

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 4 1980

DATE ENTERED MAR 13 1980

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U.S. Army Fort Thomas Mess Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cochran Avenue (Building 26)

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fort Thomas

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

— VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Campbell

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Fort Thomas--c/o Mayor Fred W. Erschell, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Fort Thomas

STATE

Kentucky 41075

— VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Campbell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newport

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1979

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built between 1888 and 1892, the Fort Thomas Army Mess Hall is located in Campbell County, in northern Kentucky, approximately one-quarter of a mile west of the Ohio River. This brick building is composed of a one-story, rectangular main block, 150 feet long and 50 feet wide with no center supports; and a smaller rectangular block attached to the rear. Both sections appear to have been constructed at the same time, with the back portion used as the kitchen. The facade is 15 bays wide and has a pedimented pavilion (See photos 1&2). A common bond brick pattern was employed throughout, all window and door openings are round arched and the cornice is corbeled. The structure sits on a rough cut stone foundation and has a stone belt course at water table level. A hipped slate roof covers the main block, while the rear section has a gabled roof. The interior of the structure is completely open, with uncovered brick walls and a pressed tin ceiling (see photo 5).

The Mess Hall only is nominated at this time to expedite the processing of a federal restoration grant. Other historic structures that once composed Fort Thomas will be nominated at a later date. The foundation of the building marks the boundary.

8 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 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 checked="" 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 1892 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Thomas U.S. Army Mess Hall is an excellent example of well designed institutional-type architecture from the late 19th century. For 53 years, between 1887 and 1940, this post served as the headquarters for the Southern Division of the U.S. Army and played an important role in the development of the city of Fort Thomas.

The site for the U.S. Army's first permanent base in the Northern Kentucky/Southern Ohio area was Fort Washington in 1789. As the nearby community of Losantiville (later known as Cincinnati) continued to grow and since the need for protection from Indian attacks had diminished by 1803, the Army left the northern shore of the Ohio River and was re-established in the Newport Barracks, a six-acre tract of land on the eastern bank of the Licking River at its confluence with the Ohio River.

Soldiers from the Barracks participated in the Battle of Tippecanoe, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. Visited at times by Generals Robert E. Lee and U.S. Grant, the post eventually became military headquarters for the Southern District, U.S. Army.

Flooding of the area by both rivers created the need for the Barracks to find a place on higher ground. General Phillip Sheridan visited the area and was encouraged by the sight of highland property overlooking the Ohio River about four miles from the Barracks. Congress appropriated \$165,000 for the purchase of land and construction of the new post in 1887. While legend says General Sheridan named the new installation, actually Army Secretary Proctor designated "the post at Newport, Kentucky...Fort Thomas in honor of General George H. Thomas and that at San Antonio...Fort Houston in honor of General Sam Houston."

The first structure was the home of the commanding officer, Colonel Melville A. Cochran. The Colonel's interest in trees and flowers provided many large old trees now in the area and, as long as the Army remained at Fort Thoams, there were many well-cared-for flower gardens to be enjoyed.

The total cost of the military establishment was 3½ million dollars. The construction period lasted from 1888 to 1894, with most buildings being completed by 1892. From the Infantry Regiments (Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Ninth, and Tenth) and a battalion of Phillipine natives, soldiers left Forth Thomas for the Spanish-American War and both World Wars. During the 1930's the idea of larger military establishments began growing. There were problems at Fort Thomas with the lack of training space. The situation was alleviated for a period by the annual march of the regiment to Fort Knox for summer camp. The Tenth Infantry, which was destined to be the last of the "regulars" stationed at Fort Thomas, arrived in 1922 and remained until 1940. At that time recruitment activities replaced the Tenth Infantry's home base as the body was

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Knapp, Paul T. Fort Thomas, Kentucky, Its History and Heritage. 1967,

Wadworth, Randolph. Paper read at the Cincinnati, Ohio meeting of the Literary Club, January 7, 1957.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1/4 acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Newport, Kentucky Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated area is the foundation of the present structure.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne C. Henderson / Historian

