

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Warren County Multiple Resource Area Addition: Civil War Fortification Thematic Resource

WA-B-232 Site No.

1. Historic Name(s) Fort C.F. Smith

2. Present Name Reservoir Hill

3. Location East End of Main Street

4. Owner's Name City of Bowling Green

5. Owner's Address Charles Coates (City Manager) 1001 College Street

6. Open to Public Yes X No Private Local L State Federal

8. Site Plan with North Arrow See Attached Maps.

9. Architect/Builder

10. Date 1861-1865 A. L B.

11. Style A. N/A B.

12. Original Use Military

13. Present Use Landscape/Park N

14. Condition Excellent LA

15. Stories, No. of

16. Description Fort C.F. Smith is located approximately 2,600 yards south of Fort Webb (WA-B-227) and approximately 1,400 yards north-east of Fort Lytle (WA-B-226) on the summit of what is known as Reservoir Hill. Existing remnants of the original fortification are located on the extreme southwest portion of the hill in an area bounded by Parkway Drive, 10th Avenue, High Street and an unused gravel lane. At the time of its construction, Fort C.F. Smith was the largest in the series of fortifications surrounding (Continued on back)

17. Single Pile Double Pile NA

18. Floor Plan

19. Structural Fabric Earthen A. G B.

20. Decorative Fabric A. B.

21. Roof Form & Material

22. Foundation Material

23. Outbuildings

24. Alterations Moved Additions Wall Treatment

25. History During the Civil War, Bowling Green became an important military, as well as political center. Bowling Green's location among rolling hills on (Continued on back)

26. Significance Between 1861 and 1865, Bowling Green served as an important military stronghold for both Confederate and Union armies. Construction of the original fortifications was (Continued on back)

27. Source of Information Warren County Courthouse Kentucky Library - WKU

28. ADD/County Barren River/Warren City 114

29. U.S.G.S. Quadrant (15/75) Bowling Green South G.I.S. Mod.

30. UTM Reference Zone Easting Northing 16 550060 4093530

31. Coordinate Accuracy

32. Prehistoric Site Object Historic Site Structure Building Other

33. National Register District Name:

34. Significance of Evaluation National Register D

35. Status National Landmark National Register Landmark Certificate Kentucky Survey Local Landmark HABS/HAER

36. Historic Theme Primary Military Secondary Architecture Other

37. Endangered Yes No X

38. ATTACH PHOTO Roll No. Picture No. Direction

39. Prepared by: Kevin A. Hunter

40. Organization Landmark Association P

41. Date September 7, 1984

42. Revision Dates 43. Staff Review

OCT 3 1984

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Bowling Green. Surviving remnants at Reservoir Hill Park represent about 10% of the fort's original construction. These remnants include a "U" shaped embankment and a linear embankment approximately 70-90 feet apart.

The "U" embankment overlooks Parkway Drive in a wooded area. This embankment consists of three arms, each roughly 30-40 feet long and 5-10 feet wide at the base. Facing east, the embankment is 3-4 feet wide at the top, has 2-3 foot interior walls and 2-8 foot exterior walls. Three limestone steps (possibly used in original construction) have been placed inside the east wall. A path has been worn into the embankment's top and several "paths" have eroded into the north and east faces. A tetherball post is located in the interior.

One trench flanks the main embankment on the north side. This six foot wide trench was cut into the natural limestone during original construction of the fort. The trench is approximately 60 feet long, 1-2 feet deep and ends with five limestone steps down to Parkway Drive. Trees and shrubery have been allowed to grow in their natural state immediately around the trench and embankment.

A second embankment is situated about 70-90 feet north of the first. This linear embankment is roughly 125 feet long, 6-10 feet wide at the base, 2-3 feet wide at the top and 3-5 feet in height. A small 3'x3' stone viewing platform has been built into the embankment approximately 40 feet from the north end. Several trees have been allowed to grow along the west side of the embankment. A basketball court is located adjacent to the embankment on the west side. A cut limestone marker (possibly used in original construction) at the south end of the embankment is inscribed: "EARTHWORKS THROWN UP UNDER FEDERAL GENERAL OMSBY M. MITCHELL & COL BENJ HARRISON LATER PRESIDENT 1862".

Fort C.F. Smith is located on one of two prominent hills in Bowling Green's central core. The fort is positioned in the southwest quadrant of a 25 acre property owned by the city and is utilized as a neighborhood park (16 acres). Other park features in the vicinity of the embankments include playground equipment near the corner of 10th and High Streets, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, and parking lot at the corner of High Street and the gravel lane. An undeveloped portion of the park lies northeast of the gravel lane between High and Cherry Streets.

HISTORY (Continued)

the Barren River and its position between Nashville and Louisville on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad made the town a strategic stronghold (one of five) midway along the Confederate line running from eastern Kentucky to western Tennessee. On September 18, 1861 General Simon Bolivar Buckner occupied Bowling Green with 4,500 troops. While Confederate forces occupied Bowling Green, a series of eight major earthen fortifications were constructed on the hills surrounding the town. These fortifications were designed to protect the railroad, river and roads entering Bowling Green. Although General Buckner was unable to assault Louisville from Bowling Green, he was able to disrupt traffic on the Green River and Louisville and Nashville Railroad. When Forts Henry and Donelson in western Tennessee were captured by the Union Army, the Confederate position in Bowling Green became untenable and was evacuated February 14, 1862. Upon capture of Bowling Green by Federal forces on February 15, 1862, the incomplete fortifications were improved and occupied by the Union Army for the duration of the war. Fort C.F. Smith, named by the Union forces, is known locally as Reservoir Hill or College Hill. This property was purchased by the City of Bowling Green in 1869 for use as a park and reservoir. Reservoir Hill has been continuously maintained as a neighborhood park.

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

begun by the Confederate Army and was improved by the Union Army under the direction of Colonel Benjamin Harrison. Today, Fort C.F. Smith is one of three surviving visual reminders of Bowling Green's original Civil War fortifications.

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Fort C.F. Smith Site # WA-B-232

Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title _____
Warren County Multiple Resource Area Addition: Civil War Fortification Thematic Resource

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. _____ D. _____

B. _____ E. _____

C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description

Acreage Approximately 3 Acres

Existing embankments are bounded by High Street on the North (Approximately 520 Feet), Tenth Avenue on the West (Approximately 270 Feet), Parkway Drive on the South (Approximately 395 Feet), and an unused road on the East (Approximately 270 Feet).

