Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes
Stones River National Battlefield
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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape’s location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director’s Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site’s overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape’s overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape’s overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or
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treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

**Inventory Unit Description:**

One of the two surviving portions of the earthen Fortress Rosecrans, the Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes component landscape includes the remains of all three features: Curtain Wall No. 2, Lunette Palmer and Lunette Thomas. Historically, these features combined to form the southernmost defensive wall of the original fortress. Today the Curtain Wall and Lunettes represent nearly 17% of the entire fort that once covered an area of approximately 225 acres.

The Curtain Wall and Lunettes were constructed after the Battle of Stones River, when Federal troops occupied Murfreesboro. From 1863 to 1866, Union soldiers defended the railroad and supply depots, effectively occupying Middle Tennessee. The period of significance spans the construction and use of the fort from 1863 to 1866. The features convey an understanding of the overall scale, construction technique, and military significance of the original fortress and have integrity of location, association, materials, and workmanship.

The westernmost surviving feature is Lunette Palmer, an earthen parapet approximately 325 feet in length that forms a westward facing salient. Inside the wall are 2 traverses and an earthen magazine. Curtain Wall No. 2 extends to the southeast of Lunette Palmer, measures approximately 300 linear feet, and has 5 traverses. Lunette Thomas is the southernmost feature, forming the south-facing parapet, stretching approximately 250 linear feet. The Lunettes and the Curtain Wall all measure approximately 15 feet high, and 25 feet thick at their bases. The general form and shape of both Lunette Palmer and the Curtain Wall remain intact. A breach was cut through Lunette Thomas when a utility line was constructed in the 1930s. Remains of ditches, artillery platforms, and magazines are evident in the earthworks. Each of the features lies on the south bank of Lytle Creek. A worm fence protects a sinkhole nearby the creek and Lunette Palmer.

At the time of NPS acquisition in 1994, the surviving earthworks were under the cover of mature deciduous trees, and in certain areas, dense undergrowth. An informal system of dirt paths provided access to and through the earthworks. The NPS rehabilitated the site, removing trees and a majority of the underbrush in order to establish a cover of native and exotic grasses on the earthworks in an attempt to more closely resemble the historic appearance. Rehabilitation also included the construction of a new parking lot and a pedestrian circulation system through the earthworks composed of paved paths and raised boardwalks. Currently, an asphalt trail leads from the parking lot and joins a boardwalk winding through the landscape. The boardwalk protects the earthworks from erosion and climbing visitors, while wayside exhibits display information about the history of Fortress Rosecrans. The features are primarily covered in native grasses today, although a limited number of trees grow near the top and sides of the earthworks. The adjacent golf course conveys the open views once a part of the Fortress Rosecrans landscape.
Site Plan


Property Level and CLI Numbers

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Park Information

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CLI Hierarchy Description
Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes is a component of the larger Fortress Rosecrans landscape. The park boundaries include three landscapes: the STRI National Cemetery Landscape, the Stones River Battlefield Landscape, and the Fortress Rosecrans Landscape. The STRI National Cemetery is a single landscape enclosing approximately 20 acres and Fortress Rosecrans includes two component landscapes, Redoubt Brannan and Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes. There are five component landscapes associated with the Battlefield Landscape.

Although the majority of Fortress Rosecrans has been obliterated, Lunettes Palmer, Thomas, and Curtain Wall Number Two retain sufficient integrity to convey an understanding of the overall scale, construction techniques, and military significance of the original fortress.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Built after the Battle of Stones River, Curtain Wall No.2 and Lunettes Palmer and Thomas are a component landscape of Fortress Rosecrans, under the Stones River National Battlefield. CLI research was completed at SERO with a site visit conducted by David Hasty and Beth Wheeler in May 2006. The park contact is Gib Backlund.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 08/03/2007
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination: 08/30/2007

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Curtain Wall No.2 and Lunettes is located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, adjacent to Old Fort Park. The tract is bounded by a golf course, park, and private property. Lytle Creek runs along the north border of the landscape and the Stones River greenway trail joins the park from the west.

State and County:

State: TN
County: Rutherford County
Size (Acres): 25.86
## Boundary UTMS:

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**Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes**

**Stones River National Battlefield**

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Location Map:

Stones River National Battlefield

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:
Stones River National Battlefield is located in what was until recent times a rural area outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The city limits now surround the park on all sides. The area historically supported small farms, and while agriculturally diversified, produced mainly corn and livestock. As the area was settled, Murfreesboro prospered with the railroad and turnpike routes, eventually making the area a target for Union soldiers during the Civil War. The Stones River and Murfreesboro area is also known for raising exceptional horses.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:
STRI is located in a karst region, noted for rolling hills, rocky outcrops, and sinkholes. This area of Middle Tennessee has thin limestone soils that support cedar and cedar glades.

