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Fort Monroe Historic Landscape Inventory, Evaluation, and Recommendations

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Abstract:

This document is an inventory and evaluation of the historic landscape features of Fort Monroe. Fort Monroe is a designated National Historic Landmark and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1966. A Programmatic Agreement for the Closure and Disposal of Fort Monroe, VA has been executed between the US Army, VA SHPO, the Advisory Council, the Commonwealth of VA, the Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority, the NPS, and 27 other stakeholders interested in the preservation of Fort Monroe (signed May 2009). This document serves to meet the requirements of the Programmatic Agreement requiring the Army evaluate their historic landscapes and comply with Sections 110 and 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966).

This report has divided the Fort Monroe landscape into 7 component landscapes based on the built environment and periods of significance: the Fort, Ordnance Yard and School, Ingalls Road, Endicott Batteries, Inter-war and WWII, Recreation and Training, and the Cold War. For each of these component landscapes a development history was written and the existing conditions inventoried. In addition, each component landscape was evaluated for its significance and integrity and a list of character-defining features was compiled. Lastly, management recommendations were made for each of the management zones identified in the Programmatic Agreement to assist in the redevelopment efforts of this significant historic resource.

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Preface

This study was conducted for Fort Monroe, Virginia, under project number 135304, “Survey of Ft Monroe for BRAC Purposes”. Funding was provided by Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) W31XNJ90907990. The Fort Monroe technical monitor was Robert S. Reali, BRAC Environmental Coordinator.

The work was performed by the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch (CN-C) of the Installations Division (CN), Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL). Adam Smith was the CERL Project Manager and lead architectural historian, Megan Weaver Tooker was the lead landscape architect, and Chris Cochran, and Chelsea Pogorelac were interns. Collectively, the team has worked on many cultural landscape studies, including the aforementioned *Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Historic Military Landscapes* (CERL, 2008), the *Historic Landscape Management Plan for the US Military Academy at West Point, NY* (CERL, 2002), *Identification and Analysis of the Historic Built Environment and Viewsheds for the Cadet Zone, US Military Academy at West Point, NY* (CERL, 2003), the *Fort Hamilton, NY: Historic Landscape Inventory* (2000), the *Fort Knox Historic Landscape Context, Inventory and Management* (CERL, 2007), and a *Historic Landscape Inventory for the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC* (CERL, 2009). Special acknowledgement is given to those who assisted with the formation of this report: Robert Reali, Paul Presenza and Robin Mills, Fort Monroe Civil Works, Josh Gillespie at FMFADA, Marc Holma of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and staff at the Casemate Museum. Dr. Christopher White is Chief, CN-C, and Dr. John Bandy is Chief, CN. The Deputy Director of CERL is Dr. Kirankumar V. Topudurti. The Director of CERL is Dr. Ilker R. Adiguzel.

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Unit Conversion Factors

Multiply	By	To Obtain
acres	4,046.873	square meters
degrees Fahrenheit	$(F-32)/1.8$	degrees Celsius
feet	0.3048	meters
gallons (U.S. liquid)	3.785412 E-03	cubic meters
horsepower (550 foot-pounds force per second)	745.6999	watts
inches	0.0254	meters
miles (U.S. statute)	1,609.347	meters
square feet	0.09290304	square meters
square miles	2.589998 E+06	square meters
square yards	0.8361274	square meters
yards	0.9144	meters

1 Methodology

Background

Congress codified the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the most sweeping cultural resources legislation to date in order to provide guidelines and requirements aimed at preserving tangible elements of our past primarily through the creation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Contained in this piece of legislation (Sections 110 and 106) are requirements for Federal agencies to address their cultural resources, defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object. Section 110 requires Federal agencies to inventory and evaluate their cultural resources. Section 106 requires the determination of effect of Federal undertakings on properties deemed eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP.

The Army is in the process of closing Fort Monroe, a designated National Historic Landmark (NHL) since 1960 and listed on the NRHP since 1966, as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 decision. The Section 106 review process includes steps for identifying and evaluating historic properties, assessing the effects of the agency's proposed action on historic properties and, if there is a harmful (adverse) effect, consultation about ways to avoid, reduce or mitigate that harm. Consultation typically results in a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for more complex undertakings, which sets out specific steps for avoiding or reducing harm to historic properties.

Objective

Fort Monroe is located at Old Point Comfort, which is on the tip of the Virginia Peninsula between the Chesapeake Bay and the harbor of Hampton Roads (Figure 1). The harbor is formed by the confluence of the Elizabeth River, the Nansemond River, and the James River.

A Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Closure and Disposal of Fort Monroe, VA has been executed between the US Army, Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority (FMFADA), the National Park Service, and 27 other

stakeholders interested in the preservation of Fort Monroe. Within 18 months of the execution of this PA, the Army has agreed to submit to the Consulting Parties: 1) a final cultural landscape study and, 2) a final viewshed analysis. The viewshed analysis identifies significant viewsheds from and toward the Fort Monroe NHL District. The cultural landscape study examines the physical changes from Fort Monroe's earliest occupation due to man-made and natural forces and chronicle past land uses and identifies significant landscape features and spatial relationships, and other important aspects of the existing and historic landscape at Fort Monroe.

The historic landscape study objectives' are:

1. Complete archival research and write cultural landscape development history.
2. Complete site visits to inventory historic landscapes, landscape areas, and features.
3. Evaluate the identified landscapes and assess their eligibility for the NRHP.
4. Make recommendations to preserve and maintain these historic landscapes.

The scope of this historic landscape study did not include:

1. Writing a historic context since these already had been written by the National Park Service, and others.
2. Create a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database, although future users of this report may do so to aid in management of historic resources.
3. Create rules and regulation regarding the management of historic resources because the regulation of management of these resources is the function of the future landowners..



Figure 1. Location of Fort Monroe, VA.

Approach

Built between 1819 and 1834, Fort Monroe's original mission was to protect the entrance to Hampton Roads and adjacent port cities with its powerful artillery. Built soon after the War of 1812 on Old Point Comfort, the site was the location of several fortifications prior to Army occupation. The strategic location of Fort Monroe was the key to its success in the coastal defense of the United States. Fort Monroe has divided the NHL area into three historic periods: the Federal Period (1819-1860), the National Period (1861-1929), and the Modern Period (1930-1961). Fort Monroe has identified 189 historic resources (113 housing buildings, 60 administrative buildings, 2 support buildings, 3 structures, 9 landscape features, 1 object, and the stone fort and 11 segments).

The cultural landscape analysis examines Fort Monroe in its entirety as well as identifies individual historic landscape areas based on the periods of significance. Fort Monroe and Consulting Parties have identified seven management zones to best comprehensively manage the numerous and diverse resources at Fort Monroe (Figure 2). The proposed Management Zones and their boundaries were selected based upon careful consideration of historic and existing architectural character, current and past land uses, construction periods, and concentration of contributing resources. The zones are: 1) Zone A (West Peninsula), 2) Zone B (East Peninsula), 3) Zone C (North Gate Road/Stilwell Drive), 4) Zone D (McNair, Ingalls, Fenwick Corridors), 5) Zone E (Stone Fort and Moat), and 6) Endicott Batteries. In addition, there are individually eligible historic properties, including the Chapel of the Centurion, Quarters 1, Quarters 17, and the Stone Fort. Preservation and management recommendations will be made for each of these zones.

The cultural landscape analysis report has several sections: the first describes the methodology used for the report; the second discusses the landscape development history of Old Point Comfort and Fort Monroe; the third includes an identification of all historic landscapes and viewsheds and their features; the fourth evaluates these historic resources; and the fifth section includes recommendations for preserving and maintaining the identified resources.

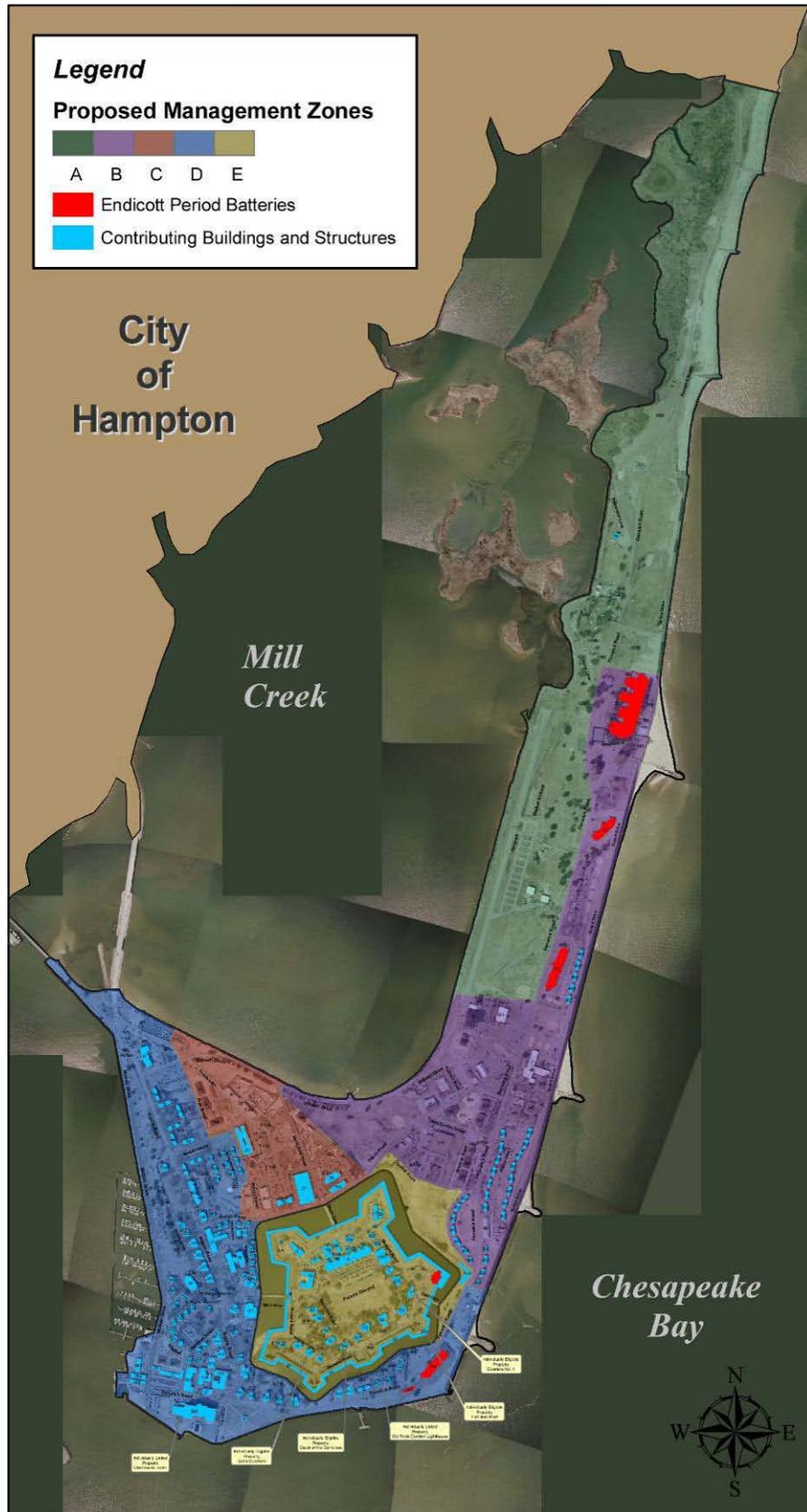


Figure 2. Proposed Management Zones, Fort Monroe, VA.

Archival research

Archival research involves several tasks. The first task is the initial literature review. The second is to identify and locate primary research materials.

Literature review

The CERL research team used secondary literature to determine the general landscape development history of Fort Monroe. This involved reading published and unpublished material found throughout various sources, to including, Robert Arthur's, *History of Fort Monroe*, Richard P. Weinert and Arthur's *Defender of the Chesapeake*, John Paul Graham's *The Architectural Heritage of Fort Monroe: Inventory and documentation of historic structures undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey*, and Fort Monroe documents such as the *ICRMP* and the *HARAM*.

Research material

The CERL research team located primary research materials and additional secondary materials and established a strategy to best utilize these resources. The research team conducted archival visits to Fort Monroe coinciding with the first site visit in June 2009, the National Archives at College Park, MD in June 2009, and the National Archives in Philadelphia, PA. During these visits, researchers collected archival information such as historic photographs, art work, maps, and architectural plans all to be included in the bibliography.

Site visits

Members of the CERL research team completed an initial site visit during the week of June 1, 2009 that coincided with the concurrence signing of the PA by the 27 remaining Consulting Parties or stakeholders. During this visit, the team conducted an initial windshield survey of the installation and began the photo documentation process. In addition, researchers conducted site reconnaissance on foot using photography, sketches, and note taking to construct an overall feeling for Fort Monroe and for the individual buildings and features.

A second site visit took place during the summer 2009 to complete further fieldwork both archival as well as inventorying and photographing the

landscapes and viewsheds. During this second visit a boat trip was necessary to photograph views toward Fort Monroe from the water.

Landscape Development History

After the archival research and initial site visits, the CERL team wrote a brief landscape development history of Fort Monroe from Old Point Comfort's earliest military occupation to the present. This history differs from existing historic context studies because it focuses on the landscape development, including construction and demolition of buildings and structures, manipulation of landforms, circulation (roads, sidewalks, railroad, airfields, boats), and the design and layout of housing and industrial areas. The landscape development of Fort Monroe is chronicled by a series of same-scale historic maps from each time period.

Identification of Resources

Next, the CERL team identified the historic viewsheds and landscapes and their unique characteristics such as vegetation, circulation patterns, and small scale features including monuments, walls and fences. These were found during the archival research and were then compared with the present during site visits. Historic and current photographs, maps, and plans were used to show existing conditions.

Evaluation

The resources identified above were evaluated for significance based on the historic context and themes and a determination of integrity was made. A list of the character-defining features was made (contributing and non-contributing) and a recommendation of eligibility to National Register (if not already included under the NHL) was made. The evaluation will follow guidelines in the *National Register Bulletin #15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, and *National Register Bulletin #16, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, *National Register Bulletin #18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*, *Bulletin #30: Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes*, *Preservation Brief #36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes*, the *National Register Bulletin: How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations*, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, the National Park Service's *Guide to*

Cultural Landscape Reports, and in the Department of Defense guidance, *Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Historic Military Landscapes* (CERL, 2009).¹ To study the views lists of the character-defining features of the viewsheds were made. These lists noted the cumulative loss of features, the alteration and masking of prominent features, and/or the introduction of new features and the resulting effect on the specific view. Additionally, the views were rated high, medium, or low based on their significance in their importance to the history of Fort Monroe, the United States, and Virginia) and their integrity and the ability to convey significance.

Recommendations

General recommendations were made to assist managers in the preservation and maintenance of these historic landscapes. For example the viewshed study evaluates the impacts of construction within the view based on a building's height and mass. Then recommendations were made to mitigate impacts of construction and deconstruction.

Products

As outlined in the Programmatic Agreement for the Closure and Disposal of Fort Monroe, VA, the Army shall, within eighteen (18) months of the execution of the PA, submit a final cultural landscape study and a final viewshed analysis to the Consulting Parties. Prior to the final submission, the Consulting Parties will be provided with each draft for review and comment. The Signatory Parties will receive copies of the final reports and electronic versions will be available to the Consulting Parties.

The goal of these studies will be to guide the future development of Fort Monroe and support such efforts as the re-writing of the National Historic Landmark District and the development of the FMFADA's Preservation Manual and Design Standards.

¹ Also referenced will be the *National Register Bulletin: How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations*, *National Register Bulletin #18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*, *Bulletin #30: Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes*, *Preservation Brief #36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes*, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, and the National Park Service's *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*.

2 Historic Context

The following historic context was adapted from previous contexts written by Fort Monroe and the National Park Service (NPS).² Images and notations were added by CERL. Same-scale maps of Fort Monroe created by the NPS and showing changes in the built environment over time, are included in Appendix A.

Pre-history

The Paleoindian Period (circa 11,000 to 10,000 years ago): Sites of this period are rare in Virginia. These sites are associated with the highly mobile gatherers and hunters of the late Pleistocene and early Holocene. While archaeologists are sure these groups were gatherers and hunters, what they were hunting and gathering in Virginia is still a question. Archaeologists have recovered no direct evidence of Paleoindian subsistence in the Chesapeake Bay region. The current theory is they followed a broad-based approach to subsistence, meaning they did not focus on one type of animal like the bison or the mammoth, as their counterparts did in the western part of North America.³ These groups also appear to have had a strong interest in high quality, lithic material found farther west in the state. During the last ice age the sea level dropped, exposing more of the continental shelf, and land now under the bay was open for settlement. The distribution of Paleoindian sites in the Chesapeake Bay region shows there are no sites near Old Point Comfort and Fort Monroe and no Paleoindian sites have been found at Fort Monroe.⁴

Archaic Period (circa 10,000 to 3,000 years ago): Sometime around 10,000 years ago the Pleistocene ended and the Holocene period began. This event brought with it dramatic environmental change. The flora and fauna changed, as did the landscape itself. Starting about 10,000 years

² National Park Service, *Reconnaissance Study of Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA*, conducted by the Northeast Regional Office for Fort Monroe, VA. May 2008, Graham, John Paul et al., *The Architectural Heritage of Fort Monroe: Inventory and Documentation of Historic Structures Undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey, Volume I and II*, (Washington, D.C.: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Department of the Interior), 1987, and the *Fort Monroe Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan*.

³ Dent, Richard J., Jr., *Chesapeake Prehistory: Old Traditions, New Directions* (New York: Plenum Press, 1995), 128.

⁴ Dent 1995, 108.

ago, the ancient Susquehanna River began to be inundated by water freed from the melting glaciers, creating the Chesapeake Bay. This process took almost the entire Archaic period and ended 3,000 years ago.⁵ While this environmental change did not cause or direct the transformation in the culture of the peoples living in the area, it certainly had a huge effect. The Archaic period is divided into three parts: early, middle, and late. No Archaic Period sites have been found at Fort Monroe.

The Early Archaic (10,000 to 8,000 years ago): The manner in which Early Archaic groups moved across and settled on the landscape is a question for which little information is available in the Chesapeake Bay region. However, it is assumed the system was some combination of large base camps with smaller specialized camps.⁶ The subsistence strategy of the Early Archaic groups was designed to take advantage of the new types of plants and animals entering the region due to the climate changes. Archaeologists have recovered hickory nuts, butternut, acorns, amaranth, and chenopod from sites of this time period.

The Middle Archaic (8,000 to 5,000 years ago): The Middle Archaic peoples used a very similar survival strategy as the groups of the Early Archaic period. One possible change was the adoption of shellfish as a food⁷ source. While there is evidence these groups started to exploit the shellfish of the bay, this effort was nowhere as intensive as it would become later. The settlement system was most likely one that focused on interior wetlands, stream junctions, tributary flood plains and other locations where food resources could be found in large numbers.

The Late Archaic Period (5,000 to 2,000 years ago): In the Chesapeake Bay region two traditions coexisted: a “narrow blade” tradition and a “broad blade” tradition. During the Late Archaic there is evidence for groups having an annual pattern of fusion and fission, groups periodically coming together and then separating again. Sites range from very large multi-band camps through smaller band camps to very small micro-band foraging sites. In matters of subsistence there may be differences between the “narrow blade” and “broad blade” traditions. The narrow blade tradition has a more specialized adaptation to woodland areas along the fall line, while the broad blade tradition seems to have specialized in the area

⁵ Dent 1995, 84-85.

⁶ Dent 1995, 171-2.

⁷ Dent 1995, 186.

of the bay and its emerging estuarine and riparian plant and animals. The types of fauna recovered from Late Archaic sites include oysters, deer, gulf periwinkle, soft-shell clam, raccoon, beaver, and opossum. Floral material recovered includes hickory nuts and acorns.⁸

Woodland Period (circa 3,000 to 400 years ago): Archaeologists divide the Woodland period into early, middle, and late. The major difference between the Archaic period and the Woodland period is the presence of pottery on Woodland sites. The big difference within Woodland sites is only Late Woodland sites show evidence of maize agriculture. It was the groups of the Late Woodland who would encounter the European explorers in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Those encounters would mark the end of the prehistoric period in the Chesapeake Bay area.

The Early Woodland (3,000 to 2,300 years ago): In the Early Woodland, the general theme is that of larger and more permanent camps with specialized support sites. The subsistence was similar to that in the Late Archaic with two exceptions - a more intensive exploitation of shellfish and an increase in the use of seed plants.⁹

The Middle Woodland (2,300 to 1,050 years ago): In the Middle Woodland there was an increase in the exploitation of predictable food resources such as shellfish and anadromous fish runs. There also is evidence of these groups promoting certain plant species to improve their harvest. While these groups were influencing plants, they were not yet farming.¹⁰ There is one archaeological locus with a Middle Woodland component at Fort Monroe which has been deemed not eligible for inclusion to the NRHP.¹¹

The Late Woodland (1,050 to 400 years ago): It was during the Late Woodland that groups adopted true farming from cultures farther south. Along with the adoption of agriculture, large palisade villages developed. During this period, the evidence indicates smaller outlying sites provided supplies and supported large, permanent villages. Like their predecessors

⁸ Dent 1995, 186-7.

⁹ Dent 1995, 231.

¹⁰ Dent 1995, 242-3.

¹¹ Gardener, William M., John P. Mullen, Gwen Hurst and Joan M. Walker. *Phase II Archeological Investigations at Loci 1, 15, 18 and 20 and Phase III Data Recovery at Locus 16, 44HT27, Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia*, (Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Woodstock, Virginia, 2003); Balicki, Joseph, Charles Cheek, Stuart Fiedel, and Dana B. Heck, *Phase I Archaeological Investigations at Fort Monroe and Old Point Comfort (44HT27) Hampton, Virginia*, (John Milner Associates, Alexandria, VA, 1999).

these groups used many available food sources. Wild food remains recovered from sites excavated throughout the Chesapeake Bay region include deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, duck, rabbit, most types of nuts, starchy plants with oily seeds, and tuberous plants. Late Woodland groups had a major difference from their predecessors: they grew and harvested crops. In the Chesapeake Bay region there is evidence for corn, beans, squash, and bottle gourd.¹² Two of the loci at Fort Monroe have Late Woodland components: locus 11 and locus 20 are eligible for the National Register.¹³ At the time of the English entry into Chesapeake Bay, the large village of Kecoughtan was nearby. It was located where the Veteran's Administration Hospital is currently located.

Colonial Period (1607 – 1818)

The Colonial Period was dominated by exploration and settlement of Hampton Roads and the James River region, construction of early fortifications, and development of the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse.

A group from a convoy of English settlers led by Captain Christopher Newport sailed into what they termed “Cape Comfort” and landed on the Point on April 28, 1607, before moving on to settle at Jamestown in the next month. Among those aboard the three ships carrying the settlers was Captain John Smith, who explored the Chesapeake Bay in his famous voyages of 1607-1609, and who became Jamestown Council's third president. In 1609, to protect the entrance to settlements along the James River, the British built Algernourne Fort (Fort Algernon) at Old Point Comfort. It was an earthwork structure with boards “10 hands high.” Sources vary on whether it held a contingent of 25 soldiers with 4 iron pieces or 40 soldiers with 7 pieces of artillery. Fort Algernon burned in 1612 (Figure 3).

¹² Dent 1995, 251-254.

¹³ Gardner et al.; Balicki et al.

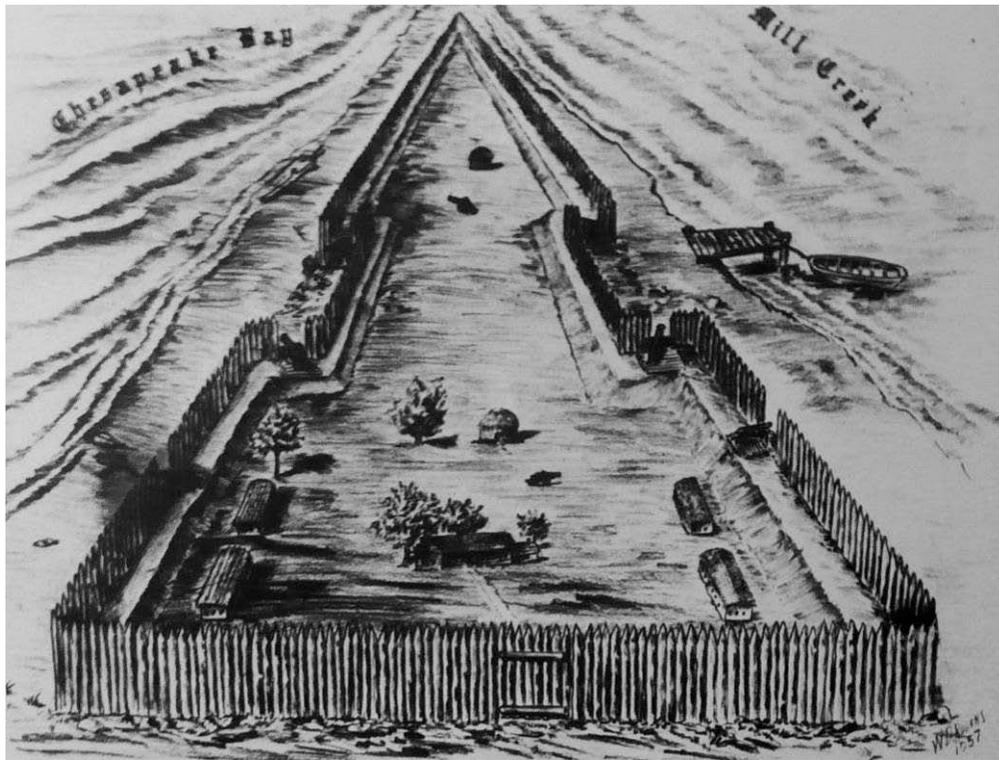


Figure 3. Fort Algernourne in 1609 (Casemate Museum).

Other fortifications followed on the site, with the strongest, Fort George, being constructed in the 1730s to guard against French invasion. Built of brick and shell lime, Governor William Gooch wrote in 1736 that “no ship could pass it without running great risks.” Fort George was destroyed by a hurricane in 1749.