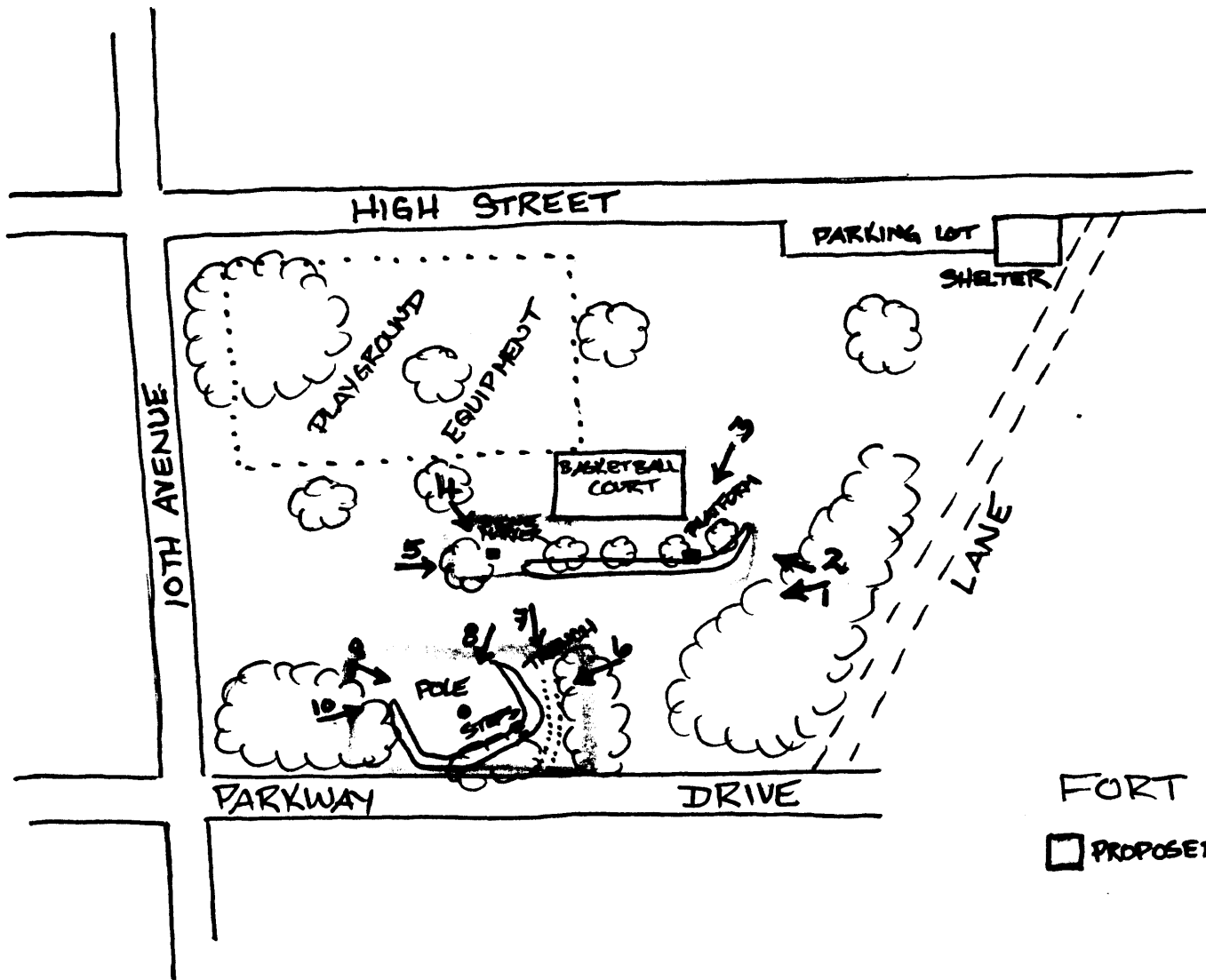
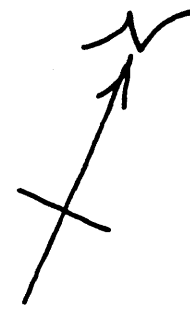
Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)

See Attached Map.

Official Courthouse Property Reference:

