

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 28 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 an 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 Fort Duffield

other names/site number 15HD465, HDWP-14

2. Location

street & number East of US 31W off West Point Marina Road NA not for publication

city or town West Point vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Hardin code 093 zip code 40177

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

David L. Morgan Director/SHPO 12-14-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Patty S. Chrisman Jan 31, 1994

Name of Property

County and State

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 resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
2	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

fortification, cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

city park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation earth

walls earth

roof n/a

other n/a

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.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

military

Period of Significance

1861-1865

Significant Dates

November, 1861-January, 1862

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Fort Duffield
Name of Property

Hardin, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 106

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	5 9 2 9 6 0	4 2 0 5 6 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 6	5 9 3 3 7 0	4 2 0 5 6 0 0

3	1 6	5 9 3 5 5 0	4 2 0 5 4 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 6	5 9 3 2 6 0	4 2 0 5 2 4 0

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 Joseph E. Brent, Historic Sites Data Coordinator

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date September 24, 1993

street & number 300 Washington Street telephone (502) 564-7005

city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name City of West Point

street & number 509 Elm Street telephone (502) 922-4260

city or town West Point state KY zip code 40177

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

1NPS Form 101900-a
1024-0018
(8-86)

OMB Approval No.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ft. Duffield

Section number 7
Page # 1

Hardin County, Kentucky

Fort Duffield is an earthwork fortification approximately 1,075 feet long. The fort's wall are approximately 20 feet high. The fort is located on a knoll south of the City of West Point and directly south of a railroad right-of-way. This nominated area includes the cemetery and the historic 1,500 foot buffer between the fort and any would be attacker. The fort is the only contributing structure. There is a ruin of a chimney constructed by the Boy Scouts in 1977 that is definately a non-contributing structure. The Civil War cemetery is a contributing site. A total of one contributing site and one contributing structure and one non-contributing structure within the nominated area.

During the Civil War, the completed fort accommodated 1,000 men, and had 10 cannons mounted on its walls. Within the confines of the walls of the fort the soldiers constructed at least 15 cabins to house the garrison. The archaeological remains of these cabins are intact within the fort. The fort was constructed beginning November 3, 1861 and the troops completed the fort and the cabins by January 1, 1862. Approximately 70,000 man days were needed to complete the fortification.¹⁰

The nominated area is some 106 acres which includes the fortification, the cemetery and a 1500 foot buffer to the south, east and west around the fort. This area was cleared as a part of the fort's construction. The fort's the cemetery where Union soldiers are buried who died while stationed at Ft. Duffield is also included within the nominated area. The cemetery is located on an adjacent knoll approximately 1500 feet to the west of the fort site (see map).

¹⁰ Bennett, 9th Michigan, 5.

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Hardin County, Kentucky

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Ft. Duffield is eligible under National Register Criterion C within the context of the American Civil War, and has statewide significance as an excellent example of an earthen fortification constructed by the Union army to defend Kentucky from Confederate invasion. Fort Duffield is perhaps the earliest Union fortification constructed in the state, it was built during an emergency situation when the Union forces were not fairing well. Its design reflects a hasty construction, rather than an orderly, well planned military effort. The fort has integrity of location, setting, design, feeling and association. Ft. Duffield was constructed in the fall of 1861 to protect Louisville, the L&N Turnpike, and the Ohio River supply route from the Confederates.

Currently, the Fort Hill/Fort Duffield Heritage Committee is working with the City of West Point to provide better interpretation of the fort. This will include trails, signage, and selective cutting of trees that will allow for the visitor to view the area that the fort's defenders would have seen. In 1861 there would have been a 1500 foot buffer around the fort.

State Archaeologist Dr. R. Berle Clay has visited the site to begin consideration of its archaeological value. It is listed in the state archaeological survey as 15 HD-465. Though this nomination is being prepared under Criterion C, Fort Duffield has potential to yield valuable archaeological information regarding the living condition of Civil War soldiers. As there is limited written primary source material on the fort, an archaeological investigation may well be the best way to learn about the fort's inhabitants. Thus, it may qualify for listing under Criterion D after such analysis.

