

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

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

WA-B-226
Site No.

1. Historic Name(s) Fort Lytle (C.W. Fortification No. 10, Warren County, KY, 1861)

Original Owner _____

2. Present Name College Hill

3. Location Western Kentucky University

4. Owner's Name Western Kentucky University
(Owen Lawson-Physical Plant Administrator)

5. Owner's Address Bowling Green, KY 42101

6. Open to Public Yes No

7. Ownership Private Local State Federal

28. ADD/County Barren River/Warren 114

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

30. UTM Reference 16 548730 4093440
Zone Easting Northing

31. Coordinate Accuracy

32. Prehistoric Site _____ Object _____
Historic Site _____ Structure _____
Building _____ Other _____

33. National Register District Name:

8. Site Plan with North Arrow See Attached Maps.

9. Architect/Builder _____

10. Date 1861-1865 A. B.

11. Style A. N/A B.

12. Original Use Military

13. Present Use Landscape/Park N

14. Condition Excellent A

15. Stories, No. of

34. Significance of Evaluation National Register ID

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

36. Historic Theme
Primary Military T
Secondary Architecture C
Other _____

37. Endangered Yes _____ No

16. Description Fort Lytle is located approximately 1,400 yards southwest of Fort C.F. Smith (WA-B-232) at the summit of what is known as College Hill on the campus of Western Kentucky University. Existing remnants of the original fortification are situated in a rocky area bounded by Garrett Conference Center, a parking lot, Cherry Hall (National Register WA-B-203), Gordon Wilson Hall (National Register WA-B-204) and Van Meter Hall (National Register WA-B-205). Fort Lytle's surviving walls and trenches represent about 40% of the original construction.
(Continued on Back)

17. Single Pile _____ Double Pile _____ NA _____

18. Floor Plan

19. Structural Fabric Earth/Stone A. B.

20. Decorative Fabric A. B.

21. Roof Form & Material _____

22. Foundation Material

23. Outbuildings

24. Alterations Moved Additions Wall Treatment

38. ATTACH PHOTO

Roll No. _____
Picture No. _____
Direction _____

39. Prepared by: Kevin A. Hunter

40. Organization Landmark Association P

41. Date September 10, 1984

42. Revision Dates _____ 43. Staff Review _____

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

26. Significance Between 1861 and 1865, Bowling Green served as an important military stronghold for both Confederate and Union armies. (Continued on Back)

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Running along a wooded area, the south wall is about 90 feet long. Perpendicular to the south wall is a 35 foot west wall running along the same wooded area. These walls are constructed of 18"x22" cut limestone blocks and are roughly 4 feet high. Now three courses in height, the walls originally may have been four or five courses in height. Some of the original stone blocks have been used to construct two walls at the east end of the site. Part of the original construction includes a six foot wide trench cut into the rock parallel with the stone walls. This trench is about 150 feet long on the south and about 70 feet long on the west. The trench contains a paved walkway and two lightposts at each end of the west portion.

Missing portions of the walls and trench were destroyed upon construction of Van Meter Hall in 1910, Gordon Wilson Hall in 1927 and Cherry Hall in 1937. A water tower was constructed in the wooded area circa 1930 and removed in the early 1970's. During the 1930's, a bronze marker was installed behind Gordon Wilson Hall commemorating the fort. A sidewalk crossing the fort's interior connects the three structures north of the site with Garrett Conference center to the south.

Proposed site boundaries include Fort Lytle's existing walls and trench, a wooded section representative of the hill's natural state, and the grassy interior portion of the fort.

HISTORY (Continued)

on 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 Lytle, named for Union General, William H. Lytle, was known locally as Vinegar Hill. Today, this same hill is known as College Hill. This site is well maintained and is used as a passive recreational area by university staff and students.

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Construction of the original fortifications was begun by the Confederate Army and was improved by the Union Army under the direction of Colonel Benjamin Harrison. Today, Fort Lytle 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 Lytle Site # WA-B-226

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 Acreege Approximately ½ Acre

Area containing Fort is generally bounded by Van Meter Hall on the North, Gordon Wilson and Cherry Halls on the East, Garret Conference Center on the South and a Parking Lot on the West. Area containing embankments and stone wall is a landscaped lot of land bounded by existing sidewalks and parking lot.

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

See Attached Maps.

Official Courthouse Property Reference:

Warren County Courthouse
Deed Book 106 Page 349
 106 380

FORT
LYTLE

GARRETT CONFERENCE CENTER

DRIVE

DRIVE

PARKING LOT

PARKING LOT

KIOSK

BENCHES

SITE OF
OLD
WATER TOWER

WOODED
AREA

CHERRY
HALL

(NATIONAL
REGISTER)

WALLS NOT IN
ORIGINAL LOCATIONS

BRIDGE

MARKER

PLANTER

LIGHT POSTS

SERVICE DRIVE

VAN METER HALL
(NATIONAL REGISTER)

GORDON WILSON
HALL
(NATIONAL REGISTER)

