

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Original Dedication Date post 2000 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the first dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is currently located at:

Street/Road address or site location Charlotte St near Court St

GPS Coordinates N3708' 25.069" W8824'23.460"

City/Village &/or Township Smithland

County Livingston State KY Zip Code 42081

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address 200 Mero St

City Frankfort State KY Zip Code 40622

Contact Person _____ Telephone (502) 56404890 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Smithland KY
Charlotte St

9-13-2020

N37°08'25.069

W88°24'23.460



COURT ST

W CHARLOTTE ST

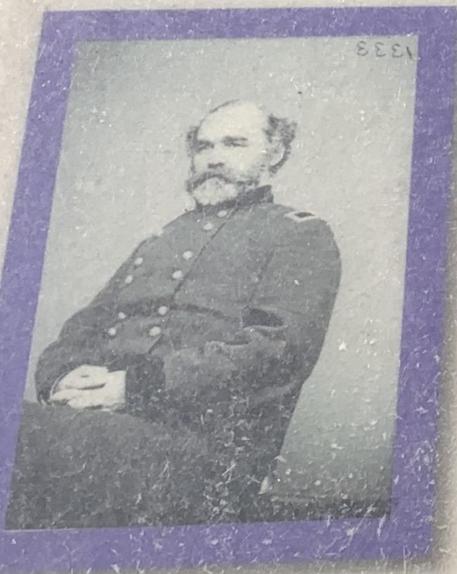
209



Federal Commissary Building



While its location was strategically important, Smithland was a small community at the outbreak of the War. The Federal military presence quickly demanded the construction of buildings to house the many departments that supported the operations of a large force – and Smithland was an essential part of the support for Union operations in the lower South. This building was constructed in March 1863 for use as a warehouse by Federal forces in Smithland, specifically for the Commissary Department. The Commissary Department was responsible for feeding the Army.



An anonymous commissary officer in 1863 described the soldiers' rations . . .

... the regulations provide that each man shall be entitled to a certain fixed amount daily, which amount is designated "a ration." Rations consist of beef, salt and fresh, pork, bacon, flour, pilot or hard bread, cornmeal, coffee, sugar, beans, peas, rice, hominy, molasses, vinegar, soap, candles, and desiccated vegetables. The latter are usually potatoes, cut, scalded, dried, and put up in barrels. When thus prepared they have very much the appearance of coarse cornmeal, and are used as a preventive of scurvy. Each day's ration-subsistence for one man-in bulk averages 3 pounds in weight. . . . All of these rations, forming the entire subsistence of the army, are under the charge of the Chief Commissary, by whom the corps commissaries are supplied; and these in turn supply the division commissaries, and regimental from brigade officers. The men draw their rations by companies, and they are then divided among the messes. The cost of each ration, including transportation, is about 20 cents.

Montgomery C. Meigs (above) was Quartermaster General of the United States Army with the rank of brigadier general. He served as head of the department, providing the armies in the field with all kinds of supplies, except those with which they ate or fought. His responsibilities also included transportation by railroad, wagon, and ship of both the army and its supplies, including army clothing, camp and garrison equipage, cavalry and artillery horses, fuel, forage, straw, material for bedding, and stationery. His department also oversaw the operations of the Military Telegraph Corps.

All food for the Army was purchased by contract and administering such a large scale operation took a large number of men and a great deal of space for storage, processing, and shipping forward to troops in the field.

The building was also used as a hospital during the War. After the war it was used as a Masonic Hall. The First Baptist Church also met here from 1887-1913.

This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Unlike the Smithland commissary, many Civil War commissaries were little more than a simple tent similar to the commissary in the above photograph.

SITE
15

Interpretive Signs Developed By
The Forrest C. Pogue Public History Institute,
Murray State University

