

CHAPTER 6: HISTORY OF THE CAMP COLDWATER LOCALITY

The general overview presented above sets the broader context for the following discussion relating to the area in and around the Coldwater spring. Due to the fact that the Camp Coldwater Locality was away from the main center of focus and activity of this military installation, relatively little mention has been found in historic documents relating to the area. This is especially true for the early 20th century. But, despite its apparent lack of extensive documentation, the area continued to serve an important function in the fort's operations as a major source of water for the fort's inhabitants from the 1820s until ca. 1920.

One efficient way of documenting use of this area is by following the series of cartographic representations that contain information on the Coldwater spring area. And, although the author has access to only some of the documents related to the Camp Coldwater Locality, we can also follow the general trend of early activity, construction, use, occupation, and squatter removal in the Locality through a series of letters and official correspondence. A potentially important letter referenced in the House of Representatives *Sale of Fort Snelling Reservation* (1868) [to which this author does not have access] is one from Major Plympton to his superiors dated March 11, 1839 in which he purportedly details his understanding of the history of the development as well as his views on the "evils" related to settlement in and around Camp Coldwater. There may be additional valuable information about the Camp Coldwater area in this letter. Another source of information about the site is found in historic photographs dating after ca. 1880 in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. A representative selection of these images is reproduced here to help the reader better comprehend the layout and nature of structures and features constructed in the later 19th century in the Camp Coldwater Locality. They also give us a picture of a terrain before any of the wholesale landscape modifications that are in evidence today. But, while historic records and cartographic documents provide part of the story, most of the data that will provide a more complete understanding of the communities that lived there as well as military and non-military use of the area will most likely be found in the archaeological record.

Without doubt, the major recognizable feature of the Camp Coldwater Locality that attracted early historic settlement is a natural spring, descriptively named Coldwater Spring, that produces a large and consistent flow of water. Although likely utilized by Native Americans for a very long period before Euroamericans arrived, no direct archaeological evidence for pre-European contact use of the spring is known. The first documented historic occupation of this area was in 1820 by a contingent of the 5th Infantry of the United States Army under the command of Lt. Col. Henry Leavenworth. James Duane Doty wrote on July 31, 1820 "Early in the Spring [1820] Col. Leavenworth discovered the fountain of water where the troops now are, & to which they moved as soon as the ice would permit. It is a healthy situation, about 200 feet above the river and the water gushing out of a lime stone rock is excellent. It is called 'Camp Cold Water.'" (quoted in the exhibit "Camp Coldwater: The Birthplace of Minnesota" by Turnstone Historical Research). A cantonment was constructed in this area and was used by the soldiers as living quarters and as a recuperative area for at least the summer of 1820 until new quarters were habitable (ca. 1820-1821) at Fort St. Anthony (now Fort Snelling) 1.5 km to the southeast (Clouse 1996).

We can shed some light on this earliest known use through historic documentation produced in the early 1820s. Historian Edward Neill states, "On the 5th of May [1820], Leavenworth crossed the Minnesota, and established a summer camp near the spring, above the military graveyard, which was called 'Cold Water'" (Neill 1889:103). Leavenworth was supposed to distribute medals and presents to the Indians, and had assumed duties that had not been delegated to him. These issues and others surrounding Leavenworth's actions and those of soldiers living at Camp Coldwater prompted the following letters from Indian Agent Major Lawrence Taliaferro to Colonel Leavenworth:

Camp St. Peters, July 30, 1820

Dear Sir:

As it is now understood that I am the Agent for Indian Affairs in this county, and you are about to leave the Upper Mississippi, in all probability in the course of a month or two, I beg leave to suggest for the sake of a general understanding with the Indian tribes in this country, that any medals you may possess would, by being turned over to me, cease to be a topic of remark among the different band of Indians under my direction. I will pass to you any voucher that may be required, and I beg leave to observe also that my progress in influence is much impeded in consequence of their frequent intercourse with the garrison. The more they become familiarized to our strength in this country, the less apt they are to respect either the Agent or his Government. On reflection you will doubtless think me correct."

(Taliaferro to Leavenworth July 30, 1820, NARG 92)

The killing of Mahgossau, a Dakota chief, on August 3, 1820 after having been given whiskey at Camp Coldwater prompted another letter from Taliaferro to Leavenworth on August 5, 1820:

Camp St. Peters, August 5, 1820.

Dear Sir:

His Excellency Gov. Cass, during his visit to this Post, remarked to me that the Indians in this quarter were spoiled, and at the same time said that they should not be permitted to enter the Camp [Coldwater]. I beg leave to suggest to you that the propriety of this remark, by an observance of which my influence may be facilitated and the government respected. An unpleasant affair has lately taken place. I mean the stabbing of the old chief Mahgossau by his comrade. This was caused, doubtless, by an anxiety to obtain the chief's whiskey. I beg, therefore, that no whiskey whatever be given to any Indian, unless it be through their proper Agent. While an overplus of whiskey thwarts the beneficent and humane policy of the Government, it entails misery upon the Indians, and endangers their lives as well as those of their own people. (Taliaferro to Leavenworth August 5, 1820, NARG 92)

The above letters document the occupation of the area and give us some idea of the accessibility of the area and Leavenworth's troops interactions with American Indians, but little of the description of the actual developments resulting from Leavenworth's occupation. However we do get some sense of the extent of what he undoubtedly considered a temporary summer camp in a June 18, 1823 letter from Leavenworth to General Jesup. While defending his actions against published accusations from Col. Snelling, Leavenworth provides a brief description of the Camp Coldwater construction thusly:

The second set of huts [those at Camp Coldwater] which he [Snelling] mentions were mere bowers made of poles and covered with bark and were created by the men without using any article which could have been required for the permanent work [fortification]. They cost the government not one cent but saved many dollars in the use of tents. The troops were placed here [Camp Coldwater] to enable them

to recover from the effects of that terrible disease (the scurvy) with which they were afflicted in consequence of the badness of the provisions which we had received from the contractor.
(Leavenworth to Jesup 18 June 1823, NARG 92)

However an 1823 map attributed to Lt. Morrill Marsdon (Figure 4) shows what appear to be substantial structures in existence at Camp Coldwater. This map is the first known depiction of the area around Camp Coldwater. Snelling may have had these built to temporarily house some troops, since one or two companies were housed at Cantonment New Hope for the winter after Snelling arrived (i.e. during the winter of 1820-21) until quarters were built in the fort then under construction. We can be fairly certain that the structures (with chimneys) depicted in Figure 4 are not the bowers described by Leavenworth. They would not have been sufficient to house soldiers through a Minnesota winter and it is doubtful that the bowers survived even long enough to be documented in the Marsdon map (Figure 4) drawn three years later.

Another possible source for the structures depicted in Figure 4 is housing built by what would have then been recent refugee arrivals. Taliaferro's journals indicate refugees left the Red River Colony in Canada as early as 1822, and we know that a group of nearly 250 mostly Swiss colonists left there on June 24, 1823 and came to Fort Snelling. According to Folwell, some of the refugees were under the mistaken impression that authorities at Fort Snelling would give them land and farming equipment. Many of the refugees went on to points further south and some settled in the Galena, Illinois area, but a number remained in Minnesota and settled within 20 miles of Fort Snelling. It is possible that some of Lord Selkirk's Red River Colony refugees may have built some or all of the structures indicated on the 1823 map. Folwell further states that a number of farms were opened on the military tract by 1827 and were quietly cultivated until after the ratification of a treaty in 1838. Taliaferro recorded in his journal in September 1827 that the "Red River Colony appears to be diminishing rapidly. . . . Since 1822 it appears that 330 Swiss, Canadian and Irish Settlers, men women and children have passed this post for the interior of the United States" (quoted in Folwell 1956, 1:217). Neill indicates that by August 1835, 489 persons had arrived at Fort Snelling from the failing Red River settlement (Neill 1889:127). And Holcombe estimates that at least 200 more came to the post by 1840 (Holcombe 1908, 2:76).

The next documentation available on the CCL dates from the mid-1830s. Lawrence Taliaferro drew a map in 1835 showing his perspective on the Camp Coldwater settlement and documenting the existence of B.F. Baker's fur post (Figure 12). His emphasis, due in large part to his duties as Indian Agent, was on trading houses where licensed fur traders carried out their business. According to available fur trade license records, Baker received a license to trade at the "Entry of the river St. Peters" for 1833 and 1834, having earlier been issued a license for trading on Leech Lake in 1829 (U.S. Serial 254; Docs. No. 45 and 69). Additional licenses were undoubtedly given for years subsequent to 1834 since Baker was operating a what appears to be a substantial trading house shown on Taliaferro's 1835 plan. Other documents indicate that he built his stone trading post at Camp Coldwater in 1837 (see below).