Type of Context: Political

Description:
STRI lies partially within the current boundaries of the City of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and is in the 6th Congressional District of Tennessee.

Management Unit: STRI
Tract Numbers: 02-103
GIS File Description:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained
Management Category Date: 08/01/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:
Curtain Wall No. 2 and the Lunettes were acquired from the City of Murfreesboro on June 17, 1992 with the understanding that they would be preserved and maintained. As part of the Stones River National Historic District, the component landscape should be preserved.

Maintenance Location Code: FORO
Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Memorandum Of Agreement
Expiration Date: NA

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:
The land to the north of Lunettes Palmer and Thomas and Curtain Wall No. 2 was once part of the 225 acre Fortress Rosecrans. The fort, constructed in 1863, encompassed all major transportation routes in Murfreesboro and protected Union soldiers defending the area. Today the adjacent lands are privately and publically owned, with the land directly to the west used as Old Fort Golf Course. The open views contribute to the historic landscape.
National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:
Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:
The entire park was administratively listed on the National Register in 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. In 1974, a nomination was prepared to include the acquired portions of Fortress Rosecrans. The state office accepted documentation for the Stones River park historic district in 1978. The existing boundaries of the National Register district encompass the federally owned park property (as of the last documentation date). In 2003, a draft of additional documentation was submitted to the park for review based on research by Sean Styles (author of the HRS). The draft has additional historic contexts, including the early commemoration of the battlefield and the African-American ethnic heritage, but does not include the War Department era commemoration. SHPO concurrence for the documentation has not been filed.

Existing NRIS Information:

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<td>Other Names:</td>
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<td>Primary Certification:</td>
<td>Listed In The National Register</td>
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<td>Primary Certification Date:</td>
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<td>Other Certifications and Date:</td>
<td>Additional Documentation - 1/26/1978</td>
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National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual: Contributing
National Register Classification: Site
Significance Level: National
Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria: D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history
Period of Significance:

- **Time Period:** AD 1862 - 1933
- **Historic Context Theme:** Shaping the Political Landscape
- **Subtheme:** The Civil War
- **Facet:** Conquest And Emancipation
- **Other Facet:** 1863 - 1866 (significant dates for Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes within the overall period of significance for the Stones River property)

Area of Significance:

- **Area of Significance Category:** Engineering
- **Area of Significance Category:** Military
- **Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

Statement of Significance:

The extant portions of Fortress Rosecrans are nationally significant to the Civil War history immediately following the Battle of Stones River (Criteria A). The landscape features are significant for the distinctive construction of the earthen fort (Criteria C) and the potential to yield archeological evidence (Criteria D). The Lunettes Thomas and Palmer, Curtain Wall No. 2, and Redoubt Brannan retain integrity and convey the importance of the Federal fortification at Murfreesboro after the battle.

Following the Battle of Stones River, Union forces occupied the Murfreesboro area and between 1863 and 1866, constructed Fortress Rosecrans. The fortress historically covered approximately 225 acres and was the largest earthen fortification built during the Civil War. The landscape included nine lunettes and four redoubts as well as demi-lunettes, batteries, curtains, and magazines. Mostly made from piled earth and supported by wire and planking, the exterior enclosed features such as sawmills, quarters, depots, and blockhouses, mainly constructed of wood. Fortress Rosecrans bisected the Nashville Pike, Stones River, and Lytle Creek while protecting Murfreesboro and the railroad bridge crossing the river. From Fortress Rosecrans the Union Army was able to protect its important supply routes, launch an attack on the Confederate supply center in Chattanooga, and successfully divide the Confederacy along the transportation routes that ran southeast through Tennessee. Only one military threat occurred during the use of Fortress Rosecrans, but it was stopped short.

The surviving remnants of Fortress Rosecrans (Lunettes Palmer and Thomas, and Curtain Wall Number Two) compose the historic landscape that encompasses the southernmost defensive wall of the original fortress. The component landscape retains sufficient associations and aspects of its historic integrity to convey an understanding of the overall scale, construction techniques, and military
significance of the original fortress. The Lunettes and Curtain Wall also have the potential to yield archeological information. Redoubt Brannan survives today as an isolated fragment of Fortress Rosecrans and is nationally significant as a representative example of Civil War-era earthwork construction. The redoubt is one of four once located in the fortress, today the only one with above ground surviving features. The redoubt conveys an understanding of the overall scale, spatial organization, use, structures, circulation, materials, and views that characterized the historic landscape of Fortress Rosecrans.