Project Funding Provided By
The Kentucky Transportation
Cabinet, TEA-21 Program





Federal Commissary Building

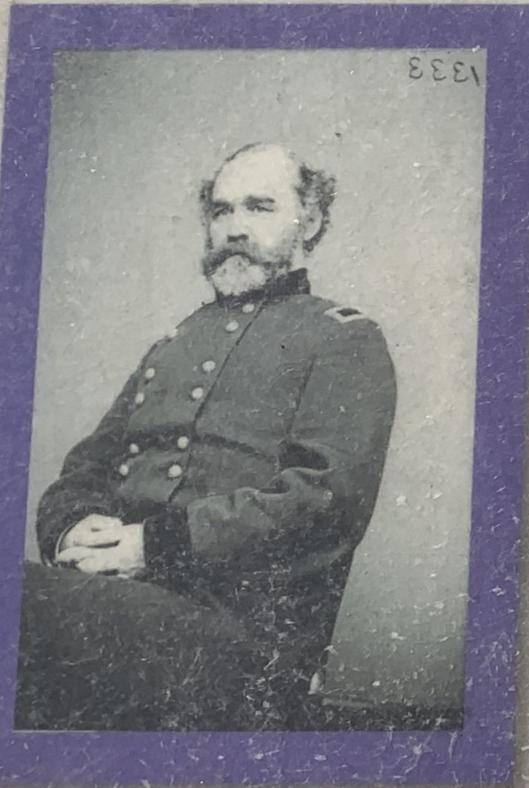


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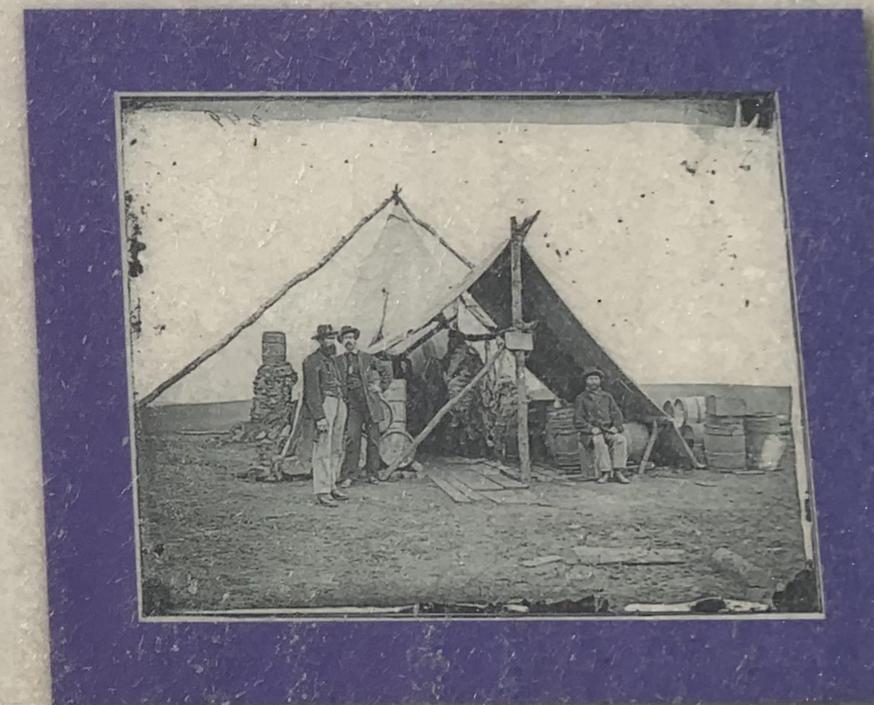
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Montgomery C. Meigs (above) was Quartermaster General of the United States Army with the rank of brigadier general. He served as head of the department, providing the armies in the field with all kinds of supplies, except those with which they ate or fought. His responsibilities also included transportation by railroad, wagon, and ship of both the army and its supplies, including army clothing, camp and garrison equipage, cavalry and artillery horses, fuel, forage, straw, material for bedding, and stationery. His department also oversaw the operations of the Military Telegraph Corps.

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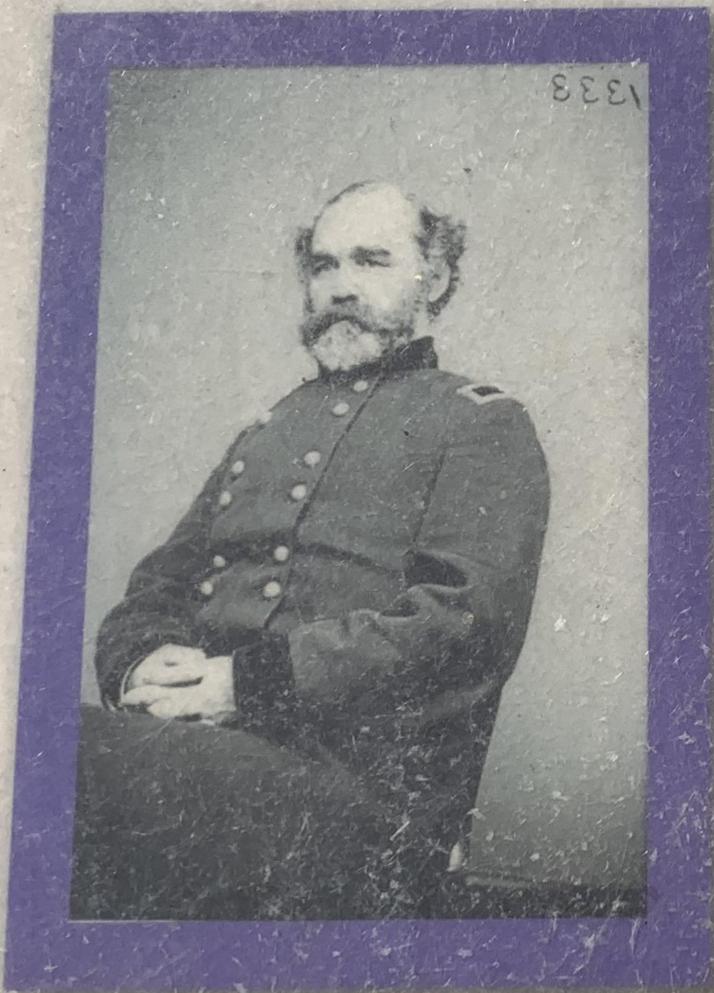


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Federal Commissary Building

(Left Column)
The building was constructed in 1862 as a commissary building for the Federal Army. It was designed by the architect James H. Post. The building was used for the storage of supplies and for the office of the commissary. It was one of the largest buildings of its kind in the South at the time. The building was used for the storage of supplies and for the office of the commissary. It was one of the largest buildings of its kind in the South at the time.



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