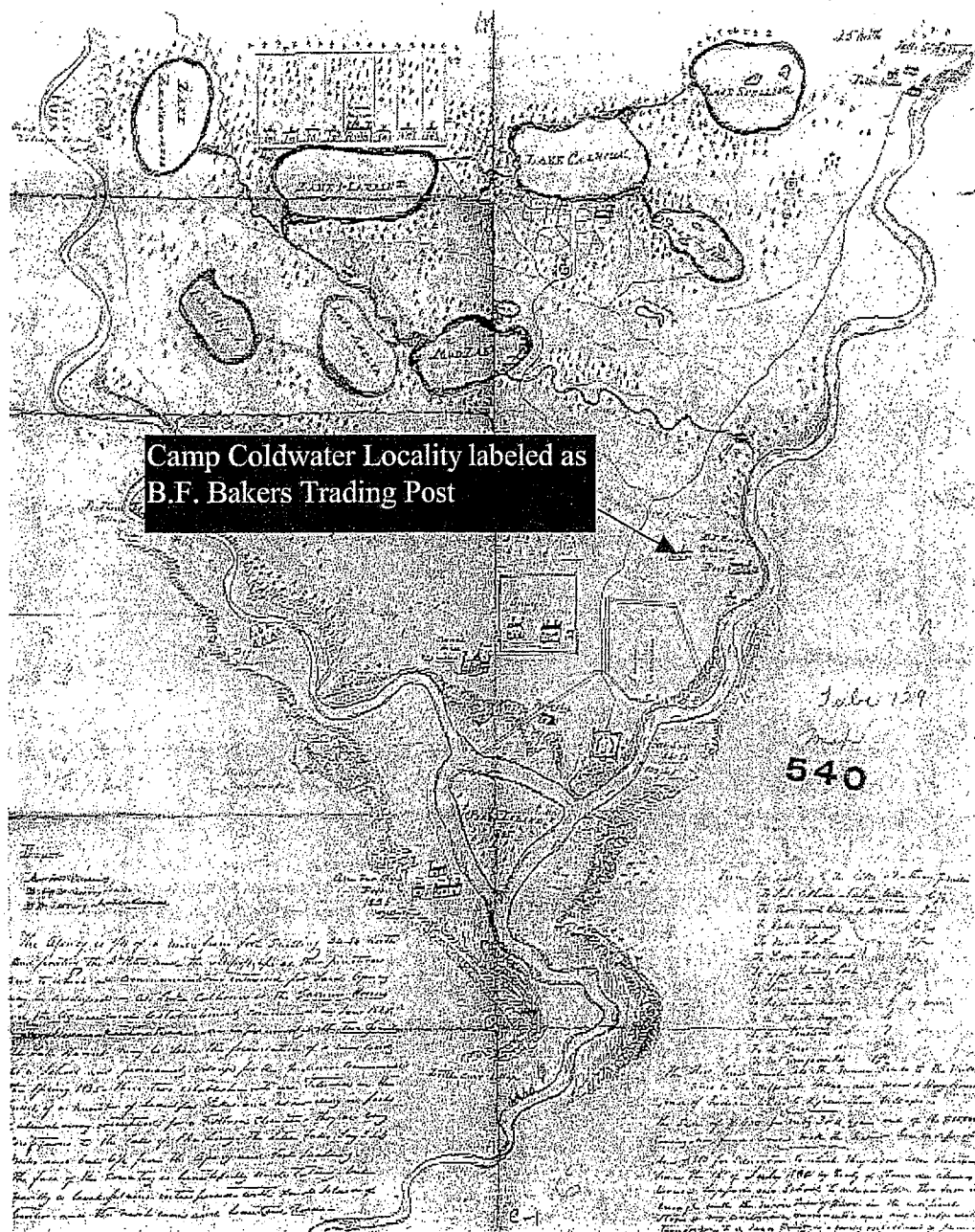


Figure 12 Lawrence Taliaferro 1835 map of Fort Snelling vicinity.

In the summer preceding the ratification of a treaty opening up land east of the Mississippi River, at least some of these squatters on military land sent a letter to President Van Buren hoping to get some remuneration for their improvements they expected to be within the newly defined Fort Snelling military reservation (Folwell 1956:217):

River St. Peter, August 16, 1837

To his Excellency Martin Van Buren, President of the United States

The undersigned citizens of the settlement near Fort Snelling beg leave to make known to you the interest they feel in the contemplated purchase of the Sioux lands in this vicinity. In 1804 [1805] a

treaty was made by General Pike with the Sioux Indians, under which he purchased a certain portion of their country, extending from the falls of St. Anthony to the mouth of St. Peters river, and the prevailing opinion has been, until very recently, that this treaty had received the sanction of government. It was under this impression that the undersigned settled upon the lands they now occupy as part of the public domain. They were permitted to make improvements and retain unmolested possession of them for many years by the commanding officer of the post and the other officers of the government employed here [e.g. the Indian Agent], who believed the land belonged to the United States, and that the settlers were only exercising the privileges extended to them by the benign and salutary laws which have peopled the western country with a hardy, industrious, and enterprising class of citizens.

The undersigned will further state that they have erected houses and cultivated fields at their present places of residence, and several of them have large families of children who have known no other homes. All the labor of years is invested in their present habitations, and they therefore appeal to the President and Senate of the United States for protection. If a treaty should be made at Washington, as we have heard suggested, and the lands we now occupy be purchased from the Sioux for a "military reservation," we ask that a reasonable and just allowance be made us in the treaty for our improvements. We have no other homes, but will interpose no objection to the purchase of them if the public interests require it. All we ask is justice at the hands of our government, and of the Sioux Indians, who gave their sanction to our present occupancy, and have always found a friendly resting-place at our firesides.

We very respectfully submit this humble memorial to your excellency by our friend Colonel Samuel C. Stambaugh, who is duly authorized and empowered to act for us at any negotiation between the government of the United States and the Sioux nation. Knowing him, from sufficient reasons, to be anxious to preserve a proper feeling between the government, the Indians, and their relatives and friends, we most unhesitatingly invest him with full and entire power to act for us and in our names in all things as if we were personally present, pledging ourselves to rest satisfied with what he may do on our behalf. We also beg leave to refer your excellency to Governor Dodge for the truth and justice of our statements and our claims, and likewise to Major Taliaferro, agent of Indian affairs, who is acquainted with all the facts connected with our settlement upon the lands we now occupy.

All of which we respectfully submit. (signed) Duncan Graham

Louis Massey	Antoine Pappan	Joseph Bisson	(all signed with their mark)
Abraham Perry	Jacob Falstrom	Joseph Reasch	
Peter Quinn	Oliver Cratte	Lewis Dergulee	

Signed in presence of—

A.H. Dappru	G.N. Reed
D. Graham	A. Robertson

Witnesses to signatures of all the inhabitants having improvement on military reserve not Indian traders.

A follow-up memorandum from S. B. Stambaugh reads:

September, 1837

Memorandum

The persons who sign the above memorial reside in the St. Peters settlement, about half a mile from the fort. They are the only individuals having houses and improvements on the west side of the Mississippi river, with the exception of Mr. Baker, whose principal trading establishment is in this settlement. No others can be affected by a purchase of land necessary for a military reserve. (House of Representatives 1868:15-16)

On August 20, 1837 Major James Plympton arrived at Fort Snelling as the new commanding officer. Plympton set out to establish boundaries of the proposed reservation as well as to address the issue of individual settlements within the existing military land grant arranged by

Pike as well as within the proposed military reservation. Shortly after his arrival, Plympton ordered Lt. Ephram K. Smith to make a map of the area in and around the fort with special attention apparently to be paid to White inhabitants living in the vicinity. The 1837 Smith map (shown on the report cover; see also Figures 2 and 6) provides one of the most reliable sources of detailed information that is currently available on the early use of and development in the Camp Coldwater area. Smith's correspondence accompanying the map reads as follows:

Fort Snelling, October 19, 1837

Sir:

Enclosed with this you will find the map which you directed me to prepare. It includes all the habitations between the canal below Pike's Island and Brown's Falls creek, with the principal features of the ground topographically displayed.

The white inhabitants in the vicinity of the fort, as near as I could ascertain, are: 82 in Baker's settlement, around Camp Coldwater and at Massey's landing. On the opposite side, 25 at the fur company's establishment, including T[F]errebault's and Le Clerc's, 50. Making a total of 157 souls in no way connected with the military.

