

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 9 1977
DATE ENTERED MAY 2 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Harker

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Harker

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2500 feet South of Railroad Depot

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Stevenson

VICINITY OF

5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Jackson

071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

__BUILDING(S)

__PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Tennessee Valley Authority

STREET & NUMBER

Mr. W.C. Murray, Manager of Property, Southeast District

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Muscle Shoals

VICINITY OF

Alabama

35660

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Judge of Probate

STREET & NUMBER

Jackson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Scottsboro

Alabama

35768

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located one-half mile southwest of the depot in Stevenson, Fort Harker was constructed on the crest of a hill rising 30 feet above the surrounding terrain. It is a rectangular earthen defensive structure approximately 50 yards square with walls rising as much as 14 feet above the surface of the hill. The clay walls are oriented within two degrees of magnetic north-south, east-west, and are surrounded by trenches on three sides. Records of the period indicate that the fort had seven barbettes, a powder magazine and a bombproof keep within the walls.

The fort remains in good condition; the trenches, four of the gun platforms, and the clay walls are easily recognized. Near the north end of the fort interior is a large mound of clay which is as yet unexplained. Excavations conducted by David H. Hannah, an archaeologist with the National Park Service in January of 1976 uncovered a round wooden stock tank in the southeast corner which possibly served as a domestic water reservoir and may have held water for swabbing cannons during combat. Extensive testing by excavation and by probe have not disclosed the location of the magazine of the bombproof keep.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 21 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 2 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Only about 4% of the fort and the immediate area surrounding it was tested in January of 1976. A map showing the location of the trenches and pits is enclosed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Harker is a well preserved earthen fortification which was designed and constructed by Union troops as part of the defense for Stevenson, Alabama which was occupied by Union forces from 1862 until the end of the war. Later during the war, Stevenson served as the assembly point for the Army of the Cumberland's assault on Chattanooga. At present plans call for the creation of a small city park around the fort.

Located at the crossroads of two major railways, the Memphis and Charleston and the Nashville and Chattanooga, and within three and a half miles from the Tennessee River, Stevenson became a strategic military position to control with the outbreak of the Civil War and was occupied as early as April, 1862 by Union forces. In July of 1862, Col. C.G. Harker, Army of the Ohio, 20th Brigade was ordered to Stevenson by General D. C. Buell to begin construction of extensive defenses to protect the depot at Stevenson and to cover for Bridgeport.

Harker impressed all Negroes within a radius of 6 to 7 miles but found only 40, and, consequently, General Buell directed 400 Negroes from the Northwest railroad to Stevenson to complete all orders. In addition to Fort Harker, which commanded the village, the supply depot and the approaches thereto, a companion, Fort Mitchell, was constructed as were 7 blockhouses.

Shortly after their completion, the two forts were briefly occupied in late August of 1862 by Confederate troops under the Command of General Maxey. Maxey continued on to Sparta, Tennessee with captured cannons and store and the Union regained their fortification. From this time on Fort Harker and Fort Mitchell were heavily fortified.

In August of 1863, General W. S. Rosecrans choose to assemble his forces in and around Stevenson for the march to Chattanooga. Union forces retained control of the fortification until the end of the war.

Early in 1864, General Granger was ordered to build three more redoubts at Stevenson but none were completed. The last mention of the fort is in late April 1865 when Merrill's Engineers surveyed the area.

The fort is presently owned by T.V.A. which plans to donate it to the city of Stevenson for use as a city park.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies - Published under direction of the Honorable Redfield Provtor, Stephen B. Elkins, and Daniel S. Lamont. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1891-1895.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (128 Vols.) Washington, Government Printing Office, 1881-1901.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 15 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 606100 | 3858320 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 16 | 606080 | 3858000 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 16 | 605880 | 3858000 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | 16 | 605900 | 3858320 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at 16/606100/3858320 and proceed in a southerly direction for 1033 feet to 16/606080/3858000; then in a westerly direction for 650 feet to 16/605880/3858000; then northerly for 33 feet to 16/605900/3858320; then proceed easterly for 650 feet to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

July 30, 1976

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Nils B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

2nd PD - Ala.