Background

The adjournment of the Kentucky state legislature in February of 1861 coincided with the formation of the Confederate government in Montgomery, Alabama. The Kentucky lawmakers refused to respond to Governor Beriah Magoffin's December 27, 1860, call for a secession convention and instead, in February, 1861, sent delegates to the ill-fated "Peace Conference" in Washington. By the time the legislature reconvened on March 20, 1861 the nation was divided. The majority of the legislators in the Commonwealth of Kentucky vowed to take no part in a Civil War. On April 12, 1861, the Confederacy initiated the national conflict by firing on Fort Sumter. Two days later, while President Lincoln called for 75,000

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troops to suppress the rebellion, Kentucky declared neutrality. With the legislature out of session Kentucky's Governor replied to Lincoln's request quickly and decisively: "I say, emphatically, Kentucky will furnish no troops for the wicked purpose of subduing her sister states."¹

On May 16, 1861, the state legislature declared the Commonwealth of Kentucky neutral. Despite that, the Confederacy first moved troops into Kentucky. On September 3, 1861, Confederate General Gideon Pillow marched north from Tennessee and occupied Columbus, Kentucky. Once the state's neutrality had been broken General Ulysses S. Grant wasted little time. Three days later he moved south from Illinois, crossed the Ohio River and seized Paducah, thus destroying any hope for Kentucky to remain out of the Civil War. The actions of the belligerents forced the state to make a stand; Kentucky's legislature chose to remain in the Union. Dissatisfied with their state's choice, Southern sympathizers from 68 counties gathered in Russellville, the seat of Logan County. The Russellville Convention declared a new Confederate state government and seceded from the Union and the Commonwealth on November 18, 1861.²

When the Confederate troops took Columbus, the Kentucky legislature demanded that they leave. When they did not, troops were raised to expel them, an act that symbolically bound the Bluegrass State to the Union. A sense of urgency descended upon General William Tecumseh Sherman, the Union commander in the state. Sherman took measures to secure his command. One of these measures was the construction of Ft. Duffield.³

¹. Lowell H. Harrison, The Civil War In Kentucky (Lexington, 1975), 8-10, John S. Bowman, The Civil War Almanac (New York, 1983), 51 and E. Merton Coulter, the Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky (Chapel Hill, 1926), 38.

². Harrison, Civil War 11-12 and 20-23.

³ Coulter, Civil War and Readjustment, 114; Bowman, Civil War Almanac, 67 and War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I Volume VII (Washington, 1882), 450.

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The Fort

To properly defend his command Sherman had to have a secure supply line. The Union army established West Point, Kentucky as a supply base. It was conveniently located on the Ohio River west of Louisville at the mouth of the Salt River. The Louisville and Nashville Turnpike also passed through the small port town. This would be the Union army's first base south of the Ohio. In order to secure it Sherman ordered two newly recruited regiments to West Point to man the supply depot, and to construct fortifications on the heights south of town, known as Pearman Hill.⁴

The 9th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and the 37th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiments arrived in West Point in late October or early November. On November 3, 1861 construction was begun on the earthwork fort by the 9th Michigan. Three days later the men from the 37th Indiana were added to the work detail building the fort.⁵

The completed fort was named Ft. Duffield for the commander of the 9th Michigan Infantry, Colonel William W. Duffield. The fort was also called Fort Blair, perhaps in honor of Francis P. Blair, the Postmaster General of the United States under Lincoln. The soldiers constructed roads that wound up the hill to provide access to the fort. They also built a path with steps down to a spring to provide easy access to the fresh water. The bastion faced south to protect against Confederates hoping to destroy the Union supply base. The completed fort accommodated 1,000 men and held 10 cannons on its walls. In addition, an estimated 15 cabins were built within the walls of the fort to house the garrison. It took approximately 70,000 man days to complete the fortification.⁶

The soldiers from Michigan and Indiana constructed an earthwork structure 1,075 feet long, with walls approximately 20 feet high.

⁴ Edward Chase, The Memorial Life of General William Tecumseh Sherman, (Chicago, 1891), 83-88 and Richard A. Briggs, Bicentennial History of West Point, Kentucky, (West Point Bicentennial Commission, 1978) 67-72.

⁵ Charles W. Bennett, Historical Sketches of the Ninth Michigan Infantry, (Coldwater, MI, 1913) 5 and

⁶ Bennett, 9th Michigan, 5.

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Ft. Duffield

Hardin County, Kentucky

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The men would cut down all of the vegetation within 1,500 feet of the fort, in order for the fort's defenders to have a clear field of fire.

In the last 130 years the vegetation has been allowed to return. The fort currently exists as a West Point City Park. This does not diminish the fort's integrity of feeling, setting or location. The fort was constructed on the heights above West Point, Kentucky, where its defenders could see the Ohio River, the L & N Turnpike, and the Salt River. The imposing earthworks remain and the view of West Point and the confluence of the Ohio and Salt Rivers remain offering the visitor ample evidence of why the bastion was constructed at this location.