This population possess and keep on the public lands, in the immediate neighborhood, nearly 200 horses and cattle. I am inclined to believe that this estimate will fall short of the actual number. (House of Representatives 1868:16)

The more than 20 buildings depicted in Smith's 1837 map formed the essence of a community that included blacksmith's shops, hotels, homes, farms, outbuildings, fenced lots and a fur trading house and associated facilities (see Figure 2). Some of the inhabitants were employees of the fur trader Benjamin F. Baker, and at least one family (Pepin) served as the blacksmith for the Indian agency. Some of these earliest residents came to the Camp Coldwater Locality beginning in the early 1820s as refugees from the failing Selkirk colony. Other inhabitants of the Locality may have been camp followers, spouses of enlisted personnel, entrepreneurs and/or discharged soldiers. These "squatters" were ordered to leave the military reservation in 1838 but some remained until at least 1841. A list of families with names and ages of each individual living there was documented by Bishop Loras from the Dubuque Archdiocese when he arrived at Fort Snelling in 1839 to conduct baptisms and marriages for local residents. These lists, assembled by Mike Sexton (n.d.), from the Bishop Loras Baptismal Register and Bruce and Helen White (2000) from the Loras Register, ledgers, and various census records provide a wealth of information on the makeup of families at Camp Coldwater as well as in the surrounding region. The lists vary in the specific number of inhabitants but include a minimum of 10 families, some with as many as 8 individuals; ranging in age from a newborn. to 60.

We get some additional information about the area and its occupants and the military perspective on the settlement in a follow-up letter to Smith's report. In a Plympton transmittal letter to Washington, he provides the basis by which Smith's work was done and his interpretation of the effect of the squatter inhabitants on the military. However, the contradictory and incomplete descriptions in the available documentation suggest that answers to some of our questions about this area may only be found in the archaeological record.

Headquarters, Fort Snelling
Upper Mississippi, October 19, 186[3]7

Sir:

On the 11th ultimo I had the honor of addressing you upon the subject touching the individual settlements made and being made on land which I have supposed, since the summer of 1819, to be recognized by the government to be held for military purposes alone; but, on my arrival here last August, I found much of this ground occupied by individuals not connected with the military department, which you will find indicated on the enclosed map, which I directed Lieutenant Smith to make from an actual survey, and which, from its topographical correctness and neatness, entitles him to much credit.

I instructed Lieutenant Smith, while surveying, to ascertain as nearly as possible the population and the number of cattle belonging thereto; and, as the most ready mode of conveying this intelligence to the department, I enclose his accompanying letter.

Many of the buildings marked on the map are stone and lime, intended, evidently, for permanent residences and business.

The means I have used since my arrival here to inform myself by what authority these settlements have been made having failed, induced me to adopt the course I have taken as one called for in my official capacity.

Baker's settlement, at Camp Coldwater, is upon ground formerly cultivated by the military, and I suppose it may be superfluous for me to remark here, for the information of the department, that the sparseness of timber within the space supposed to be embraced in Pike's treaty does now cause much labor and inconvenience to the garrison to obtain the necessary fuel, and should this point be required for the next 20 years for military purposes the difficulty will be great, and very much increased, by those settlements in obtaining the article of fuel, independent of the trouble to the government and its officers growing out of individual claims.

I should have directed a more extended topographical survey to have been made at this time of the county which I supposed belonged to this post, but from the supposition that the government was already minutely informed upon this point, although I have not been successful in obtaining information of this fact from any record or document in the offices of this post; hence I respectfully ask and wit to be advised on the subject. (House of Representatives 1868:16-17) (emphasis added)

However, an excerpt from a letter from Plympton to Adjutant General R. Jones on December 4, 1839 contradicts a statement he made only two years earlier about the types of structures existing in the Camp Coldwater area:

Allow me further to remark, that the buildings at Camp Cold Water, of Mr. Baker's, are of considerable value; all others at that point may be considered of little value, and are temporary log cabins, generally in a state of rapid decay. (House of Representatives 1868:33) (emphasis added)

In his reply to Plympton's letter, Major General Macomb commended Smith for his map-making skills and asked Plympton to provide a map that shows what he felt would be necessary to be reserved for military purposes. This resulted in the 1838 Smith map (see Figure 13) with proposed reservation boundaries. Because of continuing difficulties with individuals squatting on government land, especially in anticipation of land becoming available for settlement on the east side of the river following the negotiation of a treaty in 1837, Plympton issued Post Order No. 65 on July 26, 1838 to place restrictions on non-military occupants living on the reservation:

I. The undersigned having, in obedience to instructions received from the War Department, marked out a reservation for military purposes at this post, hereby forewarns all persons not attached to the military from erecting any building or buildings, fence or fences, or cutting timber for any but for public

use, within said line, which has been surveyed and forwarded to the War Department subject to the final decision thereof.

II. The undersigned also forewarns and forbids all persons, whether in public or private stations, against the erection or doing anything as contained in the first paragraph of this order, for private or individual interest, directly or indirectly, within the said military reserved lines, unless special permission to do so be given by the War Department.

III. It is hereby published for all concerned, that the military commander is in the immediate command of the section of the country thus marked out for military purposes at this post, so far, particularly, as relates to individuals further incumbering the ground with buildings or fences or destroying the timber thereon.

J. Plympton, Major United States Army, Commanding Post (House of Representatives 1868:18)

Although Plympton had issued orders to stop new construction and depletion of resources in the proposed military reservation in general, the following excerpt from his transmittal letter to his superiors in Washington, further explains his actions:

Headquarters Fort Snelling, July 30, 1838

Sir:

I take the liberty to enclose to you herewith a copy of an order which I deemed necessary to publish to protect the land which has been marked out as a military reservation at this post against encroachments, which were every day forcing themselves upon my notice.

Without interfering with the property of any individual, I shall strictly enforce my order till the pleasure of the department shall be known upon the subject, presuming that my duty to the public and the spirit of my instruction call for such a course.

My order must, as a matter of right, more particularly allude to person urging themselves within the line at this time, than to those who I found on my arrival here last summer settled down near the fort. The authority for these settlements being made, I have to presume, is to be found or is known at the department, although I have not been successful in finding any record of it in the office of this post. (House of Representatives 1868:18) (emphasis added)

The Thompson map of October-November 1839 (Figure 14) further clarifies the boundary drawn on the Smith 1838 map. Additionally it provides us with some indication of the extent of areas under cultivation or fenced for pasture, but the large scale of the map limits detail in the Camp Coldwater vicinity.

Still later, on April 16, 1841, a letter from Adjutant General R. Jones to the Secretary of War attempts the resolution of an issue of ownership on the military reservation and the use of what appears to be the most substantial structure shown on maps in the vicinity of the spring. This structure is variously labeled as the "B.F. Baker Trading Post" and "hotel" and the following discussion helps clarify for us an issue related to the existence of one of the persisting structures shown on various maps of the Fort Snelling area:

April 16, 1841

Sir:

I have considered the letter addressed to you by Inspector General Croghan under date of 14 instant, recommending a purchase by the United States of a stone house erected by the late Mr. Baker, within the military reservation at Fort Snelling, that it be then turned over to the Indian department as the agency house, or if no change should be judged advisable by the department, that it be then given to the

council of administration of the post to be rented by the council as a hotel, and have the honor, in compliance with your endorsement thereon, to report that unless purchased for the Indian department I would not advise the purchase. The building appears to be a costly one, valued at \$6,000, and if rented by the council for the purpose indicated, it would increase in time, most probably give rise to as many complaints of interfering with the police of the garrison as if permitted to be rented by Baker's representatives. It appears that Major Plympton was instructed by the War Department on the 17th of October last, that the representations of December 7, that he did not think that the building could be of any possible use to the post, but, on the contrary, that the post would be improved by clearing the ground of these buildings and making indemnity therefor [sic]. (House of Representatives 1868)

