

▶ **FILE #:** 11-T-05-RZ **AGENDA ITEM #:** 45
 POSTPONEMENT(S): 11/10/2005-1/12/2006 **AGENDA DATE:** 2/9/2006
 ▶ **APPLICANT:** THE WOODLANDS OF KNOXVILLE
 OWNER(S): SAME AS APPLICANT

TAX ID NUMBER: 108 008 PART OF 601 (MAP ON FILE.)
 JURISDICTION: City Council District 1
 ▶ **LOCATION:** North side Cherokee Trail, north of Candora Rd.
 ▶ **APPX. SIZE OF TRACT:** 82 acres
 SECTOR PLAN: South City
 GROWTH POLICY PLAN: Urban Growth Area (Inside City Limits)
 ACCESSIBILITY: Access is via Cherokee Trail, a minor collector street with 20' to 21' of pavement within a 40' right-of-way.
 UTILITIES: Water Source: KUB
 Sewer Source: KUB

▶ **PRESENT ZONING:** R-1 (Single Family Residential)
 ▶ **ZONING REQUESTED:** RP-1 (Planned Residential)
 ▶ **EXISTING LAND USE:** Vacant land
 ▶ **PROPOSED USE:** Condominiums
DENSITY PROPOSED: 1 to 3
 EXTENSION OF ZONE: Yes
 HISTORY OF ZONING: Property was denied RP-1 zoning in 2004. (7-J-04-RZ)
 SURROUNDING LAND USE AND ZONING: North: Fort Loudoun Lake / F-1 Floodway
 South: Residences and vacant land / PR Residential
 East: Residences / RP-1 and R-1A Residential
 West: Condo development and vacant land RP-1 Residential
 NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT: This site is within a residential area of older homes and newer condo development zoned R-1, RA, R-1A, PR and RP-1.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

▶ **APPROVE RP-1 (Planned Residential) zoning**
APPROVE a density of 1 to 3 du/ac.

RP-1 zoning at the density of 1 to 3 dwellings per acre will allow development of the site that will be consistent with the surrounding development pattern. At the same time, however, the recommended zoning will be more appropriate in protecting the steep slopes, extensive vegetation and water resources associated with the property. The sector plan proposes low density residential use and slope protection for this site.

COMMENTS:

NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL

1. The RP-1 zoning at the recommended density will allow development that will be compatible with the scale and intensity of the surrounding development and zoning pattern, but that also will be sensitive to property's environmental constraints that include large areas of steep slope and lake frontage. (See attached topographic analysis.)

2. RP-1 zoning will require plan review and approval prior to development of the property. During this review, issues such as traffic, drainage, slope, building and parking layout and other development concerns can be addressed. The developer should pay particular attention to the physical constraints (areas for 25% and greater slope); environmental features of the property (extensive areas of tree cover); ridge line protection; the view shed from downtown Knoxville; and preservation of historic sites on the property. These issues may prohibit development of the site at the upper limit of the approved density and make a lesser density more appropriate.

3. The RP-1 zoning will allow development similar to surrounding uses that include single family housing, condos, and a business use.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

1. Public water and sewer are available in the area and would be extended to serve the site.

2. The RP-1 zoning at 1 to 3 dus/ac would allow consideration of a maximum of 246 units, would add approximately 2460 vehicle trips per day, add approximately 107 school aged persons to the area population. The proposal would allow consideration of development that would be compatible with the scale and intensity of other development and zoning in the area.

3. It has also been noted that the site may be the location of entrenchments and artifacts dating from the Civil War. With the submission of development plans for the property, the applicant must submit an inventory to confirm whether or not such entrenchments and artifacts are located on the property, and, if they are, how they will be protected. Please note the attached information submitted by the Civil War Roundtable and the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association regarding historic locations located in the area and possibly on this site.

4. The developer will be expected to present a development plan that respects the site's existing topography and tree cover. Any site grading or disturbance should not be allowed until after a site plan has been approved by MPC.

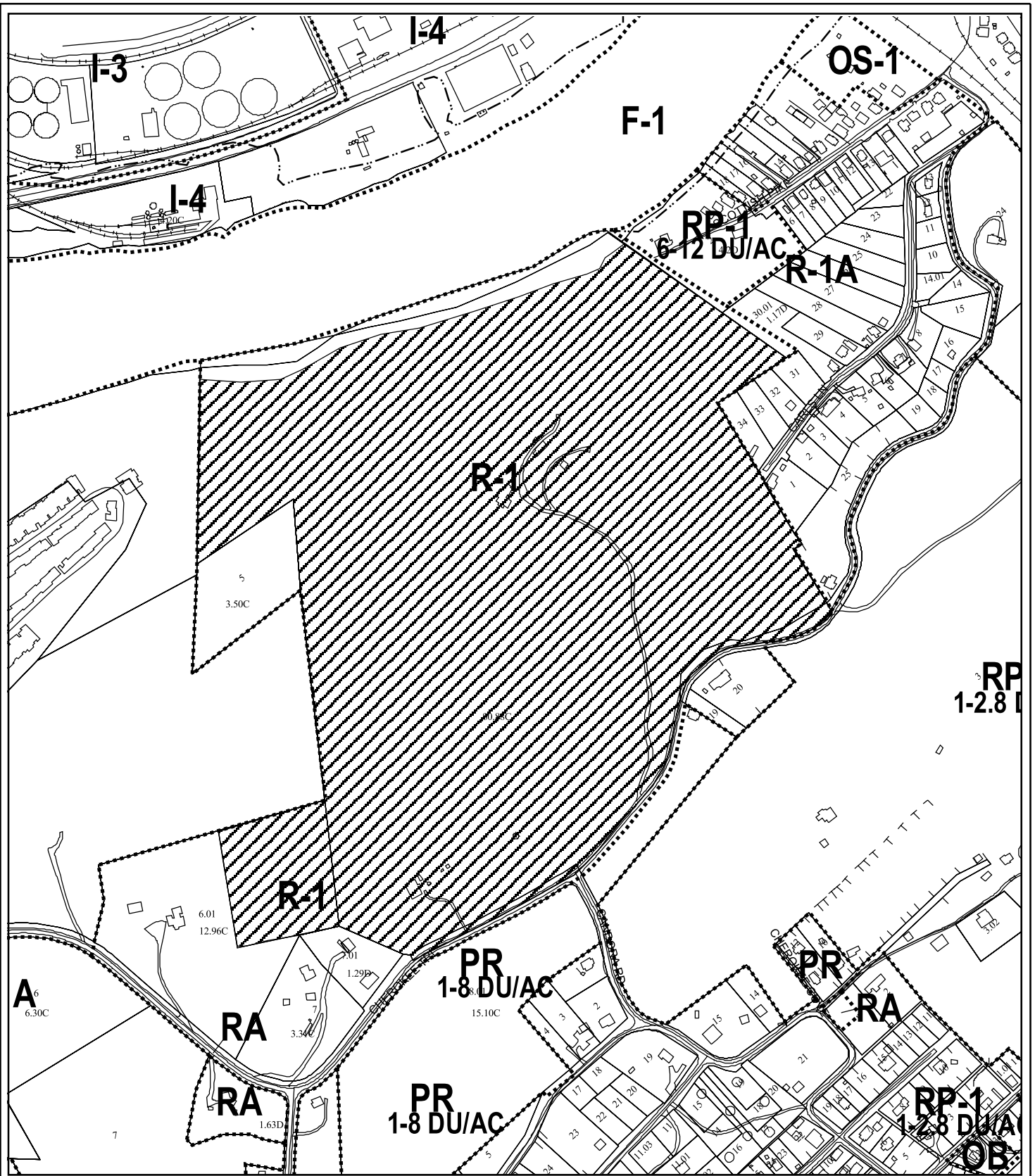
CONFORMITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPTED PLANS

1. The development of this 82 acres of land under RP-1 zoning at 1 to 3 dus/ac would be consistent with the slope protection and low density residential designation of this site and surrounding area and the South City and County Sector Plans.