While it has often been stated that the first enslaved Africans in Colonial America were brought to Jamestown in 1619, historians now conclude that the first arrival was actually at Point Comfort. The enslaved Africans were traded in exchange for provisions beginning the long history of slavery in America. A navigational light was active as early as 1775 at Old Point Comfort. Between 1800 and 1801 Congress appropriated funds for the construction of a permanent lighthouse, which was first lit in 1802. The lighthouse still exists and consists of an octagonal structure 54 feet high made of stacked stone with a spiral staircase (Figure 4). During the War of 1812, the lighthouse was captured by the British who used it as an observation post. The British burned Hampton on June 25, 1813 and, unimpeded by any coastal fortifications, went on to burn Washington, D.C. in August of that year.



Figure 4. Point Comfort Lighthouse in 1864 (Library of Congress).

Federal Period (1819 – 1860)

The Federal period saw the construction of Fort Monroe and the establishment of the Artillery School of Practice. The period also was marked by the Fort's initial association with persons of historical importance, the construction of two buildings used for religious purposes, and the emergence of Old Point Comfort's resort industry.

In the early 19th century, prior to the War of 1812, the newly formed United States government constructed a series of fortifications known as the "Second System." The "First System" was largely made up of former British fortifications with a few additions built after the Revolutionary War. Due to the inadequacy of coastal fortifications during the War of 1812 (with the exception of Fort McHenry in Baltimore) and the capture of Washington by the British, President James Monroe and Congress turned their attention to the construction of a comprehensive system of fortifications – the "Third System." These were planned to protect America's important port cities and the nation's capital from future invasion.

In 1817, General Simon de Bernard, a French-trained military engineer and former aide to Napoleon Bonaparte was appointed to plan the new system of fortifications. Major Charles Gratiot, who would later be appointed the Army's chief engineer, supervised the initial construction of Fort Monroe which began in 1819. Quarters 1, a Federal style two-story residence with a two-story front porch, was built within what would become the largest of all the Third System fortifications (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Quarters 1, 1862 (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

Bernard's grandiose design for Fort Monroe called for a brick, granite, and earthen casemated fortification. The Fort encompasses 63 acres with a perimeter of 2,394 yards or well over one mile. Designed as a bastioned work with seven fronts, holding 380 gun mounts and a compliment of over 2600 men in time of war, the Fort was deemed close to being impregnable

from land and sea (Figure 6). Bernard envisioned Fort Monroe as the “headquarters” for the entire coastal fortifications system. A water battery designed to contain 40 casemated guns was constructed as part of the outer works (Figure 7). Its role was to protect the Fort from direct attack. The labor force used to construct Fort Monroe included a large number of enslaved persons hired out by the owners of local plantations.

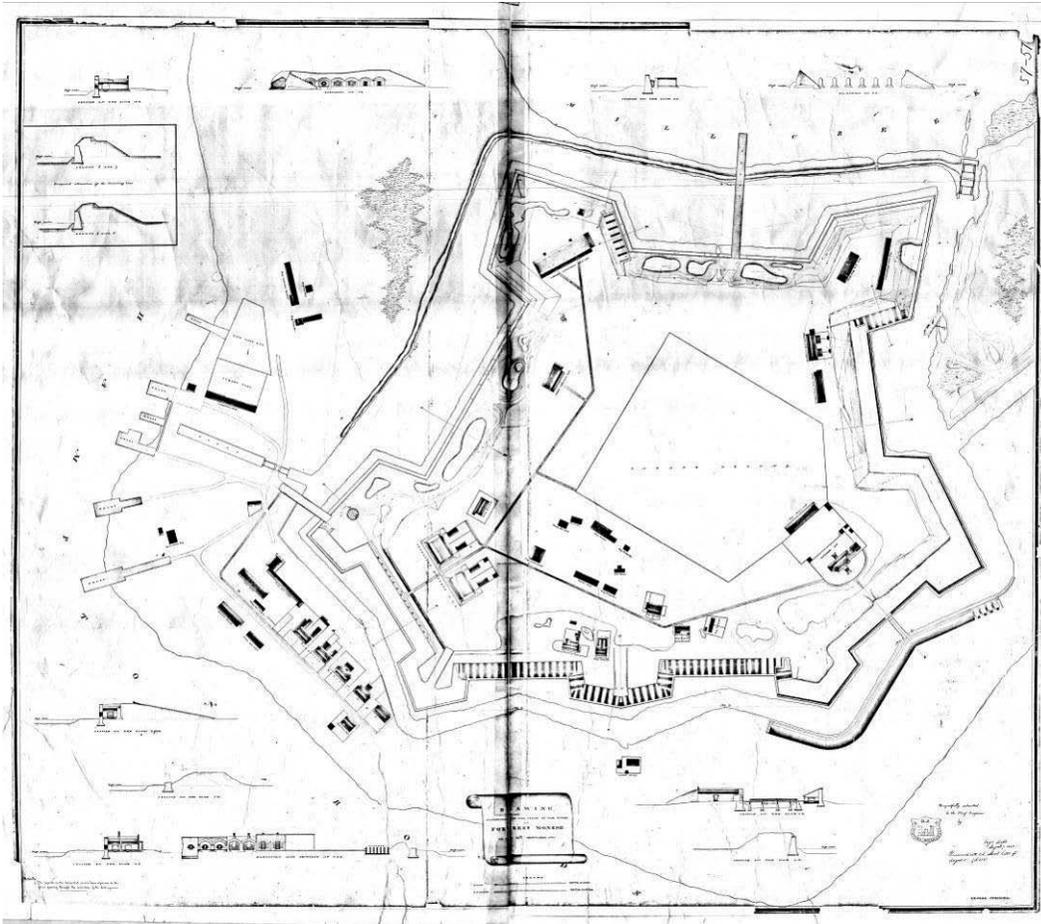


Figure 6. Map of Point Comfort in 1828 (NARA College Park).

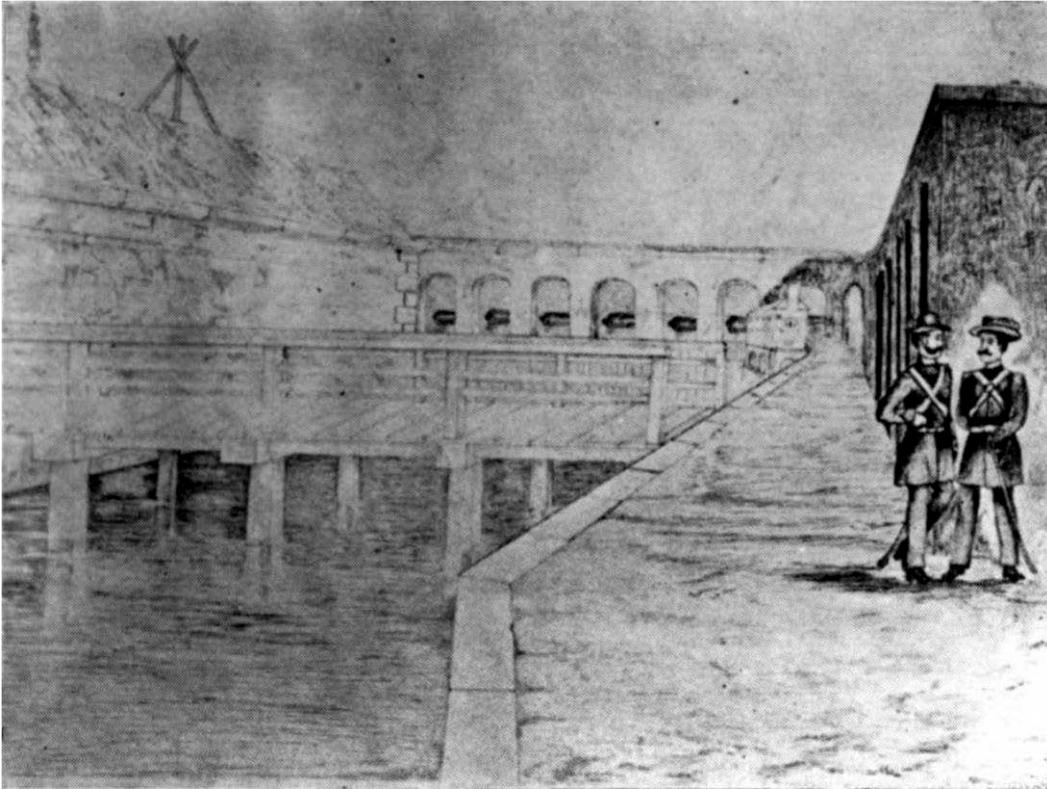


Figure 7. East Gate and Water Battery 1860 (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

Construction of a nearby fortification, Fort Calhoun (later renamed Fort Wool), was begun on a man-made island. Designed to have three tiers of casemates, work was stopped during the construction of the second tier as the island began to settle (Figure 8). All of the original Fort Wool, except for eight casemates, has since been demolished.



Figure 8. Rip Raps in 1864 (from *Harper's Weekly*).

While Fort Monroe construction continued, the Army granted permission to private investors to erect the Hygeia Hotel (Figure 9). Built in 1822, the hotel was initially used to house workers constructing the Fort, but it later became a popular resort attracting many prominent persons of the era including Henry Clay and President John Tyler. The Hygeia was the first of a number of hotels, including a second Hygeia in 1872 after the first was demolished, to be built at Old Point Comfort, making it a leading resort destination.

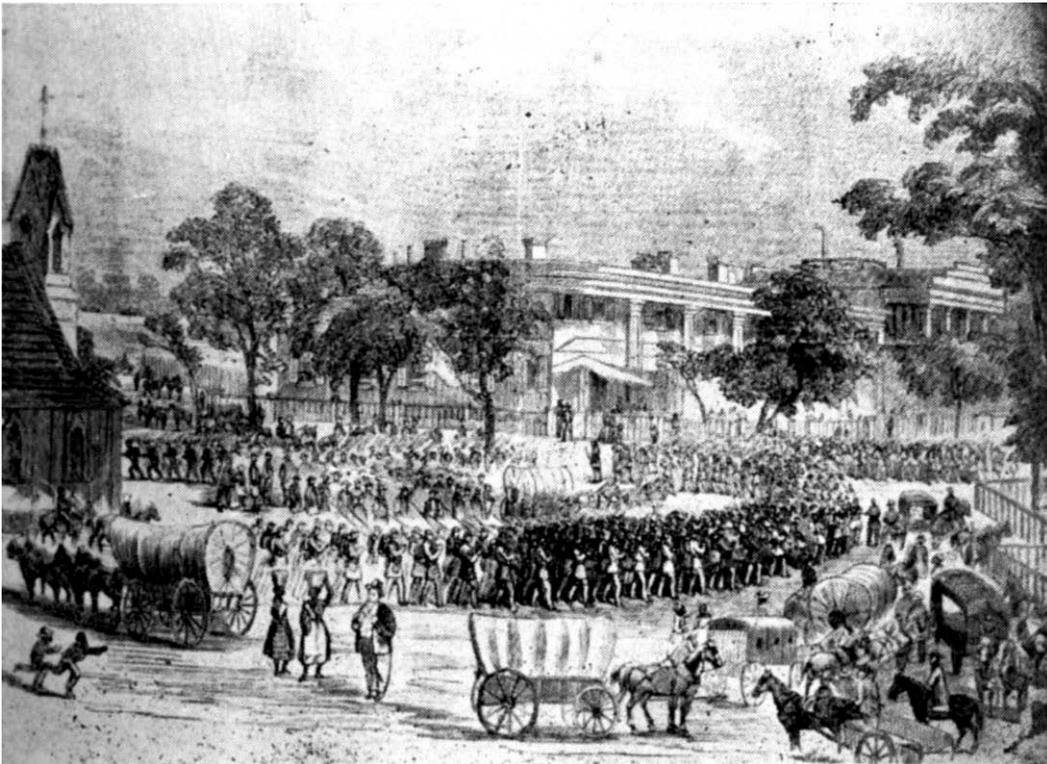


Figure 9. Hygeia Hotel (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

In 1823, the second oldest housing structures, Quarters 17 and 18 (the Tuileries), Federal style two story residences with one-story porches (later two-story), were constructed (Figure 10). This year marked the arrival of the first of eleven artillery companies to the Fort. Within the next year, Fort Monroe would become the Army's Artillery School of Practice. By 1834, it would be the 5th largest arsenal in the country.



Figure 10. Tuileries in 1885 (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

Author Edgar Allen Poe served at Fort Monroe for a few months in 1828 after enlisting in the Army in 1827 using the alias “Edgar A. Perry.” Poe attained the rank of Sergeant Major for Artillery. After he left Fort Monroe, Poe was appointed to West Point from which he was dismissed by purposely getting a court martial in 1831.

Second Lieutenant Robert E. Lee arrived at Fort Monroe from Fort Pickens in 1831 to assist then construction engineer Captain Andrew Talcott. Fort Pickens and Fort Monroe were two of a number of Third System fortifications that Lee would provide engineering assistance to prior to the Mexican-American War. While at Fort Monroe, Lee married Mary Anna Randolph Custis, a great-granddaughter of Martha Washington. He and his young wife settled into the Tuileries (Quarters 17) while he supervised construction of the Fort’s moat and nearby Fort Calhoun.

In 1833, Fort Monroe hosted some unusual visitors. In the early 1830s, a band of members of the Sauk, Fox and Kickapoo Nations, led by Chief Blackhawk, fought a bloody rebellion after being forcibly removed from tribal lands in Illinois. After the Blackhawk War’s conclusion at the Battle at Bad Axe River in southwestern Wisconsin, Chief Blackhawk and other tribal leaders were transported east, greeted along the way by large crowds of curious spectators, and imprisoned for a few weeks at Fort Monroe until

June 1833. While at Fort Monroe, the prisoners often sat for portraits. In his last days of imprisonment, Blackhawk related his life story to a government interpreter; the story was edited by a reporter and became known as the first Native American autobiography in the United States.

By 1836, Fort Monroe's construction was considered fully complete. In 1845, the garrison was dispatched to fight in the Mexican-American War. With that war ending, the Fort returned to normal operations, but was struck by a tragedy in 1855 with an explosion at the armory that killed two men and destroyed the building. A survivor, Lieutenant Julian McAllister, commissioned a chapel to be built honoring his two friends who died in the explosion. The Chapel of the Centurion was consecrated by Assistant Bishop John Johns of the Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia in 1858. The Chapel (Building 166) is a Carpenter Gothic structure expanded from an original plan attributed to Richard Upjohn (Figure 11). Most of the original windows have been replaced, with several being made by the Tiffany Company and installed in 1890 and 1911. A new arsenal was constructed in 1860 just as the Civil War was to begin (Buildings 27 and 27A).



Figure 11. Chapel of the Centurion (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

Another church, St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, was also constructed as a wood frame structure in 1860 (Figure 12). The original church was lost to fire in 1903 and replaced by the present stone church, which is still owned and operated by the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.



Figure 12. St. Mary Star of the Sea Chapel, 1870 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

Besides the Fort itself, the existing antebellum buildings are not only the most historically significant structures, but among the most architecturally significant. These buildings demonstrate living conditions at Fort Monroe in its earliest years and the use of the Fort as a significant defensive structure and artillery training center.

Civil War Period (1861- 1865)

The Civil War period saw a major influx of personnel and activities as Fort Monroe became a critical outpost for the Union Army in the South. This period is, perhaps, the most significant in the Fort's history as it became both a staging area for invasions and a fortress of hope for the oppressed. While Fort Monroe was the scene of much construction during the Civil War, the buildings were temporary ones and none from this period are extant.

When South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union on December 20, 1860 and Confederate troops under General P.T. Beauregard fired on Fort Sumter less than five months later, President Lincoln moved quickly to reinforce Fort Monroe so that it would not be taken, as was the fate of many other Union forts in the South. The Fort became an integral component in the effort to blockade Southern ports from Virginia

to the Carolinas, providing shelter and supplies to Union ships participating in the blockade. In March 1861, Fort Monroe received a prototype 15 inch Rodman smooth bore gun, named “The Lincoln Gun,” for testing. The gun remains today as a prominent remnant of the Civil War at the edge of the parade ground inside Fort Monroe (Figure 13). The bottle shaped barrel is 15 feet and 10 inches in length with its widest diameter at 4 feet. It weighed 49,000 pounds when built.



Figure 13. Lincoln Gun, post 1900-exact date unknown (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

Lincoln assigned newly appointed Major General Benjamin Butler, a “political general” from Massachusetts to command Fort Monroe and the Department of Eastern Virginia soon after the first shots were sounded. Before the War, Butler had been a successful attorney and member of both the Massachusetts House of Representatives and its Senate. Butler was a Northern Democrat who was not known for having abolitionist beliefs. As a delegate to the Democratic Presidential Convention of 1860 pledged to Stephen A. Douglas, Butler instead cast his vote for Jefferson Davis, explaining that he believed Davis was the only candidate who could maintain the Union. He supported John C. Breckinridge (Vice President under President James Buchanan and later a Confederate General) in the Presidential campaign won by Abraham Lincoln.

On May 23, 1861, three escaped slaves, Frank Baker, Sheppard Mallory, and James Townsend, of Confederate Colonel Charles Mallory of Virginia sought refuge at Fort Monroe. While the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 re-

quired the return of enslaved persons to their owners, when Butler learned that the three had been contracted out to work on Confederate fortifications, he applied his lawyer's mind to the matter. Declaring the three to be contraband of war, since Virginia considered itself no longer to be a part of the Union, he refused to send them back. When word got out, many more arrived at Fort Monroe and when room ran out to house them there, they sought shelter in areas previously burnt out by Confederate forces in Hampton. Washington advised Butler that any enslaved person accepted at Fort Monroe could be put to work for Union purposes. Butler did so.

In August 1861, Congress passed the Confiscation Act providing a de facto ratification to Butler's action. When the war ended in 1865, over 10,000 had sought refuge at Fort Monroe. Many note an irony in the fact that the place where the first enslaved persons arrived in Virginia in 1619 became, some 242 years later, a place of refuge for so many seeking their freedom in 1861.

Butler's contraband decision, regardless of the fact that it was a strategic military decision to deny the Confederate Army an enslaved work force, placed Fort Monroe as a major starting point on the pathway to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Butler's action was repeated by other Union commanders and set forth a continuous wave of enslaved persons seeking freedom by entering Union lines.

In June 1861, 4,000 men under the command of General Ebenezer W. Pierce left Fort Monroe to remove a much smaller number of Confederate forces under General John Magruder from an observation post at Big Bethel, some eight miles from Hampton. It was the first land battle of the Civil War in Virginia and an embarrassment for the Union, whose forces proved inadequate to the task. The loss resulted in a public clamor for the removal of General Benjamin Butler as commander of the Department of Eastern Virginia.

On March 9, 1862, soldiers standing atop the Fort witnessed a major change in the technology of naval warfare when the Monitor and the CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimac) came together in the epic, but non-conclusive naval Battle of Hampton Roads. While both ironclads survived the encounter, the battle marked the end of the era of the great wooden war ships.

In the spring of 1862, Fort Monroe became the base for another, more intensive excursion against the Confederacy. General George B. McClellan launched his grand plan to capture Richmond by assembling more than 120,000 troops of the Army of the Potomac, using Fort Monroe as the base to march up the peninsula between the York and James Rivers. The venture again resulted in a major Union failure with McClellan withdrawing in the face of far fewer Confederate forces despite the fact that the Union Army had marched to within a short distance from Richmond. While Union forces fought and ultimately stood firm at Malvern Hill, McClellan was on a gunboat almost 10 miles distant from the battle. Lincoln immediately replaced McClellan as commanding general of the Union Army. A Harpers Weekly article of September 20, 1862 announced that, as McClellan's Army was streaming back into Fort Monroe, that the Hygeia Hotel had been ordered to be demolished. A second Hygeia Hotel would be built soon after.

While McClellan was involved in his Peninsula Campaign, President Lincoln, along with Secretary of War Edmund Stanton and Secretary of State Salmon Chase, came to Fort Monroe and experienced from afar the surrender of Norfolk to General John Wool. Lincoln slept in Quarters 1 while at the Fort.

In June 1863, Fort Monroe received a prisoner, General William Henry Fitzhugh "Rooney" Lee, second son of Robert E. Lee. Lee had been wounded at the Battle of Brandywine Station and captured while recuperating at Hickory Hill Plantation, owned by an uncle of his wife. He was placed in the hospital at Fort Monroe and threatened with death by hanging when Confederate authorities announced they would execute two Union Army officers in retaliation for the killing of two Confederates caught as spies in Kentucky. This threat prevented the execution of the Union officers and Lee was later transferred from Fort Monroe and ultimately exchanged to resume his duties as a Confederate officer.

In December 1863, a year after Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, the 2nd Regiment Cavalry was organized at Fort Monroe. This regiment of US Colored Troops, along with the 1st Cavalry Regiment of Colored Troops, was attached to Fort Monroe, participated in the engagements at Drury's Bluff and City Point, and later participated in the siege of Petersburg, as well as other engagements prior to the fall of Rich-

mond. Battery B of the 2nd US Colored Troops Light Artillery was formed at Fort Monroe in January 1864.

Also in 1864, the Army of the James, a combination of the Departments of Virginia and North Carolina, was formed at Fort Monroe under the command of General Benjamin Butler. It included several regiments of US Colored Troops. Fort Monroe played a key strategic role as General Ulysses S. Grant marched from Cold Harbor to what became the siege of Petersburg. The Fort's control of the approaches to Hampton Roads was critical in guaranteeing naval support and supplies for Grant's Army at Petersburg, which ultimately led to the Confederate withdrawal from Richmond and Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

On February 3, 1865, President Lincoln was on the steamer River Queen anchored off the Virginia coast under the protective guns of Fort Monroe with Secretary of State William Seward. They met with a delegation of the Confederacy consisting of Vice President Alexander H. Stephens, Assistant Secretary of War John Campbell, and the presiding officer of the Confederate Senate, Robert M.T. Hunter. The so called "Hampton Roads Peace Conference" lasted only four hours with Lincoln stating terms that were unacceptable to the Confederate delegates who desired that the Confederacy remain independent of the United States.

In March 1865 Harriet Tubman had escaped slavery and returned to Dorchester and Caroline Counties in Maryland on numerous occasions guiding slaves to freedom. Tubman had provided services to the Union Army and was appointed matron of a hospital at Fort Monroe that was set up to administer to the population of contrabands gathered there. Tubman served in that capacity until July of that year.

Samuel Arnold, one of the original conspirators in a planned March 1865 abduction of Abraham Lincoln, but who had left the group that John Wilkes Booth assembled before the assassination on April 14, was arrested three days after the assassination at Fort Monroe where he was working for a sutler. Arnold was brought to trial, but since he was not part of the successful assassination plot, his life was spared. He was imprisoned and later pardoned by President Andrew Johnson.

As the war drew to a close, Fort Monroe became the location of the local office of the Bureau for Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands or the

“Freedman’s Bureau.” A former commander of the 8th Regiment of US Colored Infantry, Brigadier General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, became its director.

After the surrender of the Confederacy, President Jefferson Davis, having been captured on May 10, 1865 in Georgia, was transferred to Fort Monroe on May 19. He was to remain imprisoned there for two years, first in a casemate and then in Carroll Hall (Figures 14, 15). Upon arrival, Davis was placed in irons by the new Fort commander, General Nelson Miles. Reports of his harsh treatment and ill health, based on the complaints offered by his attending Army physician, Dr. John J. Craven, raised a public outcry. Davis was indicted for treason a year later and released on bail in May 1867, a year after his indictment. Davis was never to face trial.



Figure 14. Carroll Hall (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

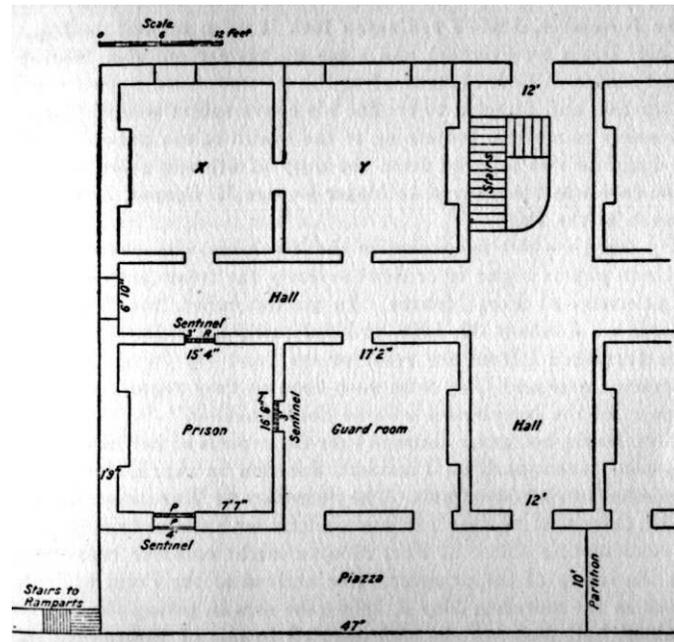


Figure 15. Plan of rooms in Carroll Hall occupied by Jefferson Davis (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

Post–Civil War Expansion Period (1866 – 1899)

This period at Fort Monroe was marked by significant renovation and expansion of facilities and the construction of Endicott Batteries. The Fort was reinstated as the Army's center for artillery training.

In 1867, the Artillery School was reestablished under Brevet Major General William F. Barry, former artillery chief to General William T. Sherman during his March to the Sea. A *New York Times* article of November 4, 1870 described the course available to Army 2nd Lieutenants:

During the Summer months, while the weather is pleasant, the course of instruction embraced here comprises mechanical manoeuvres with heavy ordnance, mortars, etc., giving the officer and soldier a thorough knowledge of his field duties. Mounting and dismounting heavy guns is especially taught, and the most recent inventions and appliances are used for this purpose. All the different varieties of arms – both of heavy and light artillery – are used here and they learn to handle the heavy fifteen-inch guns with almost the same alacrity as the light artillery pieces. During the Winter months the course of study is varied, and comprises military law, ancient and modern history, surveying, ordnance and

gunnery, etc., besides a thorough course of instruction in regard to camp and garrison duties.

In 1875 the Sub-Tuileries, (Building 16 and Building 3) were constructed. Both were built as two-story, multi-family quarters and are similar in design to the Tuileries (Buildings 17 and 18). These were remodeled in 1908 and 1910 with two-story porches. Between 1875 and 1898 building at Fort Monroe accelerated. Among the structures built within and outside the moat were Building 5, the Old Main Barracks (Figure 16) and the largest structure inside the moat, and five wood frame quarters on the western edge of the parade ground and on Ingalls Road.