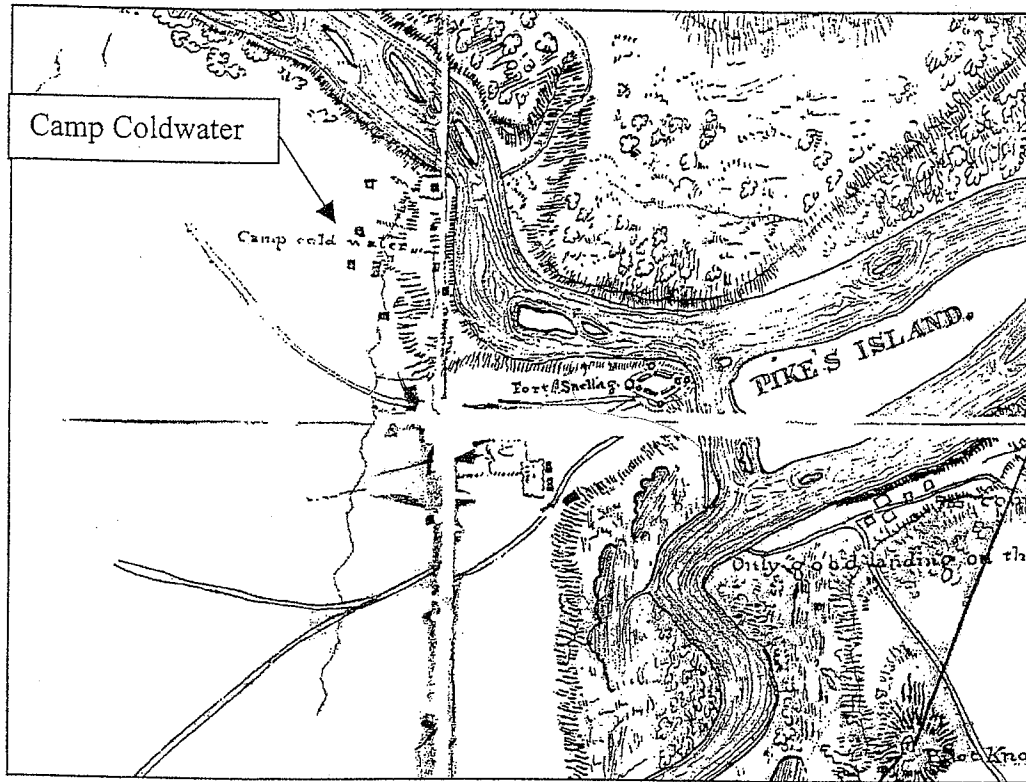


Figure 13 Portion of the 1838 E.K. Smith map of the proposed Fort Snelling military reservation showing extent of development at "Camp cold water."

Despite repeated warnings for eviction and the threat of building demolition, the structures in the CCL were still standing when P. Ames Colby recorded the extent of development and geographic landmarks within the reserve in late-1841 or early-1842 (NARG 77). By a strange coincidence, the map shown as Figure 15 arrived in the mail to a colleague only the day before the completion of a draft of this document. Because it is the only known map of the area from the decade of the 1840s, and because it contains information about potential dates of some of the occupations of the Locality, it is incorporated in this report for reference purposes. While there is some disagreement among historians, most occupants of the Camp Coldwater area were still living in the area in late 1841 or early 1842, but were apparently finally gone by early in 1842.

In attempting to resolve issues of land and property value for the impending sale of the military reservation in the late-1850s, a report was written by Major Seth Eastman and William Kink Heiskill on June 10, 1857. In assessing improvements made by Franklin Steele, prospective buyer of the reservation, additional information about Baker's development comes forth. An excerpt from that report reads:

There is a large and valuable stone building with a frame addition, making an extensive house, which has been furnished and used as a hotel, which could not have cost less than \$15,000. The stone part was built in 1837, by a Mr. Baker, afterwards sutler at Fort Snelling. It was sold to Kenneth McKenzie, esq., who, in 1853, put on the extensive addition alluded to, put the entire building in good order, and furnished it for a house of accommodation. Mr. Steele having arranged with Mr. Kenneth McKenzie for this property, and secured the government from all claims from this source, we are positive, therefore, in saying that Mr. Steele is the only claimant to the improvements upon the same [hotel] made by citizens. (House of Representatives 1868:90)

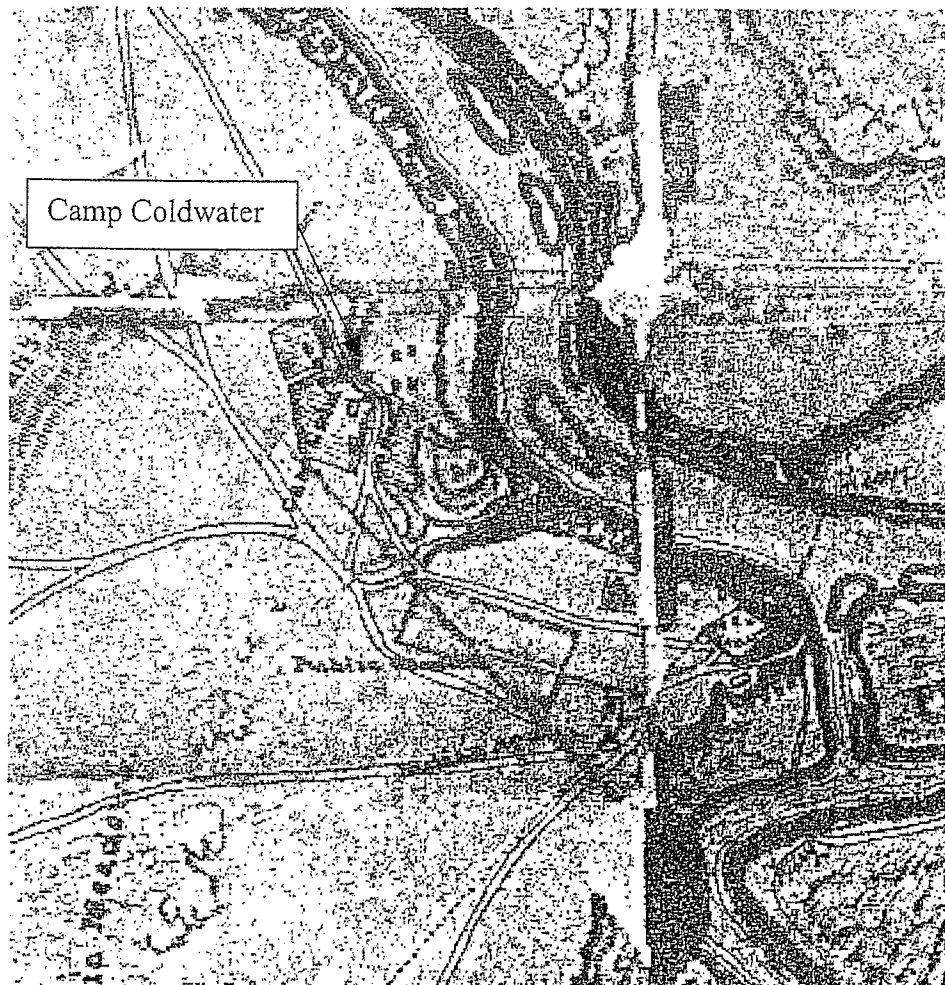


Figure 14 Detail of the 1839 Thompson map of the proposed military reservation.

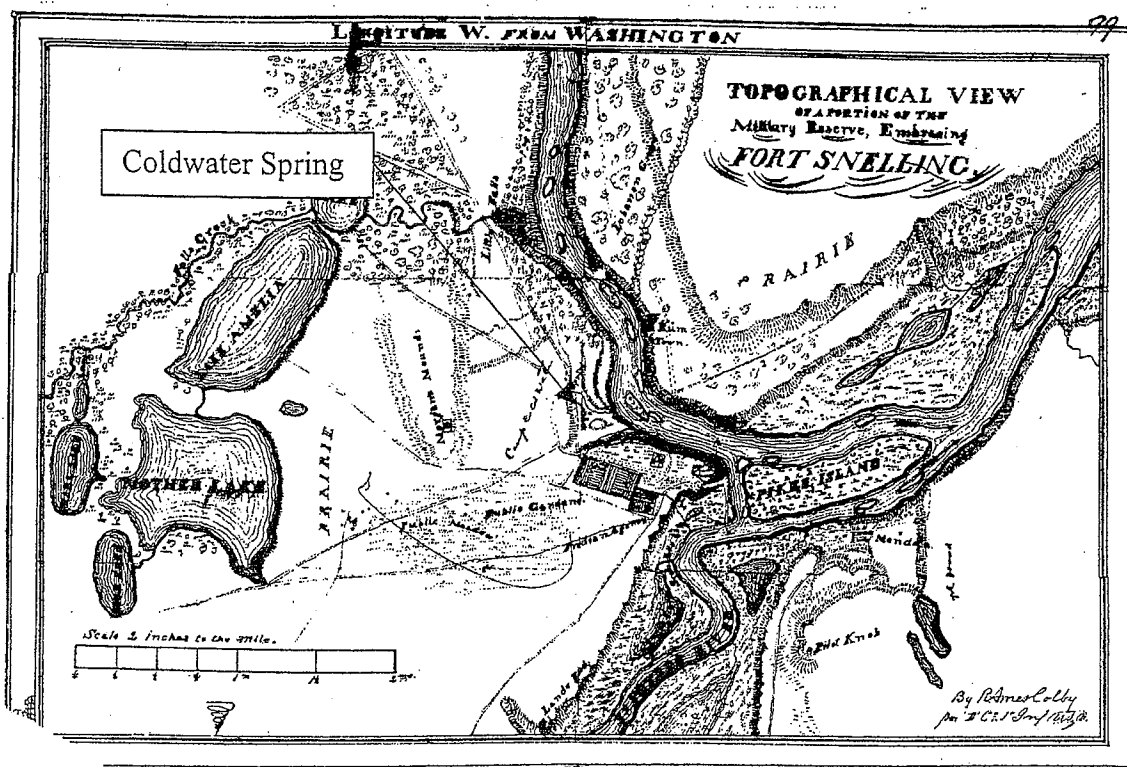


Figure 15 P. Ames Colby map of Fort Snelling drawn in 1841-42.

