

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

| | |
|------------------|--|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | |
| DATE ENTERED | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fort Scammon (preferred); Camp White

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Scammon; Fort Hill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

West Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE
54

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

COUNTY
Kanawha

CODE
039

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

~~LuRay Industries, Inc.~~ City of Charleston

STREET & NUMBER

~~1115 Virginia Street, East~~ City Building, 501 Virginia Street, East

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kanawha County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court and Virginia Streets

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

* See letter dated January 11, 1977, from Dr. Leonard Davis to Dr. William Murteigh.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED

GOOD RUINS

FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Scammon, located at the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At the time of the Civil War when the Kanawha Valley became politically and economically significant to both sides, the hill commanded the central part of the settlement and was fortified on a number of occasions. Principal among these were the period of late summer in 1862 when Confederate artillery fired from the area and the year or so after March 1863 when Union troops fortified the heights. Evidence of the latter activity is still visible.

The section wherein earthwork battlements were set up in 1863 is elliptical in outline and sits on an eminence at about 1000 feet elevation. Located only [REDACTED] it overlooks the [REDACTED]. Elevations in the latter area average about 500 to 600 feet, giving the fortifications on the hill a commanding view of the city.

Now one of the few remaining undeveloped pieces of land in [REDACTED] Fort Scammon is believed to have had earthen walls thrown up for protection of gun emplacements inside. Although definition of actual platforms, ditches, walls and other identifiable elements of this type of fortification has not as yet been scientifically attempted, the potential for historic archeological work is great, for the area does not appear to have been harmed by excavations and has been overgrown with trees and grasses for at least fifty years. The authenticity of reports of at least twelve artillery pieces having at one time been located within the earthworks along with a magazine may be determined in the future as may information as to size, but for the present, the Fort Scammon site remains to offer additional data on Civil War military activity.

3 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1862-1864

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the first three years or so of the Civil War, the Kanawha Valley of Virginia/West Virginia was traversed by both Union and Confederate troops. It was a valuable area both politically and economically, for it was central to the issue of the creation of the new state of West Virginia, sat astride an important route to the west and was a path to salt works as well as a potential tap for newly located oil deposits. The eminence which became known as Fort Scammon overlooked the

Fortifications here could help insure control of this part of the valley.

Passing of forces from North and South through the Kanawha Valley grew into the middle of the Civil War. The salt works around Malden (Kanawha Salines) to the east of Charleston were producing as much as 1.25 million bushels not long before the war, and the Kanawha River led directly to the Ohio. Union movements in the summer of 1862 gave command of the Charleston and Gauley Bridge district to Colonel J.A.J. Lightburn, and Confederate General W.W. Loring soon organized a drive to dislodge these elements from the valley. On September 13, 1862, an engagement took place about Charleston, and Confederates set up batteries on what is now the Fort Hill section. The Yankees continued westward and northward in flight, and the Rebels soon set a constant train hauling salt to the east.

By March of 1863, however, Union troops were back and had established what was called Camp White. Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes commanded the Twenty-third Ohio Brigade here, and one of his subordinates was Lieutenant William McKinley. Some minor skirmishing took place in the area, and by early May men were fortifying the heights to be named Fort Scammon in honor of General Eliakim P. Scammon, commander of the Third Division, Department of West Virginia, District of Kanawha. Scammon had passed through Charleston, but was usually located at headquarters at Camp Union near Fayetteville, about forty miles to the southeast. Hayes reported that he had thirteen pieces of artillery, and it is supposed that these were, for the most part, placed within the earthworks on the hill overlooking the Kanawha River and Charleston.

Although the summer of 1863 passed uneventfully, the camp area was kept in good condition at least until October, for it seems that General B.F. Kelley made a grand review during that month. As the command was sent on to the battlefronts in eastern Virginia by April of 1864, however, the fortifications fell into disrepair and in time became overgrown with grasses and trees. Fort Scammon witnessed no major activity under Union control, but it remains today as a representative of earthen fortifications which were located in the many places where troops concentrated for any length of time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ambler, Charles H. and Festus P. Summers. West Virginia, the Mountain State.

2nd. ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1958. (pp. 220-23)



"Fort Hill, Overlooking Charleston on the South, One of most Beautiful Spots in Kanawha Valley," Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette, May 9, 1926.



Jackson, R.W. "'Battle of Charleston' Fought 78 Years Ago," Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail, September 13, 1940.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 

B 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

November 4, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Leonard W. Davis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-25-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| |
|------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

"Two Presidents Help Construct Fort Here," (Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail,
November 22, 1925.

Washington, D.C. National Archives and Record Service. Military record of General
E.P. Scammon. War Department Papers (Record and Pension Office).

Williams, Charles Richard, ed. Diary and Letters of Rutherford Birchard Hayes.
5 vols. Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society,
1922-26. (II, 394-454)