2. The site is located within the Urban Growth Area (inside the city) of the Knoxville-Knox County-Farragut Growth Policy Plan.

3. In recognition that the northern portion of the property near the river was identified as a greenway, the developer should work with the City's Parks and Recreation Department and Greenway Commission to set aside an area for a greenway trail and identify that greenway in the required site plan

If approved, this item will be forwarded to Knoxville City Council for action on 2/14/2006 and 2/28/2006. If denied, MPC's action is final, unless the action to deny is appealed to Knoxville City Council. The date of the appeal hearing will depend on when the appeal application is filed. Appellants have 15 days to appeal an MPC decision in the City.



**11-T-05-RZ
REZONING**



From: R-1 (Single Family Residential)
To: RP-1 (Planned Residential)

Original Print Date: 10/24/05 Revised:
Metropolitan Planning Commission * City / County Building * Knoxville, TN 37902

Petitioner: The Woodlands of Knoxville

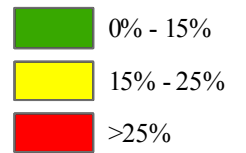
Map No: 108

Jurisdiction: City



11-T-05-RZ Slope Analysis

Percent Slope



11-T-05-RZ REZONING

Petitioner: Woodlands of Knoxville



From: A (Agricultural)
To: RP-1 (Planned Residential)

Original Print Date: 10/26/05 Revised:
Metropolitan Planning Commission * City / County Building * Knoxville, TN 37902

Map No: 108

Jurisdiction: City



11-T-05-RZ Slope Analysis

Slope	Gridcode	Cells	Sum_Acres	Percentage
0%-15%	1	4990	11.4555	12.01%
15%-25%	2	5953	13.6662	14.33%
> 25%	3	30606	70.2617	73.66%
Total Acres			95.3834	100.00%

Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Rose Property and the Battle of Armstrong's Hill,

Knox County, Tennessee

11-F05RZ
7-C-04-SP/7-F-04-SP
Sector Plan Amendment/Rezoning

Report submitted to:

Smith Dalia Architects, LLC • 621 North Avenue, NE Suite C-140 • Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2805

Report prepared by:

New South Associates • 6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue • Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

J.W. Joseph, Ph.D., RPA – Principal Investigator

Brad Botwick – Archaeologist and Author

October 2004 • Draft Report
New South Associates Technical Report #1217

ABSTRACT

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) has conducted an archaeological reconnaissance of portions of the Rose Property in Knox County, Tennessee, which is slated for residential development. The reconnaissance focused on a roughly 20-acre area north and south of Cherokee Trail that were considered sensitive for archaeological features and deposits associated with the Civil War Battle of Armstrong's Hill. The objective of the reconnaissance was to determine if features previously identified at the site in fact represented Civil War earthworks or if they consisted of agricultural terraces.

The reconnaissance suggested that the site does not contain significant Civil War remains. Although activities related to the Battle of Armstrong's Hill took place here, evidence of these activities has been disturbed and degraded by post-war occupation and agricultural practices and the set of features preserved on the site does not convey any clear relationship to the war. As a result of this reconnaissance, no further historic preservation activities are recommended for the Phase I development of the Rose Property.

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I. INTRODUCTION

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) has conducted an archaeological reconnaissance of portions of the Rose Property in Knox County, Tennessee. The reconnaissance focused on areas north and south of Cherokee Trail that were considered sensitive for archaeological features and deposits associated with the Civil War Battle of Armstrong's Hill. The objective of the reconnaissance was to determine if features previously identified at the site in fact represented Civil War earthworks or if they consisted of agricultural terraces. The reconnaissance entailed fieldwork to examine these features and limited subsurface investigations. This report discusses the methods employed for this study and its results.

The Rose Property consists of a 96-acre parcel on the South Side of the Tennessee River due south of the City of Knoxville (Figure 1). Portions of the parcel lie on both sides of Cherokee Trail, although the largest part is on the north side of the road and extends to the bluff overlooking the river. The property encompasses rugged terrain dominated by a series of high ridges with excessively sloped flanks. The valley formed between these uplands is relatively narrow and contains a low-order tributary of the Tennessee River. Project area sections south of Cherokee Trail contain less drastic slopes as those to the north and drain towards Goose Creek.

Proposed plans for this property, referred to as Phase I development, include the construction of multifamily housing units in the areas immediately adjacent to Cherokee Trail, which total about 20 acres. Later (Phase II) development would include an area to the north that overlooks the river. Approximately half the property would be left undeveloped. The present archaeological reconnaissance included only the areas slated for development along Cherokee Trail (Phase I) where possible Civil War earthworks have been tentatively identified. According to the present landowner, Mr. D.M. Rose (personal communication, 2004), the features that have been identified as possible earthworks in fact comprise agricultural terraces built by his father in the 1930s.

This archaeological reconnaissance was intended to clarify the identity of these features. Work for this study consisted of an examination of the features, metal detector survey, and limited shovel testing. The Archaeological Research Laboratory of the University of Tennessee compiled historical information related to the property and the Battle of Armstrong's Hill prior to this reconnaissance by (Guymon 2004). The remainder of this report describes the setting of the project area, presents a summary of the historical information from Guymon (2004), and discusses the methods and results of the reconnaissance.

Dr. J.W. Joseph served as Principal Investigator for this project. Brad Botwick was the Project Archaeologist and conducted the fieldwork. Tom Quinn prepared the graphics used in this report. NSA is grateful for the assistance and information provided by Mr. Morton Rose, owner of the property during the course of this project.

Figure 1: Project Location

II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This archaeological reconnaissance dealt with features that were possibly related to the Civil War Battle of Armstrong's Hill. The following overview summarizes events related to that action along with other relevant aspects of the site's history. Guymon (2004) has prepared a more detailed site history, and this is the basis for the following brief review.

The project area occupies property now owned by D. Morton Rose, Jr. The history of the project area prior to 1800 is not well understood at present and it is unclear if the property was occupied prior to the Civil War. Several roads crossed through the project vicinity, however, and a log cabin was present on the property north of the present archaeological reconnaissance study area. The cabin was associated with a field located in a ravine that figured in the Battle of Armstrong's Hill.