- EXISTING STONE WALL
- ROCK
- APPROXIMATION OF ORIGINAL WALLS
- PROPOSED SITE BOUNDARY

9

8

7

10

6

2

11

15



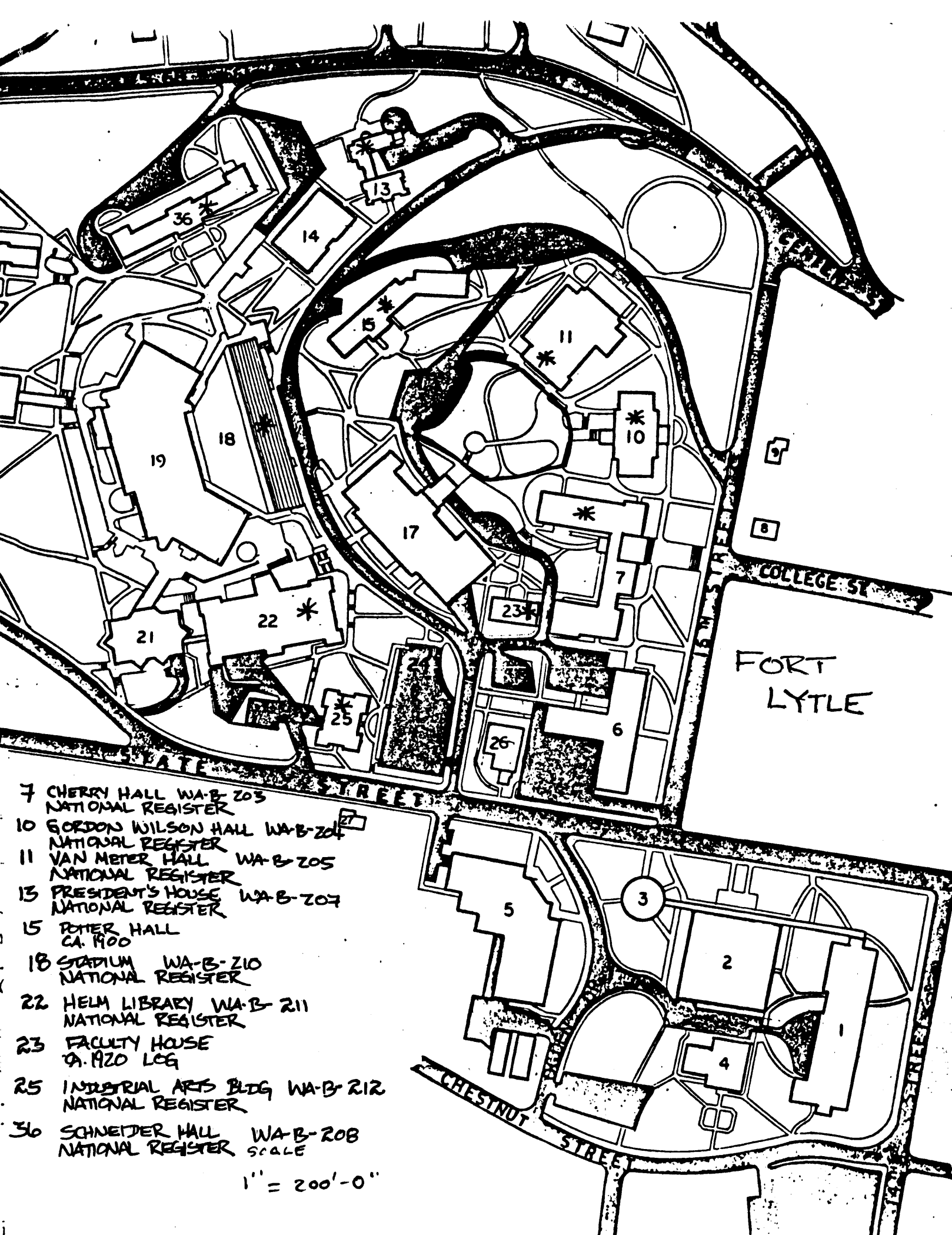


FORT WESS



FORGE

Map labels include street names (e.g., DARTMOUTH ST, FAIRVIEW, ROODWOOD AVE), landmarks (e.g., Medical Center, WORTH UNIVERSITY), and highway markers (e.g., 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100).



- 7 CHERRY HALL WA-B-203
NATIONAL REGISTER
- 10 GORDON WILSON HALL WA-B-204
NATIONAL REGISTER
- 11 VAN METER HALL WA-B-205
NATIONAL REGISTER
- 13 PRESIDENT'S HOUSE WA-B-207
NATIONAL REGISTER
- 15 POTTER HALL
CA. 1900
- 18 STADIUM WA-B-210
NATIONAL REGISTER
- 22 HELM LIBRARY WA-B-211
NATIONAL REGISTER
- 23 FACULTY HOUSE
A. 1920 LCG
- 25 INDUSTRIAL ARTS BLDG WA-B-212
NATIONAL REGISTER
- 36 SCHNEIDER HALL WA-B-208
NATIONAL REGISTER SCALE

1" = 200'-0"

MAP
OF
WLING GREEN, KY.,
SHOWING ITS
PROACHES AND DEFENSES.

of the Union and Camp, ...

Scale of Feet



Surveyed and Drawn under authority of
Maj. J. H. SIMPSON, Chief Engr.
DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
BY
Lieut. N. S. ANDREWS,
6th Mich. Battery, acting Engineer.
1863.

