



Come Again...

There are a variety of different ways to experience Fort C.F. Smith Park. Drop by for a visit and walk the grounds during park hours from sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset. You may also participate in special programs including: educational programs for schools, groups and organizations; historic programs and events including reenactments; nature programs including bird watching; and agricultural programs.



Spout Run and proceeded up the hill to Fort Strong. To provide clear lines of fire for Fort C.F. Smith and the adjacent forts, all of the trees for miles around were cut down. Many of the trees were used in the construction of the fort and support structures.

Located east of the fort were the support buildings where the troops ate and slept. The structures included barracks, mess halls, cook house, officers' quarters, a barn, and a headquarters building. When the fort was decommissioned in 1865, the structures were removed. No visible evidence of their existence remains today.



The restored 20th century mansion, The Hendry House, is one of the many unique features of Fort C.F. Smith Park. This beautiful facility offers historic elegance in a park setting, and is a perfect location for small business meetings, weddings and other private functions.

To learn more about our programs and/or rental opportunities, please call us or visit online.



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Walking Tour of Fort C.F. Smith Park



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES



Fort C.F. Smith was constructed by Union troops in early 1863. The fortification extended the line of the Arlington Forts to the Potomac River. Along with Forts Strong, Morton, and Woodbury, Fort C.F. Smith functioned as part of the outer perimeter of defenses that protected the Aqueduct Bridge of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The fort was a lunette with a southern and western face, two flanks, and two bastions on the north side to protect it from attack up the ravines from the Potomac. The fort was entered from the east by a road that crossed

The Tour

The complete walking tour is approximately one-half mile. To make arrangements for a guided group tour or to request reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call (703) 243-7329 at least 2 weeks prior to your preferred date.

1. Farm Well

The stone covers a fresh water well hand dug shortly after the Civil War and lined with stone. The Jewell Family used it for their nursery and farming operation. A wooden Summer House once covered it.

2. Garden Path

The history of this path begins prior to 1850 as a road from Spout Run to the Jewell Family Farm. Later it served as part of the military road system connecting the forts of the Arlington Line. The new path follows the route from the main house to the orchard and Summer House.

3. Northeast Meadow

The meadow is typical of the rural landscape that existed here in the 1800's. Farm buildings and an orchard once stood nearby.

4. Main House

The main house has evolved from a small one-and-one half story, four-room cottage to the Victorian Vernacular House of today. The original may have been moved to the site with modifications taking place in 1898, 1924, and 1988.

5. Peace Garden

Originally farmland, this area became home to barracks and a barn during the Civil War. After Dr. Hendry, Sr., acquired the estate in 1927, he continued planting an earlier established "Peace Garden" to commemorate the end of World War I. The garden includes a number of exotic species from all over the world.

6. Fort C.F. Smith Fort Gate

White Pine and Magnolia trees mark the site where the original fort gate once stood. It was an arched wooden structure and was the only entrance to the interior of the fort. The depressions to either side of these trees are the remains of the ditch that surrounded the fort.

7. Fort Well

This shallow crater is the remains of a Civil War era well dug to provide water to the fort. The water would have been used by the soldiers during a siege.

8. Bombproof

The Bombproof was a long timber structure covered with earth that provided emergency shelter during an attack.



9. Cottage and Tractor Barn

The cottage was constructed in the 1920's on a portion of the Fort's Cannon Platforms and served as a temporary residence while the main house was renovated. Afterwards, it was used as a guesthouse. The Tractor Barn was built in 1988 to replace an earlier garage.

10. North Magazine

The original fort contained two magazines. Similar in construction to the bombproof, they held supplies and ammunition.

11. Cannon Ramps and Platforms

The Fort had platforms for 22 Artillery pieces and 4 siege mortars. Projectiles weighed from 6 to 24 pounds and the Artillery Range was 1 to 2 miles.

12. Farm Shed and Bank Barn

The last remaining farm structures on the estate, the barn and shed were used for storage and shelter for animals. The Bank Barn may be the oldest structure on the site.



13. Ditch and Glacis

A deep ditch, or moat, surrounded the fort and was a defensive aid against enemy attacks. It was filled with obstacles to slow advancing troops.

14. Field of Fire

By 1863, the land around the fort had been completely cleared of all trees. The clearing provided an unobstructed view for several miles in all directions and allowed for advance notice of enemy attacks and improved artillery aiming.

15. Upland Woodland Forest

This diverse plant community provides food and shelter for a multitude of wildlife. Rich in resources, these woods bear evidence of human occupation for more than 1,000 years.

16. Northeast Slope

Across the Potomac River to the northeast, Georgetown University and Washington, D.C. can be seen in the winter and spring. The seasonal nature of this view is a reminder of the ever-changing beauty of the eastern deciduous forest.