The battle took place on November 25, 1863 with much of the action occurring on the Rose property. At the start of the fight, Confederate forces were established on Cherokee Heights at the western edge of the Rose Property. Portions of the Union army faced them from Fort Higley to the east of the property and a series of entrenched positions located inside the Rose Property. An 1864 map of these positions by federal engineer Orlando Poe illustrates the positions of the opposing forces (Figure 2). Between Fort Higley to the east and the Confederate positions to the west are several union entrenchments or fortifications within the Rose property. Of particular importance to the present archaeological reconnaissance are positions at the top of the hill overlooking Cherokee Trail and a line on the west flank of this hill. Another line is located on the south side of Cherokee Trail and runs in a north-south direction in the vicinity of, and roughly parallel to, present Candora Avenue in the southeastern part of the Phase I development area. It is unclear what type of fortifications these positions contained. They could have ranged from relatively expedient fieldworks to more impressive entrenchments.

Confederate forces under the command of James Longstreet initiated this battle with the objective of clearing the Union positions from the heights overlooking Knoxville (in addition to Fort Higley, the Union army held positions at Forts Dickerson and Stanley) and establishing firing positions from which to bombard Union-held areas north and west of the city. The battle began in the afternoon of November 25th when Confederate troops advanced across the area of the field (the ravine in the northern part of the Rose property) toward Union lines on the field's east side. Union forces manning the line repulsed this initial attack. After about two hours of back-and-forth, the battle produced a stalemate, with both sides retaining their original positions (Walden 1988; Guymon 2004).

Walden's (1988) detailed description of the battle does not indicate if any action took place around the entrenchments within the present study area. Walden's map of the battle shows these positions manned by Wofford's cavalry, but according to Walden's account these troops played a supporting role in the action. The majority of the fighting seems to have occurred north of the present survey area.

Figure 2: Poe's 1864 Map of the Approaches and Defenses of Knoxville (Detail)

Following the war, the property remained largely undeveloped except for agricultural and residential purposes. The 1895 Vance, Coffee, and Pill map of Knoxville shows residences along Cherokee Trail, with possibly one or two located on the Rose property (in Guymon 2004: Figure 6). According to D. Morton Rose, Jr. (personal communication, 2004) a house occupied the hillcrest north of Cherokee Trail until the 1930s. Another house was located on the south side of the road in the project area until recently. The actual ages of the structures are not known and neither one remains extant.

The property came into the Rose family by the 1930s. Mr. Rose's father farmed portions of the property, including most of the hillcrest and hill flanks located in the present Phase I development area. Only the north slopes of the hill were left in forest (Rose, personal communication, 2004). At the time the property was farmed, Mr. Rose's father created a series of agricultural terraces to control erosion. These terraces are plainly visible today.

III. METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE

The objective of this archaeological reconnaissance was to determine if surface features noted at the site reflect Civil War military fortifications or agricultural terraces. The reconnaissance included a walkover survey of the project area followed by metal detector survey and limited shovel testing to examine stratigraphy and look for artifacts. This chapter describes the methods of this survey and presents the results.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The central issue for this reconnaissance study was to evaluate the features at the site. These linear features follow the contours of the site's hills and slopes. Poe's Civil War map shows fortifications in the present survey area and some visitors to the site have characterized these features as military earthworks. Recently, in a newspaper article by Jack Neely (cited by Guymon 2004), several features were described as related to the Civil War. Neely observed "an unnatural hole that looks like it could have been a trench of some sort." He also observed "a more obvious network of trenches: maybe four of them running parallel to each other, narrow plateaus with shallow grooves." Neely's guide for the visit, Architect Charlie Richmond, referred to these as "a series of rifle pits." Richmond believed they were "quite deep at one time" (Neely 2002).

More recently, Guymon (2004:2) reported having observed Civil War features at the property. Referring to the line of fortifications shown south of Cherokee Trail on Poe's (1864) map, she notes that the line, which would be located in the vicinity of and "parallel to" Candora Avenue, and the line directly to the north of this on the opposite side of Cherokee Trail, "can be easily seen today." Guymon states that "a series of trenches encircle the top of the hill where the water tower is presently located. Poe's map indicates a possible gun emplacement on the top of this hill "

Poe's map shows the "V-shaped fortification" that Neely describes (see Figure 2). This feature is oriented with its open end facing east with a clear point in the west. A small semicircular feature lies in the open end and is also oriented with its open side to the east. This probably comprises a gun emplacement. This V-shaped feature occupies the top of the hill and might be interpreted as encircling it. Other fortifications shown by Poe do not clearly conform to the features noted at the site. The line south of Cherokee Trail and a shorter line to the northeast of it on the western slope of the hillcrest are oriented north-south and cross the contours of the hill slope.

In contrast to these other observers, Mr. Rose believes the existing features at the site reflect more recent land use activities. In particular, he stated the "unnatural hole" at the top of the hill is a cistern associated with the pre-1930s house located here. He described the "narrow plateaus" that encircle the hill and its flanks as agricultural terraces built by his father during the 1930s (Rose, personal communication, 2004).

The objective of the present archaeological reconnaissance, then, was to evaluate these features and determine if any reflected Civil War activity. The methods used in the field are described in the following section.

METHODS

The reconnaissance survey entailed three principal tasks: a walkover of the study area, metal detector survey, and shovel testing. The walkover involved simply walking the project area, identifying features, conditions, and other surface information. This was done in the company of Mr. Morton Rose, who pointed out the features in questions as well as other aspects of the property that might have influenced the presence and condition of historic features and resources.

Metal detector survey was conducted on the crest and along the trenches/terraces that encircled the hill. Survey was also done in the area along Candora Road in the projected area of the fortifications here. The metal detector was set on discrimination mode to locate items that might be related to the Civil War such as lead minie balls and uniform buttons. Iron artifacts were excluded. All hits were flagged and examined with shovel tests.

Shovel tests were excavated to examine the trench/terrace features and were placed in selected locations. Shovel tests measured roughly 30-cm (1-ft) in diameter and were excavated following natural stratigraphy to depths of between 30 and 50 cm (1-1.6ft). Excavated soils were screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth for systematic artifact recovery. Shovel test profiles were described using standard terms for color and texture and the results of each shovel test excavation were recovered on standardized forms. All shovel tests received a designation from a numeric sequence in the order they were excavated and their locations were placed on a map of the site.

RESULTS

The reconnaissance served to provide an initial overview of conditions at the site and to identify features that could be potentially linked to the Civil War military action. At the time of the fieldwork, the site was entirely forested with hardwood trees that are probably no more than 50 years old. Understory ranged from moderately to very dense.

Mr. Rose pointed out the former house site on the top of the hill north of Cherokee Trail, but no structural remains were noted in this area. The only possible remnant of this occupation is the cistern, consisting of a rounded depression measuring approximately 3-ft in diameter and 1ft deep. The sides of this depression were sharply defined, suggesting it is relatively recent. Had this feature represented a Civil War earthwork, it should have been more weathered at the ground surface, especially since the area was utilized for residential and agricultural purposes since the war.

Turning to the trenches/terraces, these features are clearly visible throughout the survey area, particularly on the south flank of the hill where they proceed down the hill's entire south flank, continuing to the south side of Cherokee Trail where they become more widely spaced as the slope becomes less severe. The uppermost of these features continues from the south flank to encircle the crest of the hill, but there is no progression of these features on all the hill slopes (Figures 3 and 4).

