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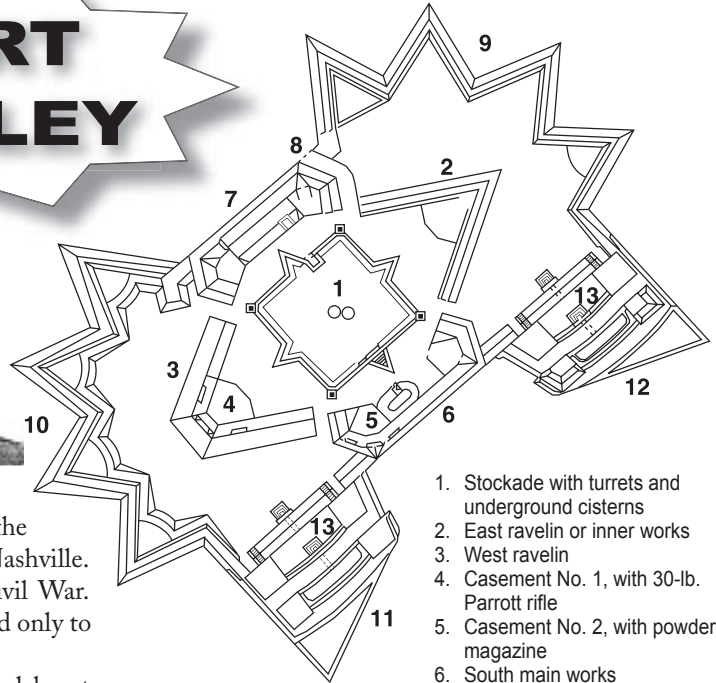
Southeastern bastion of Fort Negley.



FORT NEGLEY



(Courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives)



1. Stockade with turrets and underground cisterns
2. East ravelin or inner works
3. West ravelin
4. Casement No. 1, with 30-lb. Parrott rifle
5. Casement No. 2, with powder magazine
6. South main works
7. North main works
8. Main entrance gate
9. East outer parapets with redans
10. West outer parapets with redans
11. Southwest artillery bastion
12. Southeast artillery bastion
13. Bastion tunnels

Fort Negley on St. Cloud Hill was the most prominent of the fortifications built by the occupying Federal army around Nashville. It was the largest inland stone fortification built during the Civil War. Nashville became the most fortified city in North America, second only to Washington, D.C.

The design by U.S. engineer Gen. James St. Clair Morton is elaborate, star-shaped, and European in origin. The fort was named for U.S. Gen. James S. Negley, provost marshal and commander of Federal forces in Nashville.

The fort was built largely by black laborers from October to December 1862. Contrabands (runaway slaves) and free blacks were impressed by the army to build the 23 fortifications around the city.

Fort Negley is 600 feet long, 300 feet wide, and covers four acres. It used 62,500 cubic feet of stone and 18,000 cubic feet of earth. At the southern end of the fort, where attack was most likely, were two massive, bombproof bastions equipped with guns which could be aimed in several directions. Each bastion had tunnels which protected men moving through the works.

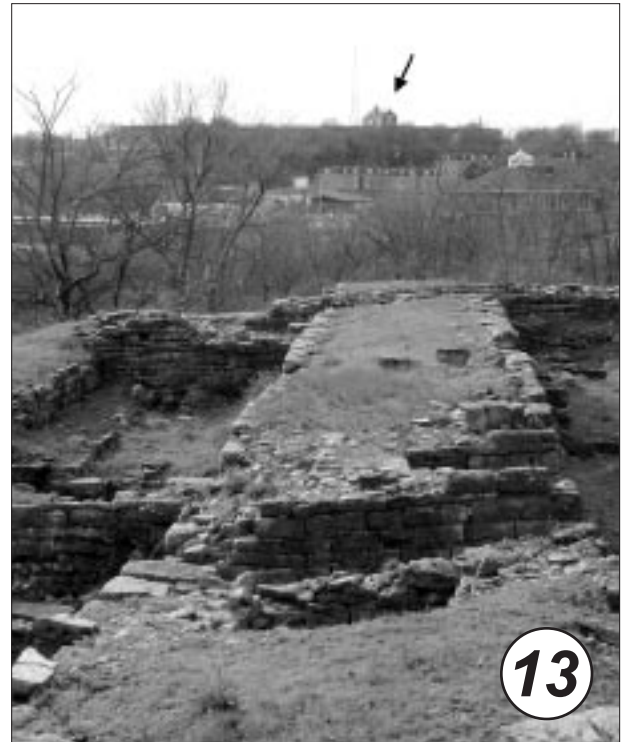
Looking southwest from Fort Negley, the City Reservoir (arrow points to pumphouse) can be seen on the horizon. The wartime site of Union Blockhouse Casino would have been to the left of the reservoir.

Casement No. 1 protected a 30-pound Parrot rifle, a cannon which could hurl a 29-pound shell 2.5 miles. There were 11 guns in the fort, operated by 75 artillerymen.

The opening shots of the Battle of Nashville on Dec. 15, 1864, were fired from Fort Negley, although the fort itself was never directly attacked at any time during the war.

After the war, the fort was abandoned and allowed to deteriorate. During the 1930s, WPA work crews reconstructed the remains, but those works also fell into disrepair.

Fort Negley Park is located on St. Cloud Hill at the southeast corner of the intersection of I-65 and I-40 near Adventure Science Center and the minor-league Nashville Sounds ballpark. Fort Negley Park has been closed to the public for many years due to safety concerns. Nearby signage helps interpret the site.



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