

APPENDIX C:

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Archeological Report by New South Associates

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New South Associates was originally slated to look at Civil War Era recorded entrenchments and Fort Walker, all outlined on Park plans. On Thursday October 23, 1997, Theresa M. Hamby and Cindy Gass Rhodes did a visual inspection and limited shovel testing of these areas, with the goal of identifying any still existing entrenchments.

The entrenchment line in the northeastern portion of the park, near Park Avenue, is depicted as roughly L shaped with the bottom leg turned west. Historic photos from the Atlanta History Center show earthen entrenchments in Grant Park in approximately 1890. Nothing that bears any resemblance to earthworks exists in the area now. This portion of the park has been heavily landscaped and a concrete walkway was constructed as well as a two story brick park building in the area where the entrenchments were once located. Three shovel tests were excavated as near their mapped location as could be determined. The tests showed extremely disturbed soil profiles with red clay mixed with gravel and sand continuing to thirty-five centimeters below the surface. Heavy clay and sand inclusions were found throughout indicating multiple soil disturbances. A single plain white ware shard was found in one test, very near the surface and was not collected.

Fort Walker, near the corner of Boulevard and Atlanta Avenue is standing and in good shape, although a playground has been built on its northern edge. Some erosion from foot travel up the steep sides is evident and some inappropriate plantings (such as tall ornamental grasses) are present. Again, Atlanta History Center photos from 1890 and 1917 depict the fort, each showing cannons, low ground cover, and no trees allowing a view of downtown Atlanta. The 1956 Historic Marker at the site reads:

Southeastern salient of Atlanta's inner line of fortifications erected during the summer and fall of 1863. The line consisted of a cordon of redoubts on hills connected by rifle pits encircling the city, aggregating some ten and one-half miles of earthworks designed and supervised by Col. L. P. Grant, pioneer citizen, construction engineer and railroad builder of Atlanta. After ninety-three years, it is one of a few remnants of a line that withstood the quartering steel and climbing fire of Federal armies forty-two days ~ evacuated only when the remaining R. R. was cut. The fort was named for Maj. General W. H. T. Walker, killed in the Battle of Atlanta.

Plate LX of the Official Military Atlas of the Civil War (Davis et al. 1978) shows "lines of works erected by the Rebel Forces" in the general vicinity of Grant Park (the creek name is shown as Entrenchment on this map) but Fort Walker itself is not named. Plate LI reproduces then Captain Grant's 1864 "Sketch of the City of Atlanta and Line of Defenses" as well as a Sketch of Battery. Again, Fort Walker is not named. At the time the Plan of Defenses was made, the battery's were lettered, not named, and Fort Walker was identified as "R." Fort Walker, as it exists today, conforms closely to Grant's Sketch of Battery.

Fort Walker was not primarily involved in the Battle of Atlanta or any other of the numerous battles surrounding the Atlanta area (Garrett 1954, Scaife 1993). However, it was part of the city's defenses and as such was subjected to fire from the four and one-half inch rifled siege guns (Scaife 1993), the "climbing fire" referred to in the historic marker. Although Fort Walker is not the site of any major battle of the Civil War, it is the only intact portion of Atlanta's defensive line left intact in the city. As such, it has continuously generated local interest for preservation and restoration. Steve Davis, historian and associate editor of *Blue and Gray* magazine, has collected numerous articles concerning the fort from the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. These articles, beginning in the 1930s and continuing to the present, have discussed the fate of the defensive line as Atlanta expanded beyond its boundaries and questioned whether or not Fort Walker would be restored (Steve Davis personal communication October 1997).

Archaeological study of Fort Walker was limited. Two shovel tests were excavated in the interior of the earthworks showed sandy red clay loam mixed with quartz gravel at the surface and extending fifteen to twenty centimeters below the surface. A few fragments of modern clear and amber bottle glass were recovered from the first few centimeters of fill, but were not collected. This level was underlain by red clay subsoil.