DATE

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

August 1979

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

Edward W. Yetter

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-19-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

for *W. Ray Luse*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/13/80

ATTEST: *Kristin J. O'Connell*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3/11/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JAN 4 1980	
DATE ENTERED	MAR 13 1980

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

U.S. Army Fort Thomas Mess Hall
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

moved to Iceland. The Mess Hall was in constant use until the Veterans' Administration obtained the property after the second World War. The post was used as an army reception center for several years, and an induction center for this area until 1964.

Incorporated in 1867 and known originally as the District of the Highlands, the city of Fort Thomas had many social ties with the soldiers, officers, and families of "the Post." The site of Fort Thomas on the hills above the Ohio River was often called the West Point of the West. It was the only military post in a metropolitan area with access to the heart of the city (Cincinnati) by street car in less than 30 minutes. The lovely grounds with trees and flowers resembled a well-kept college campus more than a military base. Military rotation brought personnel from the Phillipines to Fort Thomas for a pleasant return "to the states." Sporting events and social affairs at the Post welcomed townspeople and the community welcomed the Army personnel. After retirement, many soldiers and officers returned to the city of Fort Thomas for a permanent home after finding it so comfortable and attractive during their tours of duty.

The dining hall is a clear example of late 19th century American military aesthetics. Closely related to industrial buildings of the period, the hall was designed as a long horizontal building with a central pavilion entrance,

The pavilion is given emphasis with a broad arch and stone impost blocks and tympani. Above the stone base and beyond the pavilion, the brick walls are enriched only with simple corbelled cornices and unembellished drip courses. The interior is a single, long room, with exposed brick walls, a pressed-tin ceiling, and a tile floor. In summary, the military function of the building required a spare yet monumental style.

¹There are other existing military buildings connected with the post which include: the Armory, water tower, and a complex of living quarters. Because of a pending restoration grant, the Mess Hall was selected for individual nomination, with the remaining buildings to be nominated at a later date.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED MAR 11 1988

MAR 13 1988

DATE ENTERED

Fort Thomas Mess Hall
Campbell County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary line of the nomination extends thirty feet in all directions from the foundation of the building.

Property U.S. Army Fort Thomas Miss Hall

8080149Z

State Ky - Campbell Working Number 1-4-80 30

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 5
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

VBD inadequate

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

late 19th century brick building w/ round-headed windows + entry, pedimented entrance pavilion, single open interior space w/ pressed tin ceiling. Impt. as embodiment of long U.S. Army presence in region (till 1940). Entire complex will be nominated; this bldg is presented separately to expedite pending grant.

OK as of 3/11

Call for VBD then accept O'Connell 2/20/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAR 13 1980