These features consist of a series of narrow terraces. Each terrace includes a narrow swale adjacent to the natural slope and a raised berm on the outer side of the swale. Typically, distances between the centers of the swales to the centers of berms measured 3-4ft. The depth of the swales, measured from the top of the berm, was about 0.5ft. The orientations of these features varied depending on which ridge flank they were on. However, compass readings of the south-facing terraces were about 120 degrees east of magnetic north. This point is particularly germane to the area along Candora Avenue, where the existing features run perpendicular to the road rather than parallel to it. No features were observed parallel to Candora Avenue, suggesting that the evidence for the fortification line here has been destroyed or lies outside the project area.

The project area also contains structures and features that post-date the Civil War. There is a house located outside the planned construction area that was converted into a barn. The age of the structure is unclear, but exposed portions of the framing show it built of milled 2x4-lumber fastened with nails. This suggests a late nineteenth or early twentieth century date. The structure was converted into a barn by Mr. Rose's father, indicating it was in place here by the 1930s. Another feature consists of a cement water tank, placed at the top of the hill in the 1940s (Rose, personal communication, 2004). In addition, water lines run through the site, most notably along the north flank of the hill. Recent disturbance includes bulldozer cuts to facilitate soil testing that cleared vegetation and some topsoil, but did not significantly disturb the terraces where they crossed them.

During the walkover, fragments of historic ceramics and glass were noted at the top of the hill and near its crest. Identifiable ceramic types included whiteware, which has a lengthy manufacturing date range spanning much of the nineteenth century to the present. None of the artifacts identified on the surface or in shovel tests could be conclusively dated to the Civil War.

Metal detector survey served as an additional means to identify the nature of features at the site. Particular attention was given to the hillcrest and the swales along the terraces. Although collecting and pot hunting has taken place at the site (Guymon 2004), the metal detector was set on a discrimination mode favorable for finding metal artifacts such as minie balls and uniform buttons that might indicate the presence of Civil War soldiers and their locations at the site.

The results of the metal detector survey produced no definitive evidence of a Civil War military presence. Metal artifacts, if they could be identified, included items that could not be identified as military or were clearly modern. The metal jar lids and can fragments, as well as the ceramic and glass pieces noted above, combined with a lack of military artifacts, are consistent with a domestic occupation.

NSA excavated a total of ten shovel tests in selected locations at the site. Two shovel tests were placed on the hillcrest and the others were in swales associated with the terraces. The purpose of putting shovel tests in the swales was to investigate these features and evaluate their function. It was anticipated that if these features were deep trenches that had filled in with slope wash, the fill could be identified in shovel test profiles. Military-related artifacts might also be expected in the swales if they reflected Civil War features.

Figure 3: Detail of Rose Property Showing Results of Archaeological Reconnaissance

Figure 4: Existing Features at the Rose Property

4a: View down slope from the water tank showing parallel trench/terrace features on south flank of the hill slope.

4b: Trench/terrace feature on north side of the hill, looking down slope (north).

Shovel tests revealed soil profiles that reflected erosion and agricultural activities. Shovel tests 1 and 2, located on the hilltop or just off the crest of the hill exposed shallow layers of reddish brown (5YR4/3) loamy clay above reddish brown clay. These layers were interpreted as a recently developed root mat and subsoil, respectively, and indicated that the soil profile on the top of the ridge has been truncated.

Shovel tests placed in the swales of the terraces revealed similar profiles, although the uppermost layer was occasionally dark reddish brown (5YR3/4) loamy clay atop the reddish brown clay subsoil. These profiles were interpreted as truncated and eroded, with the upper soil possibly reflecting a remnant plowzone. The uppermost soil strata were typically shallow, ranging in depth from 12-23 cm (0.4-0.75ft), with those on the lower slope south of Cherokee Trail being deeper (up to 37cm [1.2ft]). These depths are within the range of a plowzone, particularly if it has been subject to erosion.

It is important to note that these deposits lay atop undisturbed subsoil. This suggests that the terraces do not reflect Civil War fortifications. If the terraces had been trenches, the profiles in the swales would be expected to show evidence of having filled with slopewash and possibly to contain artifacts. The only artifacts recovered from any of these shovel tests, however, consisted of brick fragments, modern safety glass, and indeterminate metal pieces. None of these clearly indicate an association between the terraces and the Civil War. Of course, erosion might eliminate evidence of the trench fill, but if the erosion was severe enough to reach the bottoms of the trenches, then it would not likely leave the clearly visible berms along the ridge flank.

It is worth considering agricultural practices that might create the features found in the project area. Of the techniques that could have produced the terraces, contour plowing and terracing are the most likely to have been used. Contour plowing helps decrease runoff and erosion by creating furrows around rather than up-and-down the slope. Terracing is a technique that involves construction of level areas along a slope to slow runoff. The two principal terrace systems are contour and parallel. Contour terraces are built to follow the land's contour with only a minimal amount of soil excavation. Parallel terraces are laid out equidistant from each other and are easier to farm with large equipment (Dickey et al. 1982).

The features at the Rose Property most closely resemble examples of contour terraces. This interpretation is strengthened by the stepped appearance of these features, which is consistent with agricultural activities but less likely to have been built by military engineers, who would be more interested in fortifying the upper part of a slope but not its entire face. The single terrace that encircles the upper part of the slope in the project area might be expected at a military site, but the testing did not produce any evidence that it has a military origin. Instead, its shape, size, and stratigraphy are all consistent with the other features.

In summary, the reconnaissance did not identify any clear evidence of Civil War military activities in the project area. While historic maps clearly show fortification in the project area, any remains of these features appear to have been lost as a result of land use practices following the war.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This archaeological reconnaissance of the Rose Property in Knox County, Tennessee was intended to determine if surface features at the property reflected Civil War military activities, specifically those related to the Battle of Armstrong's Hill. This chapter summarizes the results of this reconnaissance and the conclusions of the project.

The principal issue for this study was whether the features at the site represented Civil War fortifications or agricultural terraces. Poe's 1864 Civil War map of the site shows fortifications in the project area. Although one fortification shown on the map encloses the hillcrest north of Cherokee Trail, other lines run north-south (against the site's slope). The reconnaissance identified a series of terraces running parallel to the contours and none running against them that could be identified as the fortifications that Poe illustrates. The one possible exception is the feature encircling the hillcrest. This feature, however, closely resembles the other earthworks in size and shape and does not exhibit any clear characteristics of a military fortification.

The features appear to be agricultural terraces. The progression of a series of these features down a slope is consistent with the practice of contour plowing or terrace construction. In contrast, a military fortification would not likely include a series of trenches from the base of a hill to its top. Test excavations on these features exposed shallow topsoil or plowzone strata atop apparently undisturbed subsoil, which would be expected in agricultural areas. No evidence of a filled trench, as might be expected in a fortification, was found. Finally, metal detecting and test excavations did not produce any artifacts that were clearly associated with a military occupation or activities.

The characteristics of the features, combined with the lack of military artifacts, suggest that the site does not contain significant Civil War remains. Although activities related to the war likely took place here, evidence of these activities has been disturbed and degraded by post-war occupation and agricultural practices and the existing features do not convey any clear relationship to the war. As a result of this reconnaissance, no further historic preservation activities are recommended for the Phase I development of the Rose Property.

While the site does not appear to contain earthworks or other remains associated with the Battle of Armstrong's Hill that could be interpreted in place, this property was part of the battlefield site. We recommend that the history of the battle be interpreted in some fashion in the planned subdivision, to help preserve the memory of this battle.