The Grant Park map depicts a fortification line extending east from the northwest corner of Fort Walker into the boundaries of Zoo Atlanta. Once again, no visible remains of this line were found. The fort rests atop a hill sloping steeply to the leveled area of the Zoo. Two shovel tests were excavated in an attempt to identify the fortification line. Again both tests showed evidence of heavy soil disturbance with mixed red clay and clayey sandy loam mixed with quartz gravel to approximately thirty centimeters. Below this lay red clay subsoil. A 1964 penny was found just above the subsoil in one test, while a modern brick was found at roughly the same depth in the second test. Neither the brick nor the penny were collected.

After entering the Zoo boundary, the entrenchments are shown as continuing west and then turning northwest. From Fort Walker it was apparent that the line was impacted by Zoo support buildings and roads. A walk through the Zoo confirmed that extensive planting and animal habitat construction have removed the remains of this line.

Information concerning the archaeological study of the Civil War remnants in Grant Park was presented to the Advisory Committee on October 24, 1997. Committee members expressed interest concerning the historic use of springs in the park and the park's purported historic use as a landfill.

For the question of the Park's use as a landfill, Garrett was again consulted, but no references to dumps, landfills, garbage, trash, etc. are found and only the names of the Sanitary Inspectors are included. Reed et al.'s 1988 technical report *An Archaeological and Historical Survey of the Maddox Park Site (9Fu114): Atlanta's "Sanitary Dumping Ground," 1884-1910* was consulted. In an overview of Atlanta's methods of waste disposal, Grant Park is only specifically mentioned twice. The first is a reference to the city's Annual Report of 1886, where it was noted that horse

manure gathered from the stables was delivered to Grant Park for use as fertilizer. Later discussions of 1910 newspaper articles concerning the Sanitary Department note that the article mentions that refuse was used as fill and homes were constructed on trash. The authors speculated:

While the exact location of these secondary dumps is unknown, it is likely that suburban developments of the early twentieth century, such as portions of Grant Park, Ansley Park, Morningside, and others, were partially constructed on municipal refuse.

A 1911 newspaper gave street locations of eighteen secondary dumping sites in the city which the authors plotted on a 1911 map. Two are located near Grant Park, one to the west and one to the East. These dumping areas are located within the subdivision of Grant Park, but no dumping in the park itself is mentioned.

Archaeological investigations of the spring locations were accomplished with a tile probe. It was hoped that if the springs had been used historically, they would have been improved in some fashion, probably with the addition of brick or stone walls. The historic locations of the six springs were transferred from early maps of Grant Park to a modern park map for use in finding the springs.

The spring location near the Grant Park Pavilions (west of the Boulevard parking lot) is paved and developed. A drinking fountain is located in the area and at the time of survey, an area of underground piping was exposed at the surface. If this spring was historically improved, any evidence is now destroyed and its waters are part of the park's sewer system.

The second spring investigated was noted as lying north of the Boulevard parking lot perpendicular to both Boulevard and Berne Street. The area is a natural drainage and probing found the soil to be very permeable beneath a narrow (three to five centimeters) gravely layer just below the grass. In one area of exposed soil, a mortared brick was lying on the surface. However, the probing showed no evidence of subsurface structural remains.

Two springs are noted west of the Berne Street and Park Avenue entrance to the park, west of the swimming pool. The area in which the springs are marked is completely paved over. However, just west of their historic location is a culvert and a deep drainage ditch. This suggests that the springs have been incorporated into the park's existing sewer system.

The next spring was supposed to be located just east of the intersection of Cherokee Avenue and Glenn Street. Again, the area is in a natural drainage and the soil is very permeable. However, no evidence of structural foundations was found during probing. There is a concrete drain down slope from the spring location and it seems likely that the spring was capped by naturally eroding soils from up slope. Any residual water (including rain runoff) would be drained by the concrete ditch.

The final spring location is southeast of the Cherokee Avenue and Georgia Street intersection. This area is in a deep cut out of a natural slope. The area has been developed with concrete drainage basins and a bridge as well as a seating area. No signs of a spring are visible, although the area does currently serve as park drainage.