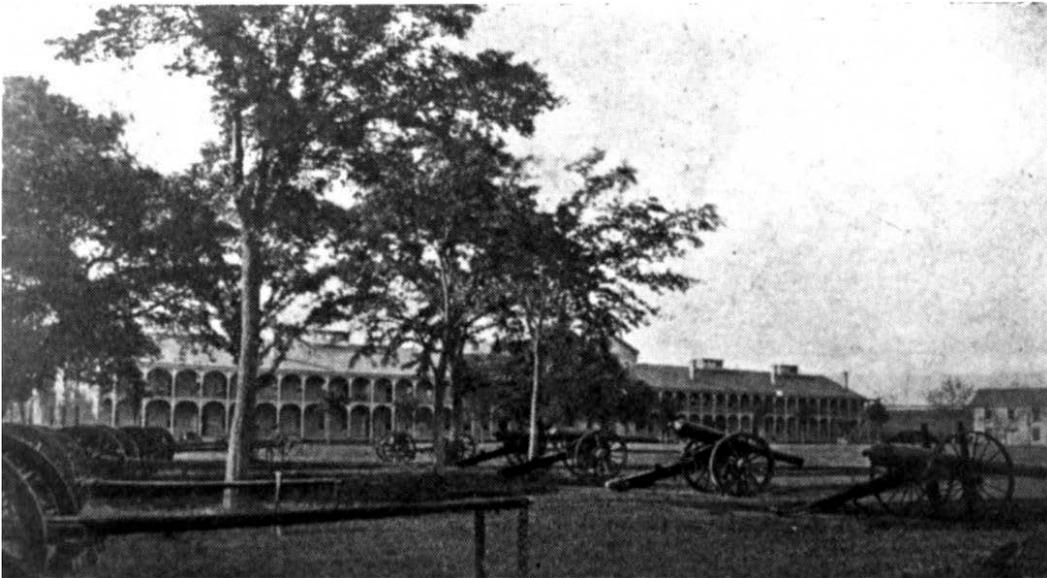


Figure 16. Main Barracks, 1885 (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

The Ingalls Road Corridor was developed with the most significant group of buildings outside the Fort including the Fire Station in 1881[(Building 24] (Figure 17), Post Headquarters in 1894 [Building 77] (Figure 18), the Old Bachelor's Quarters in 1897 [Buildings 80 and 81], and the Hospital Building [Building 82] (Figure 19) and the Post Office [Building 83] in 1898 (Figure 20).

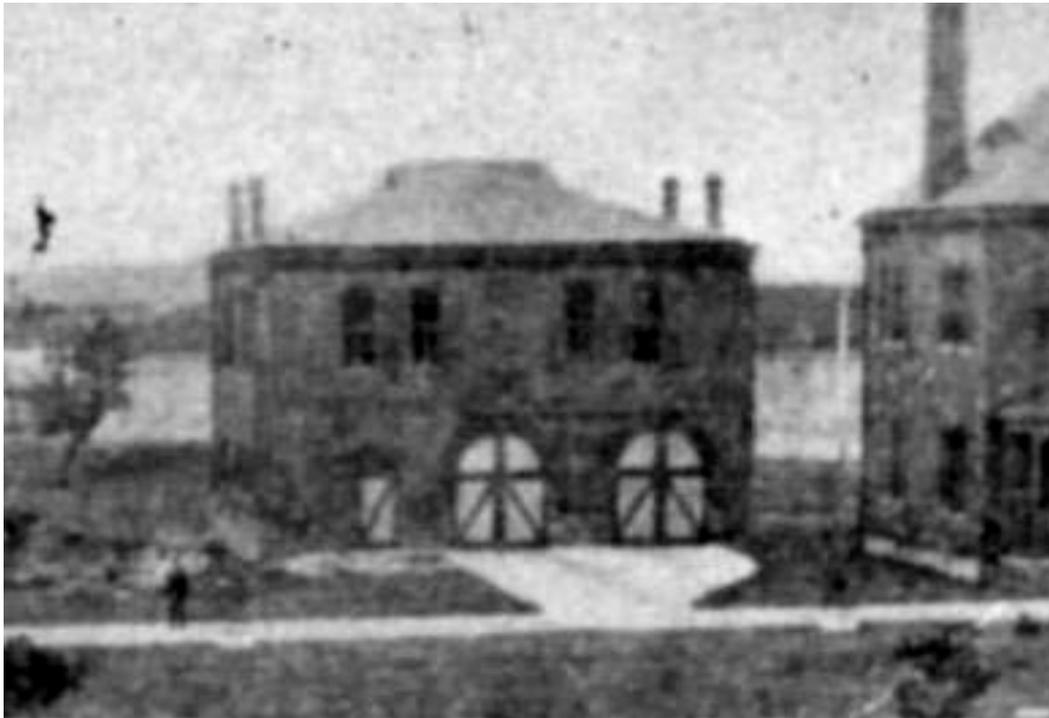


Figure 17. Fire Station (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).



Figure 18. Post Headquarters (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).



Figure 19. Post Hospital (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).



Figure 20. Post Office, 1901 (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

In 1885, President Grover Cleveland convened a board under Secretary of War, William Endicott to plan a new system of coastal defense. The Civil War, particularly the Union bombardment of Fort Pulaski with rifled artillery, had demonstrated that the Third System fortifications could not withstand modern weaponry. In 1891 construction began at Fort Monroe on detached batteries of concrete with earthen parapets (Figure 21). Batteries Gatewood, DeRussy, and Church were completed in 1898, Batteries Ruggles and Anderson in 1899, Battery Irwin in 1903, and Battery Parrott in 1906.



Figure 21. Batteries, 1918 (NARA College Park).

A new hotel, The Chamberlin, continued the resort tradition of the previous Hygeia hotels. The Chamberlin was constructed between 1890 and 1896 (Figure 22). Electrical service and a sewerage system arrived in 1895 and 1896, respectively.



Figure 22. The Hotel Chamberlin (Casemate Museum).

Early Twentieth Century Period (1900 – 1929)

During the period 1900 to 1929, Fort Monroe experienced construction related to the reorganized Coast Artillery School (Figure 23), and the completion of Endicott era batteries. Buildings from this era are among the majority of existing structures at Fort Monroe.



Figure 23. New Artillery School, c. 1910-1920 (NARA College Park).

Between 1900 and 1910, due to the establishment of the Coastal Artillery School and an influx of trainees, additional barracks and a gymnasium were built along the north edge of the parade ground. Architect Paul Pelz designed the three story Bachelor Officers Quarters/Old One Hundred (Building 100) and brick duplexes on Ingalls Road (Figure 24). Additional brick duplexes were built along Ingalls and Fenwick Roads and along Tidball Road and Moat Walk. In 1909, the Commanding General's Quarters (Figure 25) were built on Fenwick Road outside the Fort. St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, which had burned, was replaced by the present church structure in 1903 (Figure 26).



Figure 24. Bachelor's Quarters 1905-1920 (Library of Congress).



Figure 25. Commanding General's Quarters (*The History of Fort Monroe*).



Figure 26. St. Mary Star of the Sea Chapel and Officer's Quarters, circa 1910 (Library of Congress).

In 1907, the Army separated its artillery and coastal artillery functions, and the Coast Artillery School was established at Fort Monroe, including the School of Submarine Science previously based at Fort Totten, New York. It was created to train all coastal defense officers and soldiers from throughout the United States. A complex for the school was constructed at Ingalls and Fenwick Roads that included the Administration Building (Building 161), Murray Hall (Building 133) and Lewis Hall (Building 134). Additional quarters to house trainees were constructed on Fenwick and Ingalls Roads and on the southern edge of the parade ground inside the Fort.

In 1907, battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the Great White Fleet appeared at Hampton Roads as part of the Jamestown Exposition celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. The Fleet would return two years later for a grand salute viewed by President Theodore Roosevelt (Figure 27).

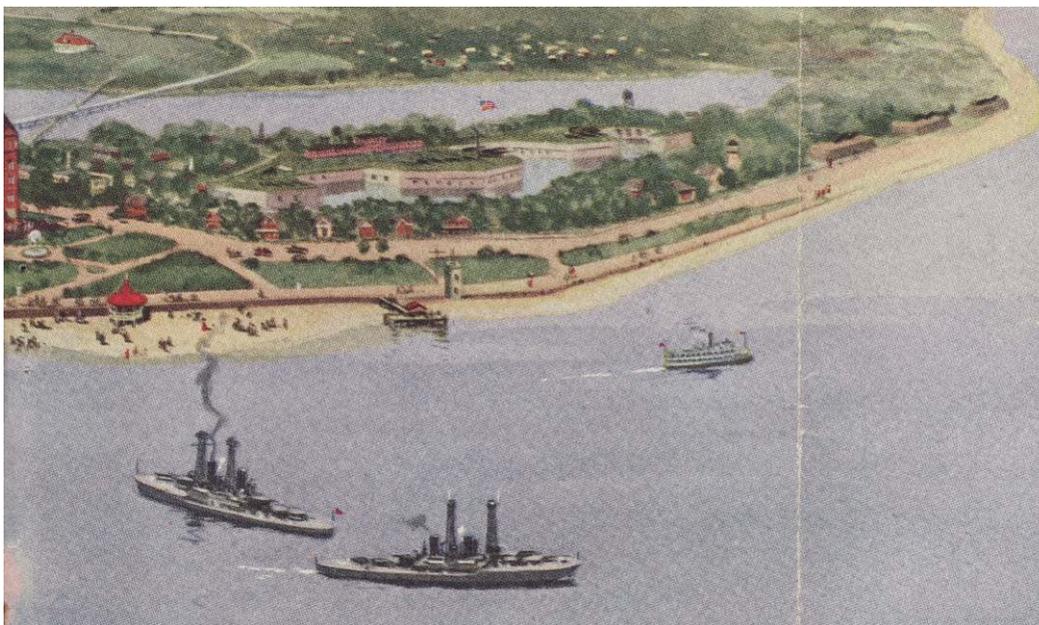


Figure 27. Fort Monroe and the Great White Fleet (Casemate Museum).

In 1920, the Hotel Chamberlin burned to the ground and a new Hotel Chamberlin, designed by Marcellus Wright, was built on its site in 1928 (Figure 28, 29). The largest building at Fort Monroe, the hotel remained a popular tourist attraction.



Figure 28. Birds-eye aerial view of the Hotel Chamberlin, 1982 (NARA College Park).



Figure 29. Hotel Chamberlin, 1971 (NARA College Park).

Great Depression and World War II Period (1930 – 1945)

In 1930, General Stanley D. Embick advocated changes in the doctrine of the Coast Artillery School to place anti-aircraft artillery for defense of harbors on an even keel with seacoast artillery. Fort Monroe added anti-aircraft gun training to its curriculum. During the Great Depression, additional development was undertaken with funding from the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration. Providing jobs to workers affected by the Depression, construction was completed on Colonial Revival style duplexes and quadplexes. Damage from hurricanes in August and September of 1933 caused millions of dollars in damages to buildings, artillery, equipment and a railroad trestle and prompted more construction including a new seawall (Figure 30). Additional land area was created during this time by infilling the Mill Creek shoreline. This newly created land was used for new construction and recreation.



Figure 30. Construction of a new seawall after 1933 hurricane (Casemate Museum).

In 1942, Fort Monroe became the headquarters for the Chesapeake Bay Coastal Defense Sector. The Fort controlled shipping in Hampton Roads during World War II; an inner mine field was established and an anti-submarine net and gate stretched between Fort Wool and Fort Monroe.

In 1943, the Military Affiliated Radio Station (MARS) signal station was built on top of Bastion #4 at the southeast face of the Fort. The station was designed by the architecture firm of Beddow, Gerber and Wharples and is a rare example of Bauhaus School Modernism on the post. Mercury Boulevard was also constructed as a military highway between Newport News and the Fort, bypassing downtown Hampton. McNair Drive, part of the new route, skirted the developed sections of Fort Monroe and linked the mainland directly with the main dock and the Hotel Chamberlin.

Post World War II Development (1946 – 2008)

After World War II, the role of coastal fortifications was deemed obsolete as the emphasis on air power and aircraft carrier based strike forces grew and nuclear weapons began to emerge on the world stage. In 1946, the Coast Artillery School was moved from Fort Monroe to Fort Winfield Scott in the western portion of the Presidio in San Francisco, but remained there

for only a brief period. In 1950, Coast Artillery was deactivated as a separate arm of the military.

In 1953, the Wherry Housing complex was constructed at the sites of Endicott era batteries, Montgomery and Eustis. The complex contained 53 buildings and 206 housing units (Figure 31).



Figure 31. Wherry family housing, 1970 (NARA College Park).

In 1955, Fort Monroe became the headquarters for the Continental Army Command and, in the Army reorganization of 1973; it was designated as the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), its current function.

In 1956, the Jefferson Davis Memorial Park archway was presented to Fort Monroe as a gift from the United Daughters of the Confederacy (Figure 32). The archway commemorates Jefferson Davis who was imprisoned at

Fort Monroe between 1865 and 1867. It has been recorded that Jefferson Davis walked the terreplein during his imprisonment at Fort Monroe. ¹⁴



Figure 32. View toward Jefferson Davis Memorial Park taken during the dedication ceremony, 1956 (UDC).

Fort Monroe continues to suffer damages in hurricanes and floods due to its location and proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads. Two hurricanes in 1962 and 1972 caused major flooding of buildings and the parade ground (Figure 33). In 2003 Hurricane Isabel caused millions of dollars worth of damage to the Fort, the most since 1933 (Figure 34).

¹⁴ United Daughters of the Confederacy, *The History of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Volumes I and II* (Richmond, VA: UDC, 1993), 304.



Figure 33. View of flooded parade ground, 1972 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).



Figure 34. Photograph of flooding after Hurricane Isobel, 2003 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

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3 Landscape Development History

For the cultural landscape discussion the landscape of Fort Monroe has been subdivided. The divisions allow for more comprehensive readings of the complex developments of the fort's large scale landscape.

While some installations can be easily broken up by land use (quarters, barracks, administration, or motor pool) or by nation-wide building program (Civil War temporary, WWI temporary, Interwar, WWII temporary, Cold War), this is not the case with Fort Monroe. Housing is scattered throughout the entire built-up areas, and construction has been mostly in-fill over the past century. The landscape we see today has evolved over 200 years representing changing missions and technologies. Consequently, the component landscapes identified in this report are as follows: the case-mate, the ordnance/quartermaster yards and school, the waterfront, Ingalls Road, the batteries, interwar/WWII, training/recreation, and Cold War (Figure 35).

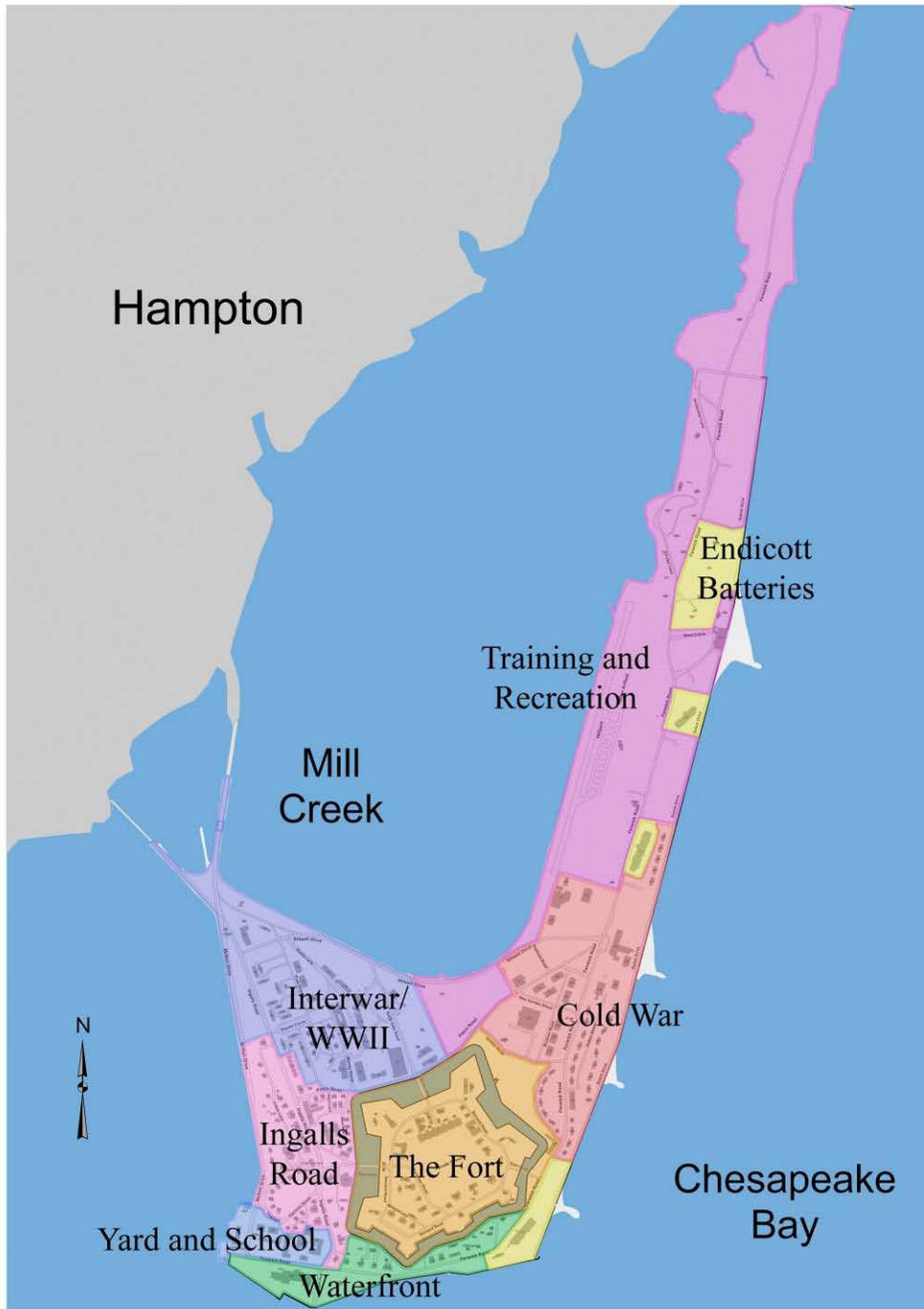
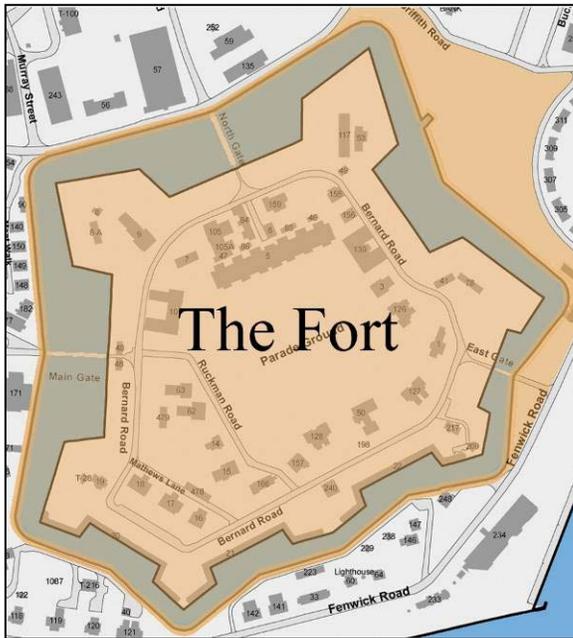


Figure 35. Identified component landscapes.

The Fort



The design of Fort Monroe is attributed to Simon Bernard, whom some call the father of the coastal fortification system. Although it is not his only work in the United States, with Fort Hamilton, New York and Fort Morgan, Alabama and others attributed to him, it is his largest. Fort Monroe was designed with seven fronts covering about 63 acres of land and surrounded by an eight-foot deep moat. The fortification is not a perfect hexagon, since the artillery sides were longer than the

landward fronts. The southern face, containing the second and third fronts, is the longest. Facing the entrance to Hampton Roads Bay, Fort Wool and the Chesapeake Bay, this side contains the flag bastion. While constructing the west side of the fort, quicksand was discovered and avoided adding to the irregular shape (HABS, 10).

The fronts are numbered one through five and the bastions are compass points (Figure 36). The casemate was designed to concentrate artillery in the first, second, third, and fourth fronts because those overlook the harbor. The first, second, and third fronts have casemates where the artillery were stacked in tiers. The fourth was designed to be solid, the most structurally sound and faced toward the water. To compensate, a water battery was built between the fourth front and the harbor. The remaining fronts were not related to seaward defense with the exception of the fifth front which covered the land approach from the beach and protected the water battery (Figure 37).

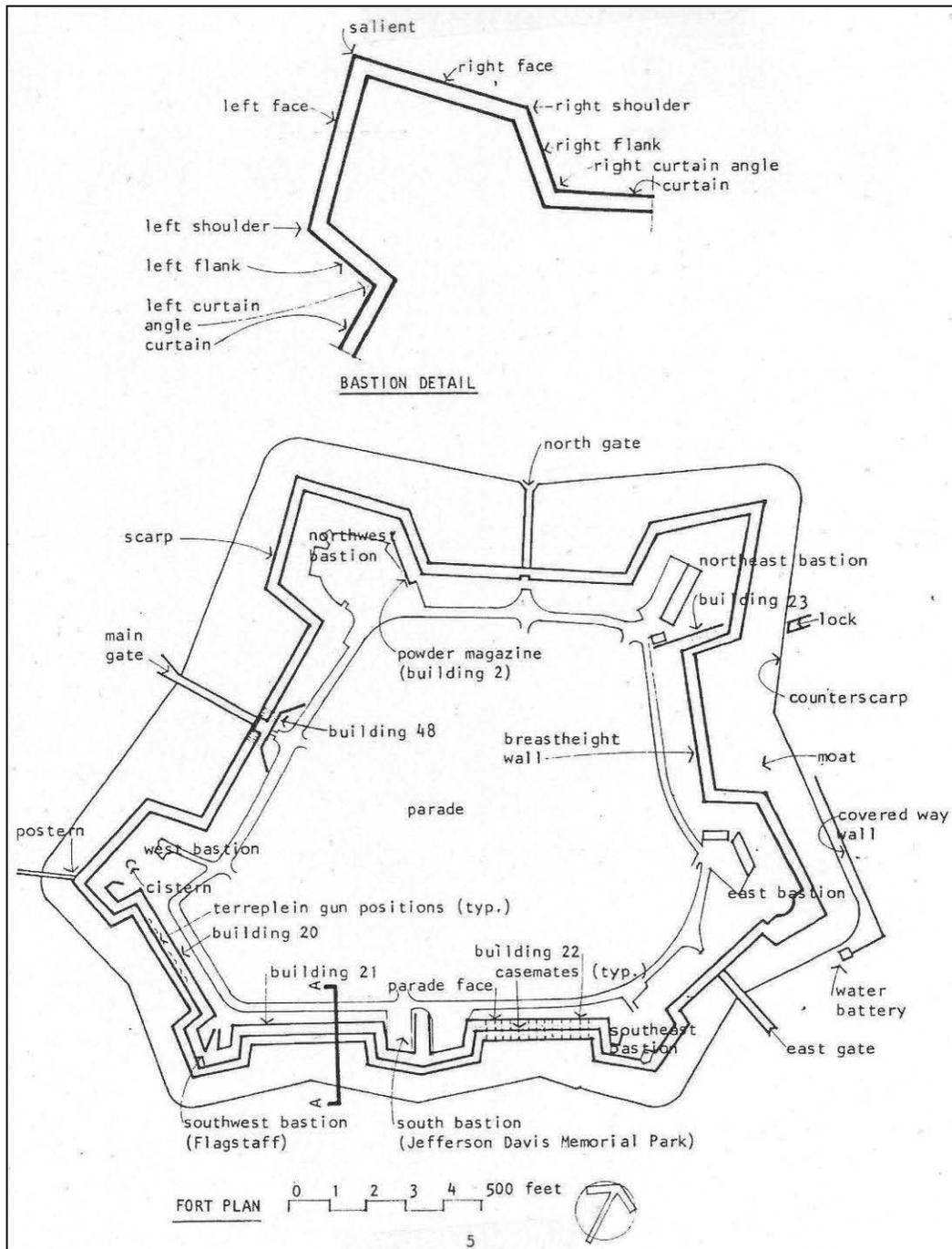


Figure 36. Drawing of the Fort (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

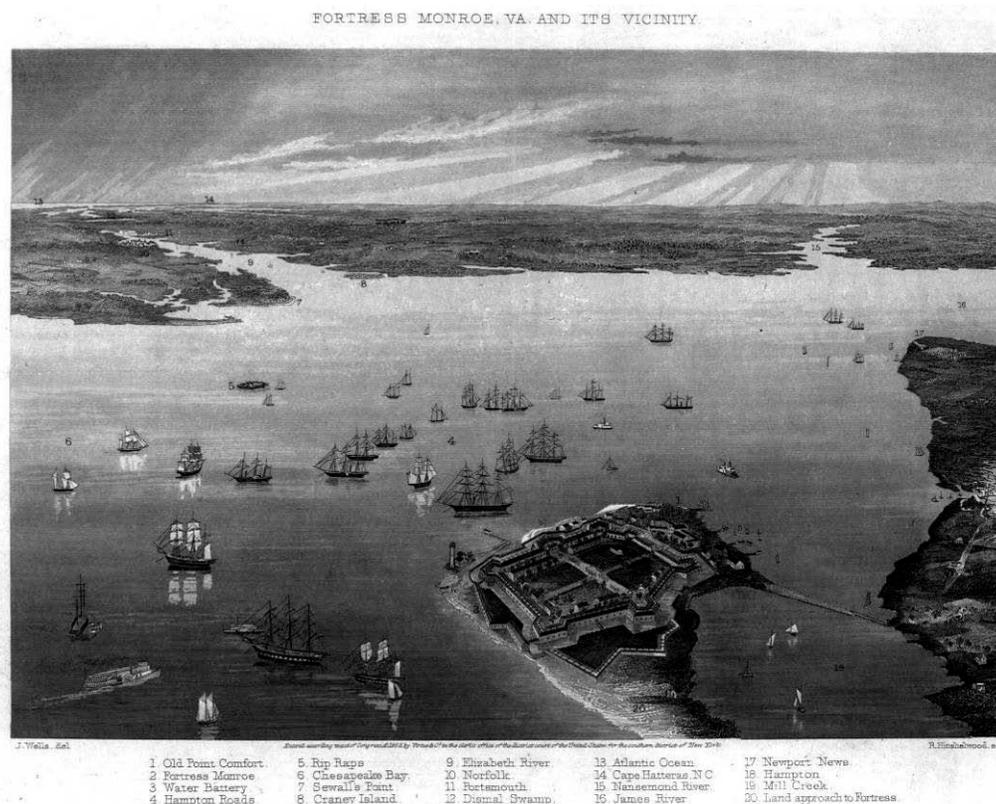


Figure 37. View south toward Fortress Monroe, 1862 (Library of Congress).