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11-T-05-RZ

**ARCHIVAL RESEARCH OF THE ROSE PROPERTY IN
KNOXVILLE, KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

FINAL

Prepared by: Gail L. Guymon, Archivist/Architectural Historian

Submitted by: Boyce N. Driskell, Principal Investigator

Report Prepared for:

Mr. Tom Dalia

Principal

Smith Dalia Architects, LLC

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October 2004

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Archaeological Research Laboratory is extremely grateful to Mr. D. Morton Rose, Jr. for his assistance in the preparation of this report. Mr. Rose provided a great deal of verbal information about the history of the property in addition to allowing us to borrow numerous deeds and maps.

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INTRODUCTION

At the request of Smith Dalia Architects, LLC, the University of Tennessee's Archaeological Research Laboratory (ARL) conducted archival research on a 96 acre tract which lies on the north and south sides of Cherokee Trail in Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee and includes frontage along the Tennessee River (Figures 1 and 2). According to the Knoxville Knox County Knoxville Utilities Board GIS database (www.kgis.org/KnoxNetWhere/viewer.asp), the land on the north side of Cherokee Trail is owned by D. Morton Rose, Jr. The database indicates the land on the south side of Cherokee Trail is owned by D. Morton Rose, Jr. and his brother, James V. Rose.

The archival research conducted by the ARL for Smith Dalia and Associates focuses primarily on the Civil War activities known to have occurred on the property and the general history of the property from ca. 1800 to the present day.

HISTORY

According to D. Morton Rose, Jr. the history of ownership of the Rose property can be traced to Tennessee land grant numbers 355 and 358, however, the recipient of these grants is presently unknown. The western boundary of the Rose property shares a common line with Thomas Humes who was one of Knoxville's early prominent settlers. Early roads about one mile east of the property include Maryville and Sevierville pikes. During this time the Rose property was a mix of heavy timber, steep slopes, ravines, and a large open field. To date, research has not revealed who was living on different parts of the Rose property prior to the twentieth century or where any houses and outbuildings were constructed.

Civil War Period

Figure 3 is a portion of federal engineer Orlando M. Poe's 1864 map overlaid with a current tax map showing the boundaries of the Rose property. There were three federal positions in the area: Fort Stanley, Fort Dickerson, and Fort Higley on the south side of the Holston (now Tennessee) River. Fort Higley was located a few hundred feet east of the southeast corner of the Rose property on the south side of Cherokee Trail (Figure 3). The overlay also shows Poe's positioning of trenches and rifle pits associated with the fort (in red). These features are more clearly visible on Poe's map (Figure 4).

Although not well known, the Battle of Armstrong's Hill which occurred on November 25, 1863, was fought primarily on the Rose property with Confederate forces concentrated on Cherokee Heights to the west.

In his master's thesis on the history of one of the Ohio regiments involved in the battle of Armstrong's Hill, Stark (1986:192) offers the following description of the property prior to the battle:

Longstreet could not attack until Alexander cut a road, dug rifle pits, and dragged Parker's cannon into position on the eastern slope of Cherokee Heights. Across a ten-acre cleared field directly to the east lay

Armstrong's Hill about 400 feet above the river. Dense woods covered both Cherokee Heights and Armstrong's Hill. A deep ravine bordered the bottom of the latter to the east, and a shorter ravine lay to the west. Both ravines ran to the river bank. A sixty-yard wide, wooded area bordered the river between both summits. A log cabin located to the southwest of the wooded area was the only dwelling in the area.

The Confederate trenches of Robertson and Law shown in Figure 5 appear to have been on what is now the western boundary of the Rose property although their exact location relative to this line has not been determined. Mr. Rose has suggested that this map is incorrect in that what is called "Armstrong's Hill" was really James Allison's Hill and that Armstrong's Hill was actually the hill identified as Cherokee Heights.

The battle of Armstrong's Hill began on the afternoon of November 25 when Confederate troops, protected by Alexander's cannon, advanced two columns deep across the "open field" shown in Figure 5. Their attack faltered, and they were driven back by federal forces to a line near the log cabin (Figures 4 and 5). According to written sources, a number of the Confederates fired on the advancing federal troops from inside the cabin which was riddled with rifle fire to drive them out (Walden 1988; Joyce 1883; Stark 1986).

By 4:00 p.m., about two hours from the onset of battle, Hood's men had been forced to retreat all the way back to their original position on Cherokee Heights. Some fighting also occurred there on November 29 after Longstreet ordered attacks on Knoxville from both sides of the river.

In 2002, Jack Neely, noted Knoxville historian and a reporter for *Metropulse*, visited the Rose property with local architect and Civil War buff, Charlie Richmond. Neely's (2002) article on the Rose property mentions "an unnatural hole that looks like it could have been a trench of some sort" on top of the bluff near the river. Poe's map (Figure 4) appears to have something that would have been part of the Union fortifications indicated at this location. Neely also discusses a cave on the side of the bluff that may have some inscriptions dating from the time of the Civil War carved into the limestone walls.

Neely's article also reports that near Cherokee Trail "there's a more obvious network of trenches; maybe four of them running parallel to each other, narrow plateaus with shallow grooves." Richmond told Neely: "It's a series of rifle pits ... I suspect that these were quite deep at one time." Neely notes that "Poe has these trenches marked as a significant V-shaped fortification, almost big enough to have a name, just on the Confederate side of Union Fort Higley." This fortification appears in Figure 4 as the irregular line in front of Woford's position.

There are two other areas of trenches indicated on Poe's map inside the boundaries of the Rose property that appear to be in the same area as probable man-made terrain features. The first of these lies just west of and parallel to Candora Avenue on the south side of Cherokee Trail. The second is directly to the north on the opposite side of Cherokee Trail. A series of trenches encircle the top of the hill (Figure 3, in red) where the water tower is presently located. Poe's map indicates a possible gun emplacement on the top of this hill.

Late Nineteenth/Early Twentieth Centuries

An 1895 map of Knoxville by Vance, Coffee, and Pill (1895) (Figure 6) shows a handful of residences along both sides of what is now Cherokee Trail. Although it is difficult to determine exact locations from this map, there were only residences indicated on what appears to be the Rose property. These belonged to Armstrong and Chambers. Morton Rose stated this was probably M. A. M. Armstrong who was the Knox County register of deeds at that time. As a point of reference, Chambers' property was on both sides of Cherokee Trail and the western edge extended just past where Candora Avenue is today.

D. M. Rose, Sr. acquired the land included in the Phase I development portion of the proposed project area and deeded it to his wife, Katharine Varnell Rose. She deeded it back to him prior to her death (Knox County Register of Deeds 1488:383-6). He deeded 12.1 acres to his son, Morton, Jr., in 1950 (Knox County Register of Deeds 1950: 851, 251). Morton Rose, Jr. and his brother, James V. Rose, inherited some of the Phase I development property following their father's death.

