

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

Original Owner

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 No

7. Ownership Private Local State Federal

28. ADD/County
Barren River/Warren City 114

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

30. UTM Reference
16 550060 4093530
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 D

35. Status _____ Date _____

National Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landmark Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/>
HABS/HAER	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

37. Endangered Yes _____ No

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. 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 _____

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)

39. Prepared by:
Kevin A. Hunter

40. Organization
Landmark Association P

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)

41. Date
September 7, 1984

42. Revision Dates _____ 43. Staff Review _____

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

Rec'd
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

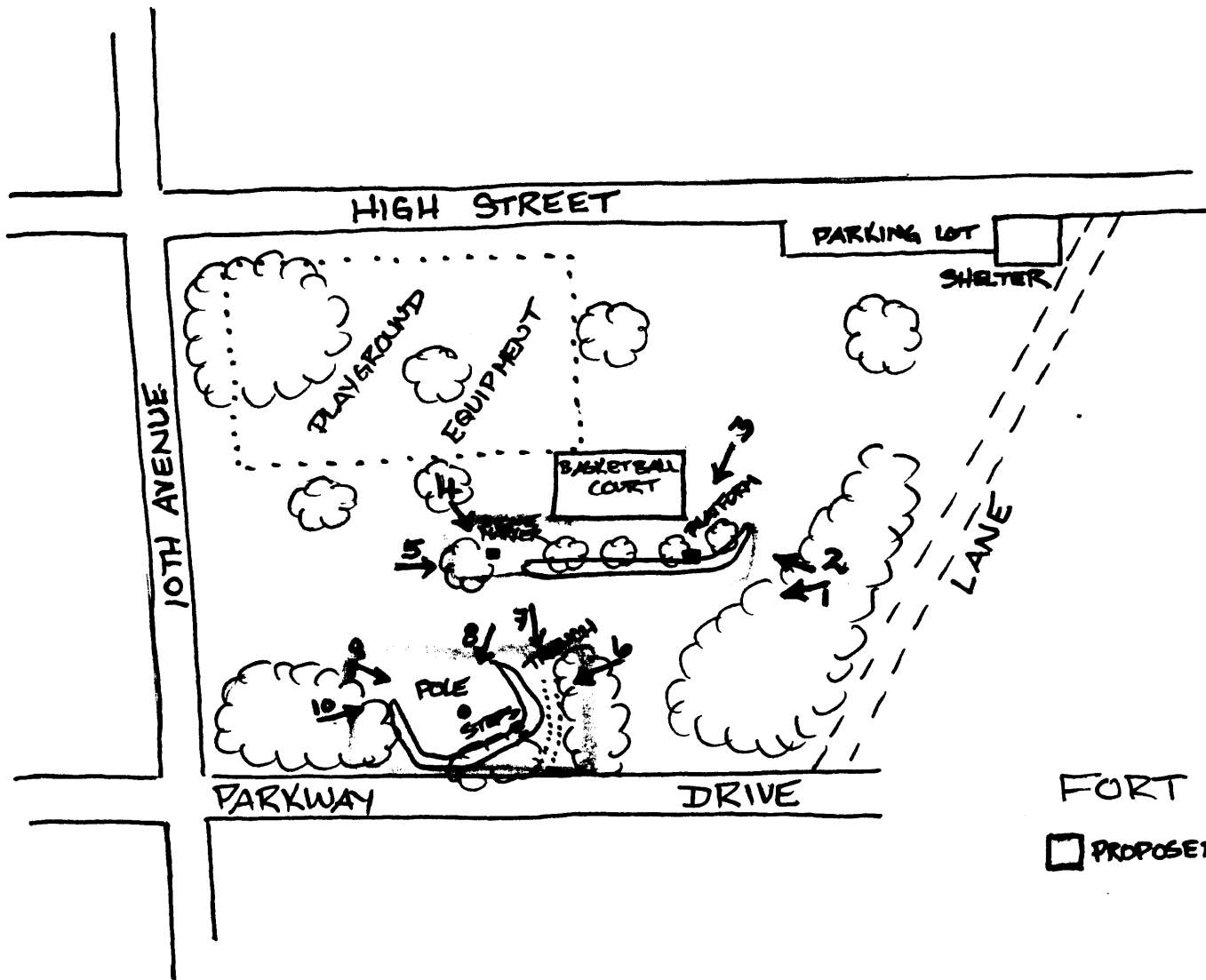
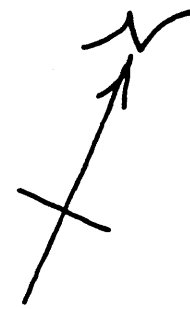
Existing embankments are bounded by High Street on the North (Approximately 520 Feet), Tenth Avenue on the West (Approximately 270 Feet), Parkway Drive on the South (Approximately 395 Feet), and an unused road on the East (Approximately 270 Feet).