Construction began in March 1819 with Major Charles Gratiot as superintendent. At the same time, construction began on Fort Calhoun (Fort Wool). Since the channel opening was about a mile in length, but the effective range of the early 19th century guns was less than that, Fort Wool was built to provide cross fire. Built across the bay on a shoal known as the rip raps, Fort Wool was plagued with construction problems and was not finished during the 19th century.

Initial construction at Fort Monroe was not limited to the fort. Housing, workshops, stables and storage sheds were needed both inside and outside the fort. Many of these buildings were temporary. As a general rule, military buildings were built inside the fort, and all those associated with the construction of the fort were built outside. On an 1828 map, buildings inside the fort included Quarters 1 with a gun house behind, the Tuileries (Quarters 17 and 18), several temporary quarters, engineer stables, well house, smith's shop, hospital, officers' quarters, workshop, and a lumber shed and laboratory for the ordnance department (Figure 38).

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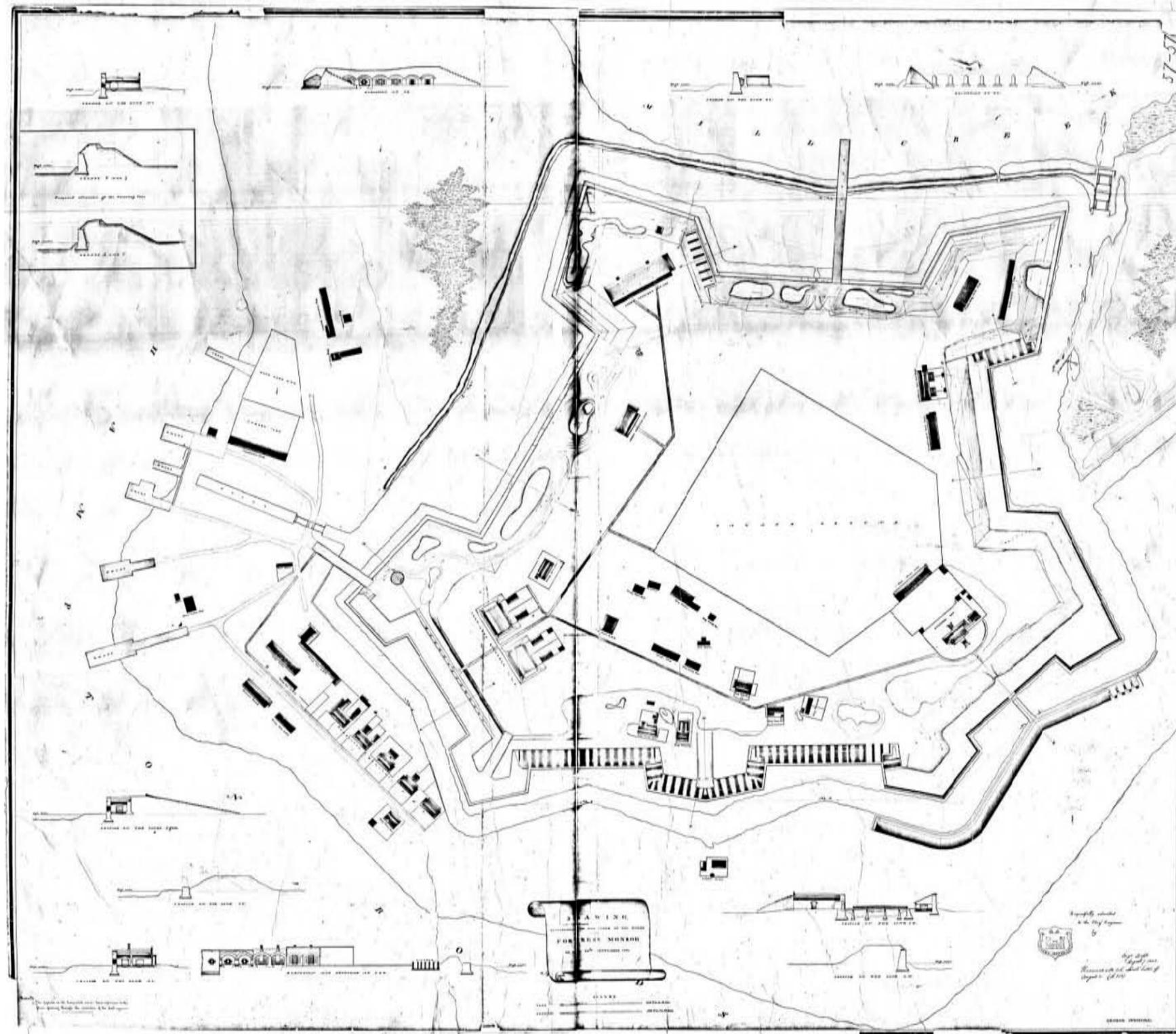


Figure 38. Map of Fort Monroe, 1828 (NARA College Park).

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Quarters 1 was marked as Engineer's Quarters on early maps but was assigned to the commanding general until 1907 (Morando, 12). Quarters 1 was carefully sited on axis with the east gate of the fort (Figure 39). A parade ground was carefully laid out in a pentagon shape from the rear of Quarters 1. The parade ground has existed from the very beginning of Fort Monroe, supposedly cleared and leveled back in 1824 for a visit from General Lafayette (HABS, 21).



Figure 39. Quarters 1, 1868 (NARA College Park).

Buildings 17 and 18 appear on early maps but were not completed until 1823. These identical officers' quarters, called "the Tuileries," were each built to house 8 officers. They were built in a row across from Casemate 21 (in 1875 and 1880 Quarters 16 and 19 were added to the row) (Figure 40). This row of buildings, like others inside the fort are oriented parallel to the fronts; some are oriented to front the parade ground instead of Bernard Road which circles the interior of the casemate. Work was completed on the fort in the 1840s. By 1843, a bachelor officers quarters, Carroll Hall (demolished in 1900), a hospital (demolished in 1855), and a barracks (demolished 1850) were all built in an architectural style similar to the Tuileries with porches and above ground basements.



Figure 40. Quarters 16, 17, 18 and 19, date unknown (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

The parade ground was used for a variety of occasions, maneuvers, and parades, intramural and interservice sports like football and tennis, and training and instruction (Figures 41 and 42). In the southeast corner of the parade ground was Siege Battery Park containing siege guns and a siege howitzer, and adjacent was Light Battery Park (Weinert, 178). After the Civil War a trophy park was established on the edge of the parade ground displaying stacks of cannon balls and guns going back to the Revolutionary War. One of the 15" Rodman guns at the edge of the parade ground was called the "Lincoln Gun." In the 1880s a conservatory-like building was added to the park and used to house the field artillery pieces (Figure 43). Directly south of Trophy Park is the Chapel of the Centurion (Building 166). Built in 1857, the chapel was adapted from a Richard Upjohn design. The chapel looks out onto Trophy Park and the parade ground.



NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE PARADE GROUND ABOUT 1885

Hospital Matrons' Quarters Carroll Hall Barracks
Tennis game in foreground

Figure 41. Tennis on parade ground, circa 1885 (NARA College Park).



Figure 42. Football on parade ground (Casemate Museum).



Figure 43. Guns and artillery on parade ground, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

In 1871 the Fort Monroe Officers' Club, called the "Casemate Club," was located in the flagstaff bastion. A wooden porch was authorized in 1894, and could be reached by the "Maid of the Moat" boat (Figure 44). When the boat was retired just prior to WWI, a wooden bridge was constructed. In the 1880s the casemates were converted to Officers' housing and front porches and fences were added in front of each entrance (Figure 45).



Figure 44. Post card of Casemate Club and "Maid of the Moat", date unknown (Casemate Museum).



Figure 45. Quarters in casemates, 1884 (Casemate Museum).

In 1879 the Old Main Barracks (Building 5) was constructed along the north side of the parade ground. Building 5 replaced seven temporary barracks in the same location. Constructed as barracks, the building has been used for offices since 1955. Building 5 was constructed in 1874 as part of a major Army post-Civil War building campaign. Building 5 commands quite a presence along one whole side of the parade ground. The view across the parade ground to Building 5, or the view from the “Lincoln Gun” toward Building 5, has been featured in many photographs and post-cards over the years (Figure 46). Also built during this Army building program was a row of quarters (Buildings 14, 15, 62, and 63) along the west edge of the parade ground. Built along the west side of Ruckman Road, these quarters face the parade ground. The addition of Ruckman Road and Building 5 squared off the parade ground. Constructed at the same time was a library (Building 7), guardhouses (Buildings 7 and 8), Barracks (Building 10), and Quarters 3 along the northeast edge of the parade ground.

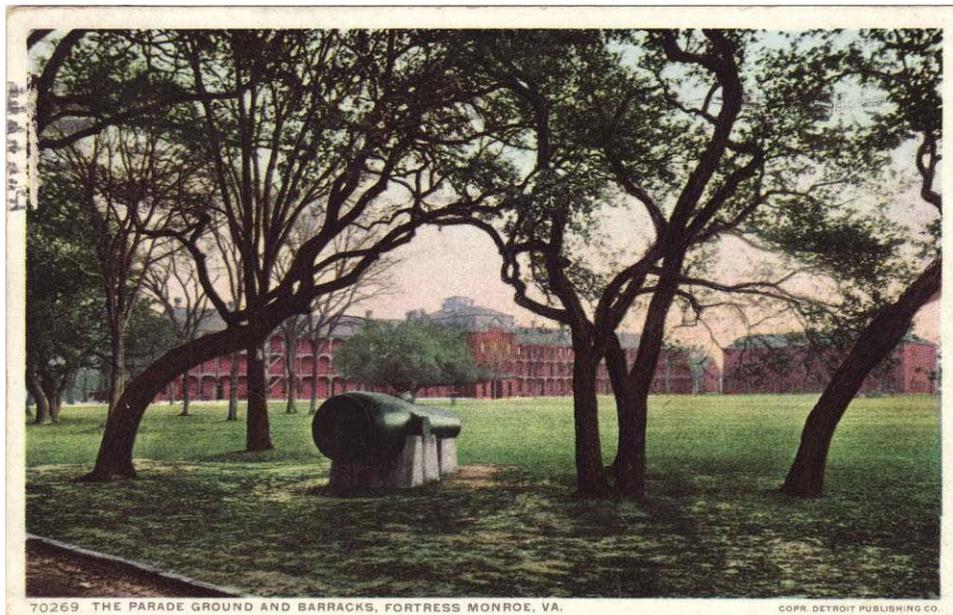
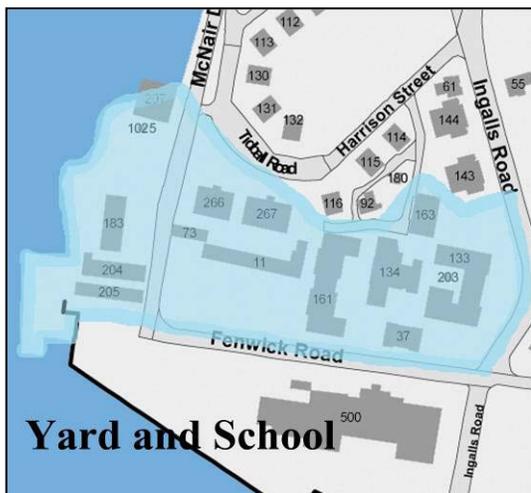


Figure 46. Post card of view from Lincoln gun to Building 5, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

Another major building campaign at Fort Monroe took place from 1906-1912 to accommodate the large increase in trainees at the Coast Artillery School. Inside the moat, quarters and support buildings were constructed where there was empty space. A Post Exchange (Building 105), a storehouse (Building 117), barracks (Buildings 139 and 159), and quarters 126, 127, 128, 155, 156 and 157 were all built inside the moat during this period. While most of these buildings were built from Army Quartermaster Corps standardized plans, they were typical of the early 20th century, they have similar design characteristics of other buildings on the post and complement the surrounding buildings. In addition, older buildings were modified and updated at this time as well.

In 1951 the Jefferson Davis Casemate museum opened in Casemate 20 focusing on the cell in which Jefferson Davis was incarcerated, later expanding to the whole building. A 500 yard section of the terreplein was designated as Jefferson Davis Memorial Park in 1955 and a 50 foot wrought iron archway was gifted from the United Daughters of the Confederacy marking the park above the south bastion of the fort.

Yard and School



During the construction of the fort, temporary housing and construction related buildings were located outside the southwest corner of the fort. Visible on the previously mentioned 1828 map is a row of temporary quarters located outside the moat along the first front. Other buildings included a stonecutters shop and office, a carpenter shop, tool house, lime house, mortar house, engineer laborers' quarters, commissary storehouse, and provost guard. In addition, six wharfs were built opposite the western bastion.

By 1843 an ordnance yard was visible near the row of temporary houses as a diamond-shape drawn west of the ordnance building (Figure 47). Half an acre in size, the yard was surrounded by a fence made of old tie musket barrels with bayonets attached (Weinert, 172). The area outside the main gate along the west side of the fort was the quartermaster yard, buildings and wharf, the ordnance yard, its buildings and wharf, and the engineer headquarters, buildings, quarters, and two wharfs.

Also visible on the 1843 map is the layout of part of Ingalls and Fenwick Roads. The Engineering Headquarters building stood on the northeast corner of these two roads. Adjacent to the headquarters along Fenwick was a row of five engineer quarters most likely the same quarters seen on the 1828 map. Across Ingalls Road from the headquarters was the ordnance yard (Figure 48).

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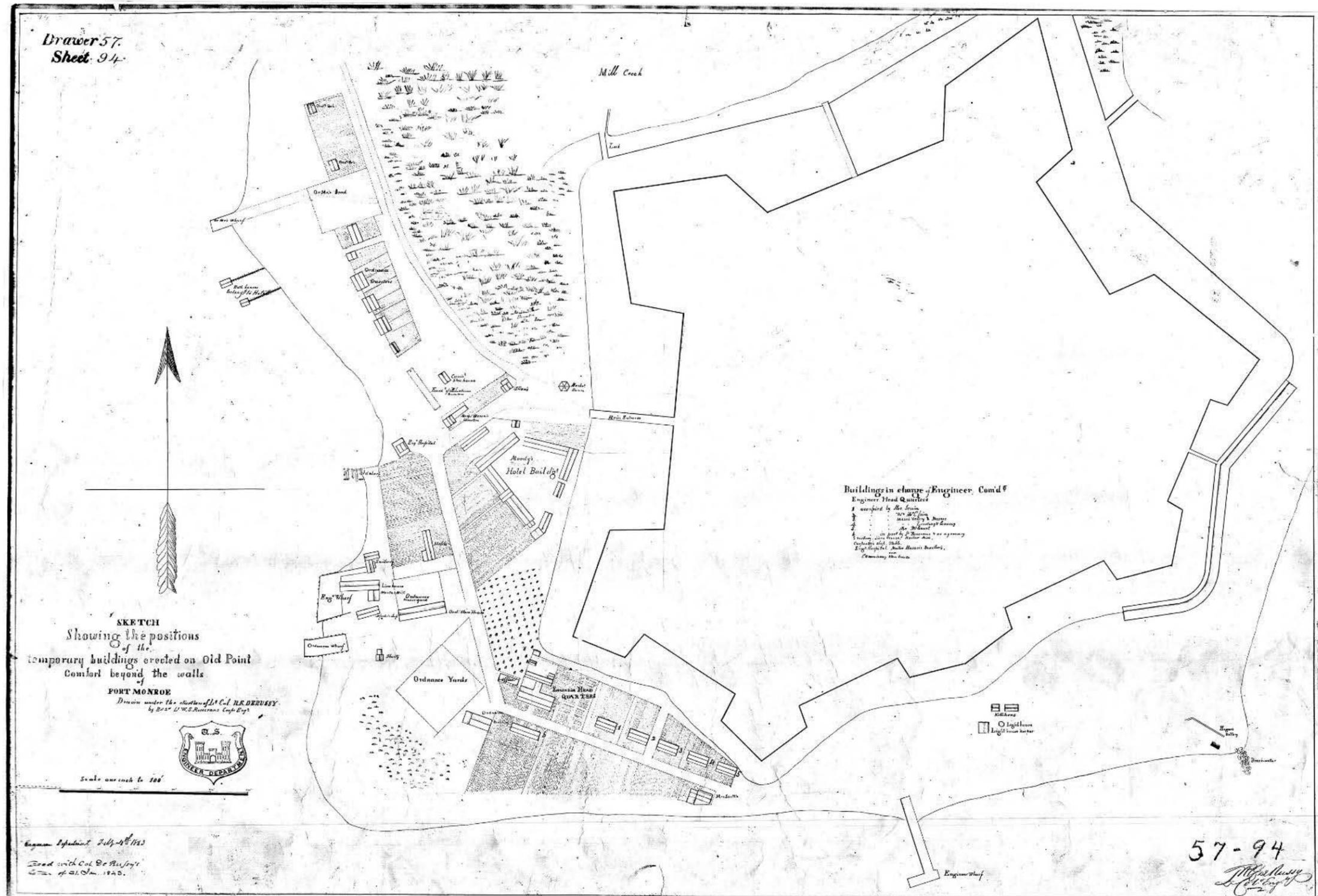


Figure 47. Map of Fort Monroe, 1843 (NARA College Park).

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Figure 48. Birds-eye view of Ingalls Road, ordnance yard is on left. 1890s (NARA College Park).

In July 1894, the artillery school moved its headquarters from inside the fort to the new administration building (Building 77) just outside the main gate (Weinert, 201). In addition, the old arsenal and ordnance machine shop (Building 27) had been renovated as an instruction and laboratory for the school (Weinert, 201). However, the largest change came in 1907 when the Artillery Corps separated into two branches, the Coastal Artillery Corps and the Field Artillery Corps. The Field Artillery Corps moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and a massive construction plan was implemented to build a school campus for the Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Monroe.

The Coast Artillery School was built on the old ordnance yard just north of the Hotel Chamberlin. Murray Hall (Building 133) and Lewis Hall (Building 134) were both completed in 1909 (Figure 49). Wisser Hall (Building 138) was built as the library for the school and located across Ingalls Road from Murray Hall. The enlisted specialists' barracks (Building 161) was completed in 1912 as part of this complex. The Coast Artillery Board Building (Building 37) (Figure 50) was added in 1934 and Cullen Hall (Building 163), the Enlisted Specialist School, was added in 1940.



Figure 49. Photograph of Murray Hall (Building 133), 1910 (Casemate Museum).



Figure 50. Photograph of the Coast Artillery Board Building (Building 37), 1960 (Casemate Museum).

West of the Coast Artillery School were two rectangular buildings on the water. The Submarine Depot (Building 204) and the Cable Tank Shop (Building 205) were both built in 1910 (Figure 51). Directly west of Building 204 and 205 was the mine wharf as seen on a 1935 map. North and perpendicular to these buildings was the Coast Artillery School bindery built in 1934.

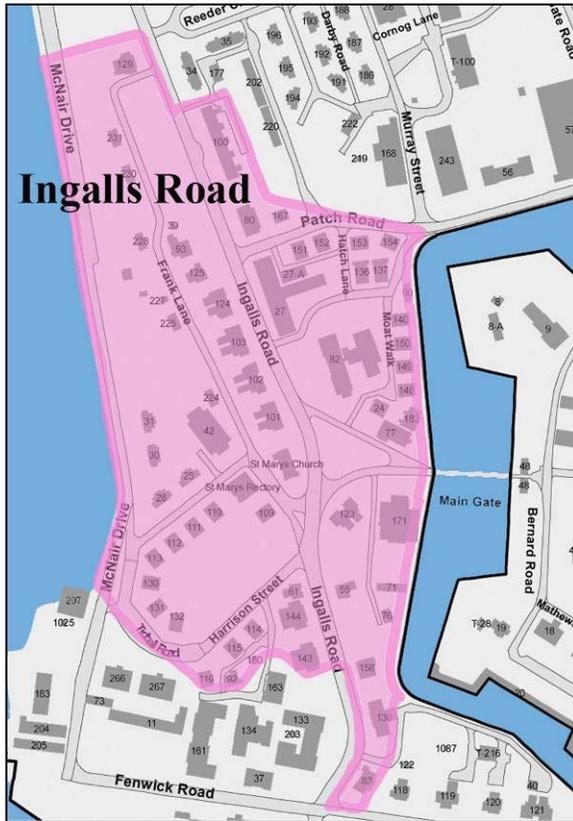
The Coast Artillery School budget was greatly impacted by the great depression, and the school lost 60% of its staff and faculty. With advancement of airplanes, the coast artillery was refocused toward anti-aircraft artillery. Sadly, it was determined that Fort Monroe was inadequate for an anti-aircraft defense mission. As a result, the Coast Artillery Corps moved to Fort Winfield Scott in California in June 1946. The following year, harbor defense operations were shut down and in 1950 the Coast Artillery Corps was officially inactivated.



Figure 51. Post card of the former Submarine Depot (Building 204), date unknown (Casemate Museum).

Ingalls Road

Initially, Ingalls Road was the quartermaster's yard and a row of eight ordnance quarters. The ordnance yard was southwest of the main entrance to the fort and was surrounded by engineer headquarters, and quarters, stable, smithy, lime house, mortar mill, ordnance storehouse, ordnance lumberyard, engineer wharf, and carpenters shop (Figure 52). Outside the main entrance to the fort was a market house and west of that was



the commissary storehouse, master mason's quarters, and engineer hospital. On the western shore, there were two bathhouses built for the first Hygeia Hotel which occupied a large block outside the main entrance.

After the construction of the Chapel and the Centurion inside the casemate, the St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church was granted permission to build a chapel outside the walls of the fort. A somber wooden building was constructed in 1860 directly opposite the main gate (Figure 53). This church was replaced by a

stone chapel in 1903 after a fire. The arsenal (Building 27) was built right before the Civil War in 1860 to replace the ordnance building inside the walls of the fort that was demolished by accident (Figure 54). Built just north of the St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church at the same time, these permanent buildings indicated that the outward growth of Fort Monroe was soon to come.

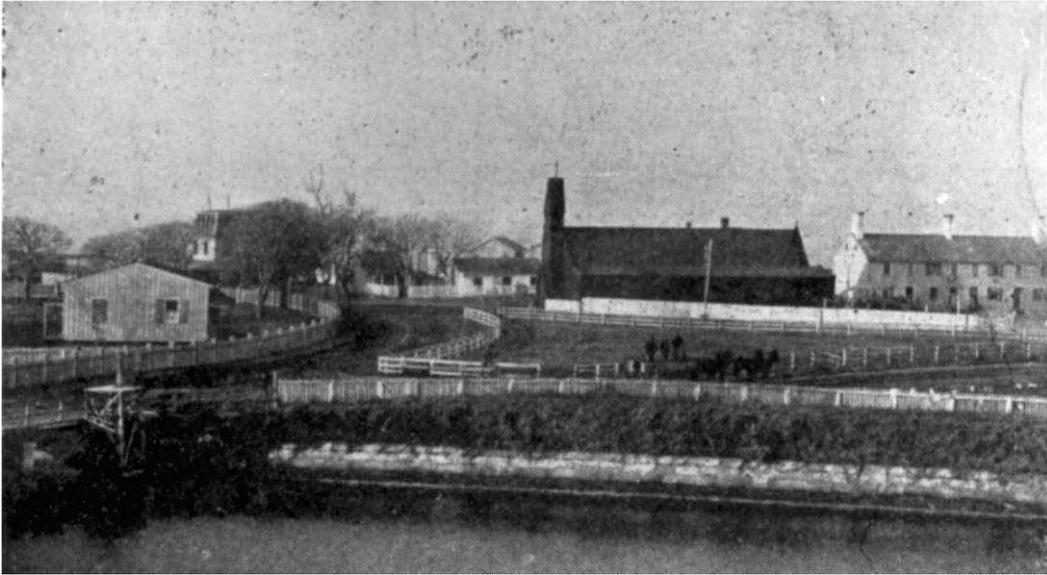


Figure 53. Looking West from Main Gate 1870s (*The History of Fort Monroe*).



Figure 54. View of arsenal (Building 27), 1918 (NARA College Park).

Just south of the St. Mary Star of the Sea Chapel was the Sherwood Inn (Figure 55). Initially a cottage, it was built in 1843 by the post sutler, Dr. Robert Archer. Mrs. S.F. Eaton acquired the property in 1867 and ran it like a boarding house. She enlarged the inn over the years and it was sold to the Federal government during WWI. After WWI, the inn was turned into a hostelry for civilian guests. When Randolph Hall, the new bachelor officer quarters (BOQ) opened in 1932, the Sherwood was taken down. Today the site is Sherwood Park and it is encircled by a set of NCO duplexes.



Figure 55. Sherwood Inn (Casemate Museum).

The Freedmen's Bureau was established by the War Department in 1865 to provide shelter, food, medical care and education to the large contraband population. An 1869 map of Fort Monroe shows several buildings along Ingalls Road (Buildings 5, 7, 8 and 9) marked as originally built as quarters for contrabands, but their current use was quarters for ordnance employees (Figure 56). These buildings were directly north of the arsenal (Building 27). While many freedmen stayed to labor in the defensive preparations in and around the fort (Weinert, 1113), others moved on to the Grand Contraband Camp (or "Slabtown") a settlement in the Confederate burned ruins of Hampton.

A new Post Headquarters opened in 1894 adjacent to the main entrance to the fort. The Headquarters building was built next to a fire station (Building 24 built in 1881) and the hospital and across the street from the YMCA. In 1903, the YMCA moved from a temporary building and provided classrooms, a movie theater, gym, and reading rooms to boost morale.

As seen in this 1904 map, Ingalls Road forms a triangle in front of the entrance and sally port to the fort (Figure 57). In the center of this triangle is Cannon Park. The Post Headquarters, fire station, YMCA and the St. Mary Star of the Sea Chapel all front Cannon Park (Figure 58). This formal center highlights the entrance to the fort and the headquarters building. Many photographs were taken of this park with its monuments and surrounding architecturally impressive buildings.