According to D. Morton Rose, Jr. (personal communication 2004), the two large ponds on the northern portion of the property near the river were created about 1930 or 1931 when a construction company was hired by his father to fill in two sinkholes. A year or so later, a road was cut leading from the north side of Cherokee Trail to the southern edge of what is designated the Phase II development area in Figure 2. D. Morton Rose, Sr. farmed the property in the 1930s. D. Morton Rose, Jr. said that prior to the cutting of this road, there was no easy way to access the property. An earlier road off Cherokee Trail began in the same location and paralleled the Civil War trench for a short distance before veering off to the northeast. According to D. Morton Rose, Jr., the road put in by his father began on the road shown on Poe's map at the same location and was cut right on top of the trench for some distance before turning to the northwest toward the open field. The Phase I development property was also terraced for erosion control since some of it was being farmed at that time.

There were several houses on the Rose property during this same time period that were occupied by people who had sold their land to the Rose family. One of the houses was located on the top of the hill where the water tower is today. A man named Colburn lived there and earned his living painting smokestacks. There was a barn on the Isaac Atchley/Weaver tract which is still standing. It is slightly northwest of the house at 1149 Cherokee Trail at the end of a farm road. The Rose family home owned by Mr. Rose's parents is also still standing on the property. Other houses have been demolished over the years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From a review of available archival sources as discussed above, there is little doubt that Civil War maneuvers primarily related to the Battle of Armstrong's Hill took place on the Rose property. According to Poe's map features associated with these activities include trenches, rifle pits, and possible gun emplacements. When these are plotted against current maps of the Rose property, several present terrain features are close to or coincident with these Civil War features suggesting that there is a high probability that

man-made earthen features associated with Civil War activities still exist in a number of places in addition to the more visible trenches and rifle pits. Dot Kelly of the Knoxville Civil War Round Table stated the Rose property has been metal detected for the last 30 years and material (in accessible areas) at or near the surface has likely already been removed by collectors. In particular, the open field has probably been thoroughly surface collected and metal detected.

Despite this activity, Poe's map clearly indicates the presence of trenches and possibly a gun emplacement within the Phase I development area and every effort should be made during the Phase I archaeological survey to locate and if possible, to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of these features.

Mr. Rose stated he had never seen any remains of the log cabin that was involved in the Battle of Armstrong's Hill. Transferring the location of the cabin shown in Figure 5 to Poe's map (Figure 4), and from there to its approximate location as shown on the overlay (Figure 3), it appears to be just outside the boundaries of the Phase I development area.

Portions of the Confederate trenches occupied by Robertson and Lee's men are in the area on the west side of the ponds and attempts should be made to thoroughly search this area. Mr. Rose also said he had found bricks in the thicket shown in Figure 4 but had no other information about how they came to be there.

Based on preliminary research on the Battle of Armstrong's Hill, the majority of the fighting appears to have occurred in the area between the boundaries of the Phase I and Phase II developments (Figure 2). Further archival research on the battle should be conducted prior to any Phase II development or disturbance of the area between the Phase I and Phase II development boundaries in an attempt to determine the extent of Civil War related activity particularly in the Phase II development area.

The Rose property was once made up of several tracts with different owners who probably lived on the land. It is likely that several historic house sites also exist that date from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries. Since this type of early settlement in the county is rarely documented, identification of such sites will require archaeological survey.

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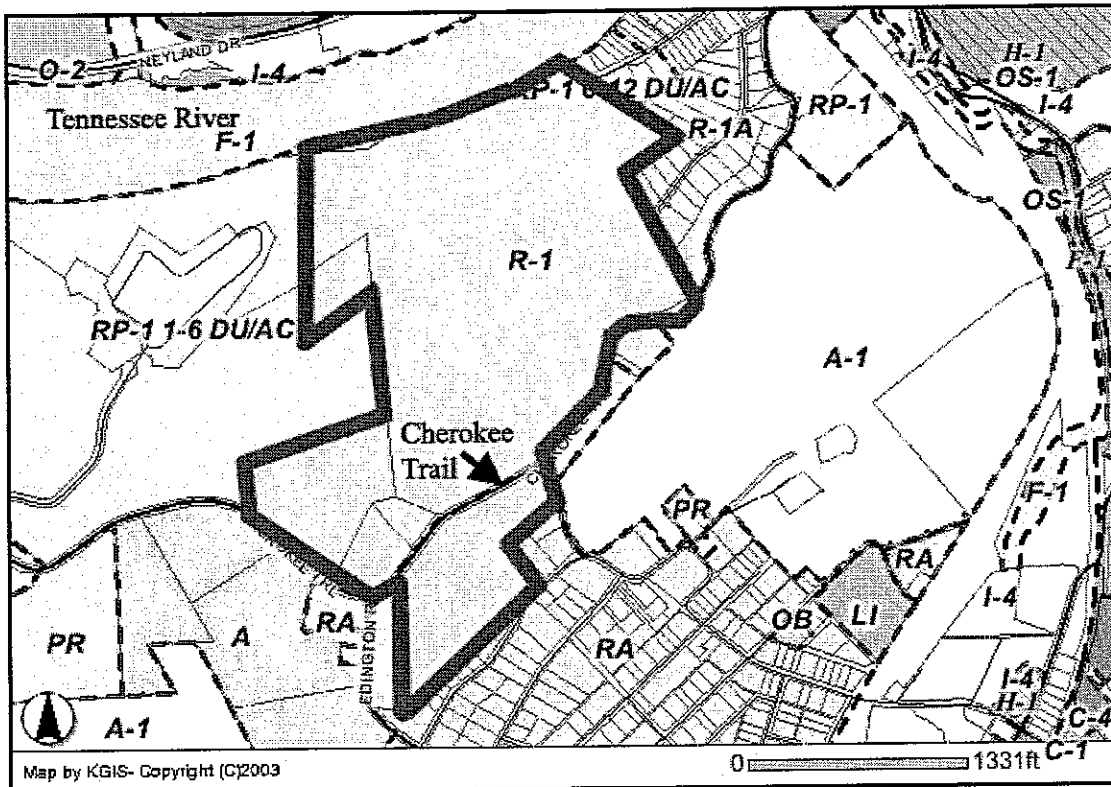


Figure 1. D. Morton Rose Jr. and James V. Rose property.