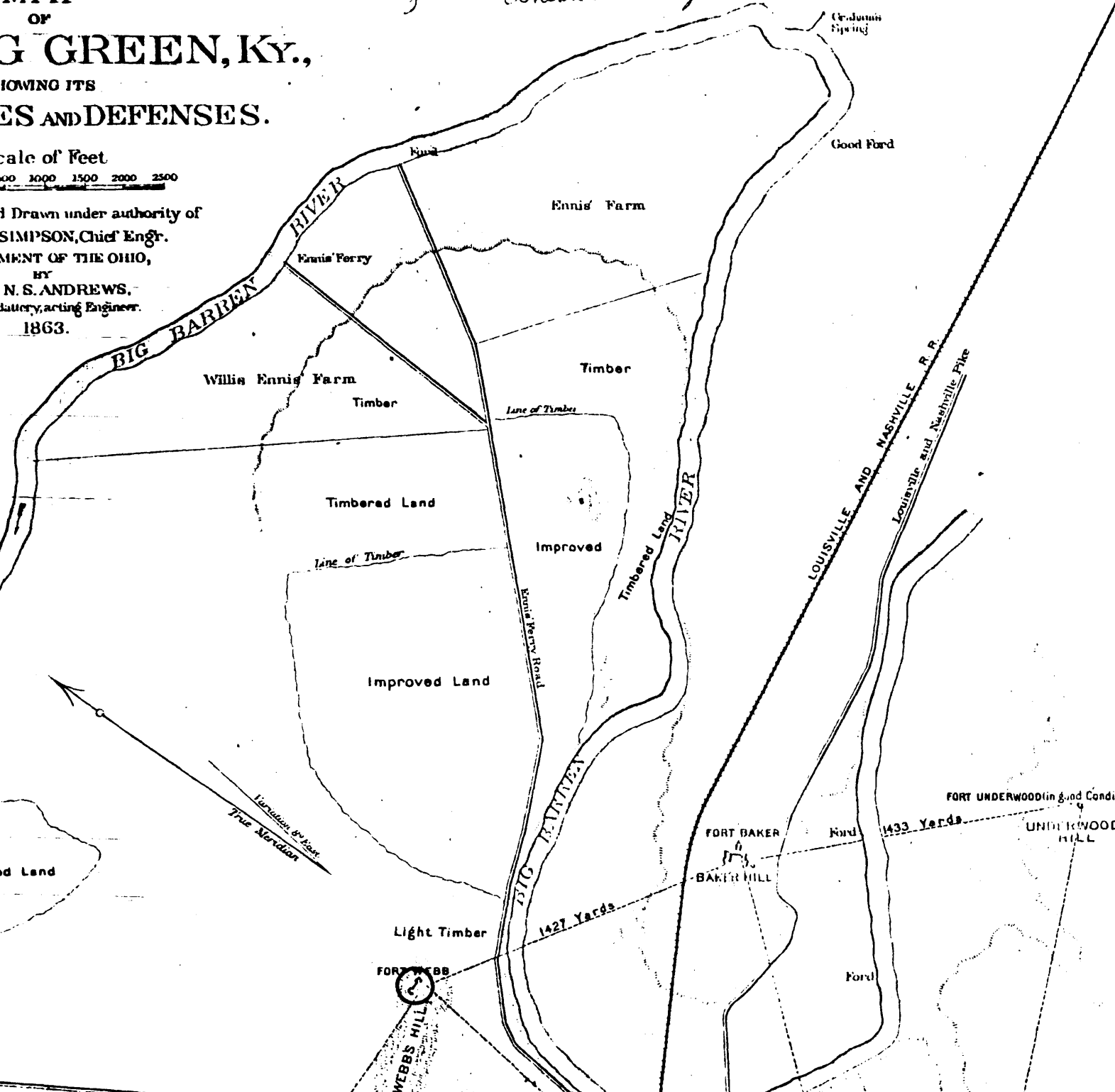
E. I. S. ENGINEERS,
INDIANAPOLIS.

... added by ...

...

Van Meters Ferry

Timber



Good Ford

Ennis' Ferry

Ennis' Farm

Willis Ennis Farm

Timber

Timber

Line of Timber

Timbered Land

Improved

Line of Timber

Improved Land

Ennis' Ferry Road

Timbered Land

LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE R. R.
Louisville and Nashville Pike

True Meridian

FORT BAKER

BAKER HILL

1427 Yards

1433 Yards

FORT UNDERWOOD (good Condition)

UNDERWOOD HILL

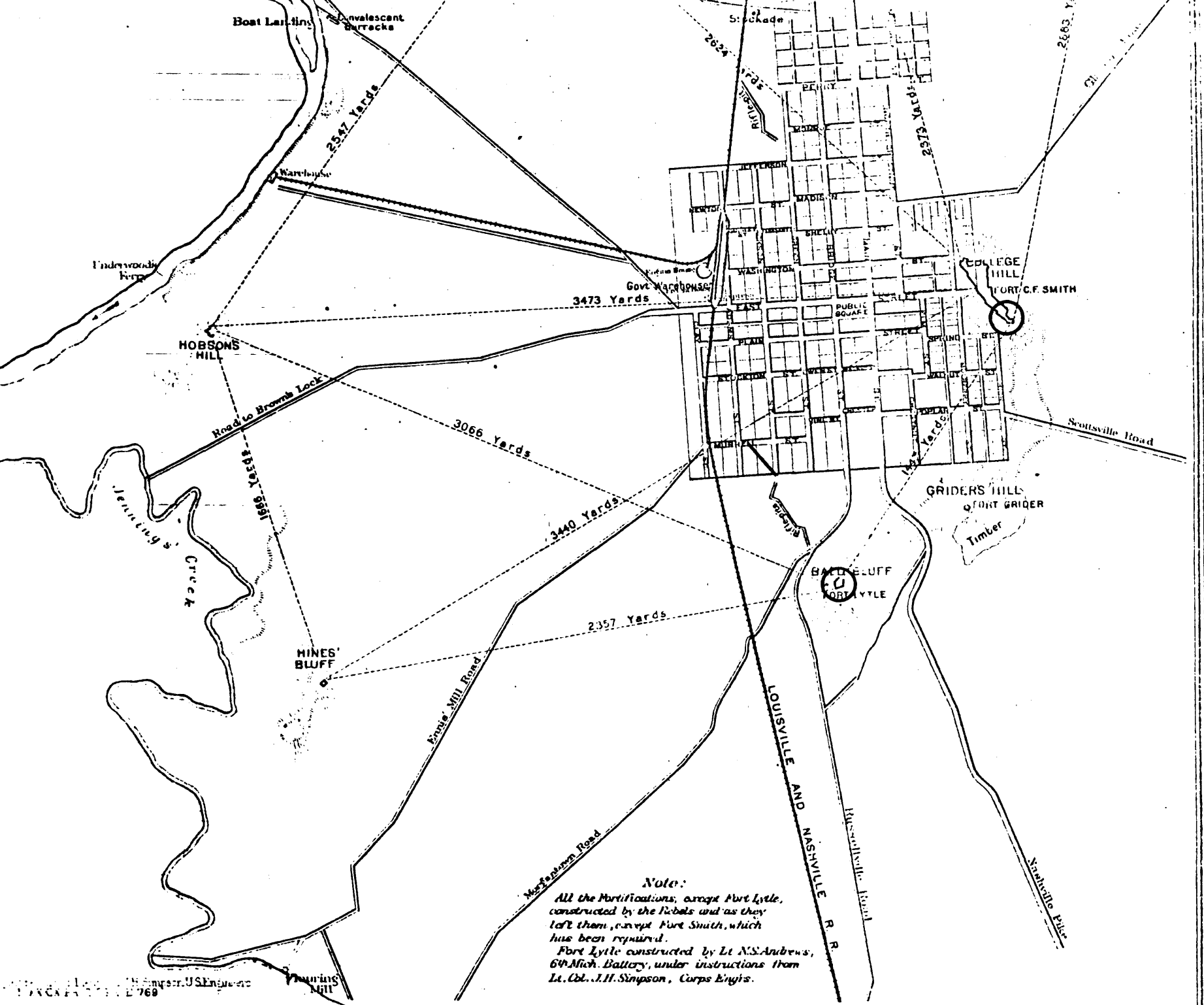
Light Timber

FORT WEBB

WEBB HILL

Ford

...



