include the fort property and the immediate associated blufftop which lies around the fort.

Other Documentation:

Additional Documentation, Photographs:

Photographer: Mr. James E. Jacobsen
Date of Photographs: August, 1997
Negative Location: Kentucky Heritage Council

Photo Number:	View/Description:
1	center mound, archeological building dig site under tarp, view to northeast
2	South ditch, view to east
3	South ditch, view to west
4	East side of fort interior, view to south, center mound to right