



# Defending Fort Smith

Fort Smith was only fired on once during the Civil War. Captured by Union forces in 1863, the city became a safe haven for former slaves and war refugees. Confederates tried unsuccessfully to recapture the city with cannon fire from across the Poteau River. Defending the fort, Union soldiers quickly fired back.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/fosm](http://www.nps.gov/fosm)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE