

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Rutherford
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fortress Rosecrans Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~1/2 mi. N. of Franklin Road at Stones River~~
W of Murfreesboro

CITY OR TOWN:
Murfreesboro vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Rutherford CODE: 149

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Murfreesboro

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Murfreesboro

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Murfreesboro

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Topographical Sketch of the Environs of Fortress Rosecrans

DATE OF SURVEY: June, 1863 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Archives (Record group 77, Dr. 147, Sheet 22)

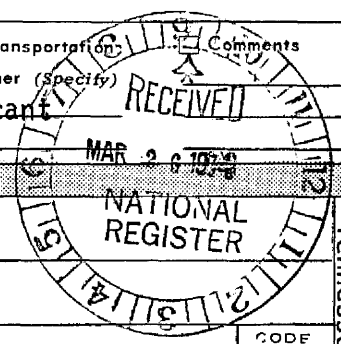
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Rutherford
ENTRY NUMBER	JUN 7 1974
DATE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fortress Rosecrans, located immediately west of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was constructed by units of the Army of the Cumberland (USA) under the direction of Brigadier General James St. C. Morton in early 1863. The Fortress, reportedly the largest earthenwork fortress constructed by Union forces in the Civil War, originally covered an area of approximately 225 acres. The site was chosen because it was near the geographic center of Tennessee and astride the main tracks of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.

The Fortress originally included eight lunettes, four redoubts, a steam saw mill, a magazine, and several warehouses.

Most of the original fortress has been lost due to urban development. Part of the original fortress site (formerly Redoubt Brannan) is owned by the National Park Service. The only extant portion is the several hundred feet of wall spanning from Lunette Thomas to Lunette Palmer). These remaining walls average approximately fifteen feet in height and twenty-five feet in thickness at the base. All are covered with large trees and heavy underbrush.

Present plans call for recreational facilities to be built west of the walls, while an effort will be made to restore the walls to their original appearance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

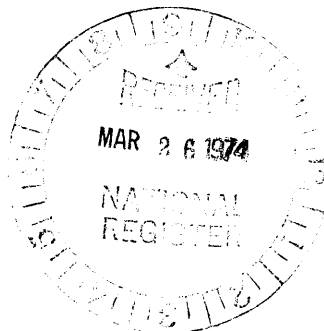
For two years, from early 1863 to 1865, Fortress Rosecrans played a significant role in the success enjoyed by General William T. Sherman's forces as they moved from Nashville to Chattanooga to Atlanta to Savannah.

From the massive supply depot protected by the walls of Fortress Rosecrans came logistical support that undergirded Sherman's good fortune.

Reportedly the largest earthenwork fortification built by the Union army during the Civil War, Fortress Rosecrans served as a central point of Union Army strength in Tennessee and secured the rear of that army from any serious challenge.

In late 1864, elements of the Confederate Army struck at Murfreesboro and Fortress Rosecrans in a desperate effort to halt the flow of supplies southeastward to Sherman. Under the immediate command of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, the Confederates succeeded in disrupting rail communications briefly before being repulsed. Four months later the war ended. At some undetermined date following the conclusion of hostilities in 1865 Fortress Rosecrans was abandoned.

The City of Murfreesboro, owners of the property, are very much interested in the fortress, and plans are under way for its preservation and protection in connection with a proposed recreation park in the area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J. St. Clair Morton, Memoir Explaining the Situation and Defense of Fortress Rosecrans, (privately printed, 1863). Copy located in National Archives, Record Group 77, Item # M-4345-1863

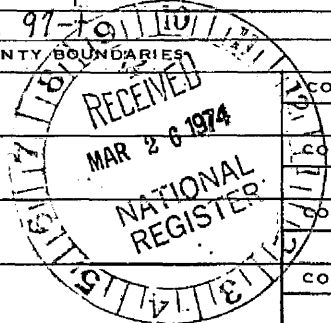
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA See Continuation Sheet

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	86°	25'	06"	35°	51'	21"						
NE	86°	24'	37"	35°	51'	15"						
SE	86°	24'	30"	35°	51'	00"						
SW	86°	24'	27"	35°	50'	56"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 66 acres 97-101110117

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James K. Huhta

ORGANIZATION: Murfreesboro Architectural and Zoning Society DATE: March 1, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 507 E. Northfield Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN: Murfreesboro STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Mark E. Harper

Title: Director of Field Services
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: March 21, 1974

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

Ernest Allen Curran
Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: JUN 7 1974

ATTEST:

Charles DeFerrings
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-4-74

NW 16/552 510
 3967 920 CD
 NE 16/552 860/3968 090
 SE 10/553 720/3967 390
 SW 16/553 510/3967 160
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Tennessee	
COUNTY	Rutherford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 7 1974

Fortress Rosecrans (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Please substitute the enclosed U.S.G.S. Map for the one originally submitted and change the coordinates to read:

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	35°51'21"	86°25'06"
NE	35°51'27"	86°24'52"
SE	35°51'03"	86°24'18"
SW	35°50'56"	86°24'27"

and change the number of acres to 97[±].

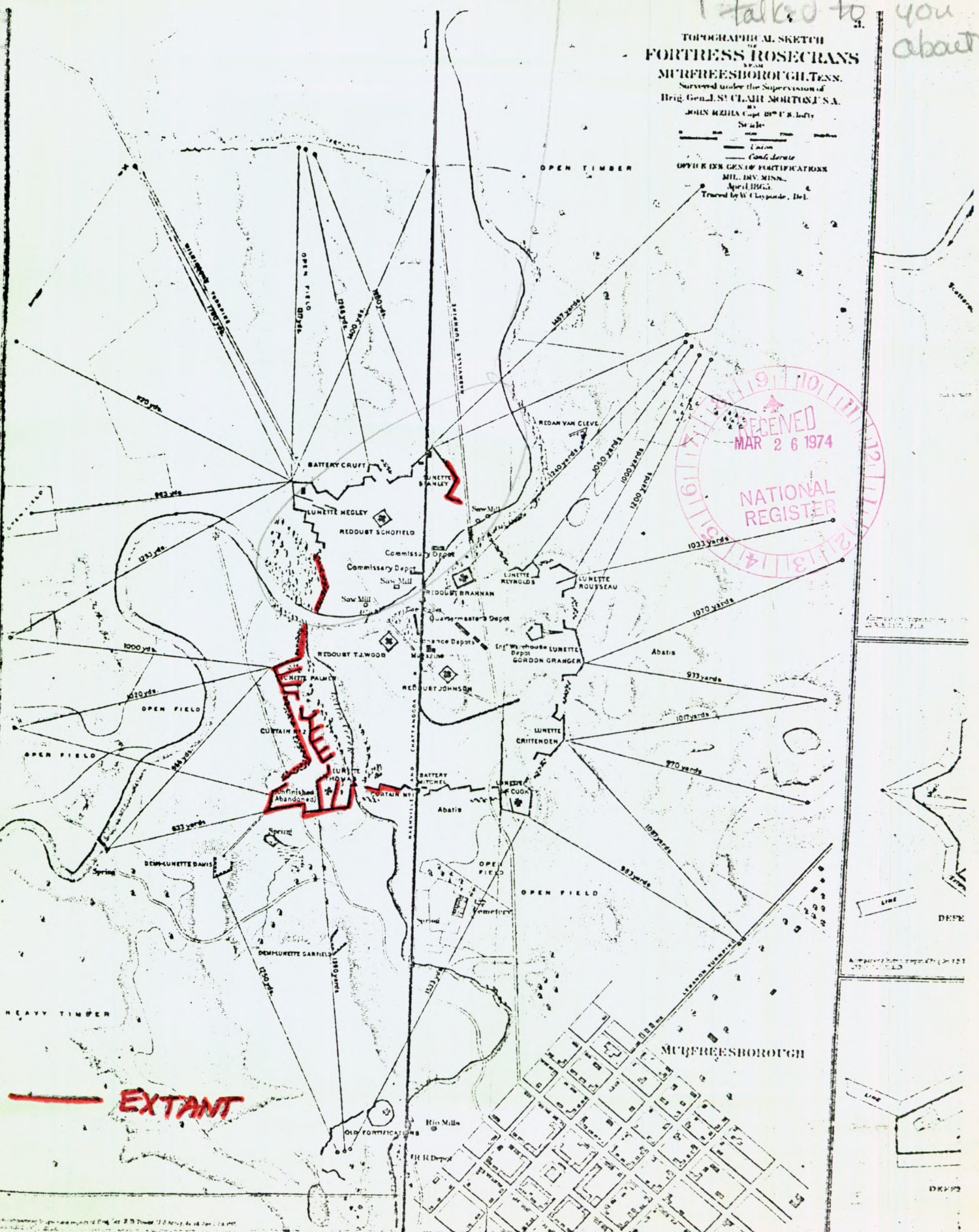
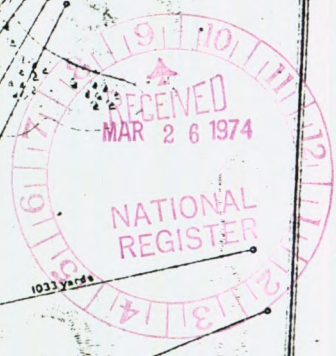
The northeasternmost segment of the fortress wall as shown on the early map as being extant is in bad condition and is too far removed from the main portions to be consolidated in any restoration plans.



Herbert - this is the area I talked to you about.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
FORTRESS ROSECRANS
MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.

Surveyed under the Supervision of
Brig. Gen. J. SULLIVAN MORTON, U.S.A.
JOHN REZILLA Capt. 8th U.S. Infy.
Scale
1 inch = 1 mile
OPEN & EX. GEN. OF FORTIFICATIONS
MIL. DIV. MISS.
April 1865
Traced by W. Clayborne, Det.



EXTANT

Approved for publication by the National Register of Historic Places

DEPT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

FEB 23 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 any 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 Fortress Rosecrans (Additional Documentation)

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Located NW of the city of Murfreesboro on Lytle Creek on the West Fork of Stones River

city or town Murfreesboro

state Tennessee

code 47

county Rutherford

zip code

not for publication

vicinity x

code 149

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 forth 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.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

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 commenting or other official

Date

Barry Packard
Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. Me J M. Day 3/9/95
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): Additional

documentation approved for 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 _____

(Do not include previously listed properties in the count)

This amendment does not add any resources to the original nomination but does individually describe the features contained within the site known as Fortress Rosecrans.

Contributing

Noncontributing

- | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| _____ | _____ | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | objects |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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

The property is not part of a multiple property listing, but it is a discontinuous site included within the congressionally legislated boundary of the Stones River National Battlefield. Redoubt Brannan, also a feature of the fortress, is listed separately as a contributing resource to the Stones River National Battlefield Historic District (66000075).

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense: fortification, arms storage
military facility, supply depot,
garrison fort

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape: national park, city park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: earthen fortification; lunette;
redoubt; curtain wall; blockhouse
foundation; magazine; bombproof;
traverse

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: _____
walls: _____
roof: _____
other: earth

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

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 the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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

Period of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering
Military
Transportation

January 1863-April 1866
Significant Dates
January 1863-April 1863

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

James St. Clair Morton, Chief
Engineer, Army of the Cumberland

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 # GA-1171; GA-1178-E; GA-2169
- 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: Stones River National Battlefield

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25.86

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	<u>16</u>	<u>553000</u>	<u>3967700</u>	D	<u>16</u>	<u>553240</u>	<u>3967220</u>
B	<u>16</u>	<u>552920</u>	<u>3967600</u>	E	<u>16</u>	<u>553480</u>	<u>3967260</u>
C	<u>16</u>	<u>553220</u>	<u>3967400</u>	F	<u>16</u>	<u>553420</u>	<u>3967460</u>
				G	<u>16</u>	<u>553180</u>	<u>3967640</u>

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 Maureen A. Carroll, Historian; Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian

organization National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

date February 10, 1995

street & number 75 Spring Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 331-5988

city or town Atlanta

state GA

zip code 30303

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name National Park Service

street & number P.O. Box 37127

telephone _____

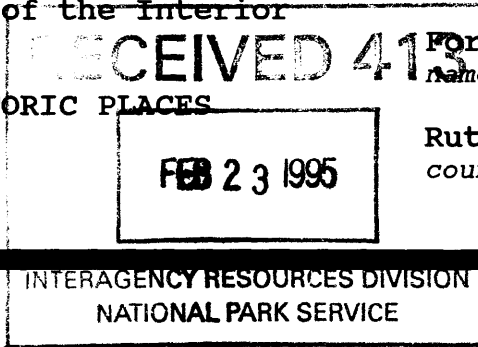
city or town Washington

state DC

zip code 20013-7127

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET



Fortress Rosecrans
Name of property

Rutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description of Historic Resources

Fortress Rosecrans, described as the largest fort built in the field during the Civil War, is located northwest of Murfreesboro. Constructed after the Battle of Stones River between January 1863 and June 1863 under the orders of Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, the fort survives only in part today. Brig. Gen. James St. Clair Morton, chief engineer for the Army of the Cumberland, Corps of Engineers, laid out and directed the construction of the structure. This bastioned fort covered an area of approximately 225 acres and consisted of eight lunettes and four redoubts, linked by a series of curtain walls and abatis. Rosecrans had the fort built to protect the rail line that linked Nashville and Chattanooga and to serve as a supply depot, garrison, and hospital. With the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad bisecting the fort's interior, and the Manson Pike and Nashville Highway also traversing the fort, Rosecrans controlled supply routes that would provision subsequent southern military campaigns. The fort, dubbed "Fortress Rosecrans" likely because of its size and village-like self-sufficiency, enclosed four steam-powered sawmills, numerous magazines, rectangular and cross-shaped blockhouses, a commissary, a quartermaster depot, and other warehouses and living quarters, many constructed with lumber finished at the fort's sawmills.¹

Most of the original fort has been destroyed by urban development, agricultural use of the land, and erosional forces. The surviving features compose the southernmost defensive wall and one redoubt, which represent approximately 11 percent of the entire original fort. Most of the extant features are located on the southwest bank of Lytle Creek, a tributary of the West Fork of Stones River, and lie within a city park, which contains a golf

¹Several sources inform this nomination and include historical studies and archeological surveys conducted by the NPS and other scholars of history. See Lenard E. Brown, "Fortress Rosecrans: A History, 1865-1990," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (Fall 1991):135-141; Edwin C. Bearss, "The History of Fortress Rosecrans" *Stones River National Battlefield* (December 1960), located at Southeast Regional Office, Library; Steven J. Fox, "Archeology of Fortress Rosecrans: A Civil War Garrison in Middle Tennessee," *National Park Service* (July 1978); John E. Cornelison, Jr., "Report on Archeological Investigations of Lunette Palmer and Redoubt Brannan, Parts of Fortress Rosecrans, Located in Stones River National Battlefield, Murfreesboro, Tennessee," *Southeast Archeological Center, NPS* (October 1992); John W. Walker, J. Donald Merritt, and Steven J. Shephard, "Archeological Investigations at Stones River National Battlefield, Tennessee," *Southeast Archeological Center, NPS* (1990); Samuel D. Smith, Fred M. Prouty, and Benjamin C. Nance, *A Survey of Civil War Period Military Sites in Middle Tennessee, Report of Investigations No. 7*, (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Conservation Division of Archeology.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceFortress Rosecrans
*name of property*NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETRutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 7 Page 2

course and other recreational facilities. Four distinct features are included in the park's authorized boundary and are described in this amendment. The extant southern defensive wall, located southwest of the railroad line, between Manson Pike and State Route 96, consists of Lunette Palmer, Curtain Wall Number Two, and Lunette Thomas. These features measure approximately 2500 linear feet and total 25 acres. The fourth extant feature, Redoubt Brannan, located on the Old Nashville Highway, north and east of the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad now operated by CSX Transportation, is also a significant feature of the original Fortress Rosecrans. After years of growth and development in the Murfreesboro area, the redoubt and the lunette and curtain wall features are spatially discontinuous and have experienced a significant alteration of setting, including residential and industrial development. Despite these alterations, the extant features of Fortress Rosecrans maintain integrity as individual features and as part of a whole (see Figure 1).