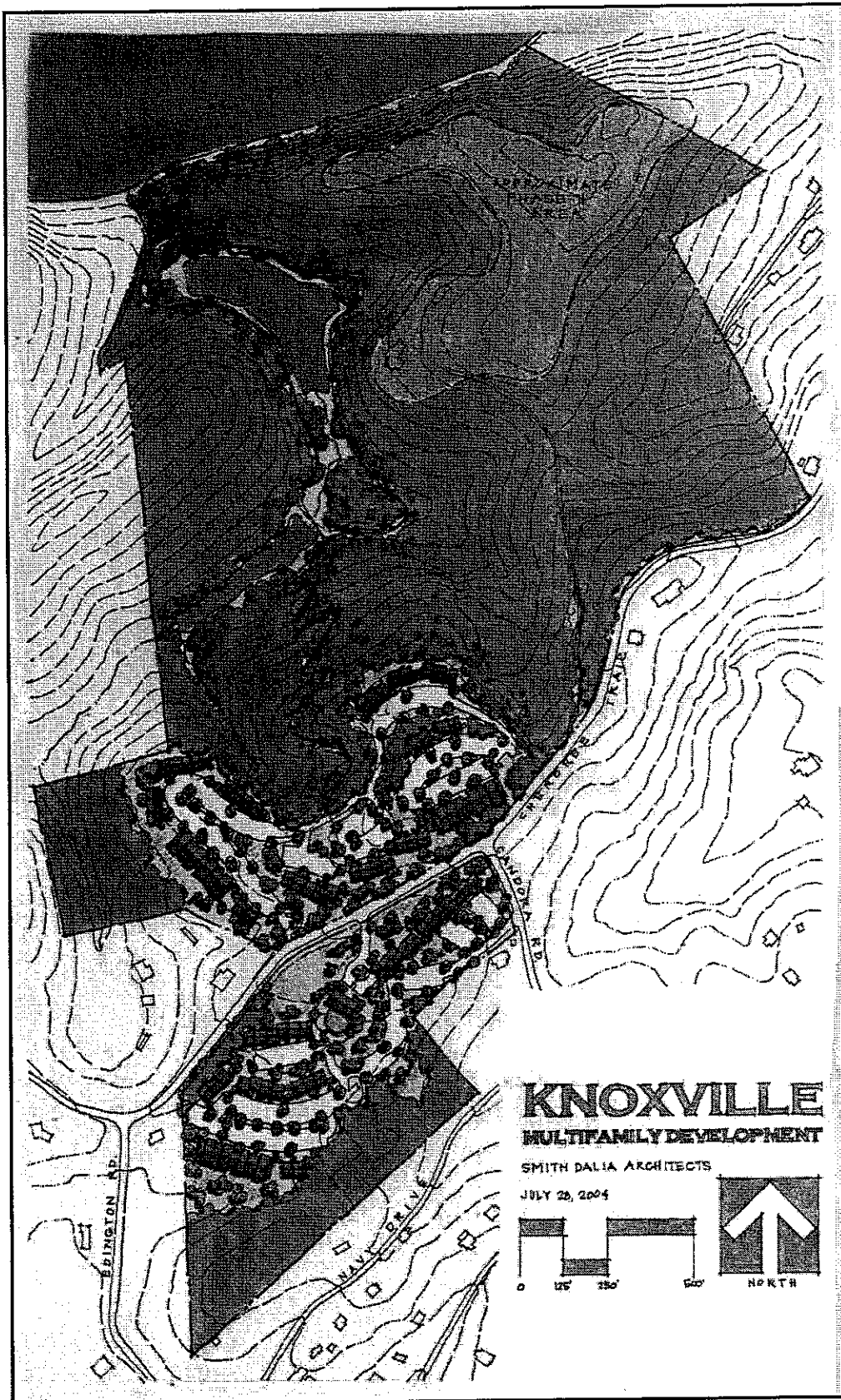


Figure 2. Proposed development showing Phase I and Phase II development areas of the Rose property.

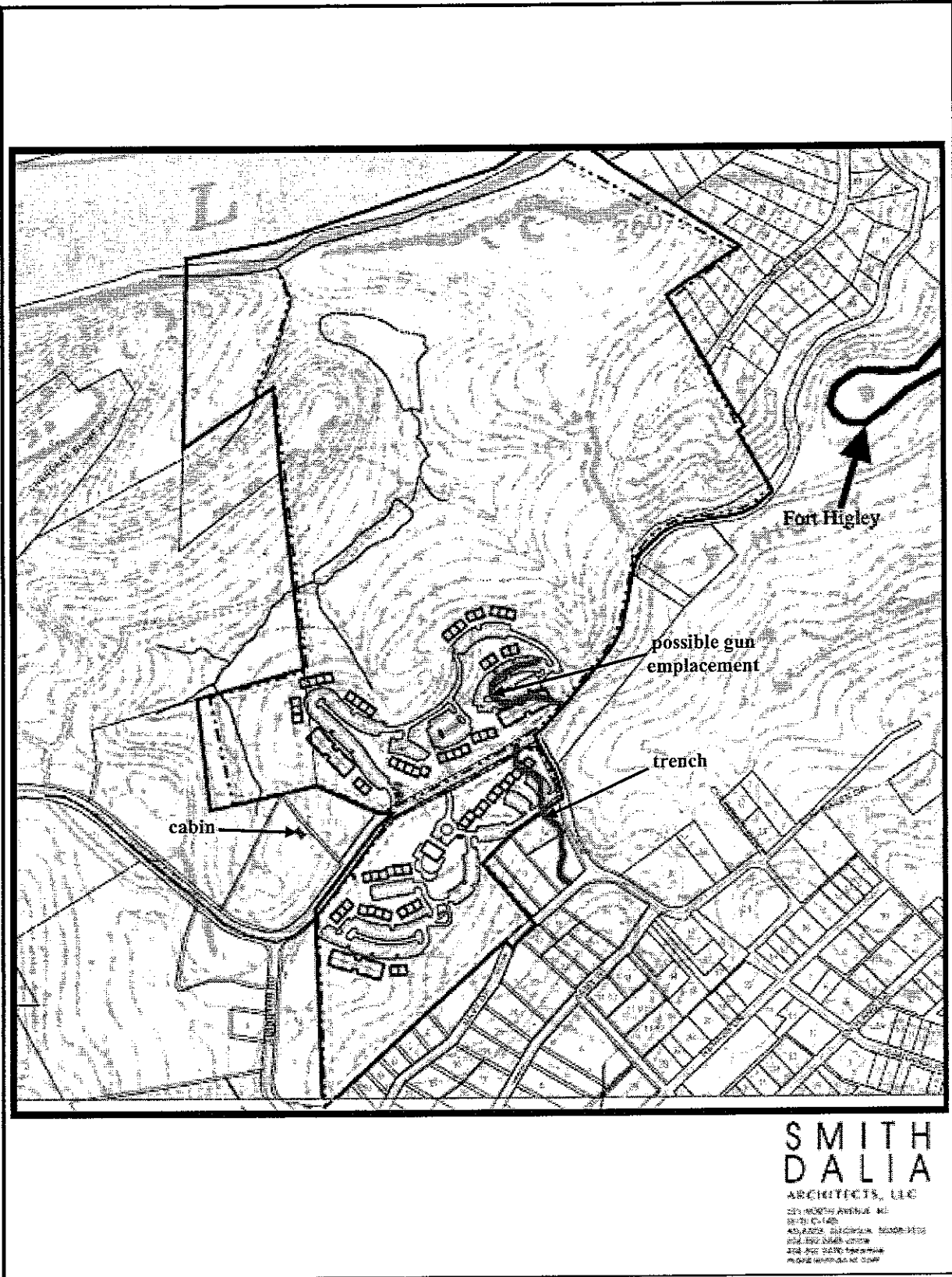


Figure 3. Poe's Civil War map with tax map overlay showing Ft. Higley relative to boundaries of the Rose property and the proposed development.