Note:

All the Fortifications, except Fort Lyle, constructed by the Rebels and as they left them, except Fort Smith, which has been repaired.
 Fort Lyle constructed by Lt. N.S. Andrews, 6th Mich. Battery, under instructions from Lt. Col. J.H. Simpson, Corps Engrs.

U.S. Engineers
 769

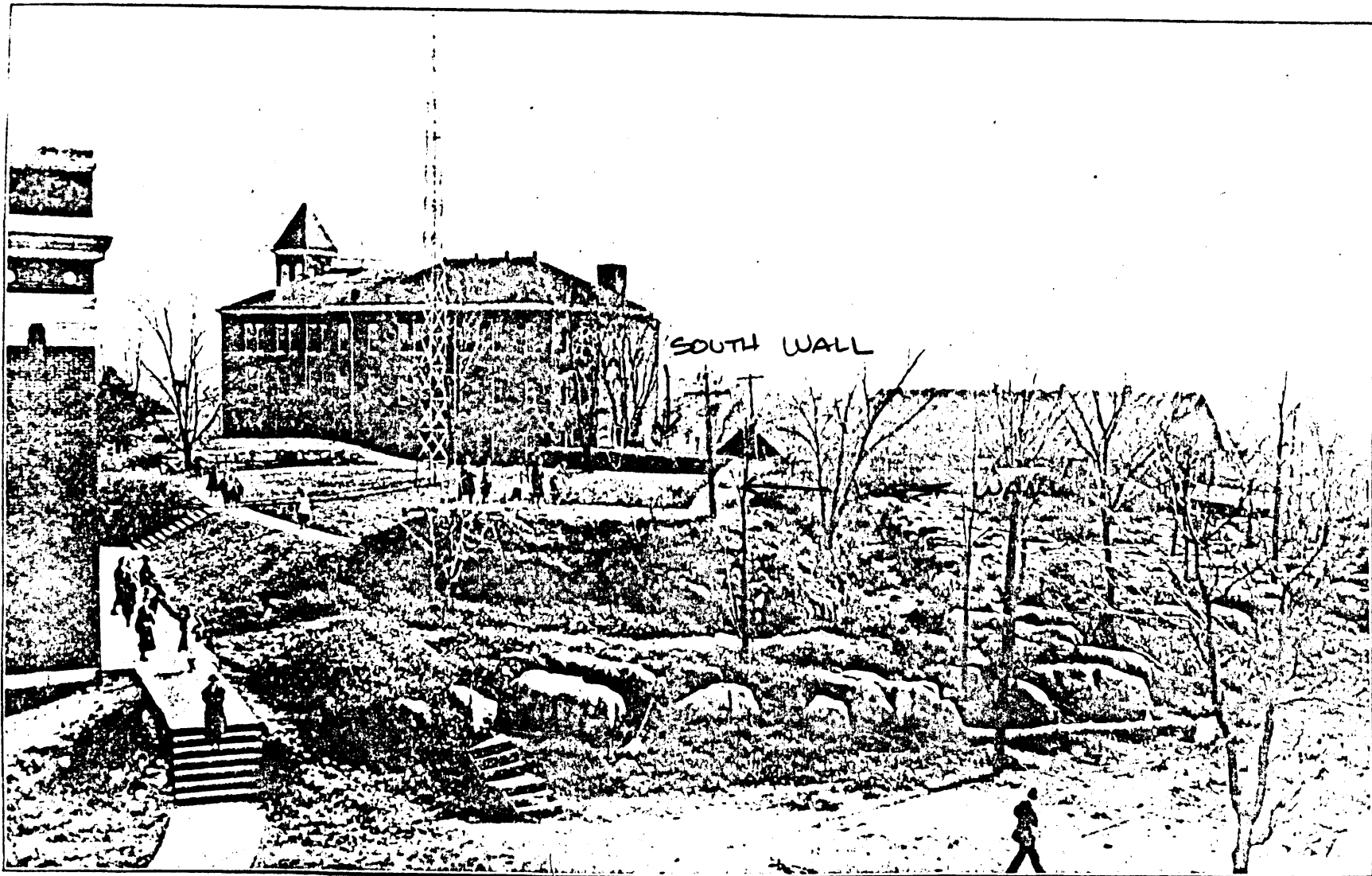
S 23260

...Journal has arranged for a number of prominent educators to become regular members of the faculty and to do regular and special teaching during the Summer School. We

Sept. 14, W. L. ... a graduate of Cumberland University, special student University of Chicago and Columbia University, will be with us and do regular teaching for the entire Summer School.

Professors J. V. Chapman and T. C. ... Frankfort.

For regular and special work other talent will be added to this list before the opening of the Summer Term.



LOOKING EAST FROM J. WHIT POTTER HALL.

RECITATION HALL AND THE GYMNASIUM, AND, IN THE FOREGROUND FORT ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON.

A place of beauty, tying together with bonds of fine sentiment the troublous days of '63 and the strenuous days of '22.

PHOTO CIRCA
1910 - 1935

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN . . .



The Civil War Fort On Western's Campus Looked Like This?

Western Kentucky University is probably the only educational institution in the nation which has a Civil War fort on its campus.

Soon after his appointment by the Confederate government as regional commander of Tennessee, Kentucky and other southwest territory of the Confederacy, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston issued an order from Nashville to Brig. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner to occupy Bowling Green.

The elevation of the Hilltop site made it valuable as a lookout station. Especially was it valuable for its northerly view since the greatest danger to the town, which then had a population of 2,500, was the Union Forces encamped on Green River north of Munfordville under command of Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchell.