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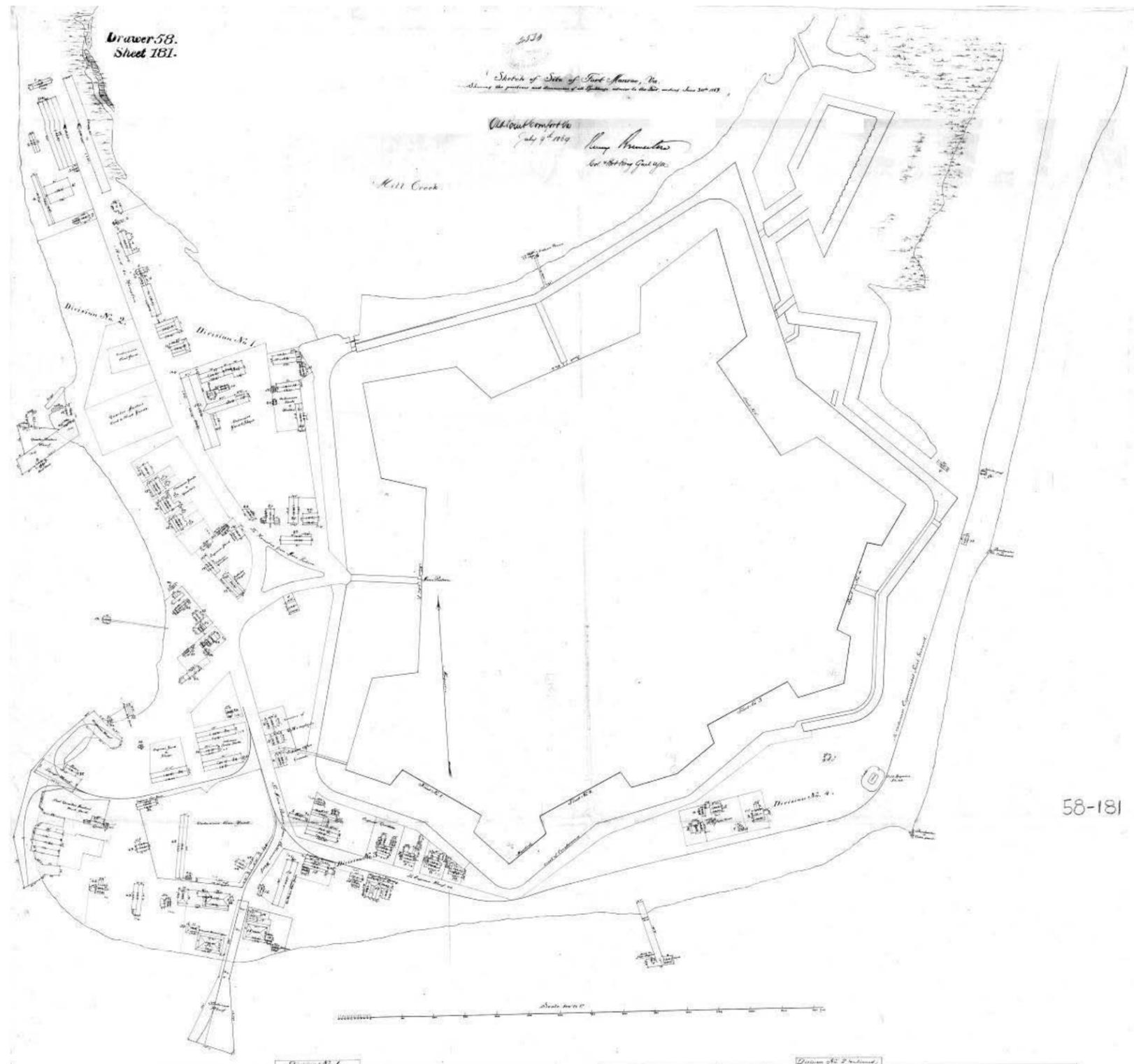


Figure 56. Fort Monroe, 1869.

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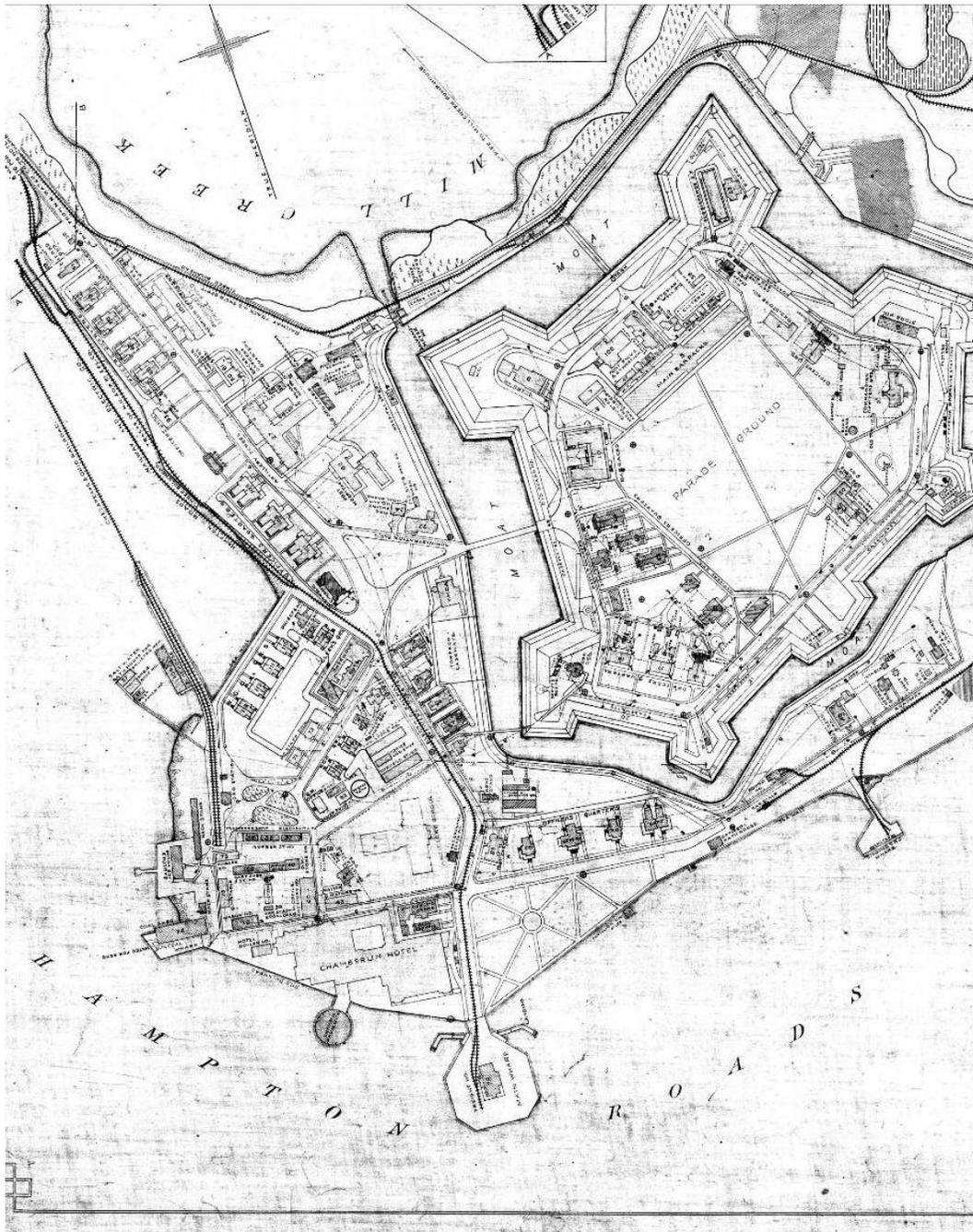


Figure 57. Fort Monroe, 1904 (NARA College Park).



Figure 58. Cannon Park in front of the hospital, fire house, and headquarters (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

From 1890-1894, seven identical duplexes were built along Ingalls Road (Quarters 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, and 79). While these Victorian-style wood quarters were recently demolished, they contributed to the Ingalls Road streetscape for many years and now there is open green space where they stood (Figure 59). The Post Office (Building 83) and the Post Hospital (Building 82) were built in 1898. In the 1890's a streetcar line was added along Ingalls Road, bringing people from Phoebus to the hotels. After the turn of the century, there was another construction boom at Fort Monroe. The influx of officers associated with the Coast Artillery School expansion required the construction of additional officer housing. Between 1906 and 1911, many new quarters and a BOQ were added to the Ingalls Road landscape. The BOQ (Building 100) and three multi-family residences (Buildings 101, 102, and 103) were designed by nationally-known architect Paul Pelz (Figure 60 and Figure 61). In addition, twenty duplexes based on similar Quartermaster Generals plans filled in the circle created by Tidball Road and Harrison Street, and along Moat Walk and Hatch Lane.

Right after WWI, a Liberty theater was built at Fort Monroe. It was built at the end of Reeder Circle off Ingalls Road. It was replaced by the Fort Monroe Theater (Building 42) in 1938. Funded partially with WPA construc-

tion funds, this theater was built west of the St. Mary Star of the Sea Chapel.

The Ingalls Road streetscape shows planning and design through the complimentary architecture, consistent setbacks, and formal circulation design. Ingalls Road was an impressive entrance to Fort Monroe, by either streetcar or car, and still is today.



Figure 59. Birds-eye view of Ingalls Road, 1941 [Newly demolished duplexes highlighted in green.] (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).



Figure 60. Bachelor Officers Quarters (Building 100) designed by Pelz (Casemate Museum).



Figure 61. Officers' Quarters (Building 101, 102, and 103) designed by Pelz (Casemate Museum).

Waterfront



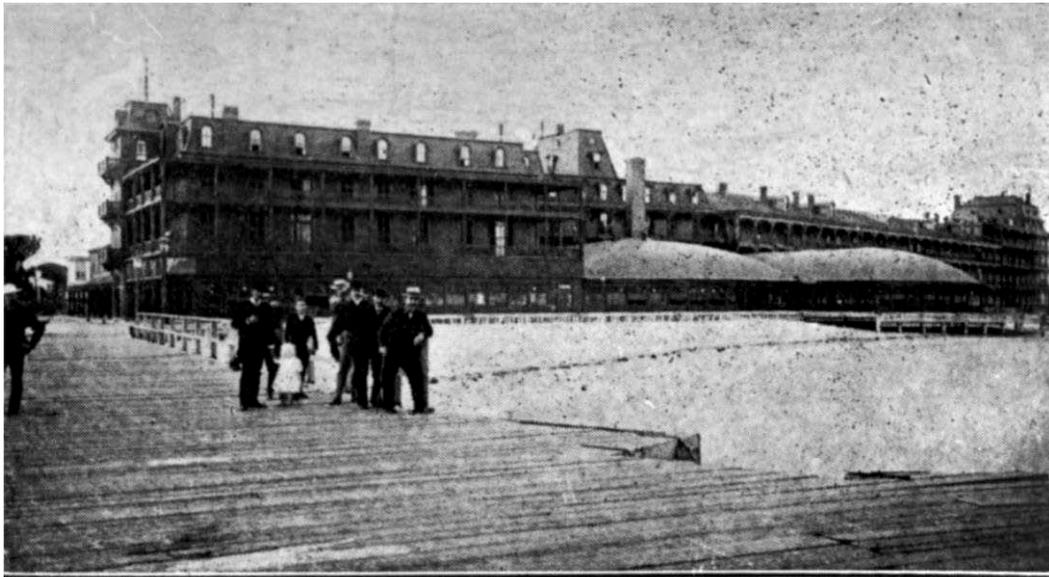
The lighthouse located to the southeast of the flagstaff bastion pre-dates the fort. It was constructed in 1802 before any of the surveys

of the area; it first appears on an 1818 map. Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to contract for a lighthouse at Old Point Comfort. It was designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe along with two others in the area. The lighthouse keeper's house is just west of the octagon-shaped lighthouse. Two kitchens appear behind the house on an 1843 map.

An Engineer Wharf appears between the 1828 and 1843 maps located south and slightly east of the flagstaff bastion. The 1890s brought revival, renovation and modernization of the Army. Prior to the Civil War, all shipping (both military and civilian) landed at the Engineer wharf or lighthouse wharf. It became inadequate by the early 1860s. Since the route to the main or east gates from Engineer Wharf was sandy, a new wharf was built to the west at the tip of Ingalls Road. The new wharf was called Baltimore Wharf because of servicing steamboats to Baltimore.

On an 1843 map, a large building appears built directly outside the main entrance marked "Moody's Hotel Building". This was the first Hygeia Hotel. Permission to build the hotel was granted by the Supervisory Engineer Colonel Gratiot, because of the need to house all the engineers, workmen, officers and enlisted men. This decision changed the landscape of Fort Monroe. By the 1850s Old Point Comfort was a fashionable seaside resort and the juxtaposition of military installation and tourist resort in place.

This first Hygeia Hotel, built right outside the main gate, was demolished in 1862 to clear area for defense of the main entrance to the fort and to discourage visitors (HABS, 24). In 1864, the second Hygeia began as a dining saloon, located just east of Baltimore Wharf. The hotel portion was built in 1868. By 1876 the hotel was once again a popular tourist destination (Figure 62 and 63).



HYGEIA HOTEL AFTER EXTENSION IN 1881

Figure 62. Hygeia Hotel, 1881 (*The History of Fort Monroe*).



Figure 63. Map of Fort Monroe, circa 1886 (NARA College Park).

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Hotel Chamberlin opened in 1896 just west of the Hygeia (Figure 64). These hotels have long dominated the view and waterfront of Fort Monroe. The Chamberlin quickly became the social center of Fort Monroe. Tourists came from around the world and soldiers came for tea and to meet young women. The two hotels were in competition for awhile, but they were eventually bought by the same corporation. It was decided to demolish the Hygeia in 1902 and the land became Continental Park. The Chamberlin burned to the ground on March 27, 1920.



Figure 64. Hotel Chamberlin and Baltimore Wharf, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

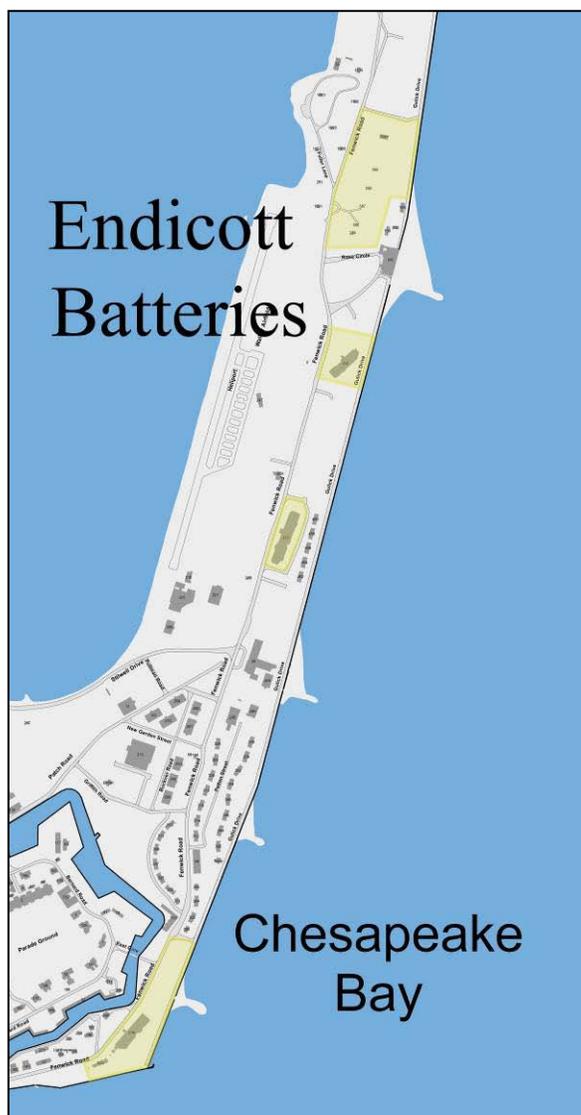
Along Ingalls Road just north of the Hygeia and Chamberlin were tobacco and souvenir shops, newsstands and restaurants. The Old Point – Buckroe Beach streetcar ran along Ingalls Road ending at the Baltimore Wharf (Figure 65). The Old Bay steamship to Baltimore docked at Baltimore Wharf as well as a ferry to Norfolk. Photographs from this time depict a very busy place. The vitality of the tourist landscape was in contrast to the highly organized life of the military inside the fort.

The Hygeia pavilion or bandstand wharf remained as part of Continental Park. Summer concerts were still held in the pavilion, until it was destroyed in 1933 by a hurricane. A bandstand was constructed in the center of Continental Park in 1934 (Figure 67). Easter services have been held on Continental Park since the 1950s.



Figure 67. Bandstand located in Continental Park, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

Batteries



The Endicott board was appointed by President Cleveland to evaluate the fortifications and coastal defenses near important harbors. The availability of steel and new technology, which allowed breechloading, would greatly improve the weapons at Fort Monroe. In 1891, construction began on a 2 gun battery, later called Battery Bomford, off the northeast corner of the fort. By 1895, two additional batteries, Battery Anderson and Battery Ruggles, were built along the spit of land north of the fort. Battery Humphries was completed in 1898, and by 1901 four more batteries were added to the landscape: Battery Barber, Battery Church, Battery Eustis, and Battery DeRussy. In addition, Battery Gatewood was constructed on the top of the 4th front of the casemate (HABS, 26).

The batteries were mounted in massive, concrete emplacements dotted along the coast line (Figure 68). The concrete front walls were 20 feet thick and hidden behind 30 feet of sand (Weinert, 192). These hills of sand were grass covered to camouflage and prevent erosion. Ammunition magazines were located adjacent to the emplacements and hoists and hand trucks were used to transfer the projectiles. The Army built a railway in 1898 that was used to bring ammunition and materials to the batteries (Figure 69). At the same time, Fort Wool was receiving modern updates as well under the Endicott program.

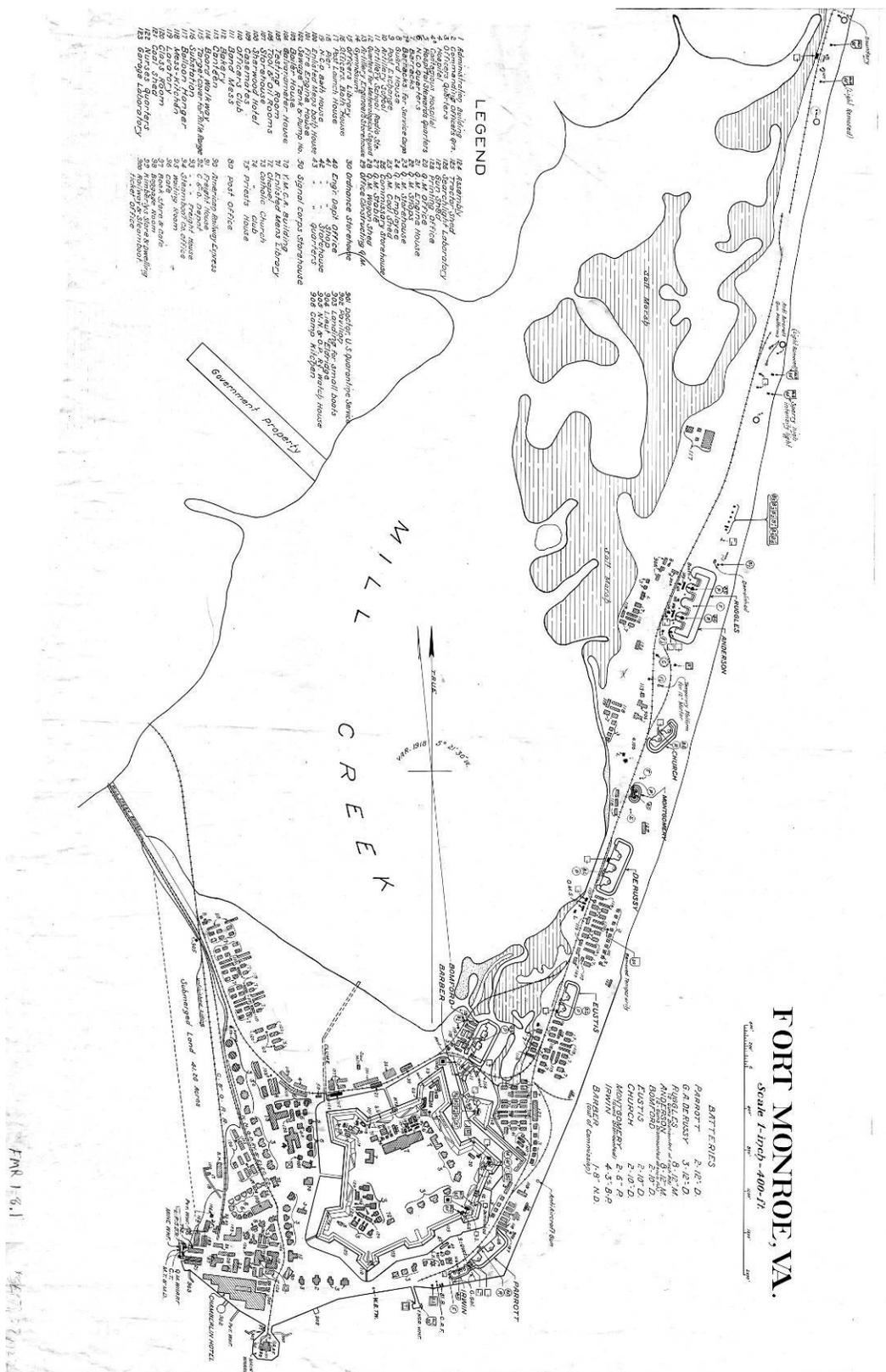


Figure 68. Fort Monroe, 1922 (NARA College Park).



Figure 69. Railroad and battery, 1918 (NARA College Park).

Further improvements in ordnance and equipment led to revisions in the Endicott Plan. In 1898 Battery Irwin was constructed off the southeastern corner of the fort overlooking the harbor near the lighthouse (Figure 70). Irwin was mounted with four 15-pounder rapid fire guns, which were obsolete and removed after WWI. When Battery Parrott was built adjacent to

Irwin, it required the removal of the Water Battery for its construction. Mounted with two 12" disappearing guns, this battery contained the most impressive weapons and was used as showplace for the fort and school (Weinert, 207).

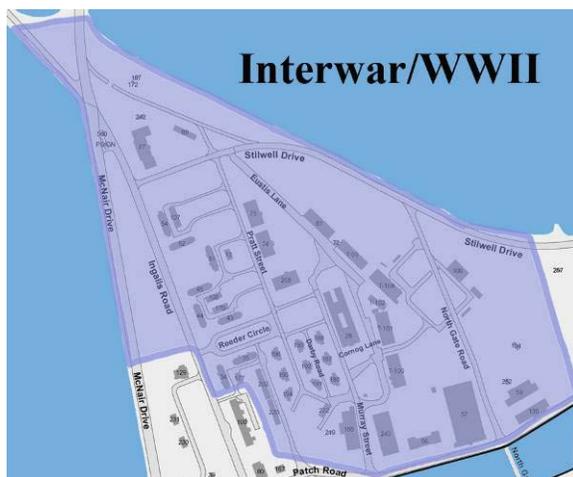


Figure 70. Battery Irwin, 1918 (NARA College Park).

The onset of WWII revitalized the Coast Artillery Corps. While the artillery focus had shifted to anti-aircraft weapons and training, mines and submarine nets were employed off the coast of Fort Monroe to warn of U-boat attacks. However, by the end of WWII, advances in planes, submarines, and sophisticated weaponry led to the demise of Fort Monroe's most important missions. Battery Montgomery was the last of Fort Monroe's major concrete batteries to be installed and was the last one taken out of service in March 1948 (Morando, 71).

The Endicott batteries were considered obsolete. All of the heavy artillery guns were removed and cut up for scrap metal. Some of the batteries were removed as well. During WWII, the Coast Artillery Corps had shifted entirely from fixed heavy artillery to anti-aircraft defense. Eventually, the coast artillery was succeeded by the air defense artillery.

Interwar/WWII



In 1927, a nationwide Army building program was initiated to upgrade living conditions for officers, enlisted men, and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) (Figure 71). As part of this program, nine Colonial Revival-style “student apartments” were constructed along Ingalls Road, Reader Circle, and Pratt Street (Buildings 34, 35, 43, 44, 45, 51, 52, and 54) (HABS) (Figure 72).

Completed in 1930, these units were built in perpendicular clusters with driveways and garages behind the buildings. Previously this area had been WWI temporary buildings and part of it had been submerged (Figure 73). Building 33 was built at the same time in the same style but located near the lighthouse on Fenwick Road.

On August 22, 1933 a major hurricane hit Fort Monroe. Much damage was sustained at the WWI camps and all the tractor truck and searchlight buildings near the batteries were damaged beyond repair. The new beach house and golf course near Batteries Anderson and Ruggles were destroyed. In the same area, Wilson Park was demolished, the building and pine forest gone, and the guns there heavily damaged (Weinert, 252). The rebuilding of Monroe from this storm coincided with another massive government stimulus plan aimed to counteract the Great Depression. Additional infill was completed at this time north of the fort along Mill Creek (Figure 74).