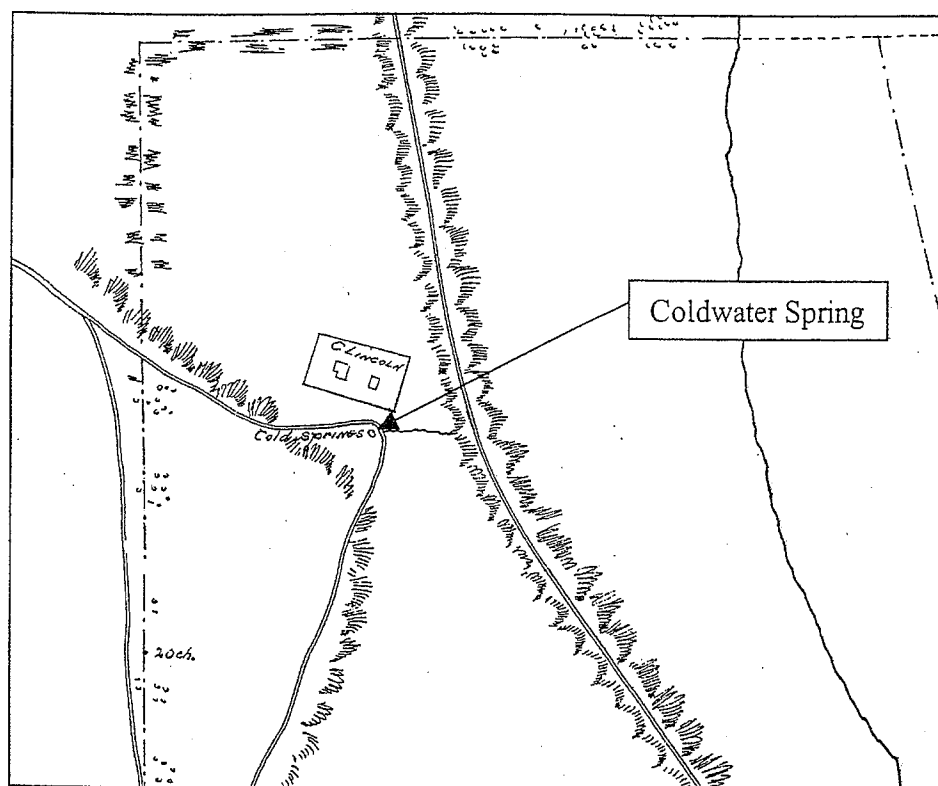


Figure 16 Detail of a ca. 1870 plan of Fort Snelling.

The removal of squatters from around the spring did not end the use of the Camp Coldwater Locality. Because the water supply at Fort Snelling was unable to consistently meet the needs of the fort's occupants, the spring continued to be used as a water source for the military post. Water was carried to the fort by water wagon over a haul road along the edge of the bluff until well after the Civil War.

In a plan dating to approximately 1870 (NARG 92), a single individual's name and property, C. Lincoln, is shown in the area of the Coldwater spring (Figure 16). It is uncertain if this represents the reuse of an earlier structure (possibly Baker's trading post or McKenzie's hotel) or if it is the result of new construction. Information is not currently available about the individual listed as C. Lincoln.

To provide a source of water for the expanding military post during construction of the Department of the Dakota facilities in 1879-1880, the military undertook the development of a waterworks in the Coldwater Locality. The reason for their construction is obvious as the facility was built to provide fresh water to the "New Post" that began to expand during the same period (1879-1885). Information in the *Fort Snelling Building Record* and in various maps and plans of the fort document that three structures were constructed in 1879-80: H-1 the pump house and fuel storage shed, H-2 water tower, and H-3 the engineer's residence (Figure 17). The first time these structures appear in a map is in an 1882-83 plan of the fort (Figure 18). The system functioned with pumps that drew water from the reservoir, pumped it to the water tower that provided the necessary pressure for the system to function. The pump house structure was a frame one with a stone foundation and was furnished with three pumps driven by a coal-fired engine. The main structure was 41 x 26 feet, containing an engine room and boiler room with "wings" that included a coal shed and wood sheds that measured approximately 12 x 84 feet. The placement of the structure on historic plans indicates that it was situated to the west of the reservoir and is apparently west of the disturbance created by the construction of BOM Building 4. The area is so wet from seepage at the base of the uppermost terrace in this area that no excavations could be conducted to document any archaeological remains.

The water tank was built with a circular stone base and a wooden tank. For a while the tower was fitted with an exterior circular staircase and a "widow's walk" on the top of the tank for viewing out over the prairie. In 1920 the wooden tank was removed and a new low conical roof was installed on the stone water tower base. The photograph (Figure 20), apparently taken about 1905, also documents an additional wooden water tank built on steel supports in 1900 that served to increase the water pressure to the new fort complex. This second tank was demolished in November 1920 at the same time and after removal of the tank, a new low conical roof was placed on the stone water tower base. The brick engineer's house was still in existence at the time BOM development was initiated in the 1950s. Its date of demolition is currently unknown.

Building H-3, the engineer's house, a wooden structure with stone foundation, apparently burned in 1898. Following the conflagration that consumed most of building H-3, a photograph (Figure 20) was taken of the complex showing the replacement engineer's house built in 1899. It was rebuilt in brick near the south end of the waterworks complex using the

same building number as the original house, but was renumbered as building 252 in the 1930s. The later house measured 21.5 x 30 feet with a front porch. The photograph (Figure 20), apparently taken about 1905, also documents an additional wooden water tank built on steel supports in 1900 that served to increase the water pressure to the new fort complex. This second tank was demolished in November 1920 at the same time that a new low conical roof was placed on the stone water tower base following removal of the tank. The brick engineer's house was still in existence at the time BOM development was initiated in the 1950s. Its date of demolition is currently unknown.

Based on maps and photographs, it is thought that the current configuration of the reservoir at Coldwater spring was constructed at the same time as the remainder of the waterworks facility. The reservoir is irregularly configured with a curved wall through the pond that appears to provide a settling pond on the water entry side (north) which then overflows into a area to the south through lowered surfaces in the upper surface of the wall. A small limestone springhouse in the north west corner of the reservoir served as an entry point for water into the reservoir. Today, much of the water bypasses the house and flows directly out of the base of the sloping terrain. The date of construction of the current springhouse is unknown, but is present by at least 1880.