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

See Attached Map.

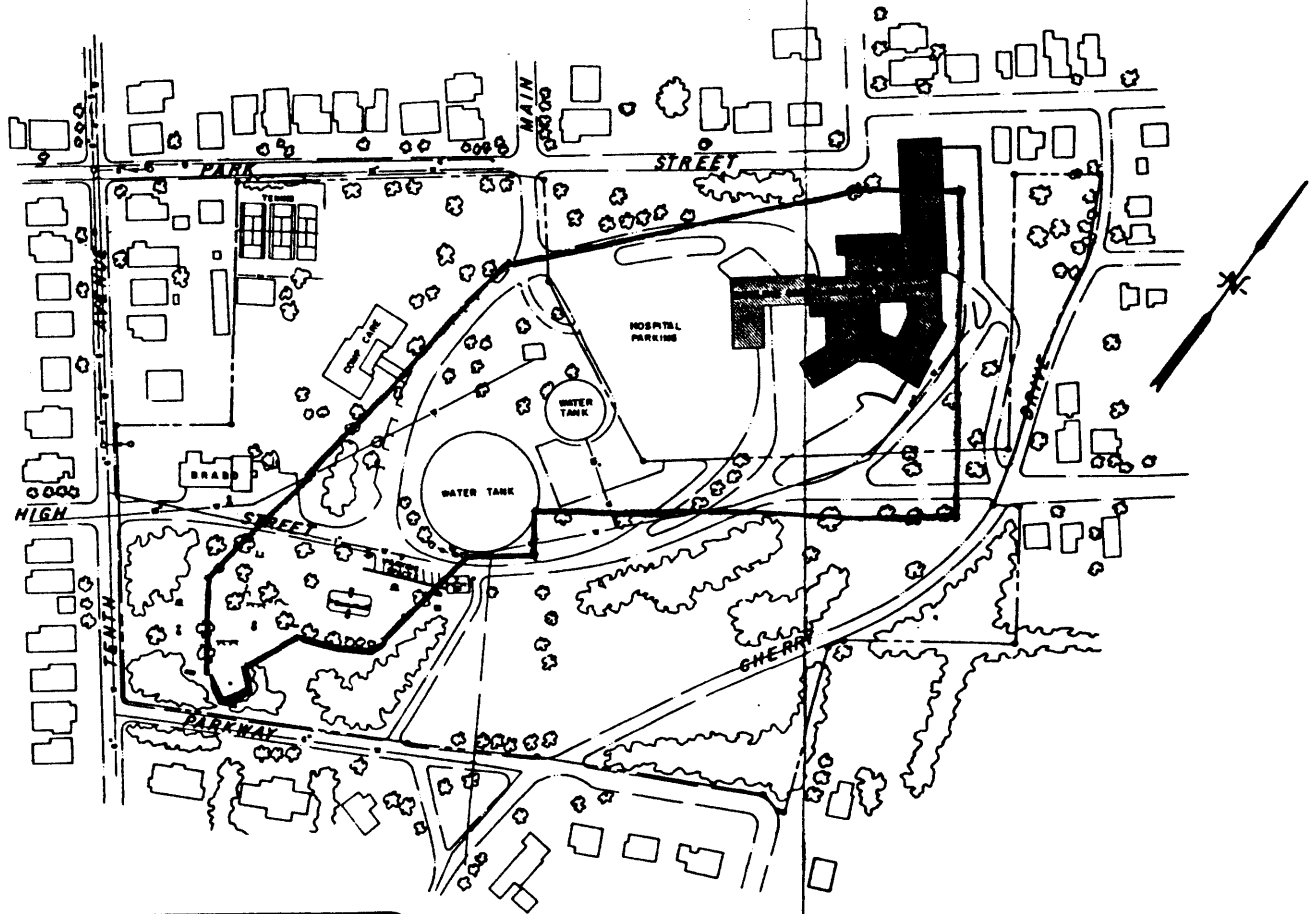
Official Courthouse Property Reference:

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



FORT C.F. SMITH
□ PROPOSED SITE BOUNDARY

- APPROXIMATION OF ORIGINAL FORT
- EXISTING EMBANKMENTS



LEGEND

⊞ SWINGS	⊞ HAND WALKS
∧ SLIDES	⊞ CHAIR THROUGH
⊞ REC. SAWS	⊞ GRILLS
⊞ HURRY-OO-ROUND	⊞ PICNIC TABLES
⊞ JUMBLE EYE	⊞ PICNIC SHELTER
⊞ HORSESHOES	⊞ STAGGERED BARS
⊞ WATER MAIN	⊞ SANITARY SEWER
⊞ FORCE MAIN	