Two other partial features survive. Curtain Wall Number One is located on property owned by the City of Murfreesboro northeast of Lunette Thomas. In its original configuration, the curtain wall linked Lunette Thomas and McCook on the southern extreme of the fort (See Figure 2). Battery Mitchell and the railroad punctuated the parapet wall. The curtain wall frequently flooded because of its proximity to Lytle Creek and its low elevation. A survey team collecting Global Positioning System (GPS) location points of battle-defining features in the vicinity of Fortress Rosecrans (January 1993) identified a linear feature northeast of Lunette Thomas as Curtain Wall No. 1 (See Figure 3). The feature is significantly eroded, overgrown, and impacted by modern development. It is currently owned by the City of Murfreesboro. Lunette Negley, also mapped as a partial feature by the GPS survey team, is located on private lands. A residence is built on top of Negley and the driveway cuts through the earthworks. The NPS has no plans to acquire these features.²

Contributing Properties

Lunette Palmer consists of an earthen parapet wall approximately 325 feet in length that forms a salient directed due west. Within the wall are two perpendicular traverses and a conical earthen magazine or bombproof. Curtain Wall Number Two lies southeast of the lunette, with a parapet wall that measures approximately 300 linear feet, and five perpendicular traverses. Lunette Thomas, the southernmost feature, consists of approximately 250 linear feet of parapet that formed the west facade of the southern salient. All of the parapets are approximately fifteen feet high and twenty-five feet thick at the base. Both Lunette Palmer and Curtain Wall Number Two are intact, but

²Lenard E. Brown, "Fortress Rosecrans: A History, 1865-1990," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (Fall 1991): 139.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fortress Rosecrans
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 7 Page 3

Lunette Thomas was bisected by a utility line built in the 1930s; only the western wall remains. Finally, Redoubt Brannan, located on approximately four acres of land northeast of the other extant features is a rectangular structure located on Nashville Highway, east of Stones River, and north of the railroad. The redoubt has a 10-20' high earthen parapet wall and a forward trench approximately 3300 feet long. The redoubt interior has an earthen cross-shaped feature, likely the foundation for a blockhouse.

At the time of the survey, July 1993, dense underbrush and mature trees covered the lunettes and curtain wall, and kudzu dominated the surface of the redoubt. The NPS thinned the trees and reduced the underbrush during the winter of 1993-1994 in preparation for limited development for interpretive purposes. As recommended in NPS planning documents, an asphalt and boardwalk trail has been constructed to provide visitor access to the fort features and still maintain integrity. A parking area, located southwest of Lunette Palmer and Curtain Wall No. Two also has been constructed. Visitor access to the fort features was completed in October 1994. Plans for clearing vegetation, constructing a boardwalk and trail for visitor access, and providing interpretive signs are currently under consideration for Redoubt Brannan.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fortress Rosecrans
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 8 Page 4

Significance

This National Register Amendment expands the statement of significance included in the original National Register documentation accepted June 7, 1974 (74001926). In late 1993, the city of Murfreesboro transferred the 25.86-acre tract containing the remnants of Fortress Rosecrans to the NPS as authorized by Public Law 102-225, which expanded the legislated boundary of the Stones River National Battlefield. The NPS has implemented a plan to preserve and interpret the fort features.

Although only remnants remain, Fortress Rosecrans is significant for its massive scale. One of the largest earthen forts built during the Civil War, the fortress exemplifies typical construction techniques employed in the field. Insp. Gen. Z.B. Tower reported to Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas on the condition of the defenses in Murfreesboro, April 28, 1865. Tower described the fort as a "large work composed of a series of bastion fronts, with small, indented lines, having in the interior four rectangular redoubts, and one lunettes as keeps to the position."³ Based on standard earthwork construction techniques and fortification plans published in Dennis Mahan's *Complete Treatise on Field Fortifications* (1836), the fort protected the railroad and roads that served as the primary supply routes for both Federal and Confederate armies. Fortress Rosecrans' strategic location assured the success of the Army of the Cumberland's campaign, under General Rosecrans's leadership, to occupy Chattanooga. Straddling the railroad, Manson Pike, and Nashville Highway, the fort secured a vital supply line between Nashville and Chattanooga that supported later Union southern military campaigns.

After the Battle of Stones River (December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863), General Rosecrans sought to reestablish his supply line along the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad line, later changed to the Louisville & Nashville and currently operated by CSX Transportation, that passed through Murfreesboro. Upon repairing the rails, Rosecrans ordered Chief Engineer Morton to fortify the corridor, a procedure that typically involved the construction of blockhouses along the railroad that would serve as guard houses. Morton sited Fortress Rosecrans to protect the railroad supply corridor and to serve as a garrison for Rosecrans's convalescing troops.

Work began on the fortification on January 23, 1863, under the direction of Chief Engineer Morton. The Pioneer Brigade, an elite unit of soldiers established in December 1862 and experienced in railroad and fortification construction, supervised the labor of more than 40,000 men encamped in the area. Initially, more than 4,000 laborers worked every day on rotating eight-

³Cornelison, "Report on Archeological Investigations . . .," 7; Fox, *Archeology of Fortress Rosecrans*, 12.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceFortress Rosecrans
*name of property*NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETRutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 8 Page 5

hour shifts both night and day, to clear the land, position abatis, excavate defensive ditches, and create the reinforced earthen parapet walls of the lunettes, redoubts, magazines, and curtain walls of this massive fort. Constructed of earth reinforced by wood revetments, wire, and sometimes brick or stone, field fortifications required constant maintenance and its wood members—palisaded fences and revetments including gabions, slope fascines, and woven hurdles—needed repeated replacement. By April, with the bulk of the fort completed, Sunday and night work ended.⁴

Morton designed the fort so that the primary means of entry into Murfreesboro—the railroad line, Manson Pike, and the Nashville Highway—all traversed its acreage. The four redoubts, Brannan, Schofield, Wood, and Johnson, flanked the railroad and in these positions also maintained control over the roads. The lunettes, positioned on the northwest, southwest, and east elevations provided strategic positions for infantry fire power.