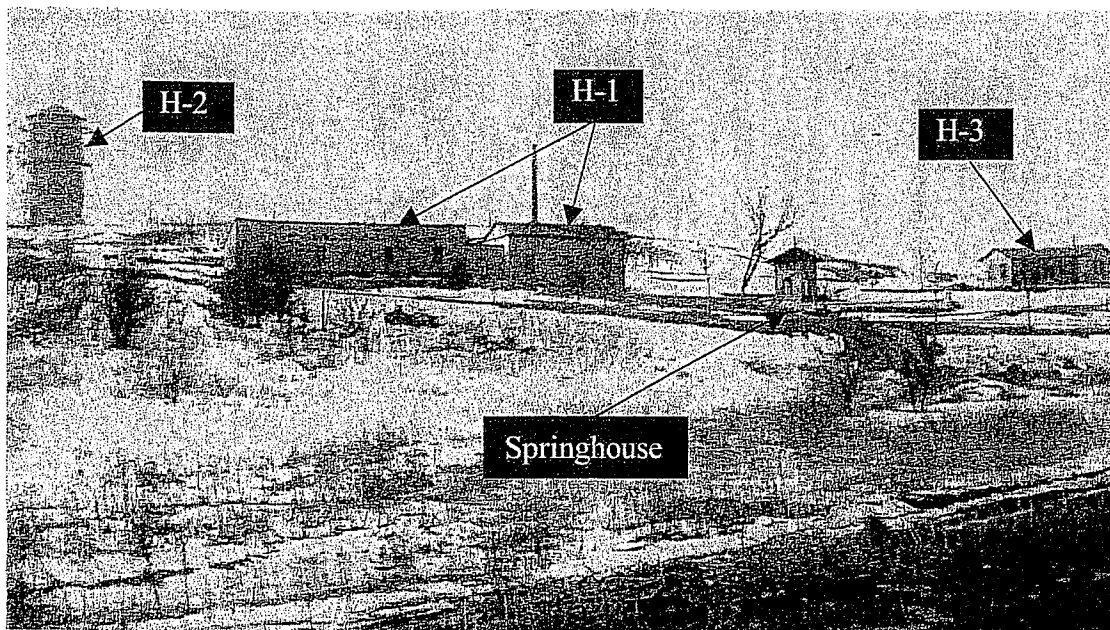


Figure 17 New waterworks complex at Camp Coldwater (looking northwest), ca. 1880, with building number references added. H-1 pump house and fuel shed, H-2 water tank, and H-3 engineer's house.

A somewhat later plan produced in 1912 (Figure 21) is the last known to have been drafted before most of the complex was demolished in 1920 (*Fort Snelling Building Record*, MHS Archives). Structure (H-2) appears in a number of later photographs of the fort and is labeled as "mystery tower" in Ollendorf's 1996 report.

By 1904, water from the Camp Coldwater waterworks was supplemented with water pumped from an artesian well at the base of the bluff along the Minnesota River. According to *the Fort Snelling Building Record*, most of the Coldwater waterworks, save the stone water tower base, was demolished in 1920 and the Minnesota River pumping station was abandoned in 1930 when the fort began contracting for water from the City of St. Paul. Consistent with the addition of various other recreational facilities in the 1920s and 1930s, the area around the reservoir in the Camp Coldwater Locality, was left as open space and is labeled as Coldwater Park in a 1927 (Figure 11) and in 1930s-era maps.

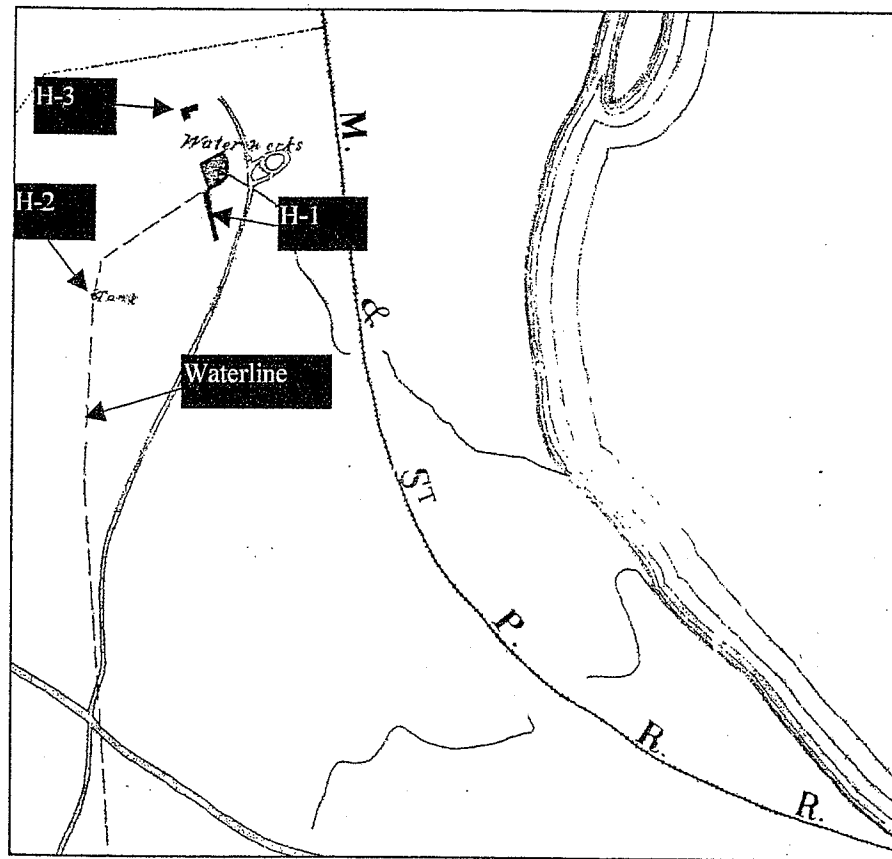


Figure 18 Detail of a ca.1882-83 plan of Fort Snelling.

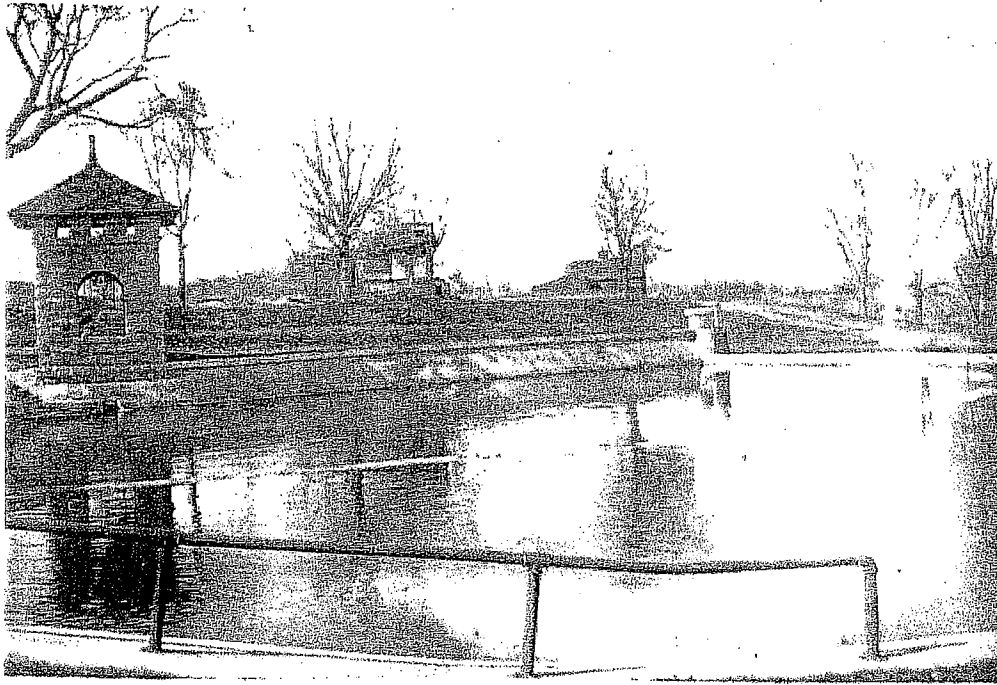


Figure 19 Ca. 1898 photo (looking north) of reservoir and partially burned engineer's house in near background.