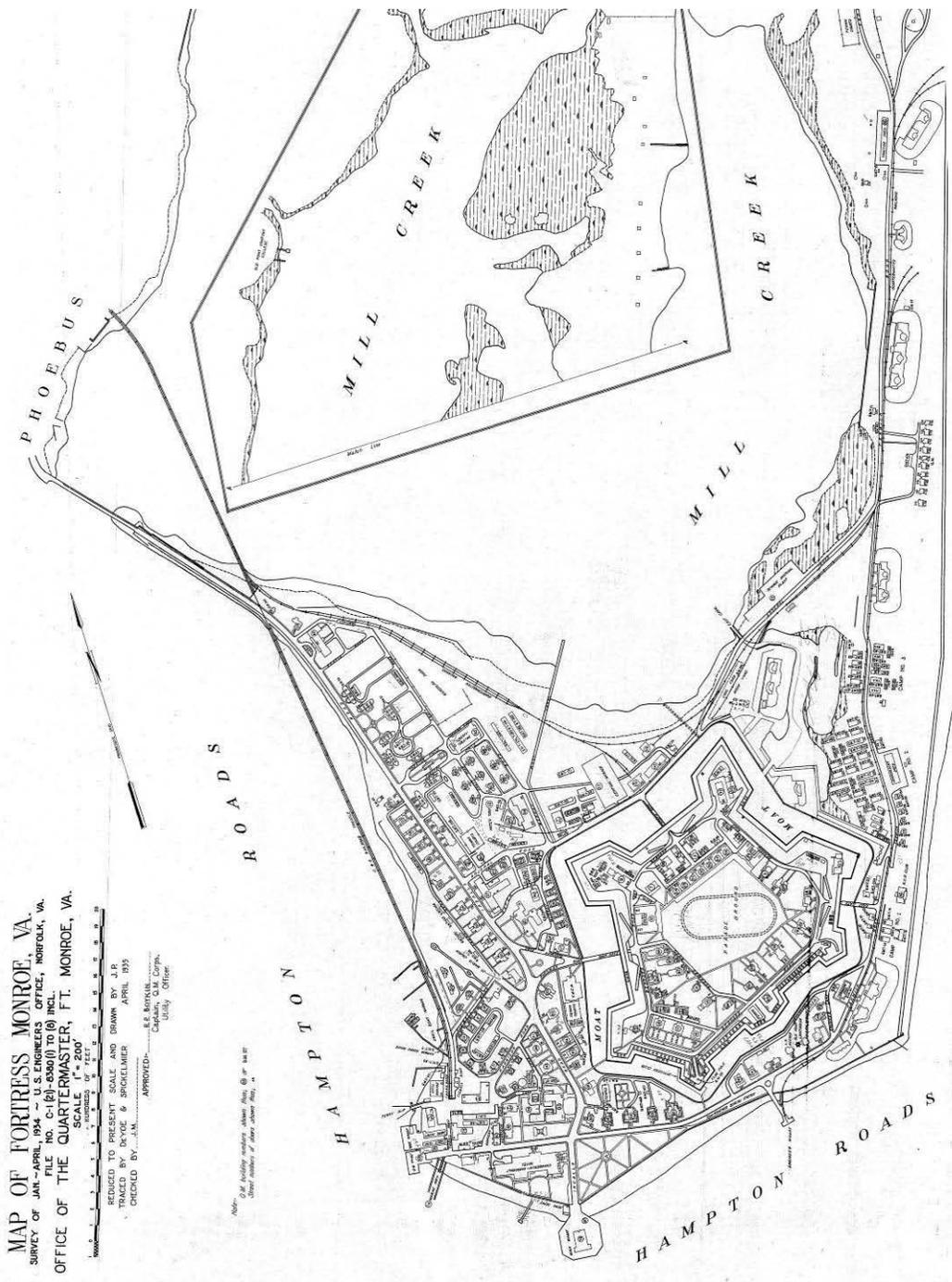
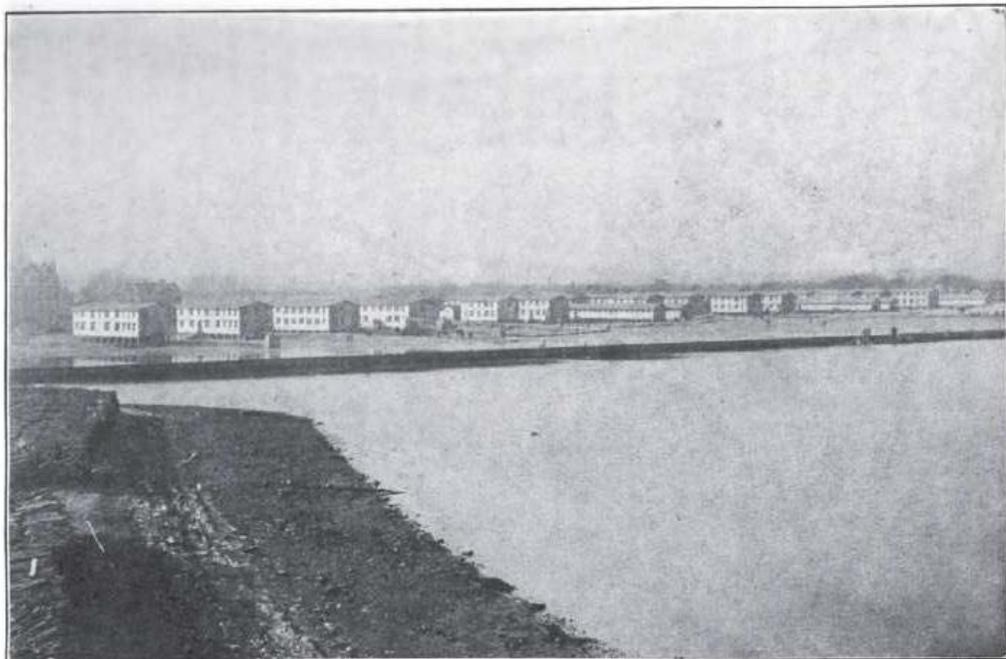


Figure 71. Fort Monroe, 1935 (NARA College Park).



Figure 72. Student apartments (NARA College Park).



Department of Sanitary Specialists, C.A.C. TWENTY-FIVE ACRES ADDED TO THE RESERVATION BY THE MILL CREEK FILL. 2223

Figure 73. Additions on Mill Creek Fill, 1919 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).



Figure 74. Oblique view of Fort Monroe and fill areas (in white) along Mill Creek, 1942 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

Using the WPA and PWA funds, Fort Monroe constructed a new seawall thirteen feet above mean low water from north of mortar batteries to the existing seawall along Hampton Roads. Other funds were used to rebuild Engineer Wharf, Quartermaster Wharf and Fort Wool Wharf, build a new NCO Club, replace the Beach Club and add a pool, build a new central garage, finish Randolph Hall (Figure 75), and build 9 sets of duplex NCO quarters behind the “student apartments” along Pratt and Murray Streets.

The landscape between the main gate, Building 100, Ingalls Road, and North Gate Road has a high concentration of buildings from the Interwar and WWII eras. The WPA and PWA funds allowed the replacement of WWI temporary buildings with permanent construction. Portions of this landscape are more industrial in use. These buildings were built on newly filled land between the Fort and Mill Creek from 1934 to 1938, including the Motor Pool (Building 57) (Figure 76), Ordnance Machine Shop (Building 59), and the Submarine Mine Depot (Building 28) (Figure 77).



Figure 75. Randolph Hall (Building 87), date unknown (Casemate Museum)



Figure 76. Motor Pool (Building 57) (Casemate Museum).

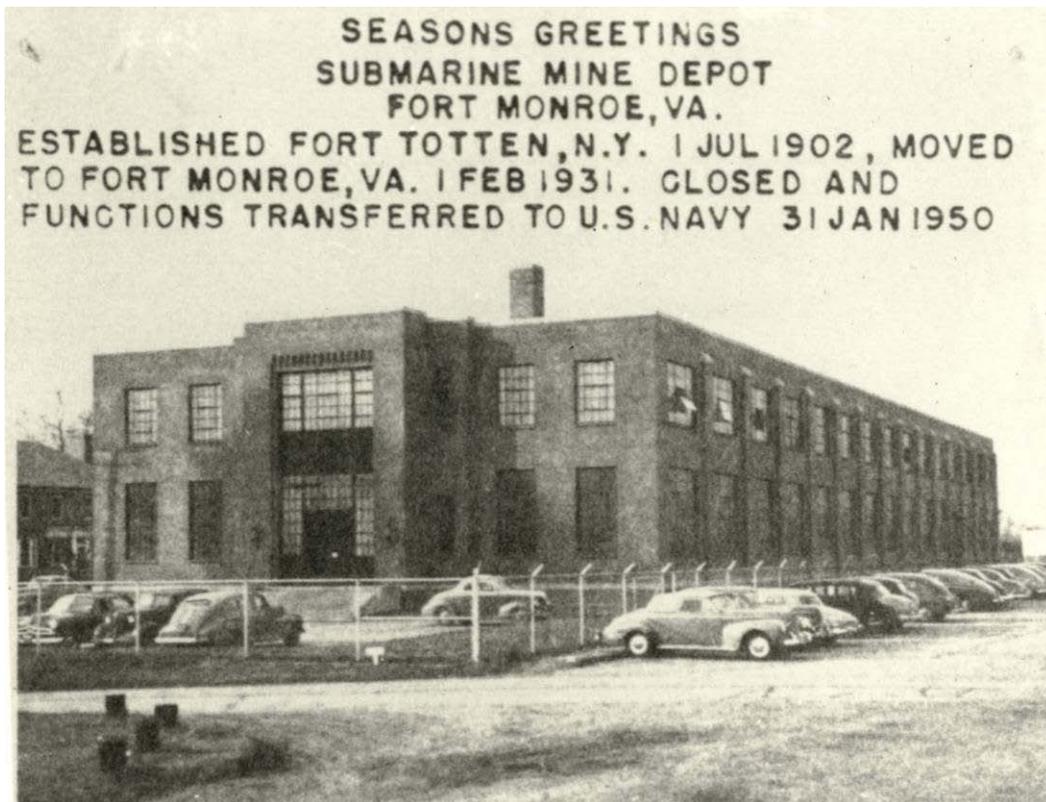
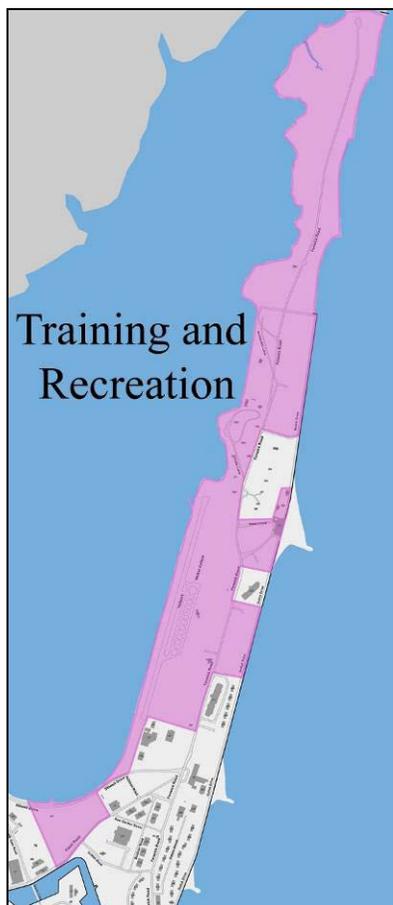


Figure 77. Submarine Mine Depot (Building 28) (Casemate Museum).

Training and Recreation



Many of the early maps do not show this portion of the installation used for training. An 1868 map shows a road titled “To Ordnance Experimental Trial Ground” extending from a field magazine directly east of the lighthouse. The road extends around the east side of the fort and north off the map. A rifle range and practice range was historically located directly south of Dog Beach (Figure 78).

There are references to and photos of Wilson Park, an antiaircraft gun park, located adjacent to the firing range (Figure 79). Wilson Park is first noted on a 1935 map located north of Batteries Anderson and Ruggles (Figure 81). In 1935, the park contained a director’s shed with latrine, tool and guard rooms, a safety tower, two batteries, and a 3” A.A. (antiaircraft gun). In photos, the park is in a grove of pine trees. WWI-era photos show a wooded stage and signing and recitations (Morando, 57) prior to the Liberty Theater being built on post.

Another photograph depicts a ROTC summer camp at Wilson Park in 1919. Wilson Park was described as being far enough away from offices and quarters that broken windows were not a problem (Morando, 70).



Figure 78. Rifle practice on Dog Beach, 1883 (Casemate Museum).



Figure 79. Photograph of Wilson Park, 1941 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

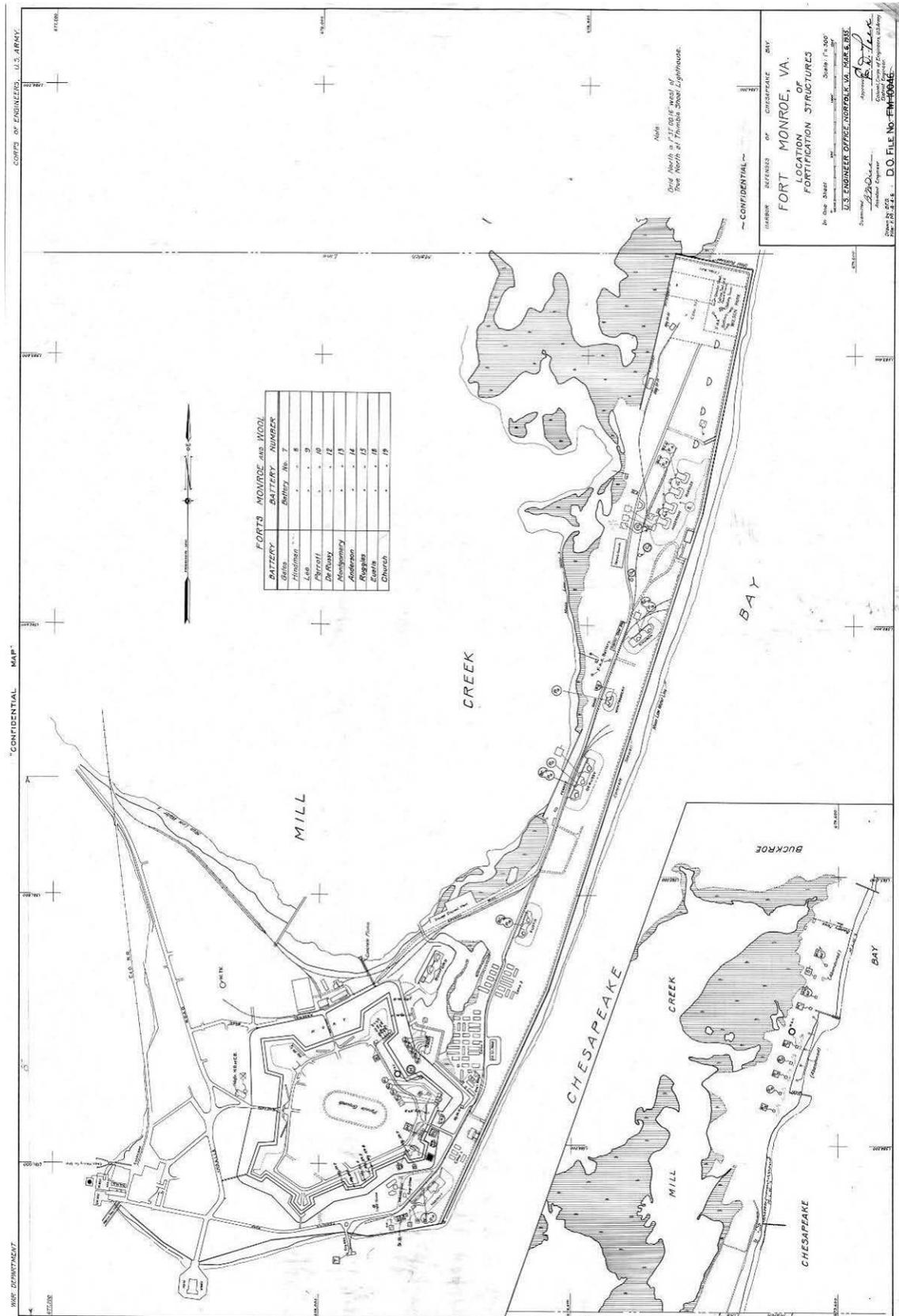


Figure 80. Fort Monroe, 1935 (NARA College Park).

The Post Cemetery is noted to have been located west of a ridge of sand north of the fort above the mortar batteries. After the Civil War, the bodies were removed and moved to the Hampton National Cemetery.

Coast Artillery Corps companies moved from barracks to camps several times a year for intense training at the batteries. WWI temporary camps were set up adjacent to the batteries to meet the training demands of war-time officers. 250 temporary buildings were constructed. The Army built rail lines that would transport guns and ammunition from the ordnance storehouse near the north gate to all the batteries.

Prior to the turn of the century, intramural and interservice sports were mainly played on the parade ground. In 1935, we start to see recreation being added to the sandy spit of land north of the fort. First the beach club and pool, then tennis courts, and by the 1940s land north of the fort begins to be used for recreation. The land north of the fort has a landing strip (a heliport today), a football field, ball fields, a skeet range, and more tennis courts (Figure 81).

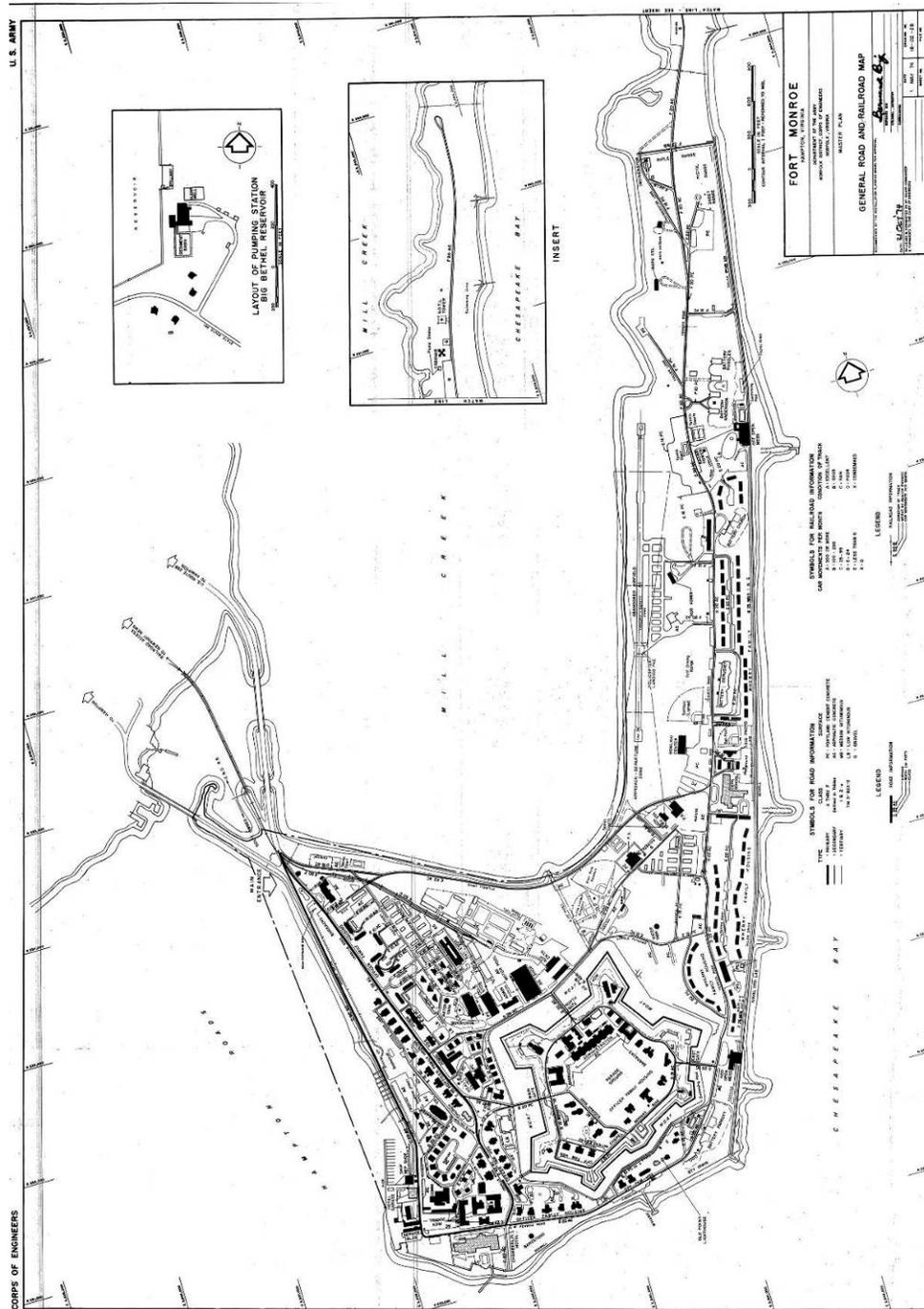
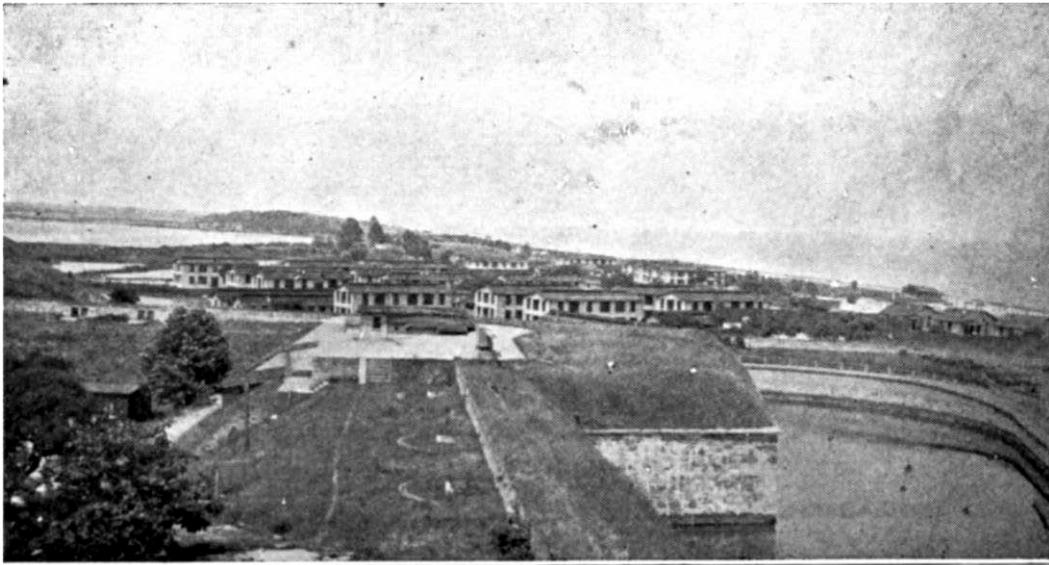


Figure 81. Fort Monroe recreation areas, 1974 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).



CAMP AREA NORTHEAST OF FORT IN 1918
Mill Creek at the left; Chesapeake Bay at the right

Figure 82. WWI camp located northeast of fort, 1918 (*The History of Fort Monroe*).

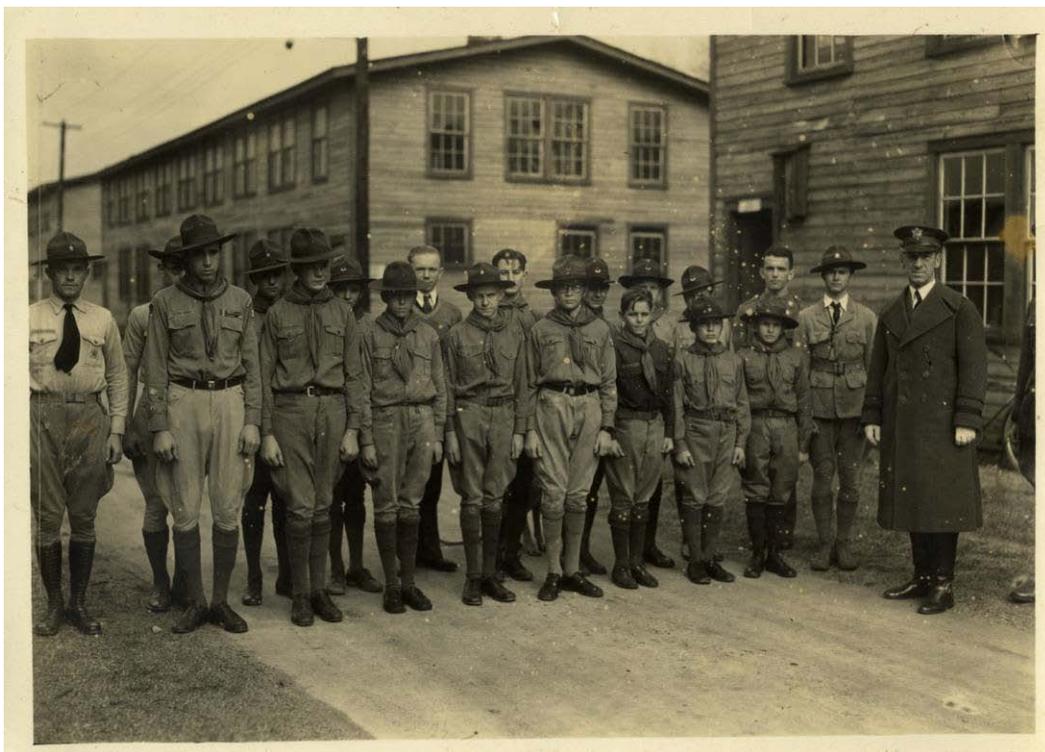


Figure 83. Boy scouts in front of WWI camp barracks, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

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4 Existing Conditions

Environmental Context and Setting

Fort Monroe is located on Old Point Comfort; a long sandy peninsula at the southern limit of the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. To the south of Fort Monroe is Hampton Roads into which empty the waters of the James, the Elizabeth, and the Nansemond Rivers. To the east is the wide expanse of the lower Chesapeake Bay giving access to the Potomac and the network of the rivers which the bay holds as tributaries. The main portion of Old Point Comfort is separated from the mainland by a small inlet, Mill Creek.

Fort Monroe is located within the Coastal Plain region of Virginia. The soils of Tidewater Virginia are alluvial deposits, sands and clays thin and light. Native vegetation in this region included walnut and oak species including red, black, white, chestnut, Spanish, and live.

Site Description

In landscape studies, the term "landscape characteristic" has a specific meaning. Landscape characteristics are defined as the "tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people, who occupied, developed, used, and shaped the land to serve human needs; they may reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people."¹⁵ Identifying the characteristics of the military landscape requires an understanding of the natural and cultural forces that have shaped it. This section will describe these processes and the resulting landscape features that together comprise the military landscape. The purpose of this section is to help Fort Monroe become sensitive to the overall landscape and how this affects decision making with regard to landscape planning.

Site Layout and Response to Natural Features

The layout of Fort Monroe is based on the relationships among land use, circulation networks, predominant landforms, and the surrounding water

¹⁵ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992), 3.

bodies and how these are reflected in the installation design and site plan.¹⁶ The mission of the military drives the spatial organization of an installation and the way the military uses the land. Generally, the site of any installation was selected primarily based on the location's suitability for the mission and in response to the natural environment.

Fort Monroe is situated on the tip of the Virginia Peninsula on a natural vantage point overlooking the James River where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Hampton Roads Harbor complex (Figure 85). Built as part of a nationwide system of coastal fortifications with a primary mission of coastal defense, the massive stone fortification was designed to defend Hampton Roads and the harbor from foreign enemies. The site of previous forts, the value of the land is obvious, and the period of construction, in response to the War of 1812 and the subsequent burning of Washington DC, all played a role in the site selection.