In June, the pace of construction work, previously slowed in April and May, increased to complete the fortress before General Rosecrans went into the field to maneuver Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg out of Middle Tennessee and back toward Chattanooga. When Rosecrans left the fortress on June 24, he left Brig. Gen. Horatio Van Cleve in charge of a convalescing force of approximately 2,000 troops. Except for some minor construction work performed by the garrison troops, the fort was complete.

Fortress Rosecrans is recognized as one of the largest garrisoned supply depots built in the field during the Civil War, although its strategic importance waned when Union troops secured Chattanooga. Throughout its construction, between January and June 1863, the fort provisioned the troops that General Rosecrans amassed to strike out on a southerly campaign through Tennessee. Rosecrans's ultimate aim was the capture of Atlanta. Located eighty miles southeast of Murfreesboro, Chattanooga served as an important east-west railroad link and supply depot for the Confederacy and was Rosecrans's first goal. Once Rosecrans achieved the capture of Chattanooga on September 9, 1863,

⁴David Russell Wright, "History of Fortress Rosecrans," draft chapter (Masters Thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 1981), 4-5. Smith, et.al., note that "Most of the temporary fortifications constructed in the Western Theater of War were fabricated with specialized building materials. The earthen walls were revetted with breast height gabions, the embrasures revetted with fascine, and the traverses built of hurdle work, all of which quickly deteriorated," and all made of wood covered with or retaining earth, 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceFortress Rosecrans
*name of property*NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETRutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 8 Page 6

the fort would help keep the rail line open for transport between Nashville and Chattanooga.⁵

Despite Rosecrans' well-laid plans, neither the general nor the fortress could protect the railroad from repeated Confederate attacks largely because Bragg's army maintained advantageous artillery positions on Lookout Mountain overlooking Chattanooga. After an embarrassing rout south of Chattanooga at Chickamauga Creek eleven days after he occupied Chattanooga, Rosecrans retreated to the city and prepared to defend it against an anticipated Confederate siege. None came. With the supply lines to the city controlled by his forces, Bragg stalled, hoping to starve the Union forces into submission. In November, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, called to Tennessee after his successful siege of Vicksburg, finally broke the Confederate stranglehold of Chattanooga and regained control of the railroad corridor. With the supply line reestablished, Grant and his armies spent the winter in Chattanooga.⁶

Fortress Rosecrans witnessed some minor military action in November 1864. Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, preparing to depart Atlanta for his campaign through Georgia to the Atlantic coast, dispatched Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas and the Army of the Cumberland to engage Gen. John B. Hood, who was moving toward Union-occupied Middle Tennessee from Georgia. Thomas's forces defended the railroad corridor between Murfreesboro and Nashville and occupied the blockhouses along the corridor, including those at Fortress Rosecrans. From late November through mid-December 1864, there were skirmishes in and around Murfreesboro and the fort, but the Confederate forces never attempted to storm the fortification.⁷

Fortress Rosecrans remained active throughout the war, although as Union-controlled territory reached farther south its importance diminished. In April 1866, the fort was abandoned, but even before the Army vacated the fortress, the parapet walls and ditches had experienced significant failure. Primarily used for convalescing troops, the fortress received little maintenance in the last months of the war. Insp. Gen. Tower noted in April 1865, "it requires

⁵Brown, 137-138; James M. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1988), 670.

⁶McPherson, 672-676; Brown, 138.

⁷Brown, 137-139. On December 6-7, 1864, the fort was threatened by a confederate force led by Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. Approaching along the Wilkinson Pike from the northwest, Forrest engaged Union forces stationed in Murfreesboro in the Battle of the Cedars. The Confederates were repelled and the fort was never fired upon despite Confederate threats. See Bearss, "The History of Fortress Rosecrans," Chapter VI, *passim*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fortress Rosecrans
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 8 Page 7

much labor to keep so large a work in repair; small portions of the parapets have sloughed off, due to frost and heavy rains."⁸

Despite the evident deterioration in 1865, the fortress did not disappear entirely. As late as the mid-1950s, the outline of the fortress could be seen, although some individual features had eroded away. The growth of Murfreesboro in the last several decades has destroyed most of the fort except those features protected by the city or the National Park Service.

⁸Brown, 139.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fortress Rosecrans
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Section 9 Page 8

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fortress Rosecrans
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Fortress Rosecrans duplicates the property boundary of the land parcel donated by the city of Murfreesboro to the National Park Service and is labeled Tract No. 02-103. It measures approximately 25.86 acres and is drawn on the enclosed Murfreesboro Quad, 7.5 minute series, 1950; photo revised 1983.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fortress Rosecrans
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rutherford County, Tennessee
county and State

