



THE CITY RESERVOIR.

In 1887, J. A. Jowett, the City Engineer, prepared the plans and specifications to construct City Reservoir on Kirkpatrick's Hill, the site of Fort Casino during the 1864 Battle of Nashville. Whitsett and Adams won the competitive contract and began construction of Nashville's second reservoir in 1887. The reservoir, completed August 24, 1889, cost \$364,525.21.

The contractor constructed City Reservoir out of cut limestone quarried near the present Rose Park. The squared-stone masonry walls taper from 22.9 feet wide at the bottom to eight feet wide at the top. The walls stand 33 feet, 9 inches high. The interior of the elliptical-shaped reservoir measures 603 feet by 463.4 feet. A center dividing wall separates two basins, each holding approximately 25.5 million gallons.

When the reservoir was first constructed, the City did not have a filtration plant; water treatment consisted of allowing the mud to settle to the bottom of the reservoir basin. The two-compartment reservoir design allowed the west side to function as a settling basin. As mud settled out of the stored water, the clear water at the top of the basin flowed through a channel, or weir, in the cross wall to the east basin. The cleaner, settled water flowed to the community through wooden pipes.

A gatehouse on top of the reservoir houses valves and served as a shelter for the custodian. A nine-foot walkway, with sidewalls, runs around the top of the reservoir.

The City Reservoir, now known as the 8th Avenue Reservoir, is the largest of Metro Water Services' reservoirs with a capacity of 51 million gallons. The National Park Service placed the City Reservoir on the National Register of Historic Places on March 30, 1978.

