**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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**NAME**

- HISTORIC: Fort Scammon (preferred); Camp White
- AND/OR COMMON: Fort Scammon; Fort Hill

**LOCATION**

- STREET & NUMBER: [Redacted]
- CITY, TOWN: [Redacted]
- STATE: West Virginia
- CODE: 54
- VICINITY OF: [Redacted]
- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third
- COUNTY: Kanawha
- CODE: 039

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**CLASSIFICATION**

- CATEGORY: DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S): [X] PRIVATE
- STRUCTURE: [X] BOTH
- SITE: [X] PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- OBJECT: [X] IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED: [X]

- OWNERSHIP: [X] OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED: [X]
- WORK IN PROGRESS: [X]
- ACCESSIBLE: [X]
- YES: RESTRICTED: [X]
- YES: UNRESTRICTED: [X]
- NO: [X]

- STATUS: [X] AGRICULTURE
- [X] COMMERCIAL
- [X] PARK
- [X] EDUCATIONAL
- [X] PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- [X] MUSEUM
- [X] ENTERTAINMENT
- [X] RELIGIOUS
- [X] GOVERNMENT
- [X] SCIENTIFIC
- [X] TRANSPORTATION
- [X] MILITARY
- OTHER: Vacant

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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

- NAME: Luray Industries, Inc.
- CITY OF: Charleston

- STREET & NUMBER: 1115 Virginia Street, East
- CITY, TOWN: Charleston

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**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

- COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kanawha County Courthouse
- STREET & NUMBER: Court and Virginia Streets
- CITY, TOWN: Charleston
- STATE: West Virginia

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**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

- TITLE: [Redacted]
- DATE:

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**DEPOSITORY FOR**

**SURVEY RECORDS**

- CITY, TOWN: [Redacted]
- STATE: [Redacted]

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*See letter dated January 14, 1977, from Dr. Leonard Davis to Dr. William Harloff.*
Fort Scammon, located at the

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 it overlooks the Elevation 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 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.
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 this area. 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.

"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.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

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<th>STATE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE  James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION  West Virginia Antiquities Commission

STREET & NUMBER  P.O. Box 630

CITY OR TOWN  Morgantown

STATE  West Virginia

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  

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  

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  

ATTEST  

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  

GPO 892-453
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

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