Gen. Johnston made his headquarters here from Oct. 28, 1861 until Feb. 4, 1862, when the Union forces moved in.

In 1928 when Western's first library building was erected the location chosen involved a portion of the fort structure. Through efforts of Dr. A. M. Stickles, who headed the college's history department. Dr. H. H. Cherry, its president, was convinced of the importance of preserving the fortification and decided to save the entire wall length. Earth excavated for the library's foundation was used to level the fort area.

The large blocks of stone, 22 to 24 inches long by 18 inches wide, remarkably uniform in size, resting one above the other, make an almost solid wall without mortar.

In 1930 a plaque was erected on the site, which Dr. Stickles and Dr. Cherry appropriately decided should be designated Fort Albert Sidney Johnston. Beneath the seal of Kentucky with its motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall", the legend of the plaque relates the history of the fort.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?
WARREN CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1970



(CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK)

Fort Albert Sidney Johnston, a Civil War fort located on Western's campus, as it appeared in the Potter College annual, the Golden Rod, in 1898.

Johnston headquartered in Bowling Green from October 28, 1861 until February 4, 1862 when Union forces moved in and took control of Bowling Green. The historic location became a part of Western in 1908 when Potter College was purchased and the state supported school moved up the hill from its location on College Street, which was later to become the site for the Bowling Green Business University.



(KENTUCKY LIBRARY, WKU)

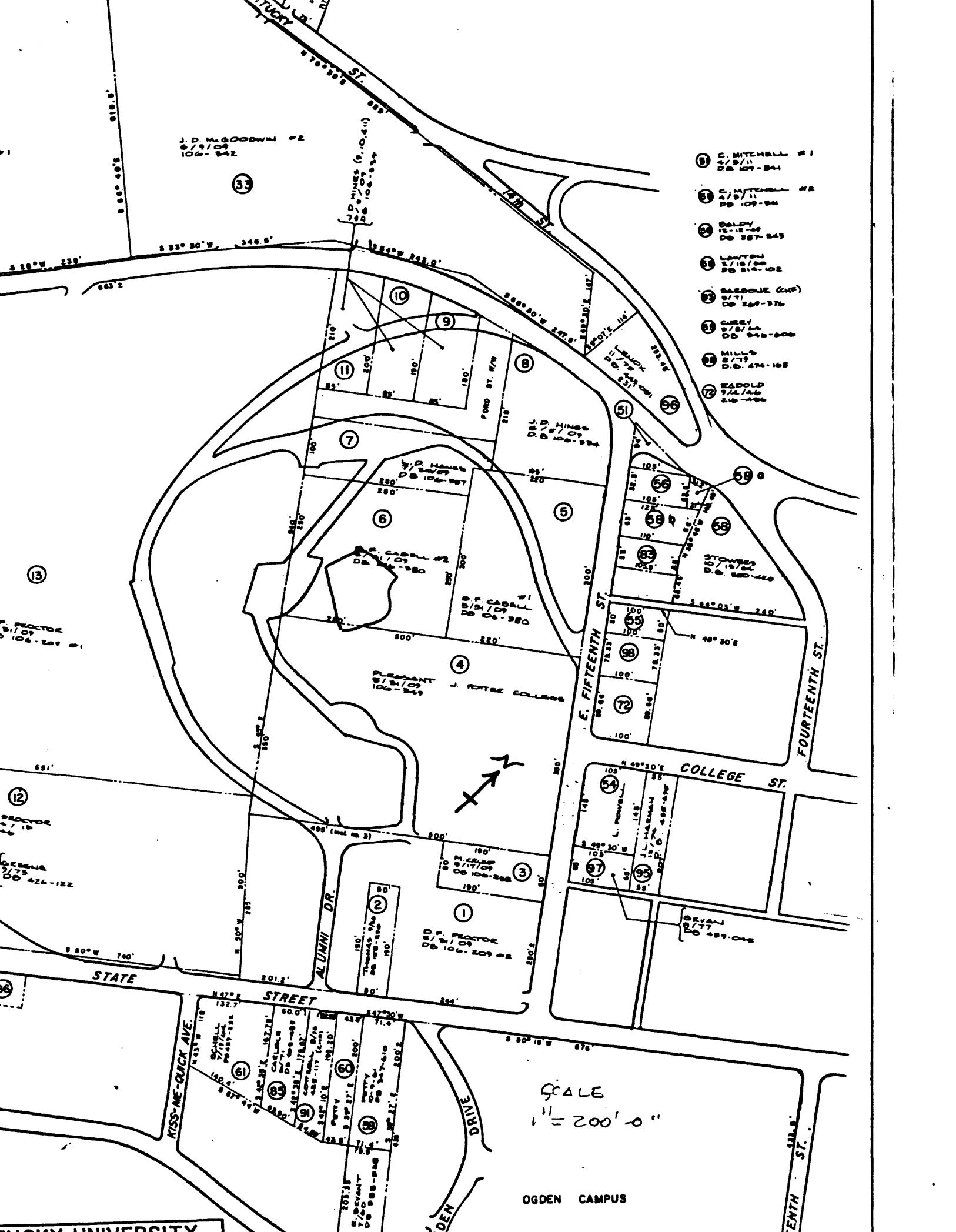
Founded in 1877 with funds left by Robert Ogden, a local businessman, Ogdon College filled an educational gap, because there were no public schools in Bowling Green until 1882. The prep school was accredited in 1919.

The Ogden criteria: regular attendance, gentlemenly deportment, diligent study. Consolidated with Western Kentucky Teachers College in 1927, its name has been retained in the Ogdon College of Science and Technology. Ogden, was noted for its thoroughness and for producing young gentlemen of extremely high caliber.