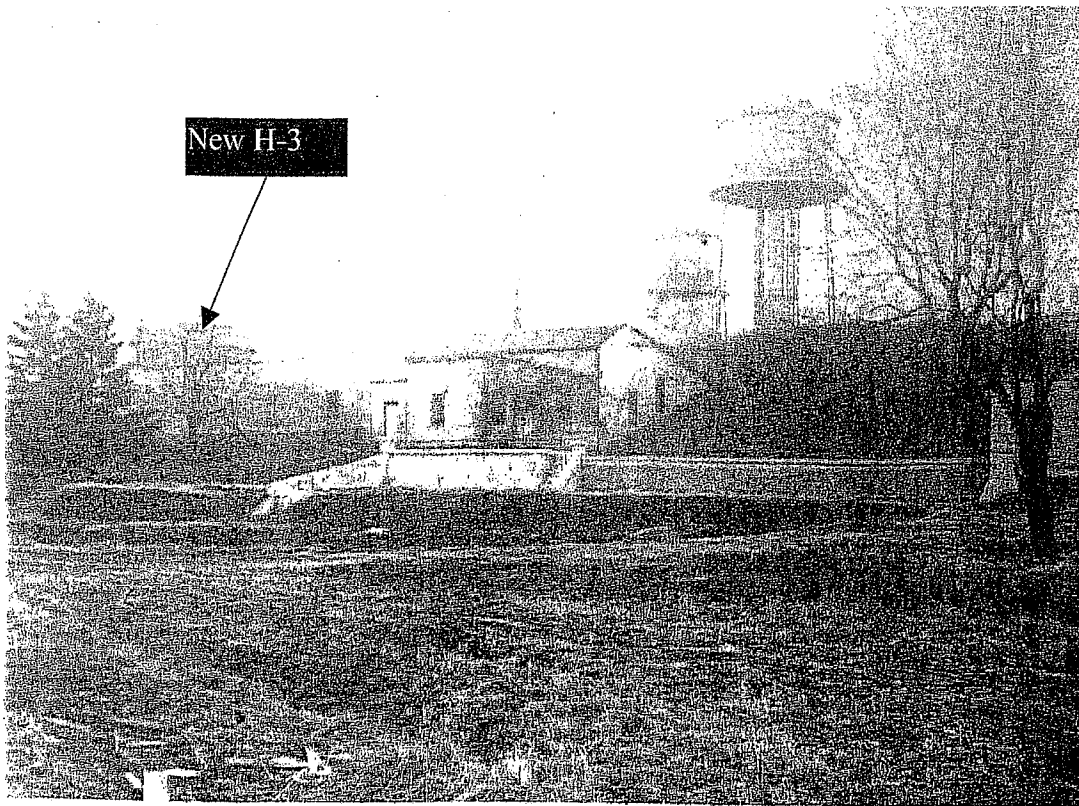


Figure 20 Post-1899, but likely 1905, photograph of water works complex following construction of new brick engineer's house (H-3).

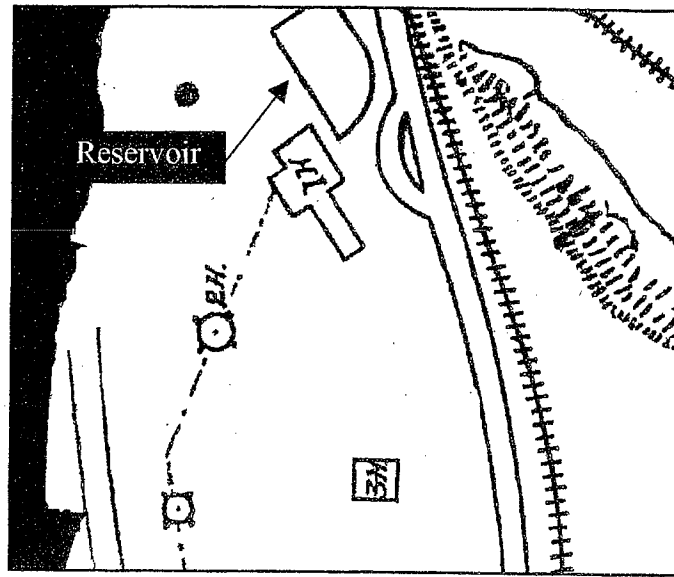


Figure 21 Map showing detail of waterworks buildings at Camp Coldwater in 1912 Plan.

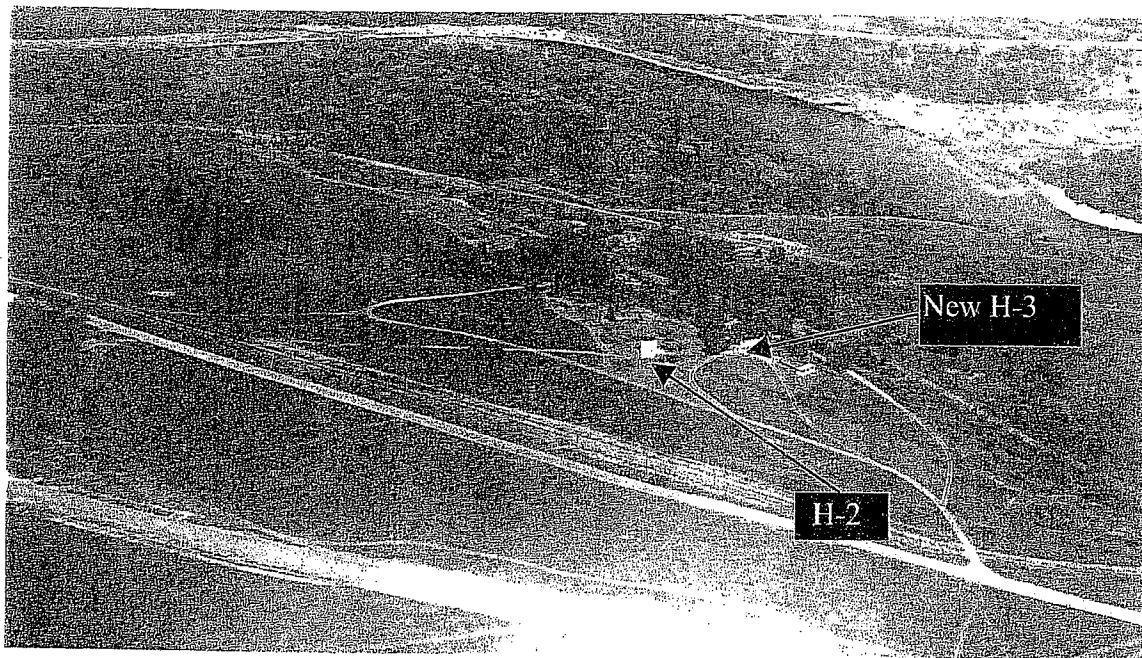


Figure 22 1935 aerial photo of Camp Coldwater Locality looking northeast. Mississippi River is in background.

The BOM tract has seen significant development activity over the last 50 years. This most recent development included the construction of nearly a dozen major buildings, some minor facilities, roadways and extensive parking lots for service as a research and office complex for the former U.S. Bureau of Mines (Figures 23-25). Two plans discovered by the author in the

BOM archives in Building 1 at the Twin Cities facility are valuable in helping us understand the extent of BOM development and its impact on the landscape that existed prior to constructing the BOM facility.

The first of these plans is a detailed, but undated 1 foot contour topographic map that appears to have been made by, or taken from a plan drawn by WPA work crews that served at Fort Snelling in the late 1930s (Figure 23). This plan provides us with a detailed look at the terrain before land-altering activities took place in constructing the BOM facility. The second document (Figure 24), is the proposed grading plan for the construction of Buildings 1, 2, 3 and associated roads and parking. When the two plans are compared with each other, or even with the evidence in Figure 23 alone, it becomes clear where some cut and fill episodes occurred. No detailed plan like that shown as Figure 24 has been found for the remainder of the BOM property or associated with the construction of any other structures. However, the BOM building layout plan (Figure 24) helps provide some sense of the extent of development that occurred on this tract over the more than 3 score years it was occupied by this federal agency. Basically, the construction of Buildings 1 and 3 resulted in filling to the west of the structures and cutting to the east. More detail is presented below on how this is reflected in the stratigraphy documented in the recent archaeological test excavations in this area. Other structures constructed at the facility required much less preparation to build.

The one thing that plans and historic photographs make clear is that there has been such a large degree of filling in much of the area in the vicinity of the spring and fill and cut operations in other areas of the BOM tract that one cannot look at the landscape that exists today and determine if cutting, filling or even if any disturbance has occurred without also referencing specific historic documentation. It is also necessary to look at the specifics of archaeologically documented stratigraphy to make a determination of the sequence of actions impacting a specific locale.