Historic Content: Civil War Fort Construction in Kentucky

No other fort has been located in Kentucky that is constructed in the same manner as Fort Duffield. Perhaps it was that Ft. Duffield was constructed early in the war, late October or early November, 1861, perhaps it was the engineer's skill or lack thereof, but its design differs, from that of other fortifications built in Kentucky during the Civil War.

As with most forts, this one is located on a high hill from which to observe and defend enemy advances on an important target. Fort Duffield stood above West Point, and from the vantage point the defenders could watch the city, the rivers and the L & N Turn Pike. However, if a determined force managed to breach the walls of the bastion the defenders would have no recourse but to surrender, as they had no avenue of retreat. The fort is open, that is the wall of the fort the runs some 1,075 feet does not enclose the fort. Rather the rear of the fort is the bluff of the hill that over looks West Point. This arrangement offers little choice in the case of an emergency. Consequently, the fort seems to have been constructed without the guidance of sound military logic.

The design of Fort Duffield resembles fortifications referred to as batteries at installations built later. However, batteries at those defensive works were series of earthwork gun emplacements connected with trenches and the scale of the these were smaller than Fort Duffield. For instance at Camp Nelson, just south of Nicholasville, in Jessamine County, consisted in a series of eight enclosed forts and batteries connected by trenches that mounted over 20 guns, and stretched over 8,805 feet. The fortifications at Camp Nelson occupied a high ridgeline with rolling terrain at their

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rear. The works near Convington were designed in a similar fashion. This was a much larger installation that extended from Bromley on one bend of the Ohio River, some seven miles east to another bend in the river and mounted over 90 guns.⁷

Also in Hardin County two forts, Sands and Boyle, were built in 1863 to protect the L & N Railroad trestles over the Rolling Fork and the Salt Rivers respectively, just north of Elizabethtown. These small enclosed fortifications mounted a total of nine guns. Fort Sands, that protected the bridge over the Sulphur Fork of the Rolling Fork, was completely enclosed with trenches around the main fort and more trenches out toward the railroad. Fort Boyle was set up similarly, with inner works that were not enclosed, but were surrounded by outer works that enclosed them. Boyle also had addition earthworks placed between its main line and the railroad.⁸

Fort Duffield eventually mounted 10 guns and was designed accommodate 1,000 men, with the quarters for them within the walls of the fort. The fortifications at Camp Nelson and in Covington encompassed a much larger area and garrisoned thousands of men. The Camp Nelson compound covered over 4,000 acres, Fort Duffield covered less than 200. Fort Sands and Boyle in Hardin County occupied less than 100 acres and were designed for less than 500 men each.

Fort Duffield was constructed earlier than any of the forts named above. Considering the speed in completing the earthworks (late October to December 1, 1861) it might have been considered an emergency measure. Such a notion would not have afforded its designers much time for planning. The record suggests that General Sherman wished to protect his command from what he conceived to be a real threat from large Confederate army south of Louisville. The fact that little documentation exists for the fort furthers the view of it being an emergency measure, in the other forts noted above there is considerable documentation.

⁷ O.R. Atlas, plate 103 number 2; plate 102 number 2 and O. R. Series I Vol. XXIX Part III, 769-777.

⁸ "Fortifications map -- Muldraugh's Hill showing the defenses of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad 1863," Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers RG 77.61 -- Fortifications Map File; and O.R. Series I Volume XLIX Part II, 958.

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The other fortifications mentioned were constructed under less stressful and immediate conditions. Those along the L & N Railroad were built according to some fairly strict guidelines. The fortifications in Covington and Camp Nelson were constructed under the guidance of military engineers and were continuously updated and upgraded. Fort Duffield was built to meet a perceived emergency at the beginning of the Civil War when the Union armies were not doing well, and so could be seen as a "knee-jerk" reaction. General William T. Sherman had been at the disastrous Union defeat at Bull Run, and he feared for his command and hoped to avoid the kind of disaster in Kentucky that had occurred in Virginia. The construction of Fort Duffield was an attempt by Sherman to stave off another such defeat.⁹

The placement of the cemetery indicates planing on the part of those using the fortification. The burials were placed on high ground away from the fort and the water supply. The cemetery's presence is a reminder that many of the soldiers who enlisted in the army during the Civil War died from causes other than enemy fire.

⁹ James M. Merrill, William Tecumseh Sherman (New York, 1971), 168-182.