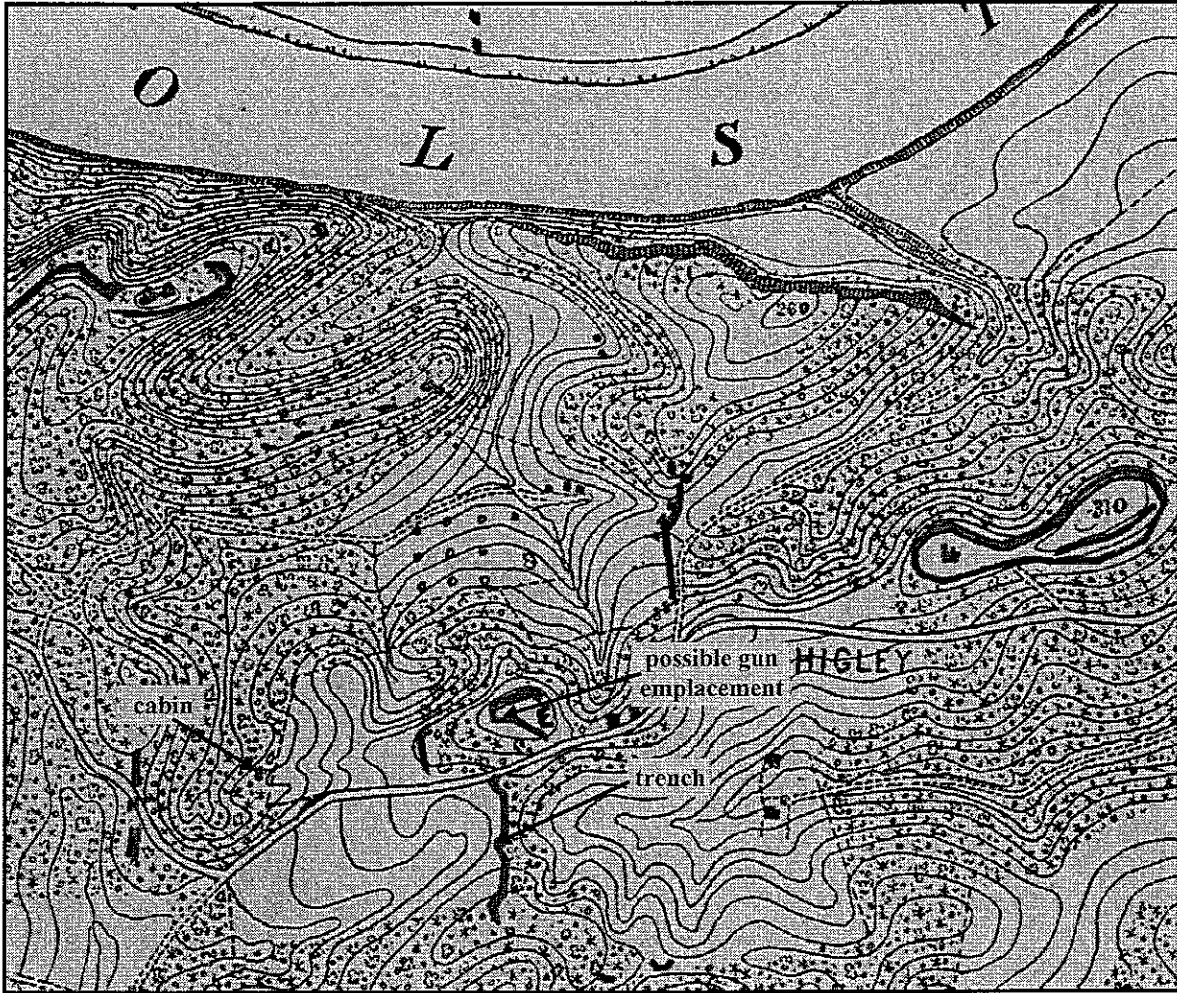


Figure 4. Poe's 1864 map without the overlay.

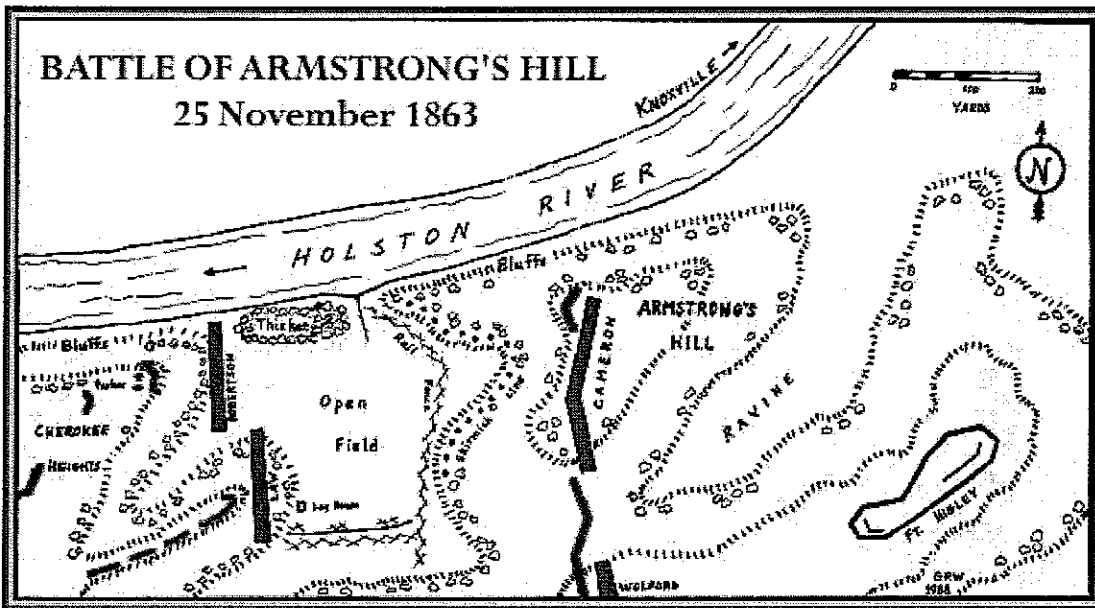


Figure 5. Knoxville Civil War Roundtable map showing relative position of trenches and rifle pits. (<http://www.kornnet.org/kcwr>)

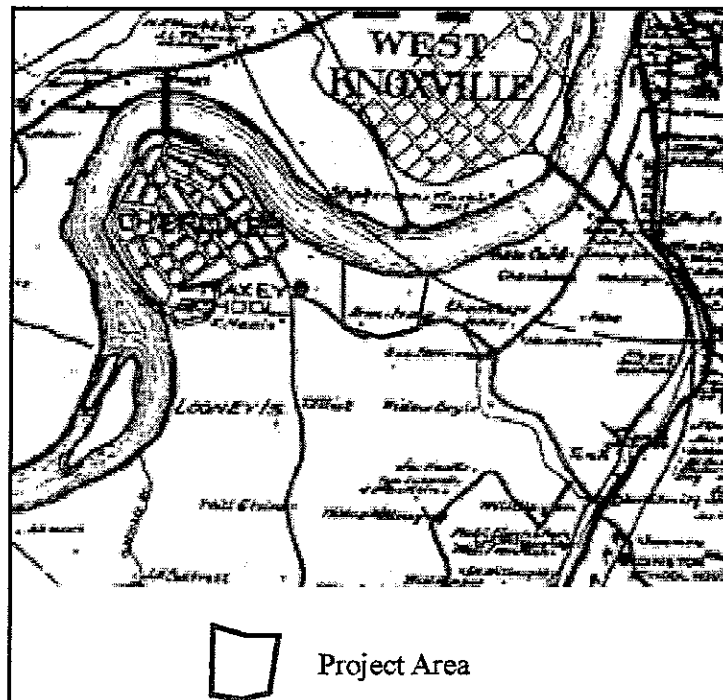


Figure 6. Section of 1895 Map of Knox County, Tennessee by Vance, Coffee, and Pill.