Each feature retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association to the occupation of Murfreesboro.

### Chronology & Physical History

#### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**
- **Primary Historic Function:** Battery (Defense)
- **Primary Current Use:** Interpretive Landscape

**Current and Historic Names:**

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**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>AD 1863 - 1866</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>Fortress Rosecrans was designed and constructed in 1863 as a refuge for the Union army and as a supply base and means to control the transportation routes that linked Nashville and Chattanooga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AD 1930 - 1939</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>Utility line cut through Lunette Thomas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AD 1992</td>
<td>Land Transfer</td>
<td>Fortress Rosecrans transferred from the City of Murfreesboro to the National Park Service.</td>
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Physical History:

January 1863 - April 1866

Immediately following the Battle of Stones River (December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863), Union General Rosecrans directed the repair of the important rail link that passed through the City of Murfreesboro. After the rails were repaired Rosecrans ordered Chief of Engineers of the Army of the Cumberland, Brigadier General James S. Morton, to fortify the corridor. Fortress Rosecrans was designed and constructed as a refuge for the army after defeat, as a supply base for the army in the field, and as a means of controlling the transportation routes that linked Nashville and Chattanooga. Upon completion, the fortress consisted of approximately 14,600 linear feet of earthworks that enclosed an area of approximately 225 acres. The fortress encompassed the primary means of entry into Murfreesboro-- the railroad line, Manson Pike, and Nashville Pike. The earthen wall enclosed 4 redoubts, plus 4 steam powered sawmills, numerous magazines, rectangular and cross-shaped block houses, a commissary, a quartermaster depot, and other warehouses and living quarters.

By the end of 1863, the events of the war had diminished the military importance of Fortress Rosecrans. During 1864, and for the remainder of the war, the fortress was garrisoned by convalescent troops and by a variety of units that remained for brief periods before being moved elsewhere. In April 1866, the fortress was abandoned. Previous researchers have concluded that buildings that had been constructed within the fortress were probably sold and dismantled soon after its abandonment.
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Previous research on history of land ownership during this period indicates that the property containing the three surviving fragments was in the successive possession of three families. No information has been gathered on the land use or character of the area during this period. A utility line was placed through the landscape during the 1930s.

1965-1994

In 1965, the remnants of Fortress Rosecrans were incorporated into Old Fort Park that was owned and administered by the City of Murfreesboro. The western portion of the park was developed into a golf course. The eastern portion was devoted to the preservation of the remnants of Fortress Rosecrans. No information on the management or appearance of the site during this period has been identified in previous research. Today there are no surviving features that would indicate that the City's administration of the site included improvement or development. The dense tree and shrub cover in the vicinity of the earthworks suggests the vegetation of the area had been managed through release to natural succession.

1994-Present

In 1987, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to "preserve the existing remnants of Fortress Rosecrans and the City [of Murfreesboro to] operate and maintain the Fortress." In
1994, Congress authorized the transfer of the remains of Fortress Rosecrans and an associated 25.86 acres at the Old Fort Park from the City of Murfreesboro to the NPS.

Subsequent NPS treatment of the site has stemmed primarily from the recommendations contained in "Preservation and Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, Remnants of Fortress Rosecrans" (1991). To date, NPS treatment has focused on the rehabilitation of the site. Nonhistoric additions to the site have included the construction of a parking lot, and an interior pedestrian circulation system comprised of both paved paths and raised boardwalks and viewing platforms. The existing vegetation has been altered in an attempt to stabilize and preserve the historic fabric of the earthworks, and to establish a vegetative cover more in keeping with the historic scene. Nearly all the existing vegetation growing on the earthworks has been removed. In adjacent areas, the exiting vegetation has been substantially thinned. The earthworks and adjacent areas have been recently seeded with native and exotic grasses.
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Stones River National Battlefield

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:
The component landscape is one of two extant portions of Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Lunettes Palmer, Thomas and Curtain Wall No. 2 survive as earthworks adjacent to Old Fort Golf Course and Redoubt Brannan is located further north along Stones River. The earthworks convey the significance of the Civil War fortress and were rehabilitated and interpreted in the mid-1990s. The surviving sections of Fortress Rosecrans, particularly the lunettes and curtain wall, retain integrity of materials, workmanship, location, and association.