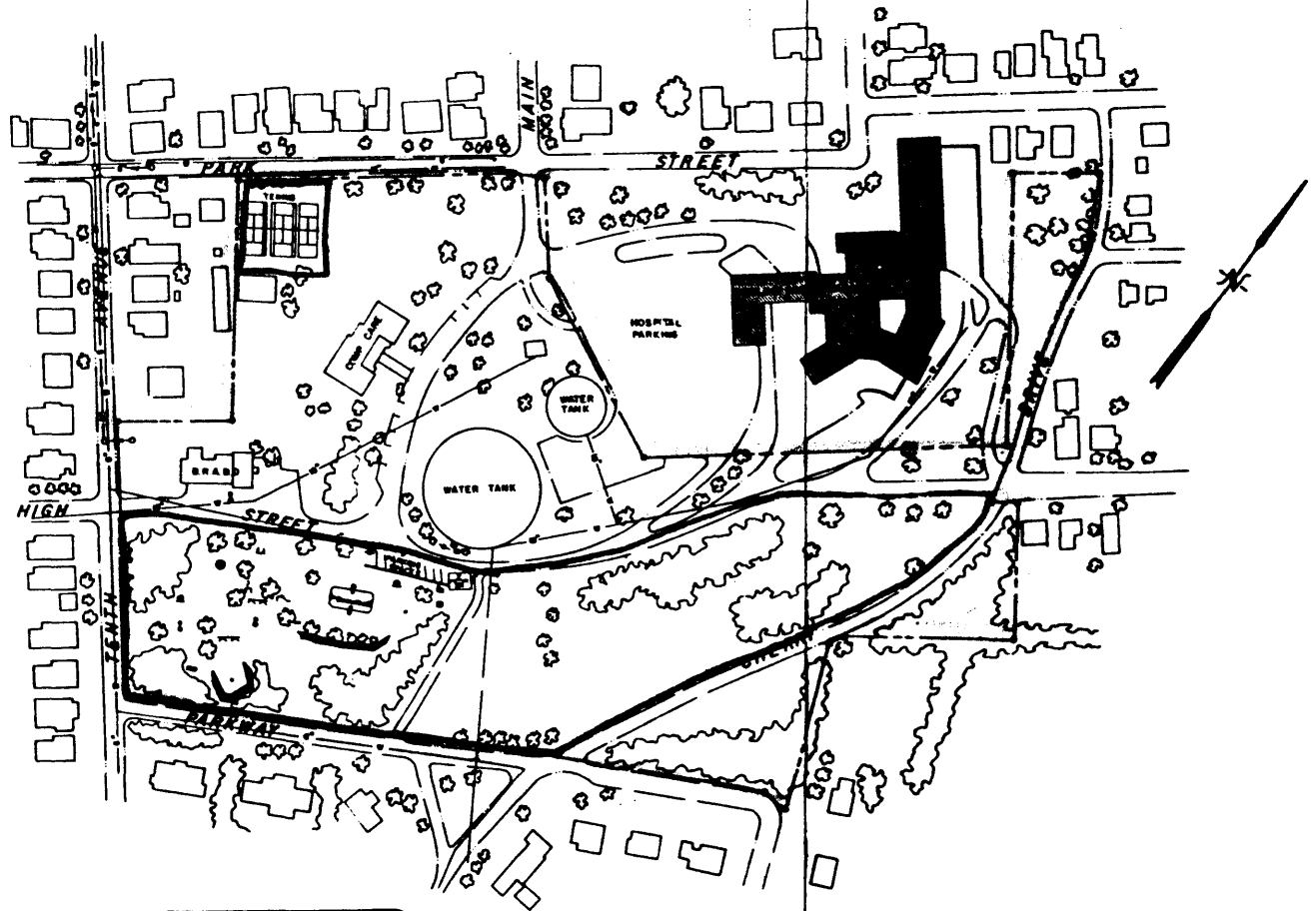
SCALE IN FEET

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

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RESERVOIR HILL PARK CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 1715 ARMY CIRCLE, BOWLING GREEN, KY.

- CITY PROPERTY
- PARK
- EXISTING EMBANKMENTS



LEGEND

⊕ SWINGS	⊕ HAND WALKS
⌒ SLIDES	⊕ CROSS THROUGH
⌒ BEE-SAWS	⌒ GRILLS
⊕ MERRY-GO-ROUND	⊕ PICNIC TABLES
⊕ JUNGLE GYM	⊕ PICNIC SHELTER
⊕ HORSE SHOES	⊕ STAMPERED BARS
—○— WATER BARR	—○— SANITARY SEWER
—○— FORCE BARR	

SCALE IN FEET

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

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A. BOWLING GREEN CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 1715 ASHLEY CIRCLE, BOWLING GREEN, KY.