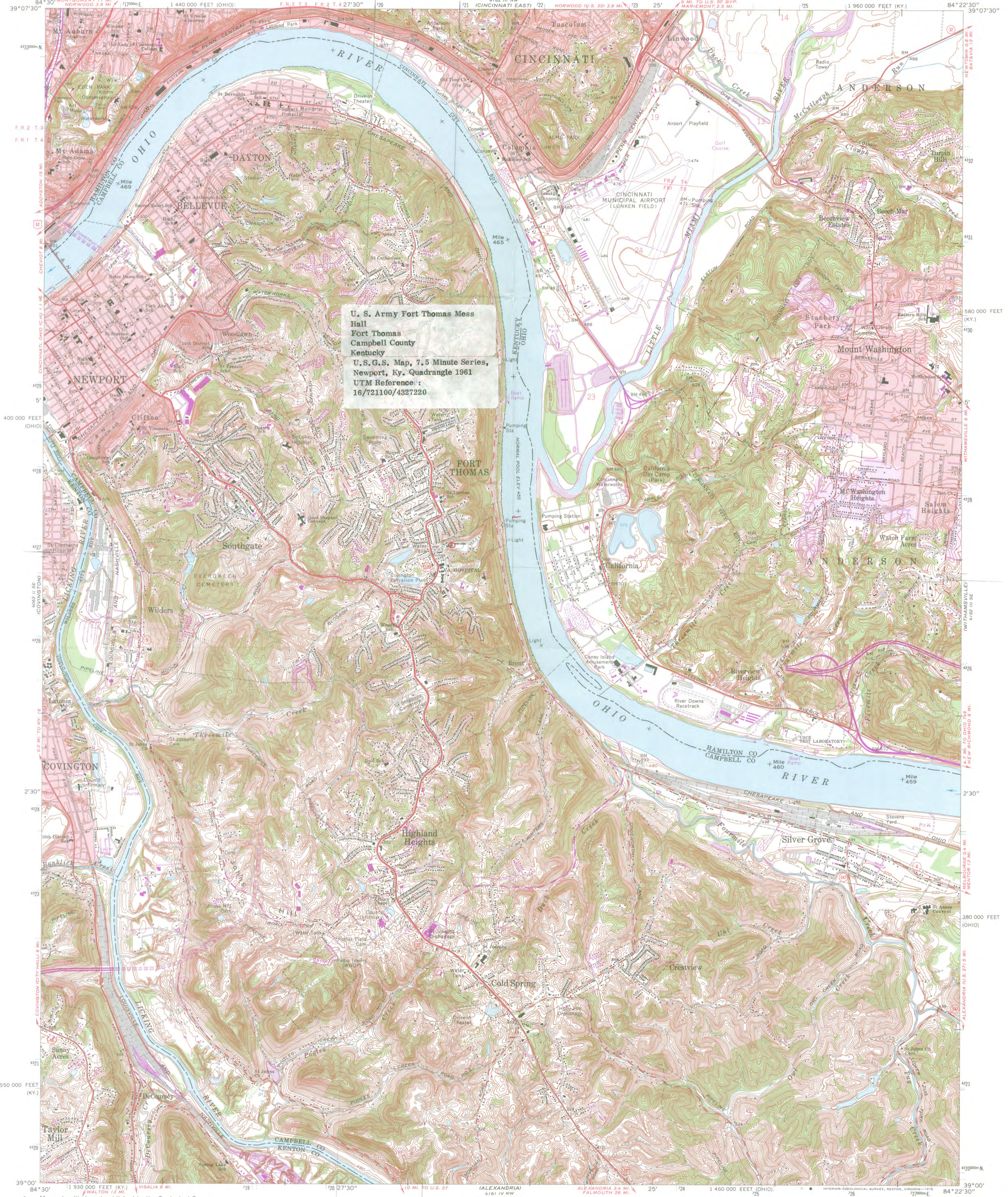






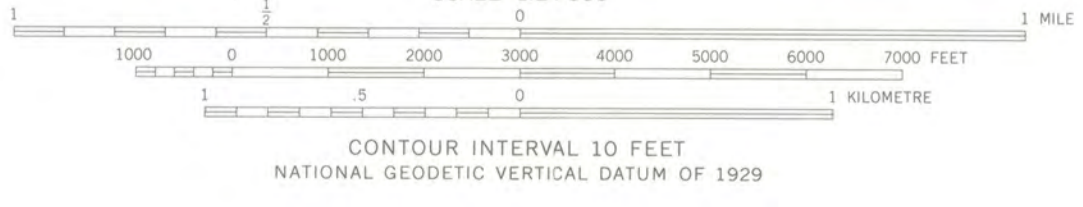
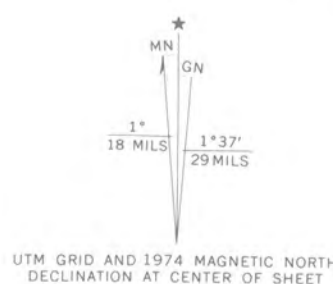