CITIZENS PICTORIAL GUIDE OF BOWLING GREEN, KY.
 JIM GILDERSLEEVE
 1975

Ogden H
 assembl

A rare vi
 when thi
 carving



- ① C. MITCHELL #1
4/9/11
DB 109-284
- ② C. MITCHELL #2
2/9/11
DB 109-284
- ③ BALDY
12-12-49
DB 287-243
- ④ LAWTON
2/18/58
DB 314-102
- ⑤ BARBOUR (CMT)
3/71
DB 269-976
- ⑥ CUREY
9/8/58
DB 358-606
- ⑦ MILLS
2/79
D.B. 474-168
- ⑧ SADDLE
7/2/16
D.B. 484-484

J.P. McGOODWIN #2
6/9/09
106-242

D. HINGS (S. 10.4.11)
7/28/07
DB 106-242

D.P. HINGS
8/7/09
DB 106-284

J.P. HINGS
8/2/09
DB 106-287

D.P. CABELL #2
8/24/09
DB 106-280

D.P. CABELL #1
8/24/09
DB 106-280

PLEASANT
8/24/09
106-249

STOWERS
10/15/58
DB 380-420

L. POWELL
7/18/78
DB 458-848

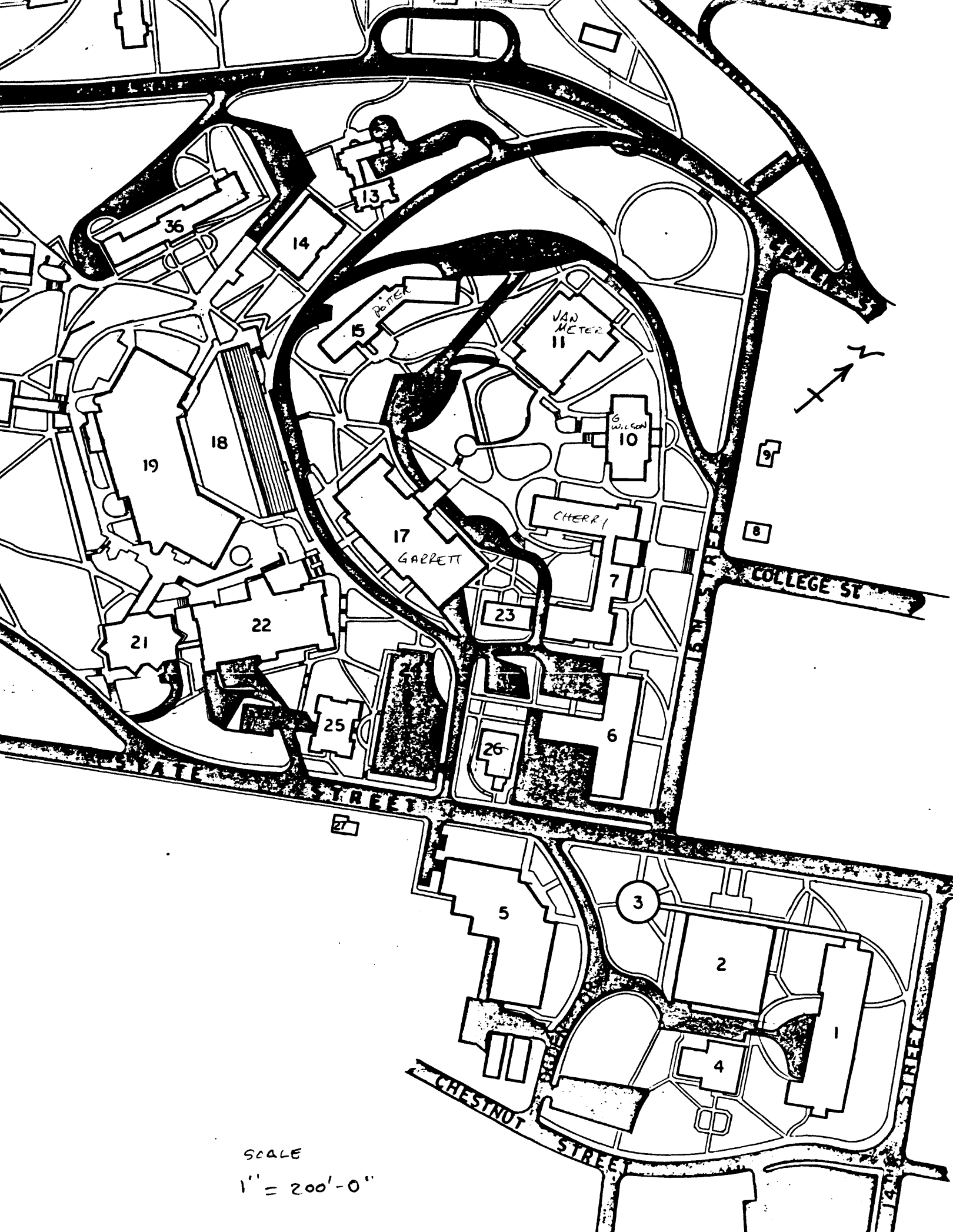
J.L. MACHAN
7/18/78
DB 458-848

D. EVAN
10/77
DB 489-088

SCALE
1" = 200' - 0"

OGDEN CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY



SCALE
1" = 200'-0"