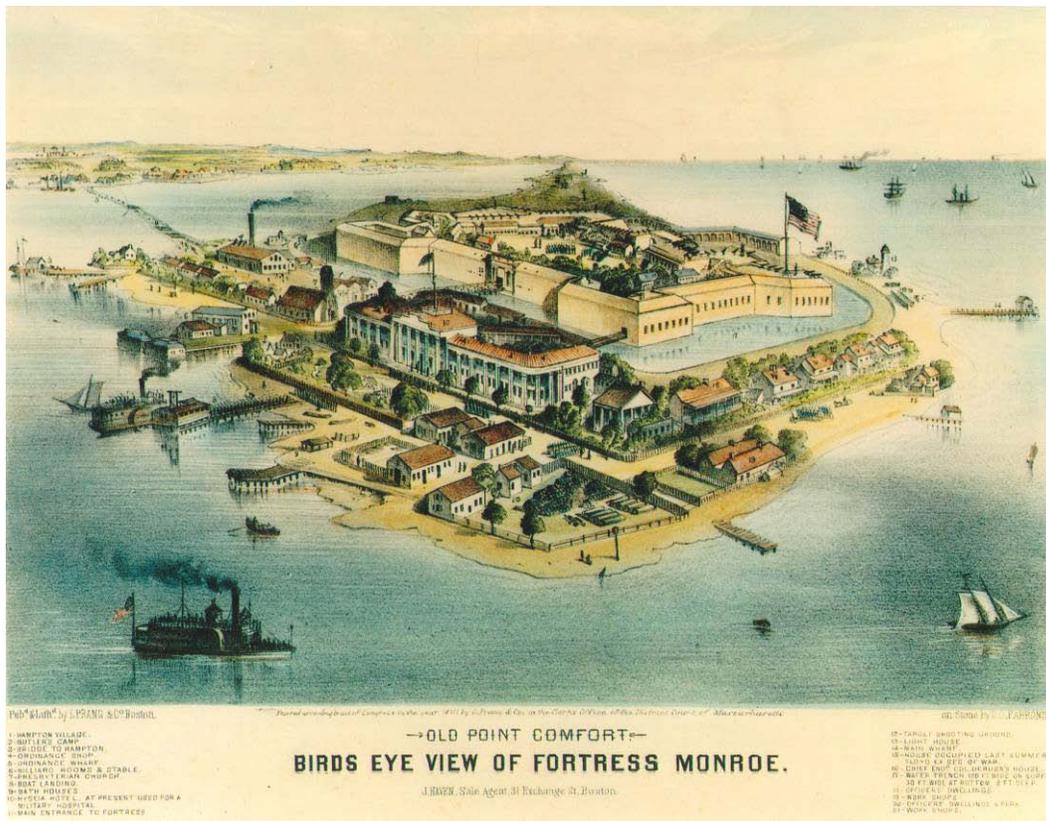


Figure 85. View of Fort Monroe, 1861 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

¹⁶ Loechl, Suzanne et al., *Guidelines for Identifying and Evaluating Historic Military Landscapes*, (Champaign, Illinois: Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, 2009), 67.

The design of the fort is in direct response to the size and shape of the parcel of land, the location of the water (tidal surge), and the direction of the perceived threat and Fort Wool. Inside the fortification, quarters and barracks were constructed both facing the casemates and facing the central parade ground. While the buildings on the interior of the fortification were constructed over a 100 year span, new construction either replaced existing or filled in open space. As a result, the interior of the fort spatially reads as it did in the 19th century.

Prior to the Civil War, all military support buildings were built inside the fortification. Construction outside the fortification was limited to lodging, construction support services (engineering, stone masons, lumber yard) and general support (quartermaster, shipping and receiving, ordnance yard). After the Civil War, there was a major shift in the spatial layout of Fort Monroe. The arsenal, a new Post Headquarters, and the YMCA were built directly outside the main gate of the fort. Subsequently, new officers' quarters and bachelor officers quarters were built along Ingalls Road adjacent to the arsenal and the Post Headquarters. Ingalls Road became the new entry way to the installation. In addition, during the 20th century marshy land along this corridor was filled to increase the available land for construction.

Land Uses and Activities

The military mission also directs how the military uses the land. Over time, as different missions are implemented, some land uses on an installation may change while some uses may remain the same.¹⁷

The Artillery School of Practice was established in 1824 and reestablished in 1867 when it was renamed the Artillery School of the US Army. The school focused on training artillery soldiers in the use of a variety of field, siege and seacoast guns mortars and howitzers and proper loading and firing techniques. Reorganization of Army artillery corps during the turn of the century resulted in the establishment of the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe. The campus-like design of the buildings associated with the school and their prominent location at the waterfront foremost and center, shows the importance the school had on the preservation of Fort Monroe as a military post.

¹⁷ Loechl et al, 2009, 70.

Fort Monroe's role as the home for an artillery school has continued off and on until the end of World War II. These two tasks, coastal defense and artillery training, have been the principal roles for Fort Monroe until the mid-twentieth century. The majority of Fort Monroe's historic buildings date to the construction of the Coast Artillery School (1906-1915). After World War II, the post became headquarters for a series of major commands of the U.S. Army. That is the role Fort Monroe performs today. The current mission of Fort Monroe is to support the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and tenants

The present appearance of Fort Monroe reflects its historic military land use due to the presence and condition of the fort, moat, casemates, batteries and historic parade ground (Figure 86). The amount and condition of the historic architecture, mainly the quarters, contributes greatly.



Figure 86. View from Hotel Chamberlin.

Expression of Military Cultural Traditions

Military cultural traditions are reflected on military installations in both organization and aesthetics¹⁸. The military is a unique culture with values such as hierarchy, discipline, utility, and patriotism. These values are physically manifested in the landscape to varying degrees giving military

¹⁸ Loechl et al, 2009, 73.

installations the appearance and sense of place that makes them easily recognizable¹⁹.

The fortification itself exudes power. The impressive architecture and the moat are highly visible from the harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. The interior built environment and parade ground all speak to the importance of Fort Monroe and its defensive prowess as the largest fortification in the world. The numbers of post cards from the turn of the century highlight the fort, its military mission and visual appeal (Figure 87).

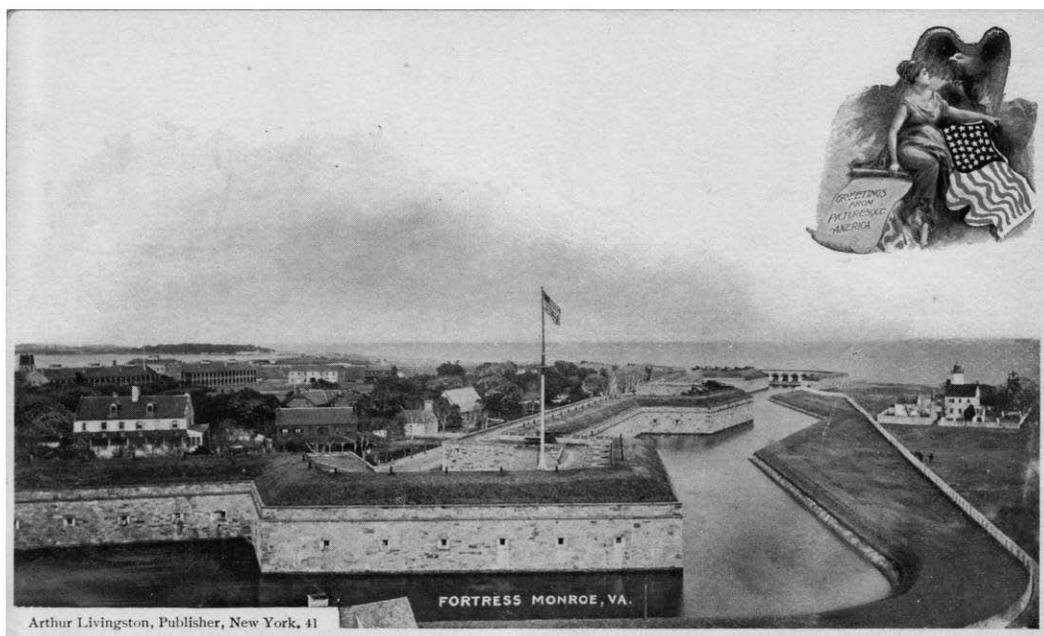


Figure 87. Post card view of the fort (Casemate Museum).

Hierarchy at Fort Monroe is clearly evident in the placement of officers' quarters. The earliest officers' quarters were built along the parade ground inside the fortification. Quarters 1, the oldest quarters at Fort Monroe, and the commanding general's quarters until 1907, was built on axis with one of the gates and the rear formal gardens faced the parade ground. In the 1890's, officers quarters were prominently built along Ingalls Road, the new entry way to the installation. Some of these quarters were designed by a nationally-known architect and features elegant architectural embellishments not found on the quartermasters standardized plans which were becoming standard at this time period. After 1907, the commanding general was moved to the waterfront along Fenwick Road. Adjacent to the

¹⁹ Ibid.

flagstaff bastion, the row of quarters was prominently located visible from the Hotel Chamberlin and Baltimore Wharf across from Continental Park and with commanding views of the harbor (Figure 88).

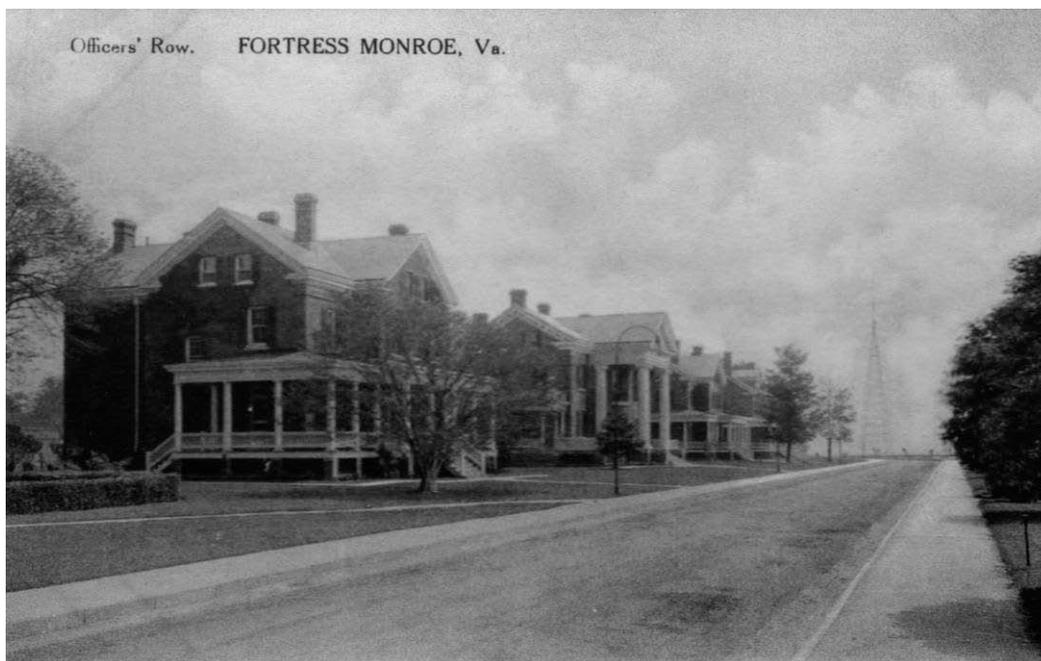


Figure 88. Post card view of Officers' Row (Casemate Museum).

Transportation Networks

Transportation networks on military installations are an important characteristic of military landscapes because the movement of troops and equipment is vital to the military mission. To facilitate efficient mobilization of troops and supplies, most transportation systems have a distinct hierarchy²⁰.

The Old Bay Line operated steamships between Old Point Comfort and Baltimore and Washington (Figure 89). The steamships arrived and departed from Baltimore Wharf located between the second Hygeia and Chamberlin hotels (Figure 90). Steamship was the most popular method of travel to Fort Monroe and Old Point Comfort. In the 1890s a streetcar added from Newport News [noted on maps as the N.N. & O.P.C. Railway]. Streetcar tracks extended from Phoebus down Frank Lane to Ingalls Road terminating at the Baltimore Wharf (Figure 91). As Hammond noted in his book, *Quaint Historic Forts*, “The visitor to Fort Monroe will almost inva-

²⁰ Loechl et al, 2009, 77.

riably come by water, although there is a roundabout way of reaching the post by way of trolley from Newport News – through quaint old Hampton, past Hampton Institute and over a long trestle to the reservation” (Hammond 1915, 233). The Baltimore Wharf was removed in 1961.



Figure 89. Steamship "Kilpatrick" arrives at Baltimore Wharf, date unknown (Casemate Museum).



Figure 90. Post card of Baltimore Wharf, date unknown (Casemate Museum).



Figure 91. Post card of streetcar along lower Ingalls Road, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

Railroad service was added to Fort Monroe in 1890 (Figure 92). After finishing track to Newport News in 1881, the C&O Railroad was determined to provide transportation for the guests of the Hygeia Hotel, as well as to serve the needs of the post. However, since they did not have permission to build on the military reservation, it took 6 years of negotiations to finalize the location of the track and depot. In the end, the railroad was required to build a new trestle bridge to the post and obtain permission from both Congress and the War Department.

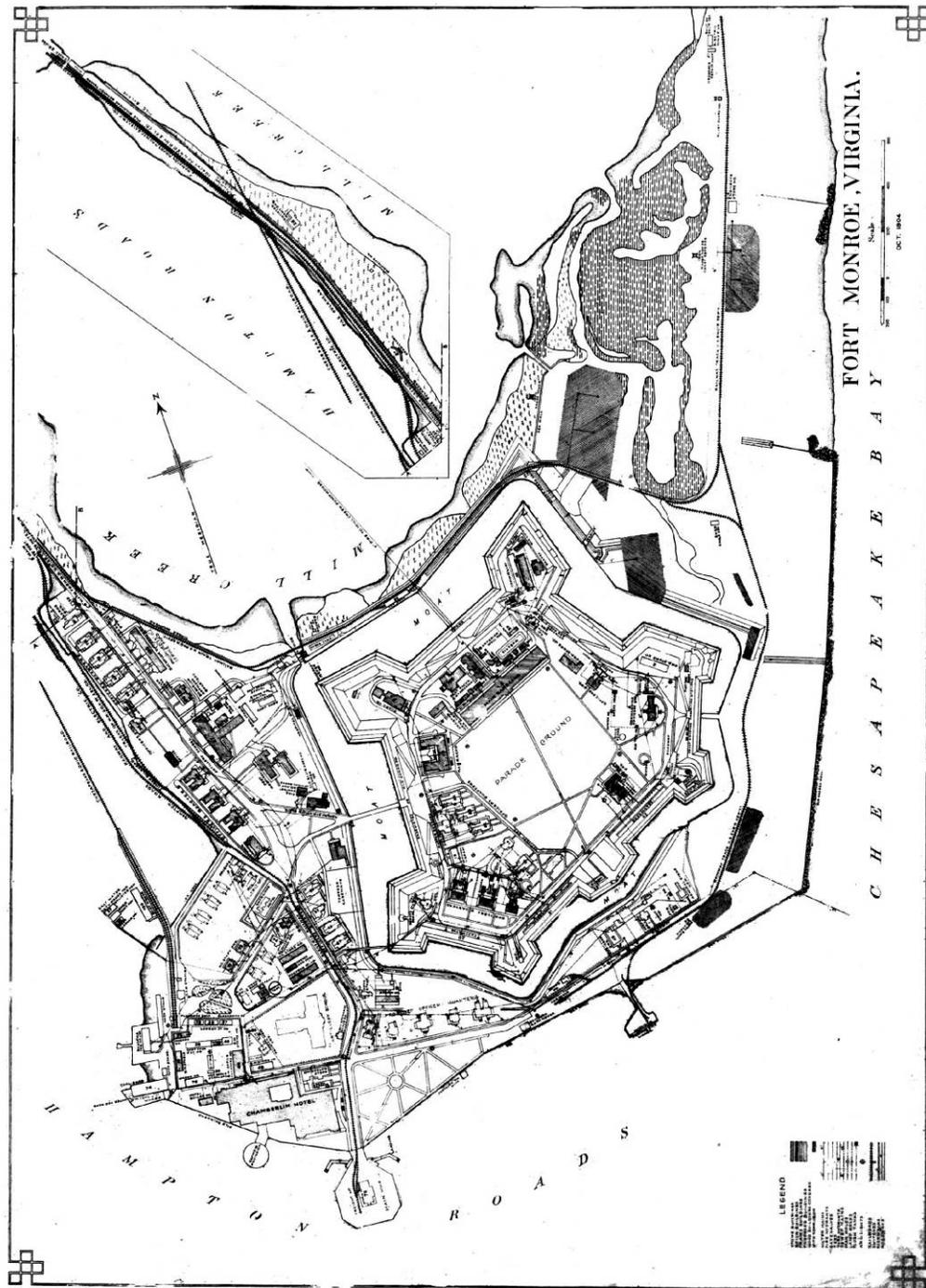


Figure 92. Map of Fort Monroe showing rail lines, 1904 (NARA College Park).

The track laying and the depot were completed in 1890 (Figure 93). An army operated railroad was constructed shortly after to meet the C&O line at the gate and to deliver supplies to the batteries and training camps (Figure 94). Rail service ended to Fort Monroe in 1939 and shortly after, the Army took over the Hotel Chamberlin for WWII.

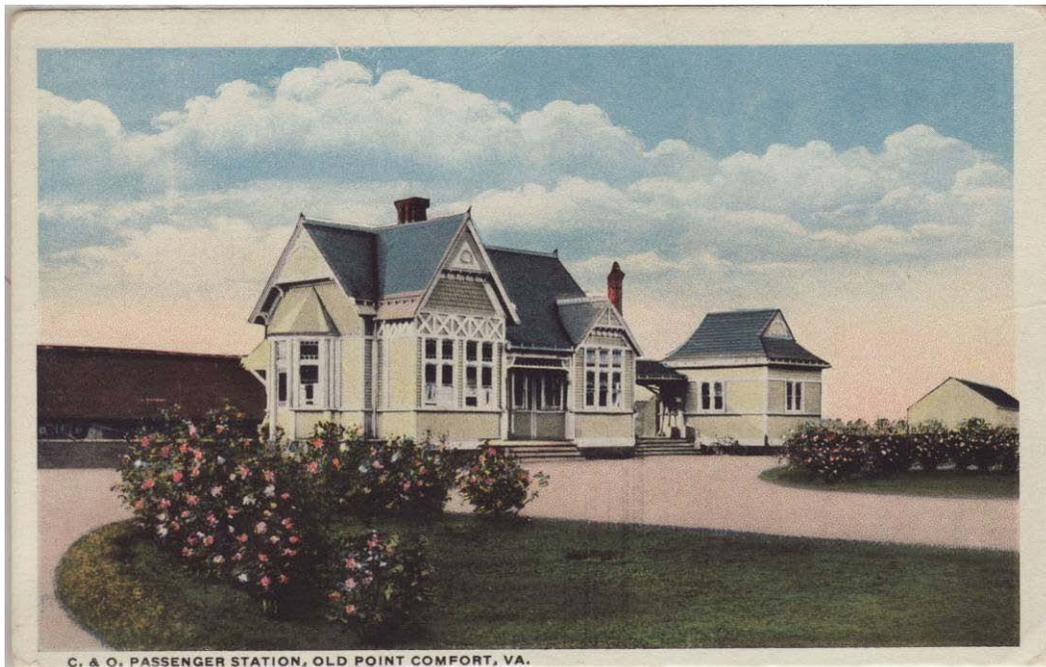


Figure 93. Post Card of Fort Monroe passenger station, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

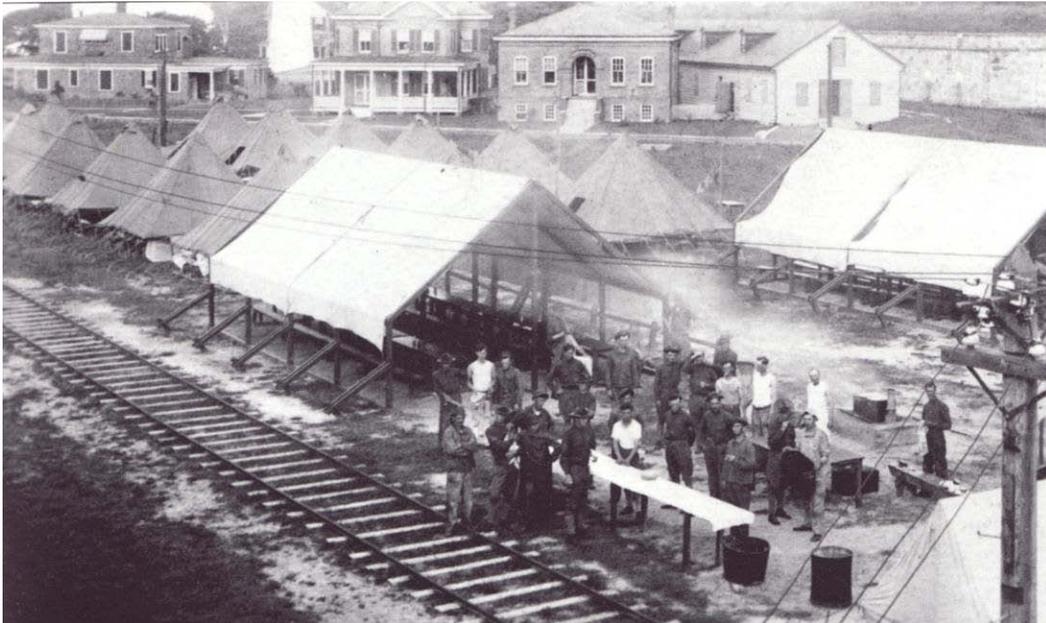


Figure 94. Artillery camp across from Battery Parrott, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

After parts of Mill Creek were dredged and filled along the north end of Fort Monroe and part of the peninsula in 1941-1943, an airfield was added to Fort Monroe. The airfield was located on the peninsula along Mill Creek. By 1974 it is marked as “abandoned airfield,” but is currently being used as a heliport.

Clusters of Buildings and Structures

Clusters are groupings of buildings and structures, often similar in style, that function as a cohesive unit. Clusters are usually designed to create a symbiotic relationship with the exteriors and interiors relating to one another in some way.²¹ The footprints of buildings, their masses, the spaces in between the buildings, and the circulation between buildings are integral to understanding the landscape.

Over the years, the military has developed standardized plans for most buildings and structures on military installations. For example, these include officers' quarters, barracks, administration buildings, airplane hangars, warehouses, gunsheds and ammunition bunkers, and motor parks. These plans established an appearance for military installations that is easily recognizable. WWI and WWII temporary buildings are excellent examples of clusters. Their function, materials, construction methods, and location clearly reflect the period in time, historic activities, military customs, tastes, and skills of the people who built them.

The fortification at Fort Monroe and the buildings inside the fort have changed little from their 19th century appearance because most of the subsequent development has taken place on other sections of the post (Figure 95). After the Civil War construction was concentrated around the Main Gate entrance to the fort, along Ingalls Road and at the waterfront. The quarters and support buildings that lined Ingalls Road were part of an Army building renovation program. A hospital, post headquarters, and post office were built as part of this campaign. Also built at this period were the Endicott Batteries which line the eastern shore of Fort Monroe.

The majority of Fort Monroe's historic buildings date to the construction period of the Coast Artillery School from 1906 to 1914. Construction from this period is stylistically cohesive, and derived from Colonial Revival standardized plans. This style was continued through the Interwar period along the northern end of Ingalls Road.

Between 1904 and 1910, a series of artillery training camps were built adjacent to the batteries. These camps were comprised of tents and/or WWI style temporary buildings. These camps were enlarged during WWI and WWII. Sections of these camps remained until the 1990s.

²¹ Loechl et al, 2009, 87.

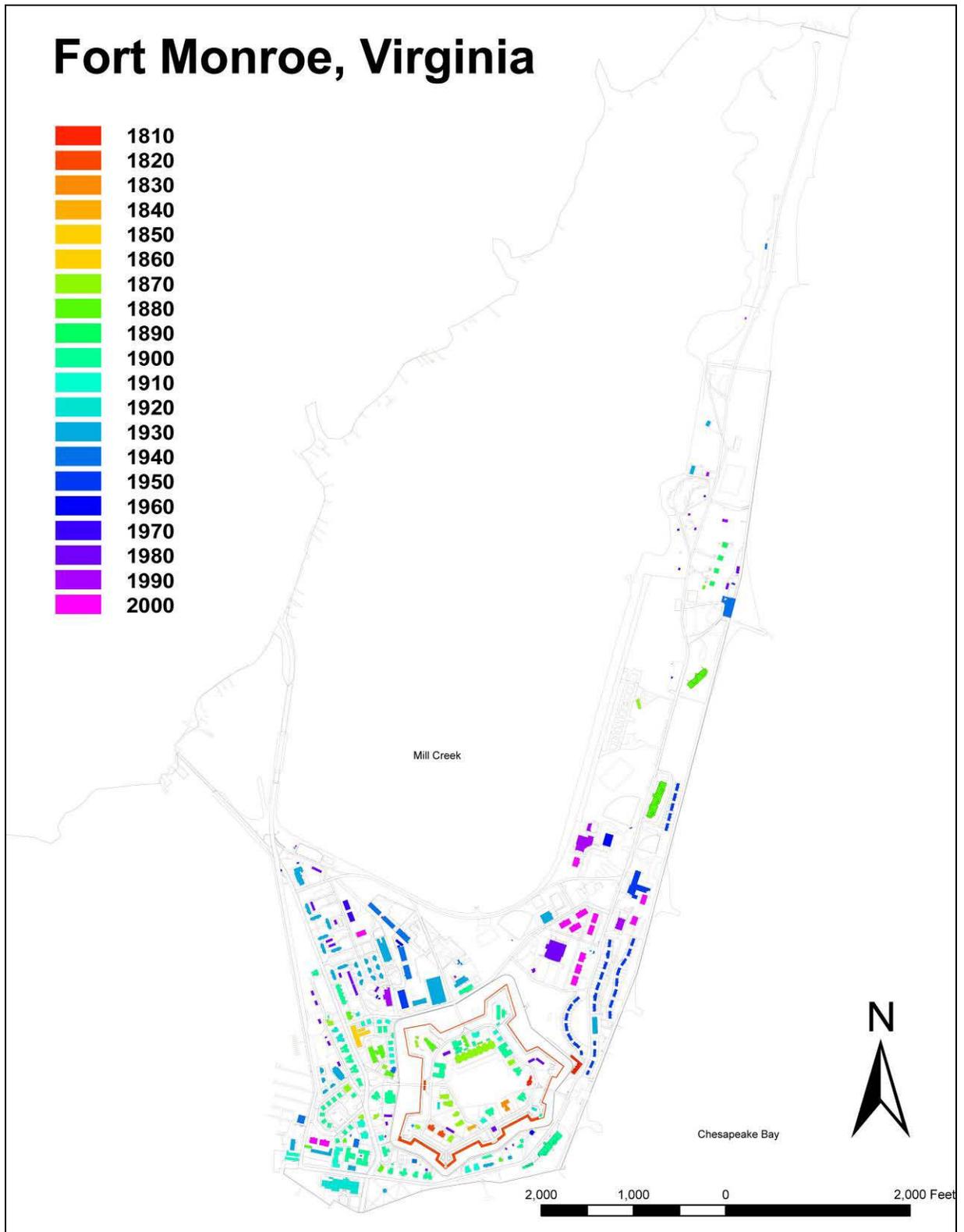


Figure 95. Building clusters by construction date.