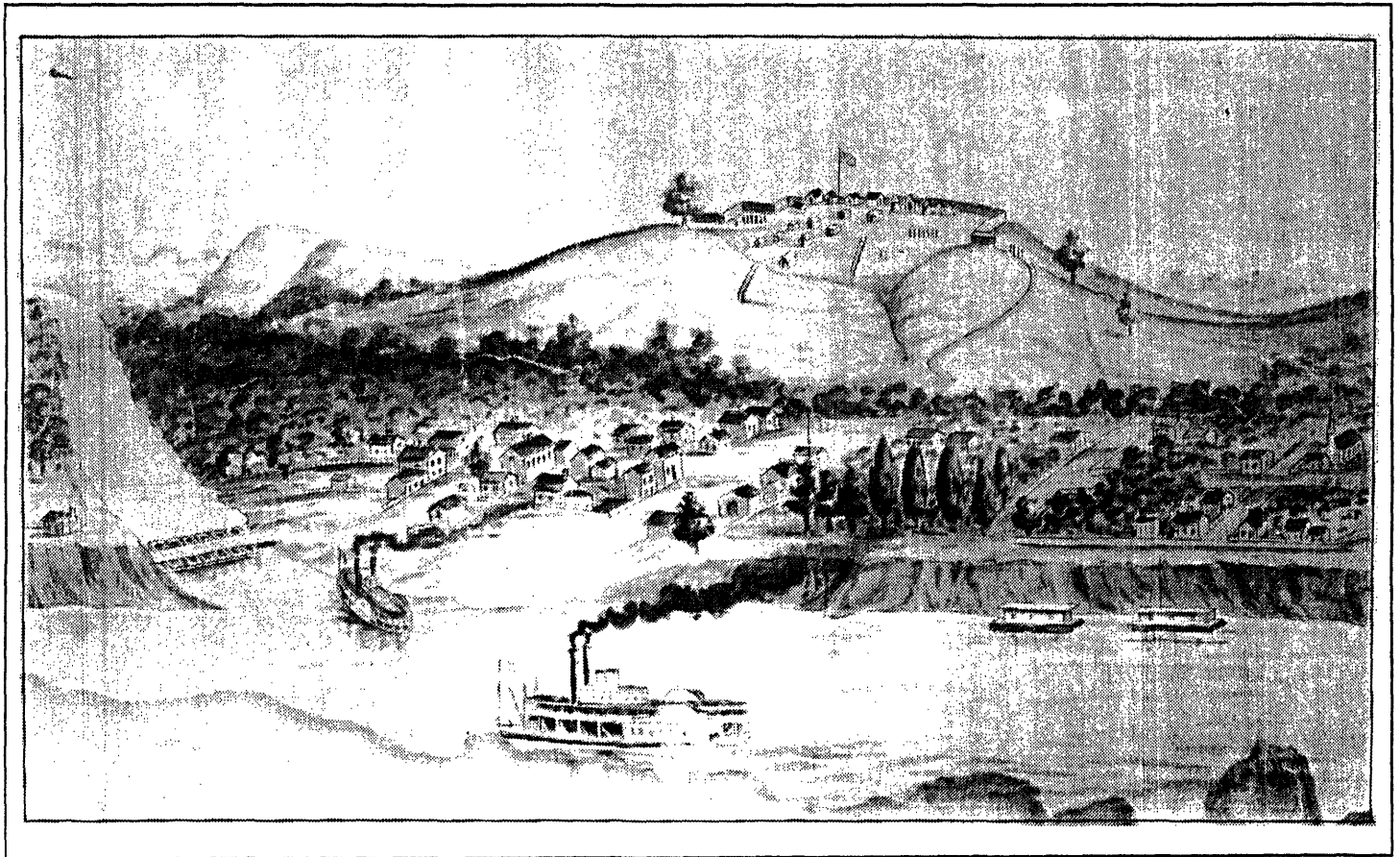
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Fort Duffield, West Point, KY as drawn by Charles I. Kelley, Co. I,
9th Michigan Infantry Regiment in 1861.
(The Fort faces south; this is the back side)

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Bibliography

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Bowman, John S., The Civil War Almanac (New York, 1983).

Briggs, Richard A., Bicentennial History of West Point, Kentucky, (West Point Bicentennial Commission, 1978).

Chase, Edward, The Memorial Life of General William Tecumseh Sherman, (Chicago, 1891).

Coulter, Merton, the Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky (Chapel Hill, 1926).

2Lowell H. Harrison, The Civil War In Kentucky (Lexington, 1975), 8-10,

Merrill, James M., William Tecumseh Sherman (New York, 1971).

Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers RG 77.61 -- Fortifications Map File, "Fortifications map -- Muldraugh's Hill showing the defenses of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad 1863."

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I Volume VII and Atlas (Washington, 1882).