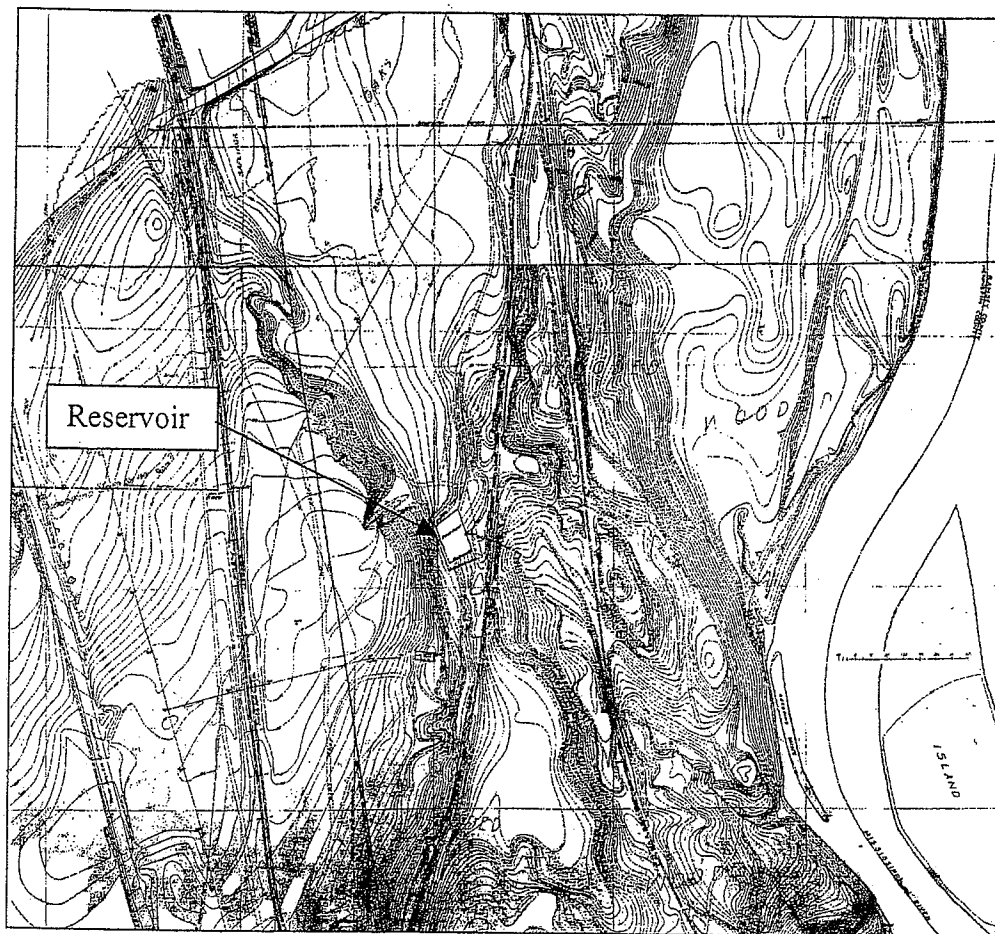


Figure 23 Topographic map of Camp Coldwater Locality, ca. 1938.

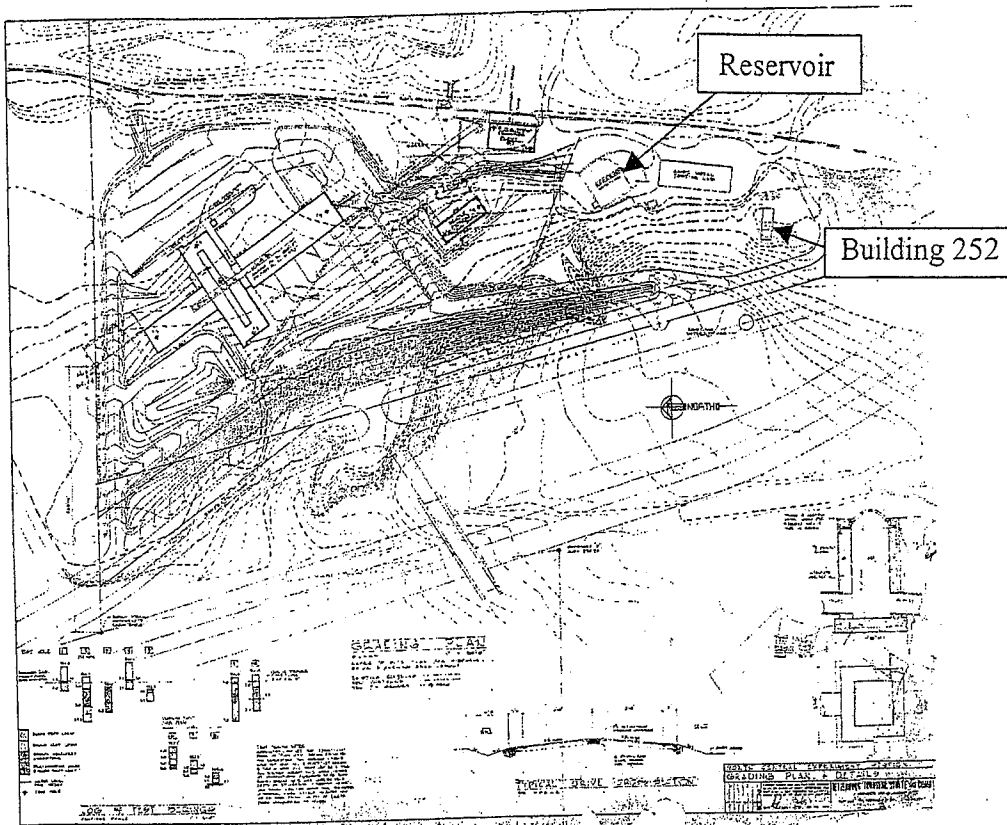


Figure 24 Proposed grading plan for construction of Bureau of Mines Headquarters, ca. 1958. (North is to the left)

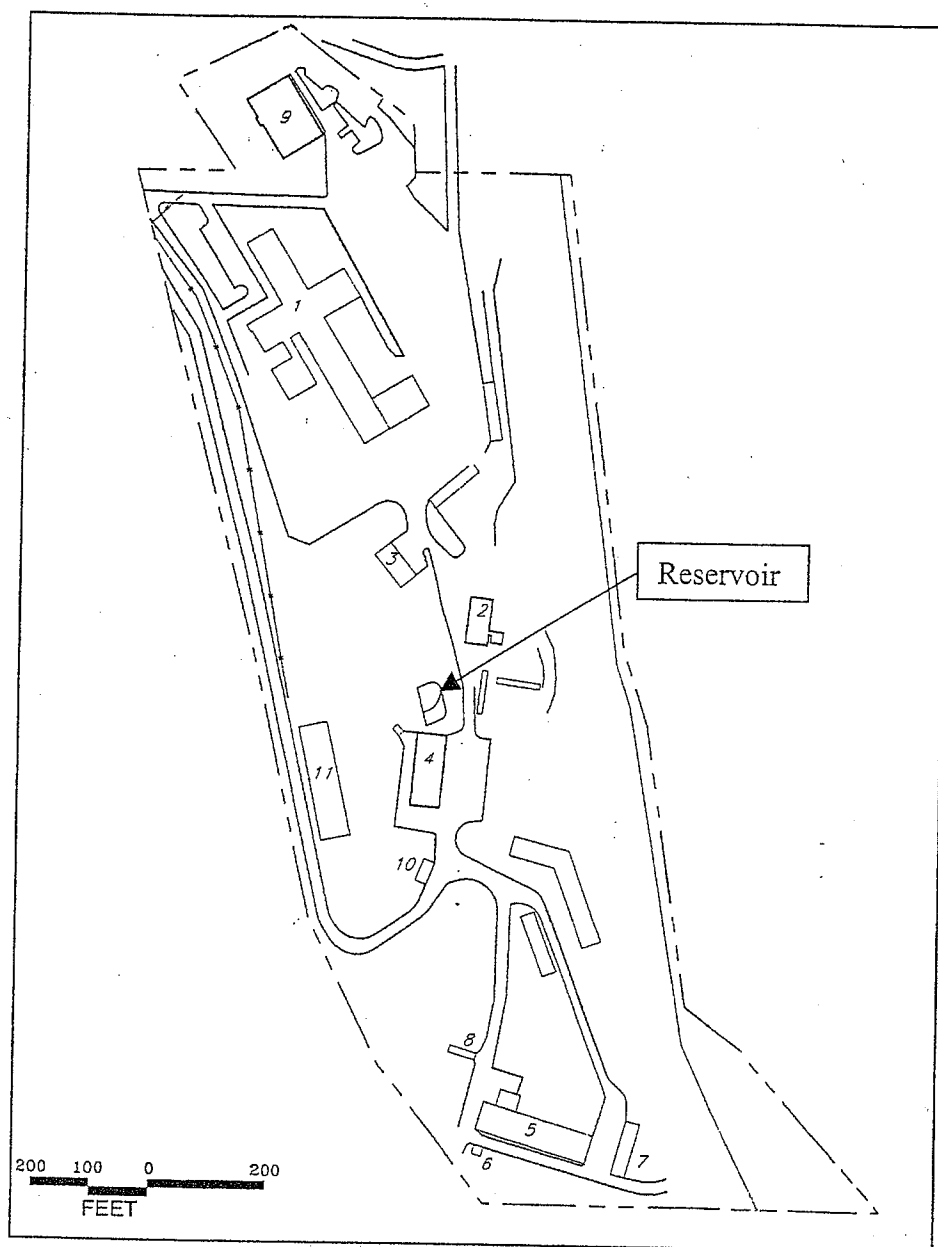


Figure 25 Base plan of Bureau of Mines buildings and property, ca. 1985, with Bureau of Mines building numbers.