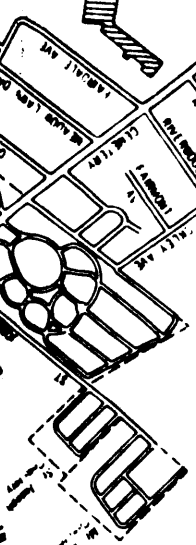


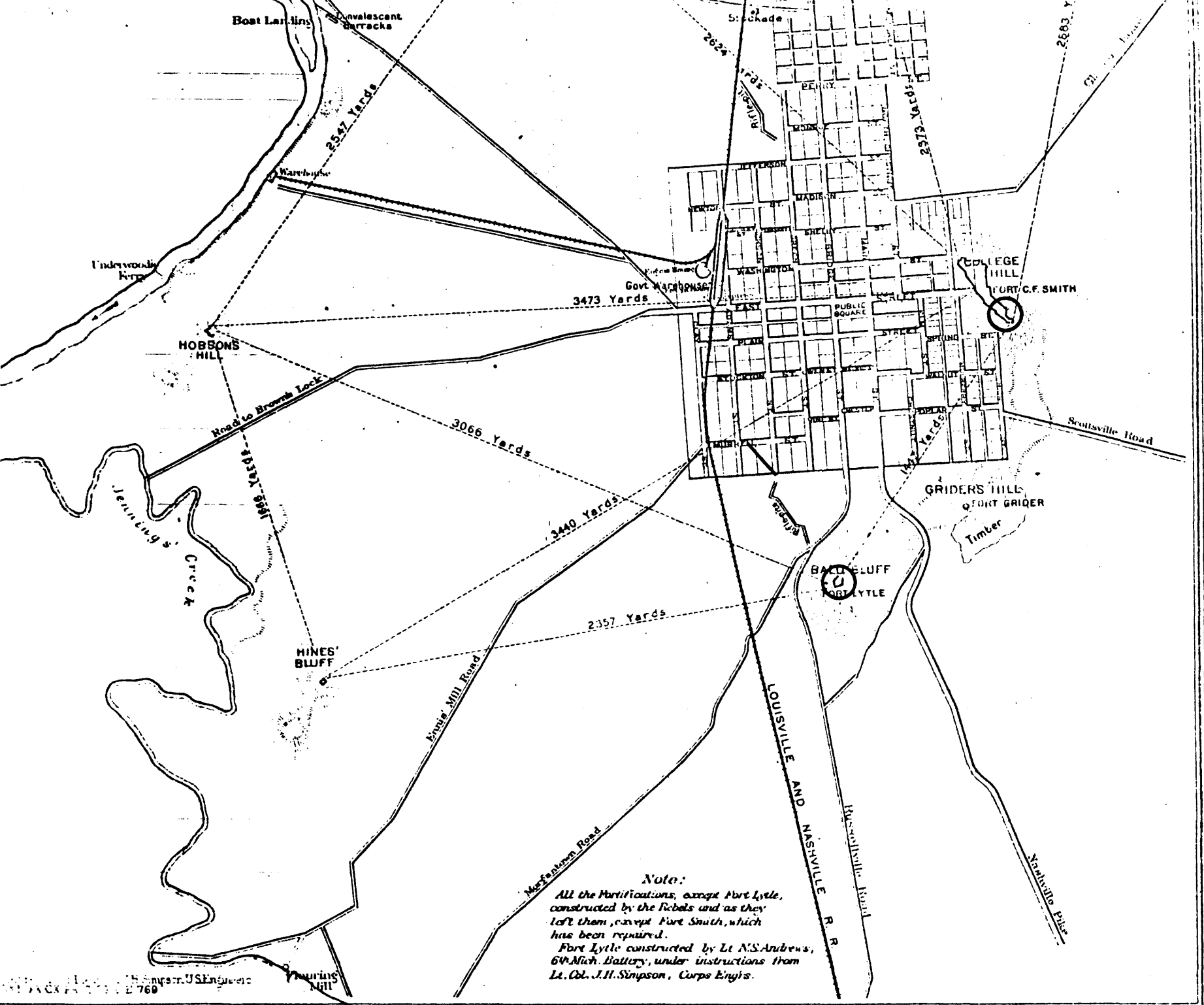
FORT WORTH

FORT WORTH



Fort Worth City of





Boat Landing
Convalescent Barracks

2547 Yards

2624

2683 Y

2379 Yards

Govt Warehouse
3473 Yards

HOBSON'S HILL

Road to Brown's Lock
3197 Yards

3066 Yards

3440 Yards

Jennings' Creek

HINES' BLUFF

House Mill Road

2357 Yards

GRIDERS HILL
FORT GRIGER
Timber

BALD BLUFF
FORT LYTTLE

Scottsville Road

LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE R.R.

McFadden Road

Russellville Road

Nashville Pike

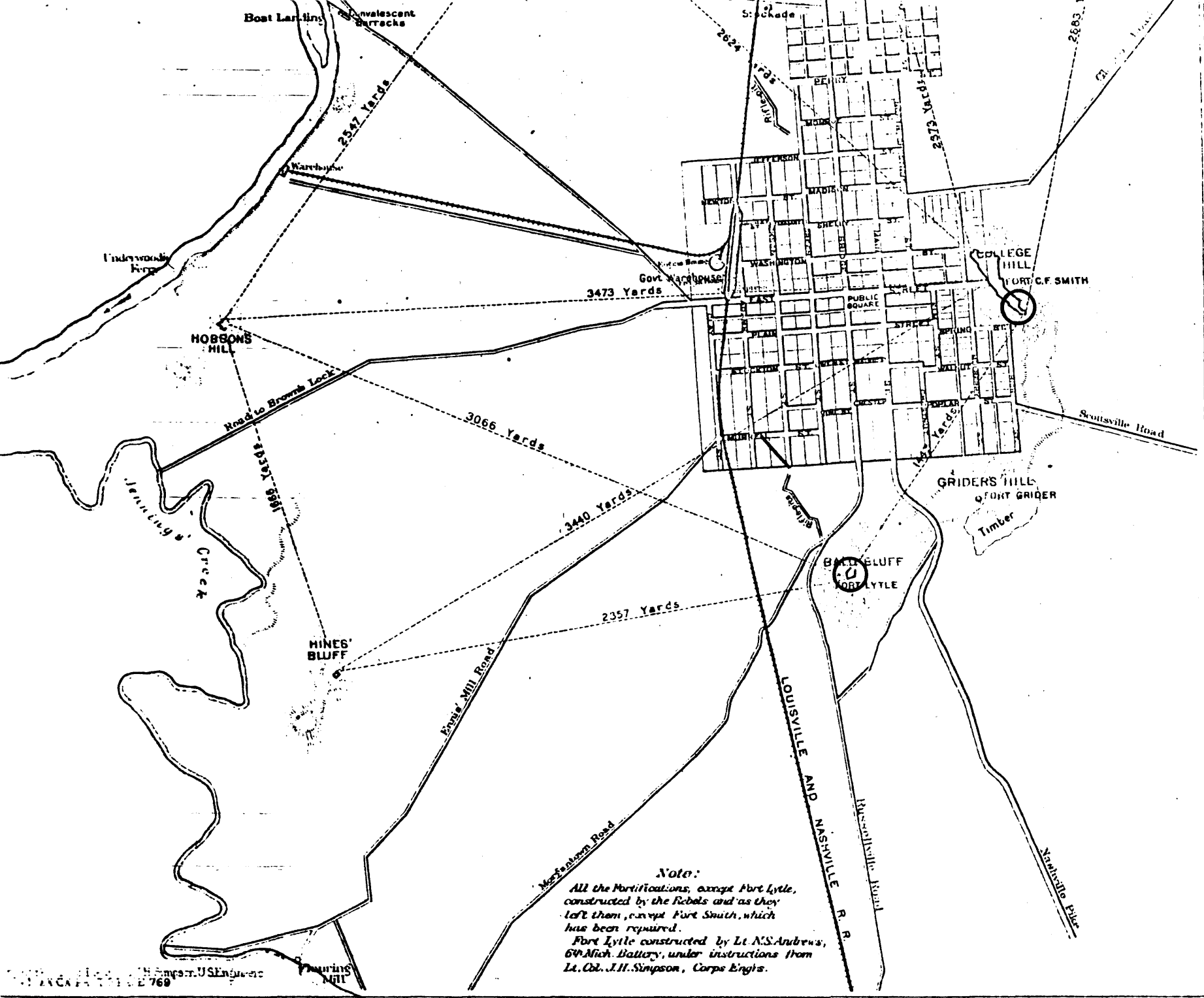
Note:

All the Fortifications, except Fort Lytle, constructed by the Rebels and as they left them, except Fort Smith, which has been repaired.

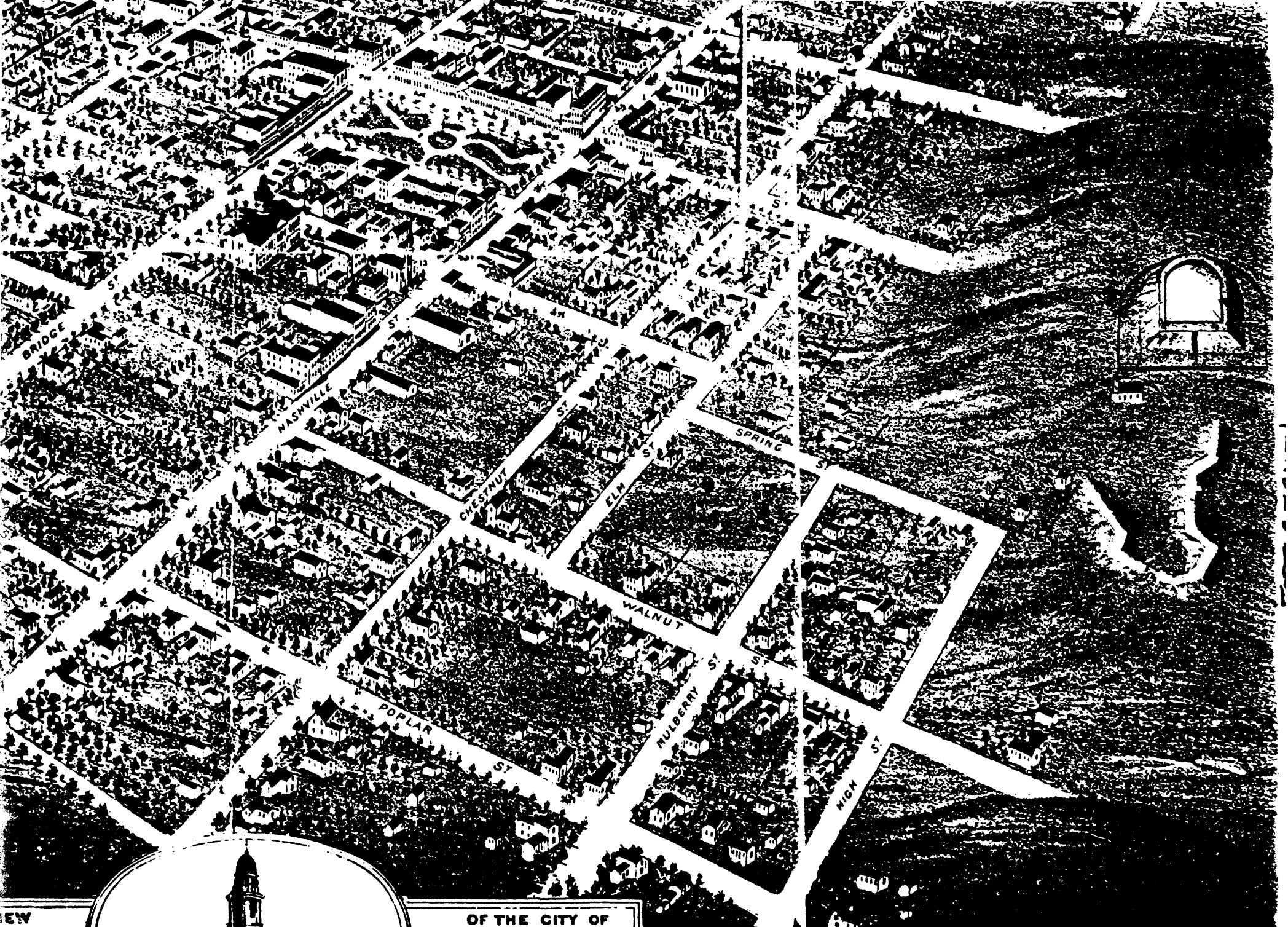
Fort Lytle constructed by Lt N.S. Andrews, 64th Mich. Battery, under instructions from Lt. Col. J.H. Simpson, Corps Engrs.

ENGINEER'S OFFICE
NASHVILLE, TENN.
NOV 18 1864
No. 760

S 23260



S 23260



VIEW



OF THE CITY OF

BOWLING GREEN

**BIRD'S EYE
VIEW OF
BOWLING GREEN**

1871 CHURCHES:

- 9 Baptist.
- 10 Episcopal
- 11 Methodist
- 12 First Presbyterian.
- 13 Christian.
- 14 Catholic