Additional Documentation *Page 11*

Photographs

Taken before selective clearing of earthworks

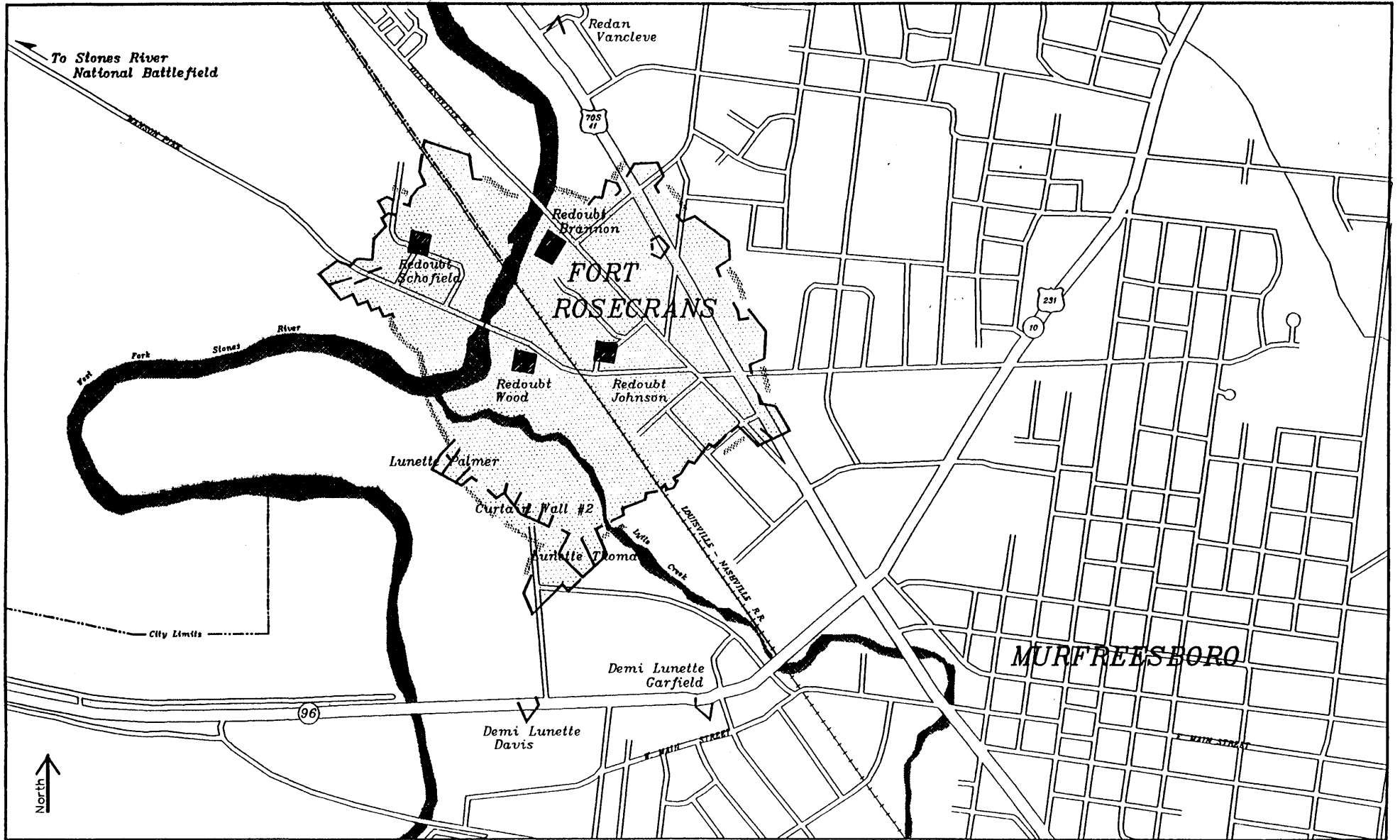
1. Lunette Palmer, behind magazine, view from NE
2. Curtain Wall, south wall, view from NE

Taken during selective clearing, Winter 1993-1994

3. Curtain Wall, south parapet and west traverses, view from SW
4. Lunette Palmer, behind magazine, view from N
5. Lunette Palmer, magazine, view from NE
6. Curtain Wall, traverse, view from NE
7. Lunette Palmer, east traverses, view from N
8. Curtain Wall, traverse, view from NW

FIGURE 1

VICINITY MAP



TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
FORTRESS ROSECRANS

NEAR
MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.

Surveyed under the Supervision of

Brig. Gen. **J. S. CLAIR MORTON, U.S.A.**

BY
JOHN REIFA, Capt. 18th U.S. Infy.

Scale

0 400 800 1200 1600

— Union
— Confederate

OFFICERS GEN. OF FORTIFICATIONS

MIL. DIV. MISS.,

April 1865.

Traced by W. Chespoole, Del.