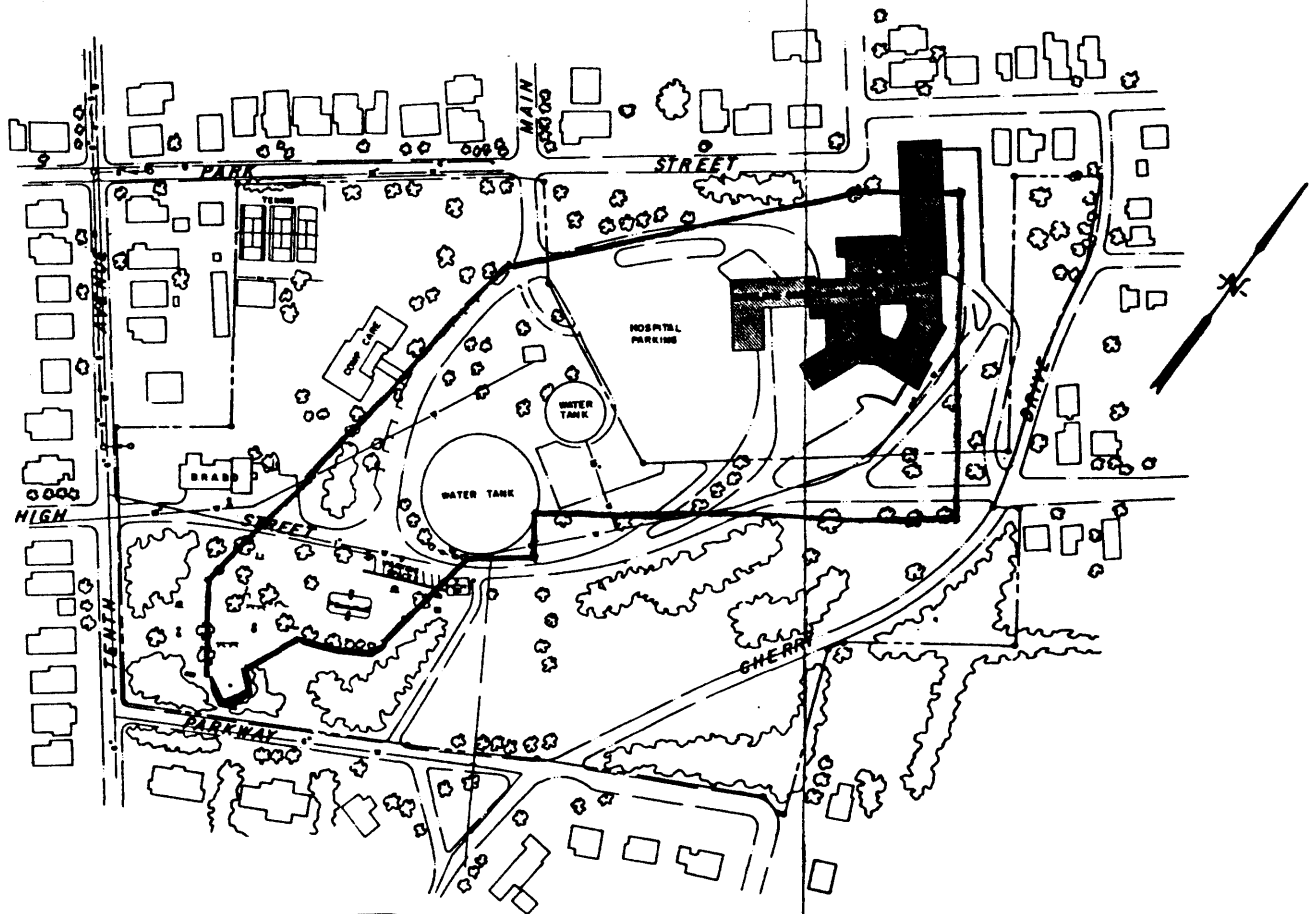
Warren County Courthouse

Deed Book	35	Page	341	Book	93	Page	411
	78		63		83		12
	86		297				



FORT C.F. SMITH
□ PROPOSED SITE BOUNDARY

- APPROXIMATION OF ORIGINAL FORT
- EXISTING EMBANKMENTS




LEGEND

⊞	SWINGS	⊞	HAND WALKS
⌒	SLIDES	⊞	CHARL THROUGH
⌒	SEC. SAWS	⌒	GRILLS
⊞	JERRY-BO-ROUND	⊞	PICNIC TABLES
⊞	JUNJLE GYM	⊞	PICNIC SHELTER
⊞	HORSESHOES	⊞	STAGGERED BARS
—○—	WATER MAIN	—○—	WATER MAIN
—○—	SANITARY SEWER	—○—	SANITARY SEWER
—○—	FORCE MAIN	—○—	FORCE MAIN

