

Field Trip Reminders

- **Make reservations two weeks in advance**
- **Dress for the weather**
- **Wear comfortable shoes**
- **Fort Negley is a protected historic site**
- **Climbing on the stonework and leaving the designated path is prohibited**



1100 Fort Negley Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37203
615.862.8470

www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Historic-Sites/Fort-Negley.aspx



Free and Open to the Public

Winter Hours (September - May)

Tuesday-Friday: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

And by Appointment

Summer Hours (June - August)

Tuesday-Thursday: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

And by Appointment

Fort Negley Park is open daily dawn to dusk for self-guided walking tours

 TITLE VII The Metro Board of Parks and Recreation does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, or disability in admission, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. For TTY (relay service), call 1-800-849-0299. For questions, concerns, or requests regarding the American Disabilities Act call 615-862-8400.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING



Fort Negley, Nashville. October, 1862.
Harper's Weekly, January 10, 1863



As the largest inland stone fortification built during the Civil War, Fort Negley stood as the centerpiece of Union occupied Nashville.

Today, Fort Negley represents the effects of war and sudden occupation, the heartbreak of the Battle of Nashville and the legacy of the Depression-era WPA.



From *Athens of the South* To Occupied City

By the outbreak of the Civil War, Nashville was the largest and most important city south of the Ohio River, with the exception of New Orleans. Nashville, an established commercial market, boasted a population of 17,000. Goods flowed to and from the city by river and rail.

In the 1850s Nashville's reputation as a center of art, education and culture, earned the nickname *Athens of the South*.

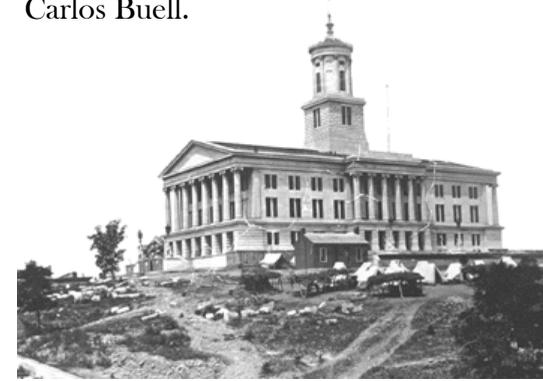
Nashville's strategic location on the Cumberland River and networks of turnpikes and railroads made the city a valuable asset to both the Union and Confederate Armies.

Special Dispatches sent between February 12 and 15, 1862 reported certain Confederate victory at Fort Donelson. On Sunday, February 16, that confidence was shattered and panic erupted as people learned of the Confederate Army's defeat. For nearly two weeks, Nashvillians awaited the Union Army.



Nashville, Tennessee
Harper's Weekly
March 8, 1862

On February 25, Nashville became the first captured Confederate capital and the Union's most prized occupied city when Mayor Richard B. Cheatham relinquished control to General Don Carlos Buell.

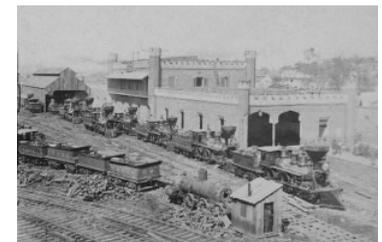


Union Encampment on Capitol Hill

Throughout 1862, guerrilla activity plagued middle Tennessee and Military Governor Andrew Johnson feared recapture of the city, then secured by only 1,200 Federal troops.

Army officials began planning a massive defensive system. Captain James St. Clair Morton, chief engineer of the Army of the Ohio, selected St. Cloud Hill as the site for one of five stone and earth fortresses.

Union forces held firm control of Nashville's civilian population and transformed the city into a vital forward base of operations in the campaign to capture Chattanooga and Atlanta.



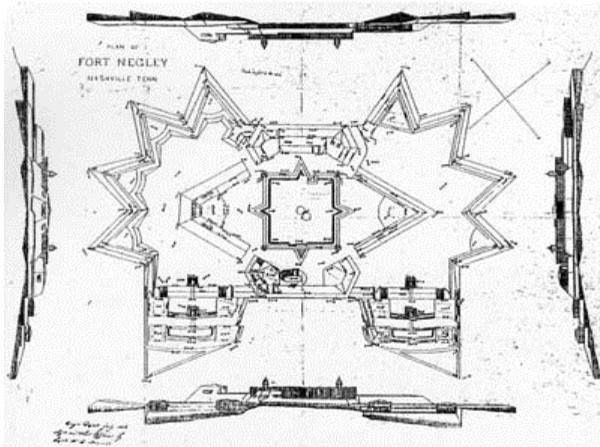
Nashville
Chattanooga
Rail Depot

Fort Negley Yesterday and Today

From August through December 1862, more than 2700 conscript laborers, predominately contrabands (runaway slaves) and free Blacks, constructed Fort Negley atop St. Cloud Hill. Between 600 and 800 African American laborers died constructing Nashville's massive defensive system.

Fort Negley's location, size and guns discouraged direct Confederate attacks.

During the Battle of Nashville, December 15 & 16, 1864, Fort Negley's artillery aided in driving off General Hood's forces.



Plan of Fort Negley, 1864
US Army Engineers

Tennessee rejoined the Union in July 1867. Union forces occupied Nashville and Fort Negley until September. At that time, the army dismantled the majority of Nashville's defenses.

In 1928, following failed efforts to preserve Fort Negley as a national military park, the City of Nashville purchased the property.

In 1936, 800 men working for the WPA (Works Progress Administration) reconstructed Fort Negley at a cost of \$84,000. The Fort reopened to the public in 1938. In the 1960s, Metro Parks removed the deteriorated stockade and closed the Fort to the public.



WPA's Reconstruction of Fort Negley
Postcard, Circa 1930s

Interest in Fort Negley grew during the 1990s; *The Parks and Greenways Master Plan* made the fort's restoration and interpretation a priority. The City of Nashville appropriated funds for the project in 2002.

The project remains the largest expenditure of city funds for the preservation of a Civil War site in the nation.

Fort Negley, reopened to the public on the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville in December 2004, offers interpretive panels and accessible walkways.

Fort Negley Visitors Center, opened in December 2007, features two films, access to *Civil War Soldier and Sailors System* maintained by the National Park Service and interactive touch screens highlighting occupied Nashville and Fort Negley.



School Programs and Field Trips

Fort Negley Visitors Center and Historical Park offers FREE school programs and field trips that address Tennessee state performance indicators for social studies. All programs are adapted according to grade level. Reservations are required.

Fort Negley: A Symbol of Union Occupation emphasizes the fort's impact on military operations, race relations and occupied civilians through first-person accounts and official records. This guided walking tour may be adapted to various grade levels. Please allow 45 minutes to one hour.

*Fort Negley covers four acres. Boardwalks allow access inside the fort. The paved path to and from the fort measures one-half mile and includes some steep inclines.

Fort Negley Visitors Center recommends combining the tour with one or both of the 20 minute films offered.

The Fall of Nashville serves as an introduction to Nashville's importance to Union and Confederate military objectives in the Western Theater.

Defending Nashville: The Story of Fort Negley focuses on the building of Nashville's fortification system and Fort Negley's role during the Civil War.

*Groups of 30 or more must be divided and rotated between a film, the tour and other activities prepared by Fort Negley staff.

Fort Negley Historical Park does not provide picnic facilities but groups are welcome to eat lunch in the field near the visitors center.

Reservation Policies

School programs and field trips are available between 8:30 and noon, Tuesday through Friday.

Reservations are required. Please make reservations at least two weeks in advance by contacting Fort Negley Visitor Center at (615) 862-8470 or fortnegley@nashville.gov.

