

Fort Negley, the largest inland stone fort built during the Civil War, covers four acres and measures 600 feet long by 300 feet wide.



Fort Negley, George Barnard, 1864

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. Following the surrender to the Union Army on February 25, 1862, Nashville became a fortified stronghold, second only to Washington D.C.

From August through December 1862, more than 2700 conscript laborers, predominately contrabands (runaway slaves) and free Blacks, constructed Fort Negley, atop St. Cloud Hill, as part of a massive fortification system.

Fort Negley's location, size and guns discouraged Confederate attacks throughout the war. During the Battle of Nashville, December 15 & 16, 1864, Fort Negley's artillery aided in driving off General Hood's forces.

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.



Entry Gates Constructed by the WPA

Following failed efforts to preserve Fort Negley as a national military park, St. Cloud Hill once again became a popular picnic area

The City of Nashville purchased the property in 1928.

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.



Aerial View of Fort Negley, 1937

Fort Negley Today

Interest in Fort Negley grew during the 1990s; *The Parks and Greenways Master Plan* restoration and interpretation of the Fort 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.



Fort Negley Visitors Center partners with history and preservation groups, presents educational programming and serves as the home of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable.

Guided group and school tours are available with advanced reservations.



Fort Negley

Visitors Center

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**

~Located Near Downtown Nashville~

From the North: Take I-65 South to exit 81 Wedgewood, turn right onto Wedgewood Ave. At the first stoplight, turn right onto 8th Avenue S. Turn right onto Chestnut St. Turn left onto Fort Negley Blvd, Fort Negley is on the right.

From the South: Take I-65 North to exit 81 Wedgewood, turn left onto Wedgewood Ave. At the second stoplight, turn right onto 8th Avenue S. Turn right onto Chestnut St. Turn left onto Fort Negley Blvd, Fort Negley is on the right.

From the East or the West: Take I-24 or I-40 East to I-65, then follow the directions from the North.

From Downtown: Take 8th Avenue South until it intersects Chestnut Street. Turn left onto Chestnut Street. Turn left onto Fort Negley Blvd.



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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Fort Negley



Begin Your Civil War
Journey of Middle Tennessee



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

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.