Lunette Thomas, Palmer, and Curtain Wall No.2 represent a small fraction of historic Fortress Rosecrans once covering 225 acres. The topography, views, and nearby creek retain integrity and convey the significance of the Federal fortress constructed immediately after the Battle of Stones River.

Aspects of Integrity: Location

Materials

Association

Workmanship

Landscape Characteristic:

Buildings and Structures
The extant remains of Fortress Rosecrans retain integrity of location, association, materials, and workmanship at Curtain Wall No. 2 and the Lunettes. The earthworks are preserved under native grasses and shade trees with interpretive waysides and raised viewing platforms.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Curtain Wall No. 2
Feature Identification Number: 99922
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 90231
LCS Structure Name: Curtain Wall No. 2
LCS Structure Number: HS-28

Feature: Lunette Palmer
Feature Identification Number: 99923
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Natural Systems and Features

Lytle Creek, a second order stream behind Lunettes Palmer, Thomas, and Curtain Wall Number Two is a contributing feature of the historic landscape. The creek was located between sections of Fortress Rosecrans defended by the Union Army. The creek flows into Stones River and has integrity of location and association.

Spatial Organization

The relationship between the earthworks and surrounding open fields is a contributing feature of the historic landscape. Although Lunettes Palmer, Thomas, and Curtain Wall No.2 are adjacent to Old Fort golf course, a seemingly incongruous landscape, the spatial organization translates the open vistas of historic Fortress Rosecrans to the present landscape. The views overlooking a cleared area convey the open terrain once defended by the Union army.

Topography

The hills that Lunettes Palmer, Thomas, and Curtain Wall Number Two are built upon retain enough of their integrity to be contributing features of the historic landscape.
**Condition**

**Condition Assessment and Impacts**

**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 09/30/1998  
**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 08/01/2007  

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The component landscape is in good condition. The earthworks are stabilized under a tall grass cover and light tree canopy. The boardwalk and asphalt walking trails provide access to the site without negatively impacting the earthworks.

**Impacts**

**Type of Impact:** Erosion  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Erosion is a continual threat to earthworks.

**Type of Impact:** Pests/Diseases  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Burrowing gophers have honeycombed the resources and threaten their continued existence.

**Treatment**
Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date: 06/06/2007

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:
The Stones River National Battlefield Cultural Landscape Report (June 2007) recommends rehabilitation as the landscape treatment approach. The document provides overall guidelines for the park plus specific recommendations for each of the park's landscapes and component landscapes. No cost estimates are provided with the CLR.

Prior to this report, the "Preservation and Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, Remnants of Fortress Rosecrans, Lunettes Palmer and Thomas" was approved by the Regional Director on 07/20/92 for preservation and restoration of the earthworks.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 06/06/2007

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:
Walking paths, boardwalks, and interpretative signs were installed in accordance with the 1992 document.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information
### Bibliography

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<tr>
<th>Citation Author</th>
<th>Edwin C. Bearss</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citation Title</strong></td>
<td>History of Fortress Rosecrans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year of Publication</strong></td>
<td>1960</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citation Publisher</strong></td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source Name</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citation Number</strong></td>
<td>002854</td>
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<td><strong>Citation Type</strong></td>
<td>Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citation Location</strong></td>
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Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes
Stones River National Battlefield

Citation Title: Preservation and Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, Fortress Rosecrans, Stones River National Battlefield
Year of Publication: 1991
Citation Publisher: National Park Service
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 017307
Citation Location: On file at SERO

Citation Author: Steven J. Fox
Citation Title: "Archeology of Fortress Rosecrans: A Civil War Garrison in Middle Tennessee."
Year of Publication: 1978
Source Name: Other
Citation Location: On file at SERO

Citation Author: John E. Cornelison, Jr.
Citation Title: "Report on Archeological Investigations of Lunette Palmer and Redoubt Brannan, Parts of Fortress Rosecrans, Located at Stones River National Battlefield, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, SEAC Accessions 993 and 1021."
Year of Publication: 1992
Citation Publisher: SEAC
Source Name: Other
Citation Location: On file at SERO

Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: On file at STRI
Curtain Wall No. 2 and Lunettes
Stones River National Battlefield

**Citation Title:** "Fortress Rosecrans: A History, 1865-1990."

**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Type:** Narrative

**Citation Location:** On file at SERO

**Supplemental Information**

**Title:** 327/ 20045

**Description:** Vicinity map

**Title:** 327/ 20046

**Description:** Existing Conditions, Preservation and Management Plan, Fortress Rosecrans.