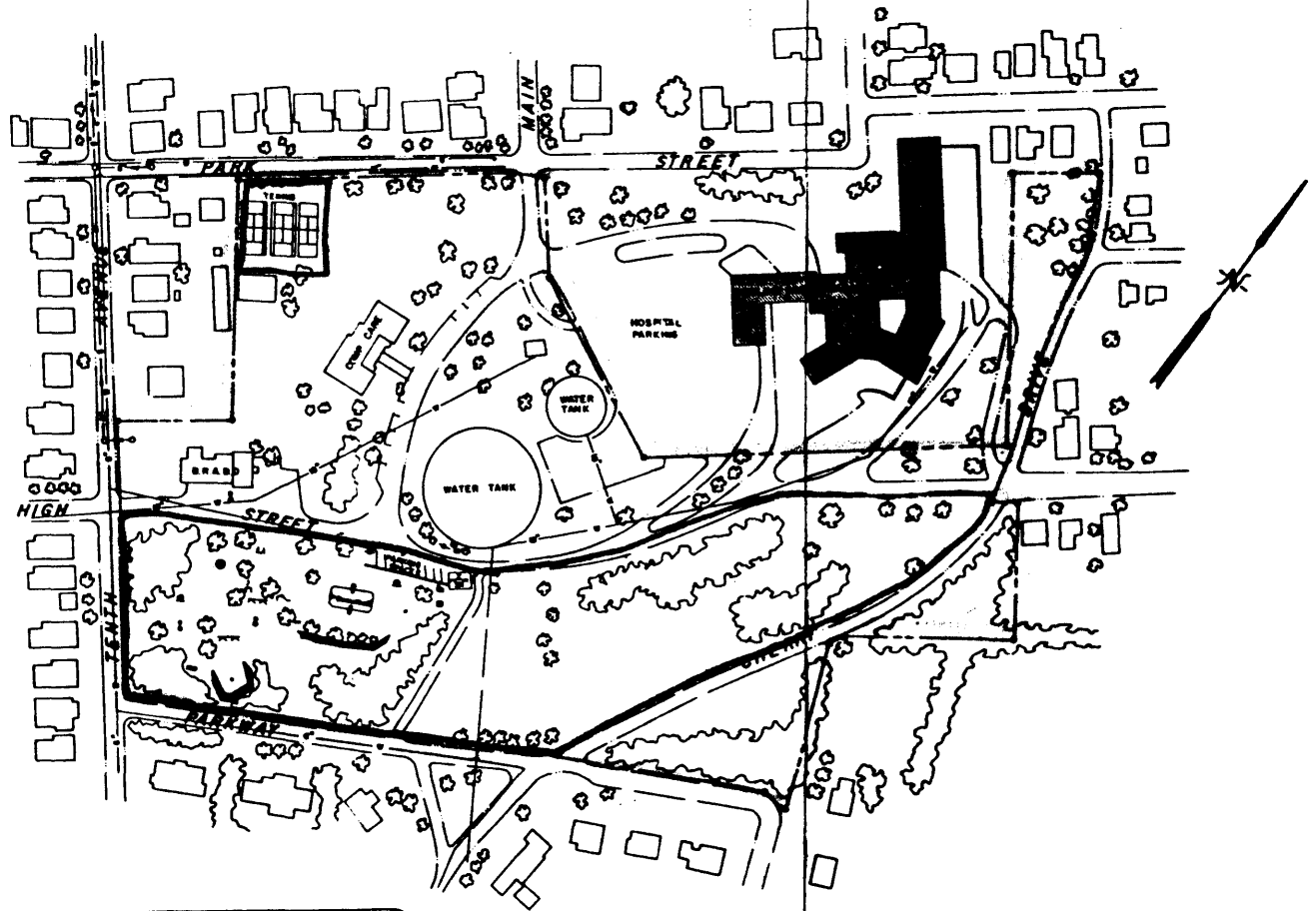


RESERVOIR HILL PARK
 DEPARTMENT of PARKS and RECREATION
 BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY


REYNOLDS WATKINS CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 1715 ARMY CIRCLE, BOWLING GREEN, KY.

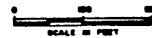
SHEET NO.
6

- CITY PROPERTY
- PARK
- EXISTING EMBANKMENTS




LEGEND

⊕ SWINGS	⊖ HAND WALKS
⌒ SLICES	⊖ CRAWL THROUGH
⌘ BEE-SAWS	⌘ DRILLS
⊙ MERRY-GO-ROUND	⌘ PICNIC TABLES
⊖ JUNGLE GYM	⌘ PICNIC SHELTER
⊖ HORSE SHOES	⌘ STAGGERED BARS
— 6" — WATER MAIN	— 6" — SANITARY SEWER
— 12" — FORCE MAIN	



RESERVOIR HILL PARK
 DEPARTMENT of PARKS and RECREATION
 BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY


REYNOLDS WATKINS CONSULTING ENGINEERS
1715 ASHLEY CIRCLE, BOWLING GREEN, KY

PLANET NO.
6



FORT WEBB

FORT OF SMITH

FORT WORTH

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

REGENTS

FAIRVIEW

Libraries Labs

Medical Center

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS

STOCKYARDS