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UTM coordinates

5. 16 592.860 4205.220

6. 16 592.520 4205.280

7. 16 592.400 4205.090

8. 16 592.290 4205.080

9. 16 592.350 4205.370

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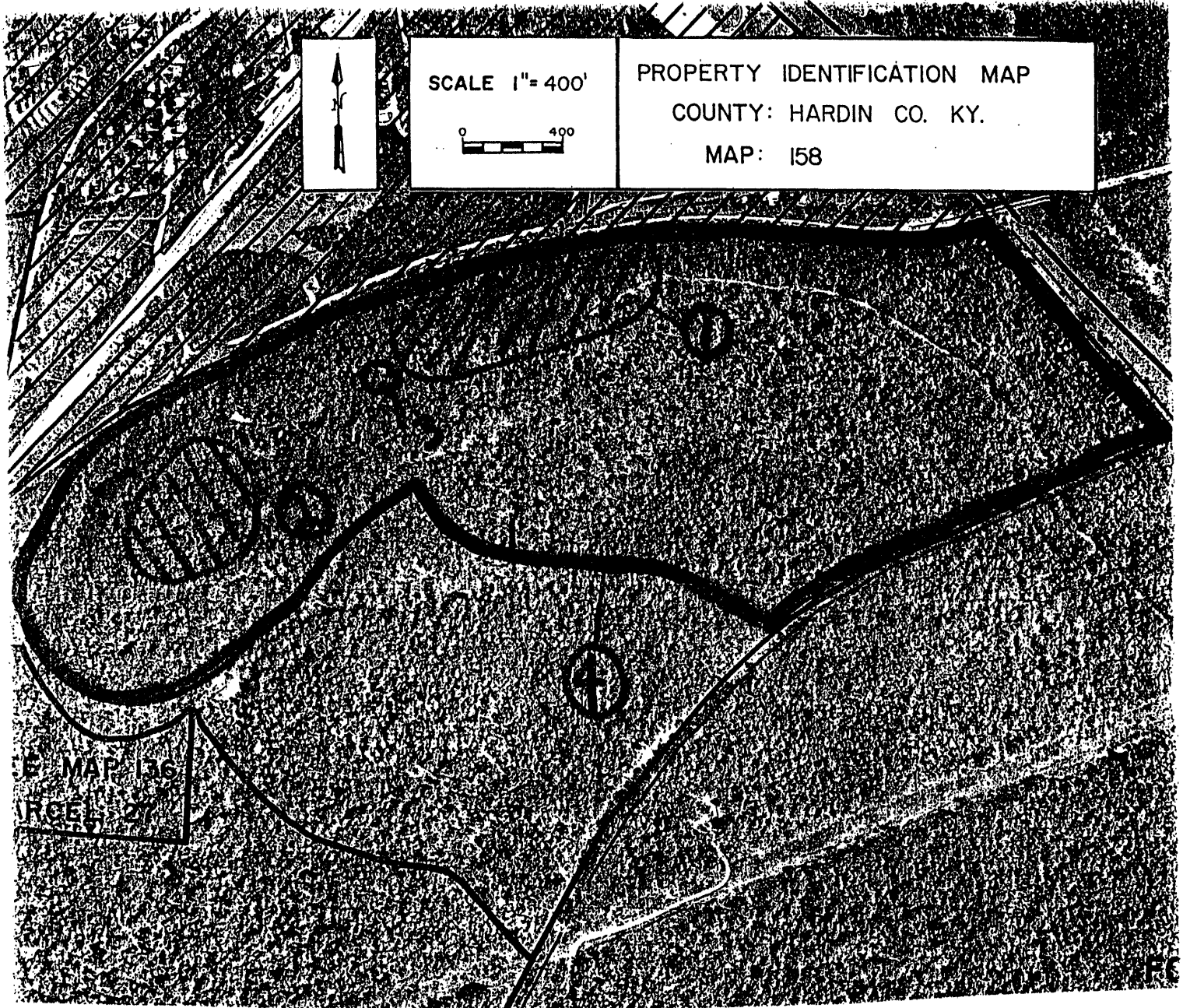
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Ft. Duffield

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Verbal Boundary Description



- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Ft. Duffield
contributing structure | 2. cemetery
contributing site | 3. Boy Scout chimney
non-contributing
structure | 4. buffer
contributing
site |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|

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Ft. Duffield

Hardin County, Kentucky

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Boundary Justification

The boundary of the 106 acre nominated area includes the fortification, the cemetery and a 1500 foot buffer to the south, east and west around the fort. This buffer area was part of the original construction of the fort. The area was cleared to give the defenders a clear field of fire on any approaching enemy soldiers. The fort's the cemetery, located on an adjacent knoll, where Union soldiers are buried who died while stationed at Ft. Duffield is also included within the nominated area.