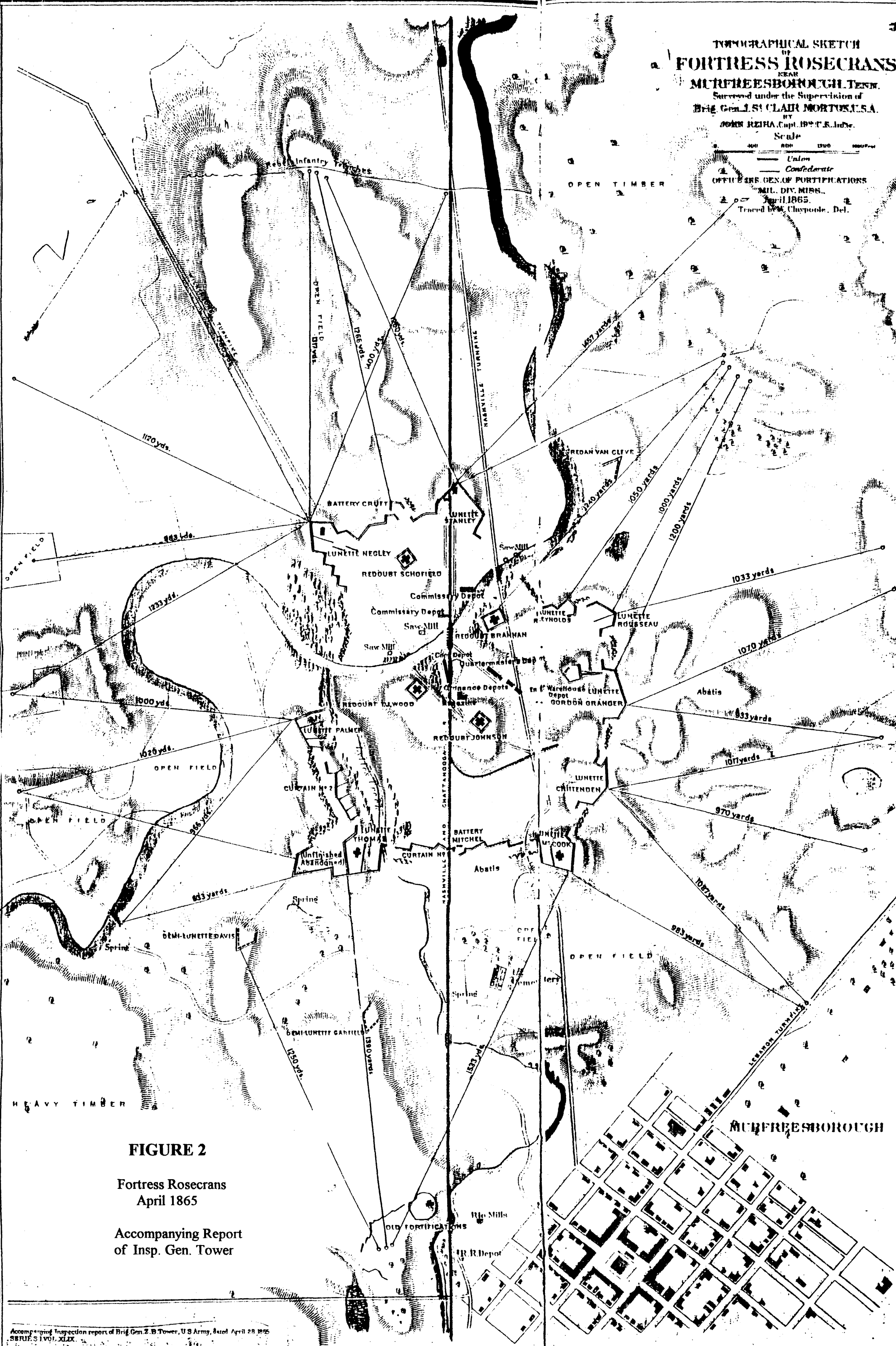


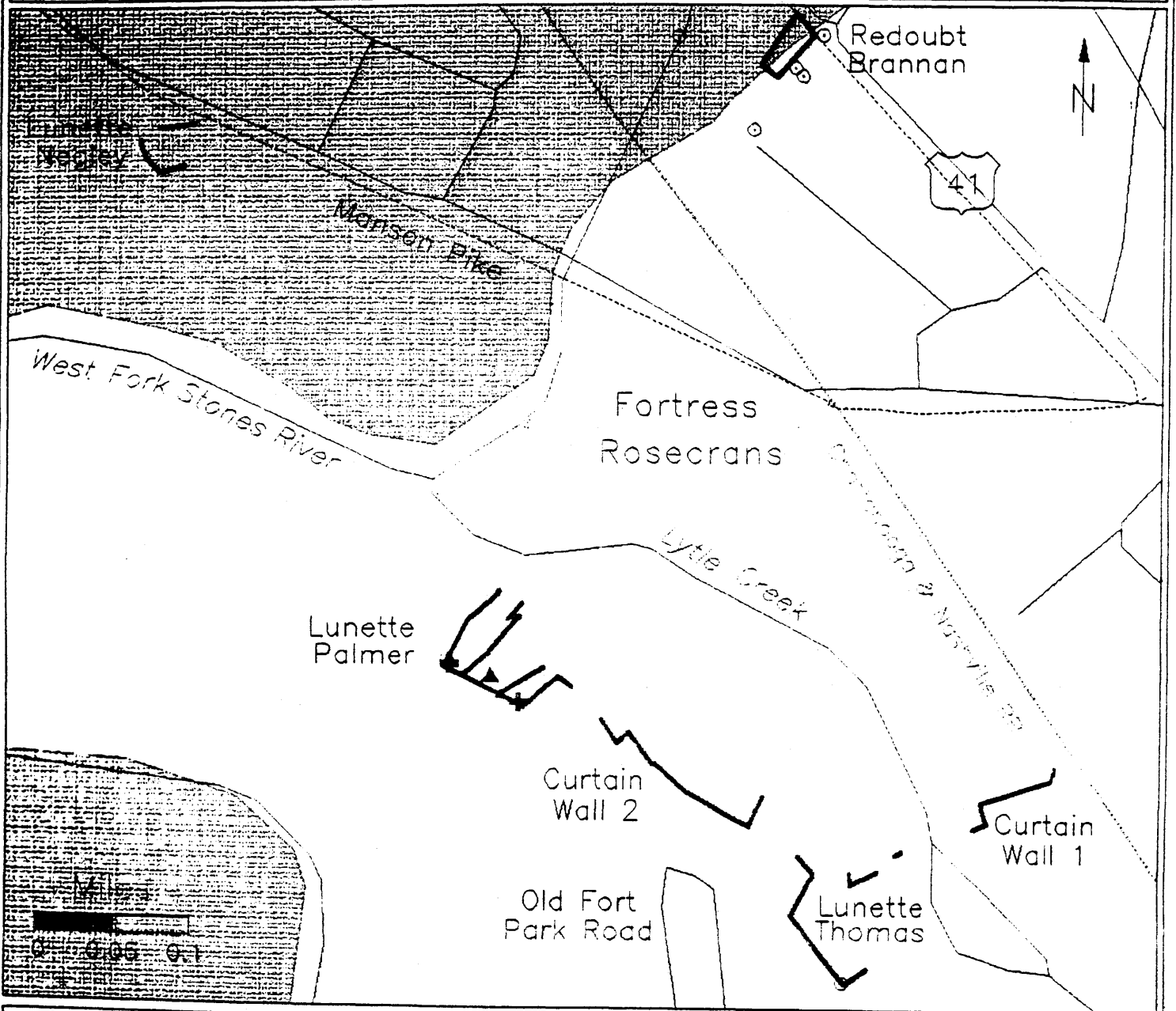
FIGURE 2

Fortress Rosecrans
April 1865

Accompanying Report
of Insp. Gen. Tower

Stones River Battlefield

Remaining Sections of Fortress Rosecrans



Legend







-  Study Area