U. S. Army Fort Thomas Mess Hall
Fort Thomas
Campbell County
Kentucky
U. S. G. S. Map, 7.5 Minute Series,
Newport, Ky. Quadrangle 1961
UTM Reference :
16/721100/432720

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, USCE, and City of Cincinnati
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1949, and in part by the City of Cincinnati
Field checked 1951, 1952, and 1954. Revised 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Kentucky coordinate system,
north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position
of the low water line as determined from U.S. Corps of Engineers
Ohio River charts, surveyed 1913, and supplementary information
Area east of the Little Miami River lies within the Virginia Military District
Area west of the Little Miami River lies within the Between the Miamis
Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines
established by private subdivision of the Symmes Purchase



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1970 and 1974. This information is not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

U.S. Route State Route

Interstate Route

RECEIVED
JAN 4 1980
NATIONAL REGISTER

NEWPORT, KY.-OHIO
SW/4 EAST CINCINNATI 15' QUADRANGLE
N3900-W8422.5/7

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1974
AMS 4162 III SW-SERIES V852

MAR 13 1980

December 20, 1979
Mrs. Carol Schull, Acting Keeper
Page 2
U. S. Army Fort Thomas Mess Hall
Campbell County, Kentucky

List of Attachments

- 1 National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 Continuation Sheet
- 1 Map
- 5 Photographs





YP

U. S. Army Fort Thomas Mess Hall
THE FORT THOMAS HERITAGE LEAGUE, INC. 1-15-80

130 North Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

February 4, 1980

Campbell Co - (FY)

listed
3/13/80

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Mayor Fred W. Erschell, Jr. of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, passed on to the Fort Thomas Heritage League, Inc., your letter of January 8, regarding concerns of the nomination of the Army Mess Hall, Fort Thomas, to the National Register of Historic Places. This group wishes to go on record as highly favoring this distinctive honor. Since the proposal was first made, there have been many favorable comments from interested citizens who consider this a vital tie to local social and cultural, as well as, to national military history.

Our small city was named for the former U. S. Army Post and this is one of the few reminders of a proud and interesting past, involving generations of Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati families. In addition, it is a handsomely-designed structure which could give many years of service for recreational, social, cultural, and civic events in our county.

Yours truly,

Charles H. Kuhn

Chas. H. Kuhn, President
Fort Thomas Heritage League, Inc.

Betty Daniels

Betty Daniels, Secretary
Fort Thomas Heritage League

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE FEB 8 1979

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS *af/2/79 cr*

6/10/79

NAME OF FACILITY U.S. Army Fort Thomas Mess Hall STATE Ky

Date Information Requested/Date Put in "Hold" Drawer: 2/26/80

Date to Be Pulled from "Hold" Drawer: 3/26/80
(30 Days from Date Requested)

Information Requested From: Gloria Mills

Information Requested/Reason Nomination Is Being Held:

VBD expansion

K. O'Connell

Reviewer

Luster



*Kentucky Heritage Commission
404 Bridge Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601*

February 29, 1980

Mrs. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
United States Department of the Interior
440 G. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Mrs. Shull:

Enclosed is the additional information on the Harlan L. & N. Depot, Harlan County and the Fort Thomas Mess Hall, Campbell County, as requested by Kristin O'Connell of your staff.

If additional material is required please contact our office immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred W. Melton

Mrs. Eldred W. Melton
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

EWM:ps

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D MAR 10 1980

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INITIALS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE KENTUCKY

Date Entered MAR 13 1980

Name

Location

Louisville and Nashville Railroad Depot

Harlan
Harlan County

U. S. Army Fort Thomas Mess Hall

Fort Thomas
Campbell County

Also Notified

Honorable Wendell H. Ford

Honorable Walter D. Huddleston
Honorable Tim Lee Carter
Honorable Larry J. Hopkins

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Eldred W. Melton
Director
Kentucky Heritage Commission
104 Bridge Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

NR Byers/bjr 3/18/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.