DATE

April 14, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles E. ...*

DATE *5/2/77*

DATE *4-29-77*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 21 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 2 1977

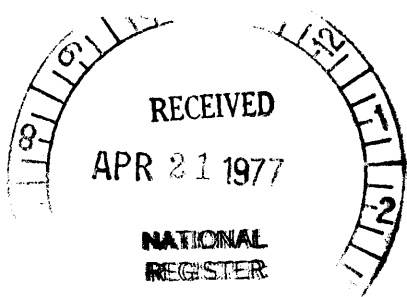
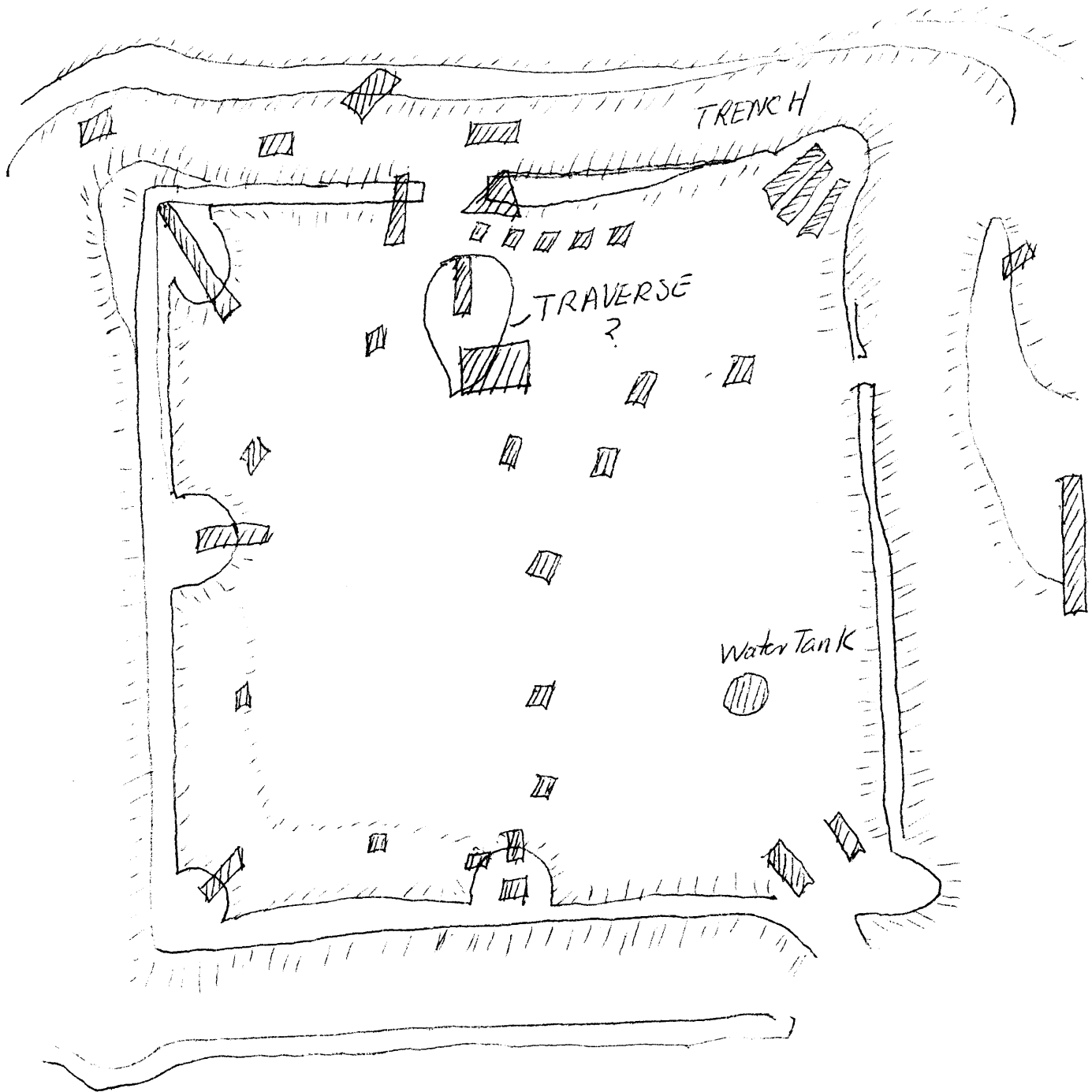
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Fort Harker and the surrounding military build up are still little understood, and the research value lies in the little known role that the fort played in the taking of Chattanooga and Chicamauga.

The boundaries are described on the rear of the form and were drawn to include the fort and encampment area around it, but to exclude land below the 600 foot high-water mark and intrusions to the east.



MAY 2 1977

FORT HARKER
SHOWING excavation sites
not to scale