-  Earthworks
-  GPS Roads
-  Bunker
-  Gun Emplacement
-  Surveyed Points

FIGURE 3

Remnants of Fortress
Rosecrans

GPS Mapping 1993

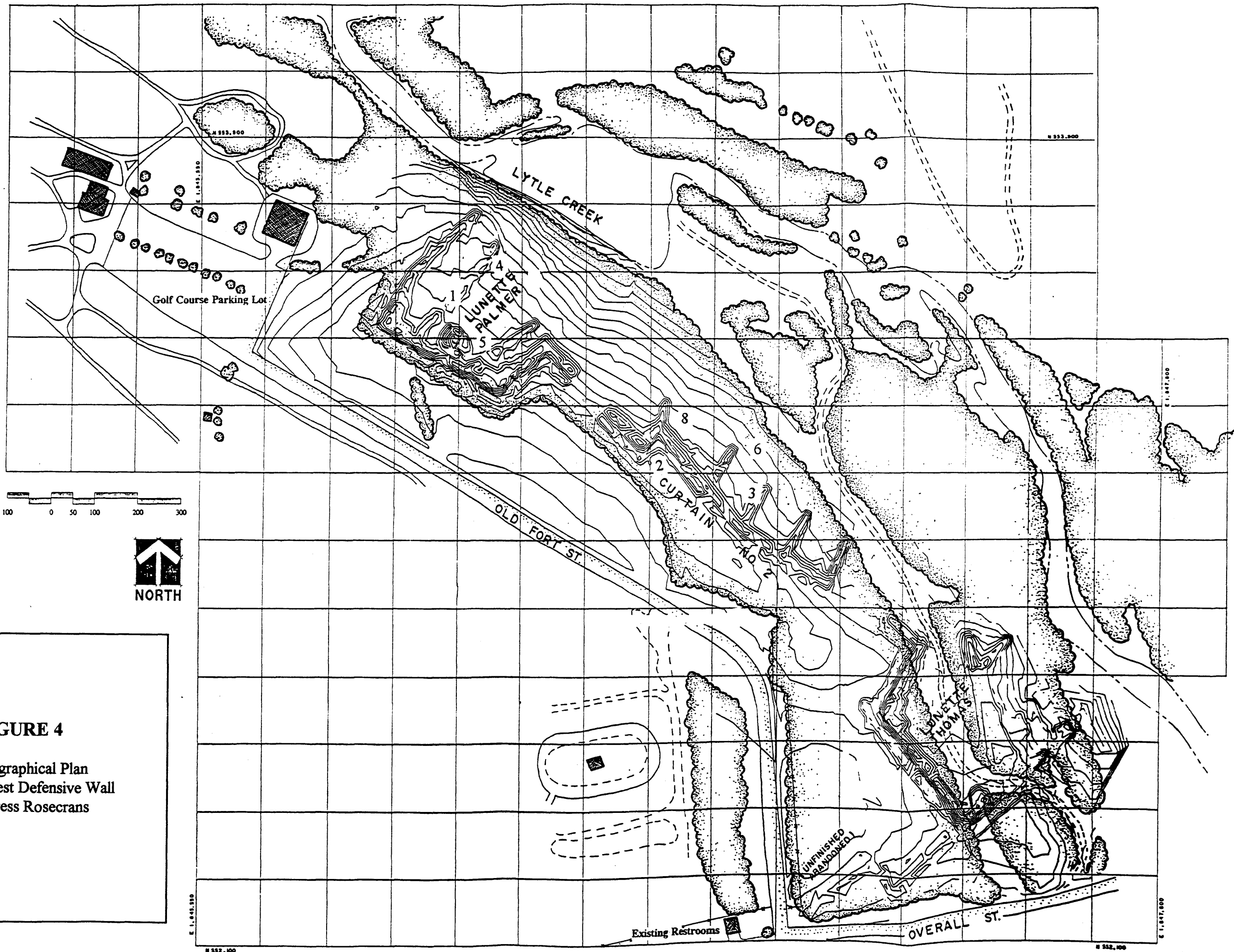


FIGURE 4
 Topographical Plan
 Southwest Defensive Wall
 Fortress Rosecrans