After World War II, the post became headquarters for a series of major commands of the U.S. Army. In support of this new mission, the Wherry Housing area, consisting of 53 buildings was built in 1953. The area was designed between Fenwick Road and the shoreline with a semicircular section west of Fenwick.

Vegetation

Vegetation is a characteristic of the landscape that bears a direct relationship to long-established patterns of land use²². For example, residential neighborhoods are often the most heavily planted areas on military installations while other areas are often left open for various military activities. In addition, the more prominent support buildings such as headquarters, chapels, hospitals, and officers' clubs tend to have more landscaping than more utilitarian buildings such as motor pools, quartermaster and warehouse areas. Patterns of vegetation may delineate boundaries, land use areas, and natural areas such as streams or ravines.

The Live Oaks around Fort Monroe, especially lining the parade ground, are wonderful specimens of some 200-300 years old. Their size and broadly spreading habit give them great character. There is a wonderful collection of historic photographs and postcards displaying the oaks on the parade ground (Figures 96 and 97). Weinert notes in his book *Defending the Chesapeake* that "the interior of the fort was heavily wooded – the same live oaks were present as visible today. It is said the Live Oaks inside the fort and those near the officers club north of the fort are the northernmost live oaks to be found in the US" (Weinert, 178).

The landscapes and tree lined streets at Fort Monroe have been heavily photographed over the years. While period postcards typically embellished the beauty and colors of the landscaping, they were usually drawn from historic photographs. Importance can be seen in the stately foundation plantings in front of the Coastal Artillery School buildings (Figure 98) and in front of officers' quarters along Fenwick Road and Ingalls Road (Figure 99). Today the entrance to Fort Monroe along Ingalls is accented with colorful crepe myrtles.

²² Loechl et al., 2009, 83.



Figure 96. Photograph of Building 5 and parade ground, date unknown (Casemate Museum).



Figure 97. Postcard of Live Oaks on parade ground, date unknown (Casemate Museum).



Figure 98. Postcard of Murray Hall (Building 133), date unknown (Casemate Museum).



Figure 99. Postcard of quarters along Ingalls Road, date unknown (Casemate Museum).

The many parks and green spaces around Fort Monroe contribute to the “greening” of the installation and the overall beauty. Continental Park, along the waterfront and prominently located in front of Officers’ Row has been accented with formal beds over the years, especially before the addition of the bandstand (Figures 100 and 101). Smaller parks such as Cannon Park and Sherwood Park provide formal areas to display monuments and trophies as well as neighborhood recreation.



Figure 100. Postcard of Continental Park, prior to 1934 (Casemate Museum).



Figure 101. Postcard of Continental Park after bandstand was added in 1934 (Casemate Museum).

Historically, formal gardens and parterres surrounded Quarters 1. These gardens, visible on an 1843 map, were maintained by a soldier at some time (HABS, 20). A pavilion and greenhouse were situated in the gardens (Figure 102). It is possible Quarters 1 was the only formal garden inside the fort during the 19th century. Many of the quarters, such as the Tuileries, were built for bachelor officers and most likely did not have associated formal gardens. It is not until the 20th century that foundation planting becomes popular and is evidenced in photographs around Fort Monroe.



Figure 102. Garden pavilion behind Quarters 1, 1884 (Fort Monroe Cultural Resources).

Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features can range in size and be stationary or moveable objects that often contribute to the historic character of the installation.²³ These features may include monuments, light poles, benches, flagpoles, fencing, or signs and can be functional or purely decorative.

Photographs from the 1880s depict a lot of fencing at quarters around the installation mostly within the fort (Figure 103 and 104). This fencing was usually a white picket style complete with gates, which mirrored the white porch railings on many of the buildings. In addition, a photograph from this period shows the same style fencing around the moat itself. This fencing seems to be gone after the turn of the century, quite possibly as growth, new housing, headquarters, and the school was built outside of the fort.

²³ Loechl, et al. 2009, 90.



Figure 103. Fence between Building 50 and the parade ground, 1884 (Casemate Museum).

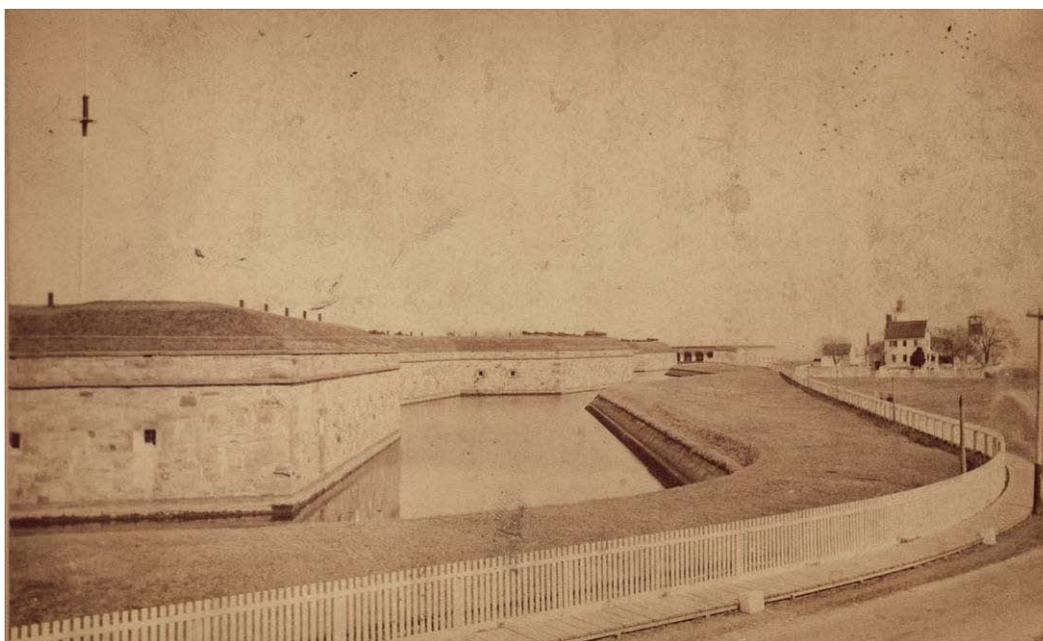


Figure 104. Fence outside of moat, 1880s (Casemate Museum).

Throughout the history of Fort Monroe, there have been pieces of armament on display around the installation, some even from the Revolutionary War. During the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, there was a large trophy park on the parade ground and another in front of the headquarters at Cannon Park (Figure 105). Inside the fortification, streets and quarters were marked with stacks of cannon balls (Figure 106). At end of 1942, a massive war-time scrap drive wiped out most of

historic armament. Today remaining pieces are display at Cannon Park and in front of the Casemate museum, although there are a few addition pieces scattered such as marking the flag pole bastion and the entrance to the former Officer's Beach Club (Figure 107).

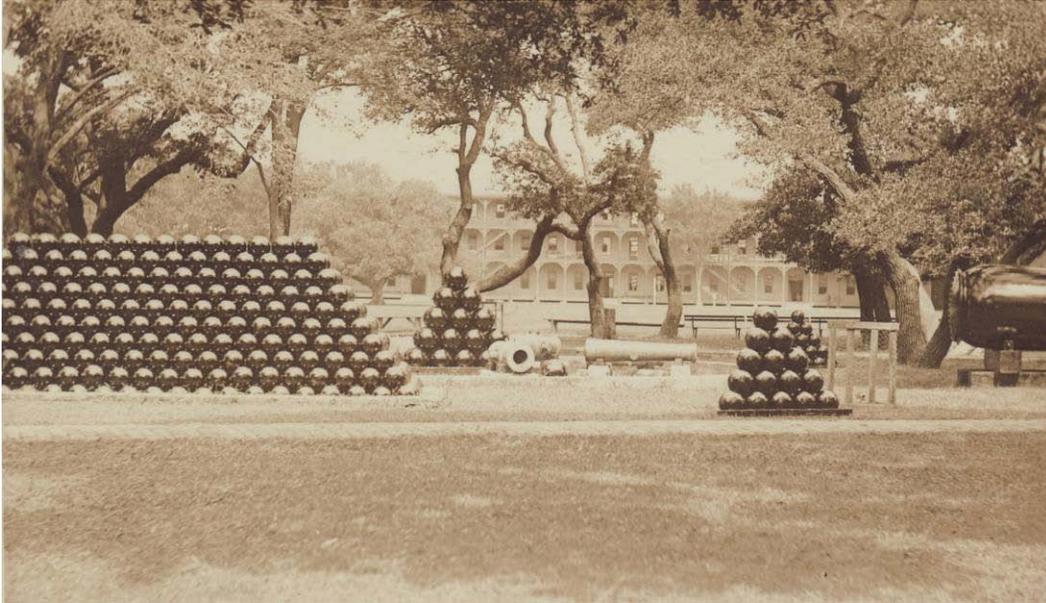


Figure 105. Postcard of the former Trophy Park located on the parade ground, date unknown (Casemate Museum).



Figure 106. Piles of cannon balls marked quarters and street corners, 1880s (Casemate Museum).



Figure 107. Entry post to Officers' Beach Club, 2009.

In addition, there are a few other small scale features that have played a part in the history of Fort Monroe. The pavilion that was formerly located behind Quarters 1 in the garden was moved to behind the commanding general's quarters and remains there today (Figure 108). There is a historic cistern located out front of the Casemate Museum that reminds of the

difficulty Fort Monroe had in getting potable water (Figure 109). An archway over the entrance to the terreplein at the south bastion reads “Jefferson Davis Memorial Park” (Figure 110). Although it is a “new” addition to the landscape, it is now 50 years of age. These features are very important to the character of Fort Monroe, especially within the fortification and Cannon Park.



Figure 108. Pavilion and garden behind the Commanding General's Quarters, 2009.



Figure 109. View of cistern adjacent to the Casemate Museum, 2009.



Figure 110. Jefferson Davis Memorial Park archway, 2009.

Existing Conditions

The Fort

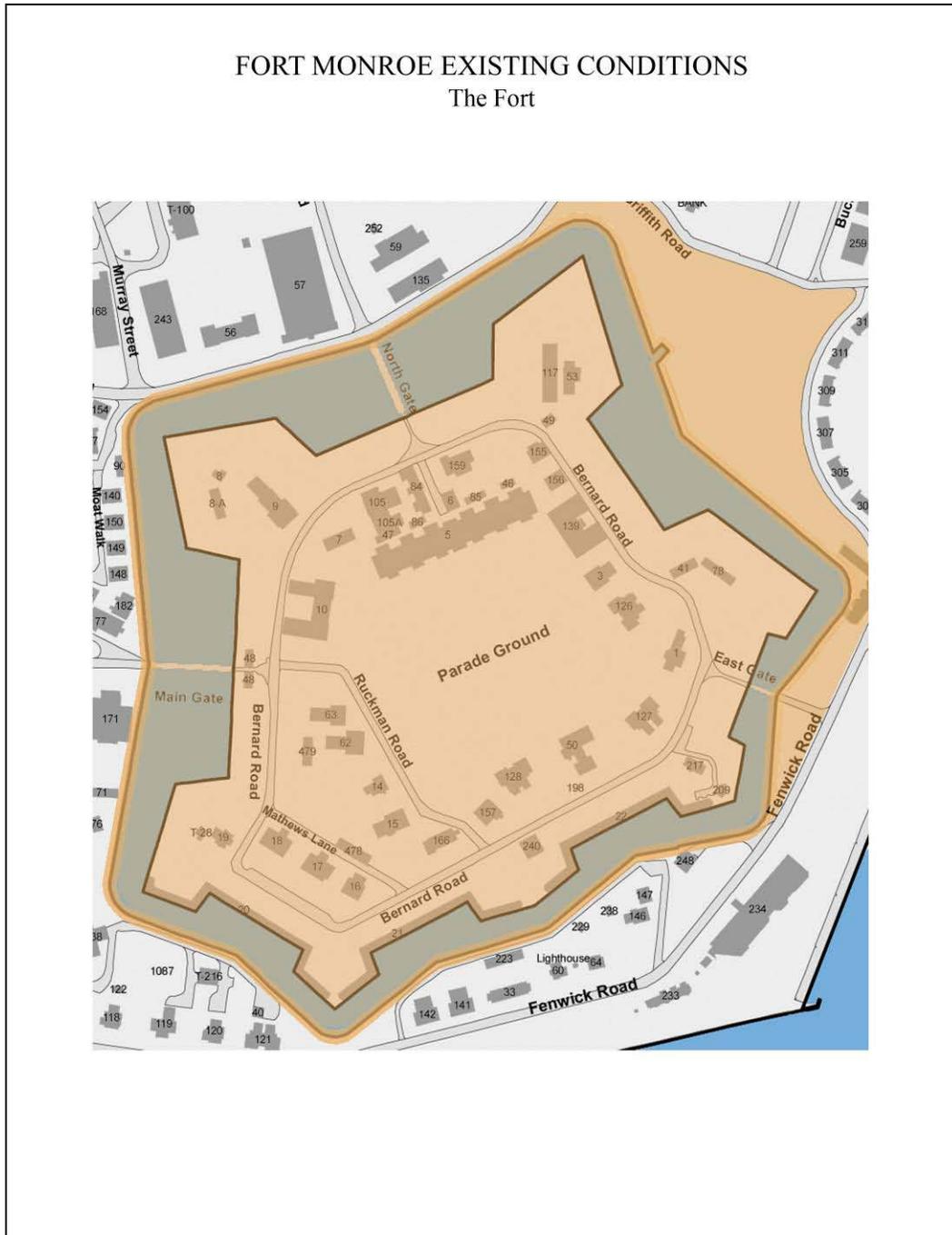




Figure 111. Remnant gun mounts and terreplein, 2009.



Figure 112. View toward Casemate Building 22 and Bernard Road, 2009.



Figure 113. View of water battery remnant, 2009.



Figure 114. View looking north from casemate, 2009.



Figure 115. View along Ruckman Road, 2009.



Figure 116. View of Tuileries, 2009.



Figure 117. Looking across parade ground at Building 5, 2009.



Figure 118. View of Quarters 1 from terreplein, 2009.



Figure 119. View of Chapel of the Centurion, 2009.



Figure 120. View of flagstaff bastion, 2009.



Figure 121. View of Live Oak trees along parade ground, 2009.



Figure 122. View of sluice, 2009.



Figure 123. View of pet cemetery grave markers, 2009.



Figure 124. View of AC units on top of casemates along terreplein, 2009.



Figure 125. View of Jefferson Davis Memorial Park arch and benches, 2009.



Figure 126. View of flagstaff bastion, 2009.

Yard and School

FORT MONROE EXISTING CONDITIONS
YARD & SCHOOL

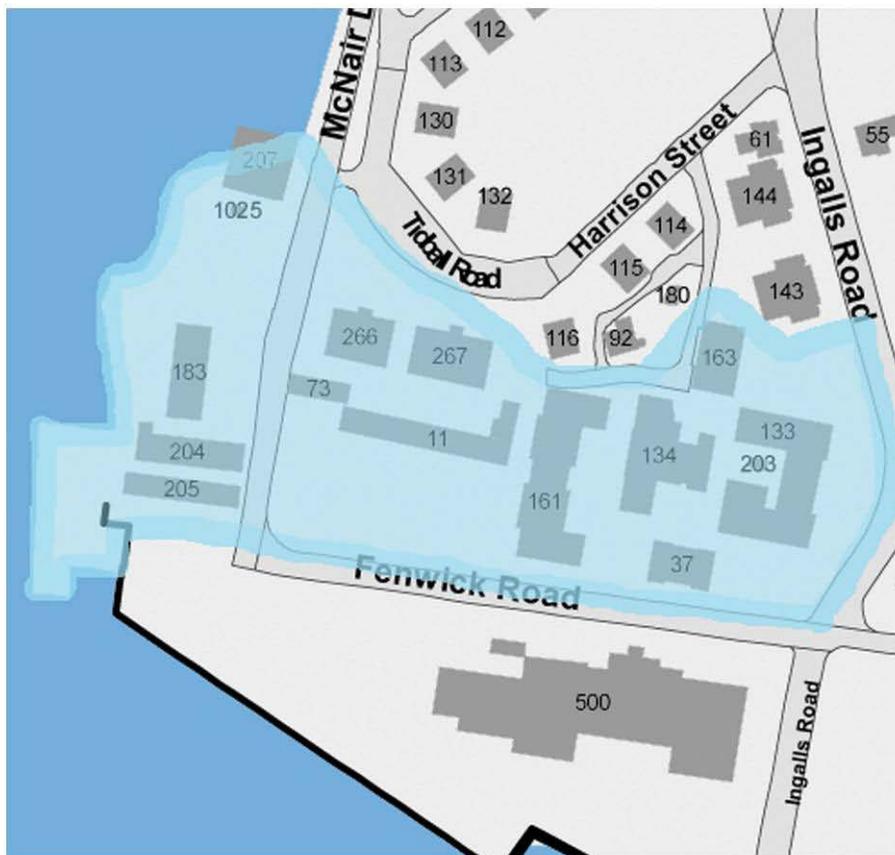




Figure 127. View of Building 133, the Library and the post office, 2009.



Figure 128. View of parking lot, Buildings 205, 204 and 183, and Hampton Roads, 2009.



Figure 129. YMCA, 2009.



Figure 130. Cannon Park and Main Gate to fort, 2009.



Figure 131. Crepe Myrtle trees lining Ingalls Road, 2009.



Figure 132. Quarters 102, 2009.



Figure 133. Bachelor Officers Quarters (Building 100), 2009.



Figure 134. Parry House, 2009.



Figure 135. Marina area and view to Hampton Roads, 2009.

Waterfront



Figure 136. Hotel Chamberlin, 2009.



Figure 137. Engineer Wharf, 2009.



Figure 138. Continental Park, Hotel Chamberlin and views to Hampton Roads, 2009.



Figure 139. Officers' housing along Fenwick Road facing Continental Park and water, 2009.

Batteries

**Fort Monroe Existing Conditions
Endicott Period Batteries**





Figure 140. Battery Parrot, 2009.



Figure 141. Wherry housing located between Battery DeRussy and the water, 2009.



Figure 142. Battery DeRussy, 2009.



Figure 143. Magazine at Battery Anderson, 2009.

Interwar and WWII

FORT MONROE EXISTING CONDITIONS
INTERWAR

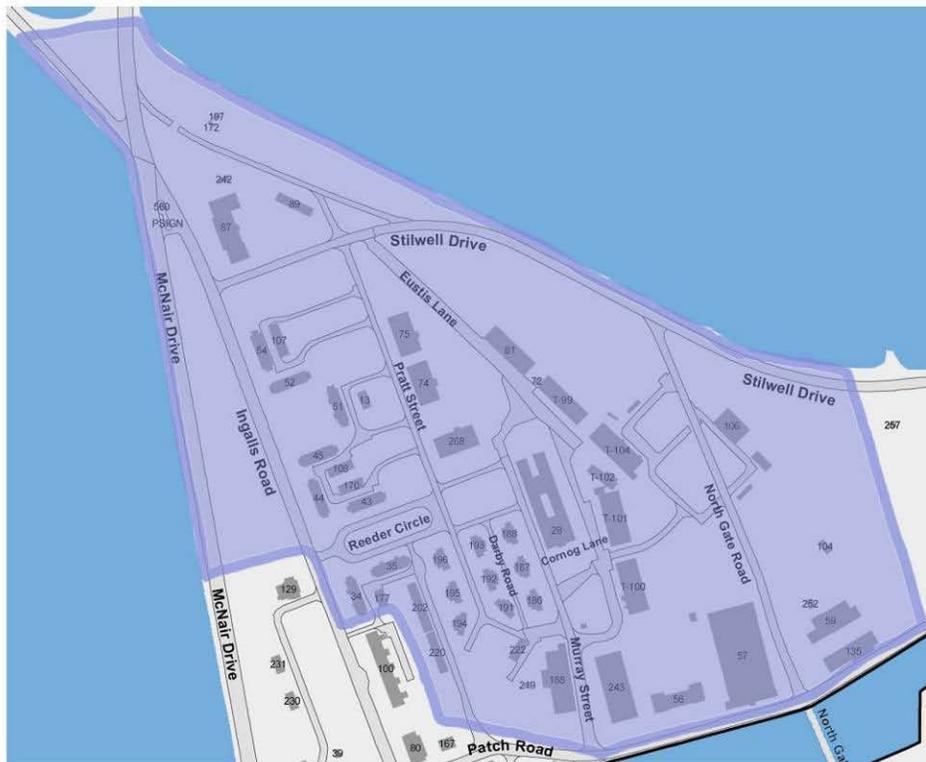




Figure 144. Student Apartments (Building 35), 2009.



Figure 145. Student Apartments (Building 52), 2009.



Figure 146. Former Submarine Mine Depot (Building 28), 2009.



Figure 147. WWII warehouses, 2009.



Figure 148. Dog Beach, 2009.



Figure 149. RV campground, 2009.



Figure 150. Picnic pavilion adjacent to Battery Ruggles, 2009.



Figure 151. Baseball diamond, Mill Creek in background, 2009.



Figure 152. Former Walker Airfield, currently a heliport, 2009.



Figure 153. Former magazine and site of Wilson Park, 2009.

Cold War

FORT MONROE EXISTING CONDITIONS
COLD WAR

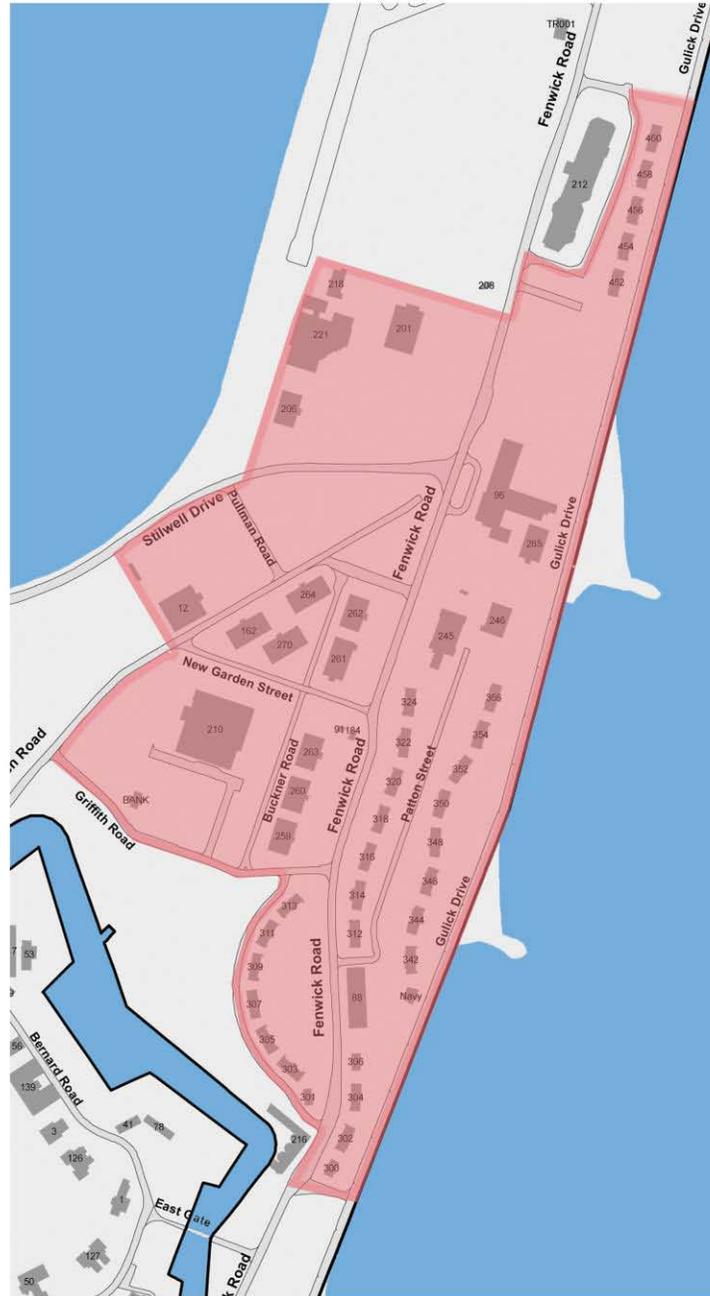




Figure 154. Wherry Housing with Chesapeake Bay in background, 2009.

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5 Evaluation

Significance

Fort Monroe is significant as the largest Third System fortification built in America and only one of a few that are still in continuous operation as an Army installation. Its strategic location at the juncture of the James River and Chesapeake Bay led to its significance as a military stronghold. The fortification is highly visible from the surrounding communities and adjacent to shipping channels.

Fort Monroe has a rich Civil War history as a critical Union outpost in the South, including the Contraband Decision that provided a pathway to the Emancipation Proclamation. In addition, Fort Monroe contains many resources spanning the post-War of 1812 history of coastal defense of the nation's capital and Chesapeake Bay. Fort Monroe also has association with persons of historic military and political importance. Edgar Allen Poe and Robert E. Lee served at Fort Monroe as young men, Chief Black Hawk was at Fort Monroe after the Black Hawk War of 1832, and Jefferson Davis was imprisoned at Fort Monroe from 1865 until 1867.

Fort Monroe was designed by General Simon Bernard, once an aide to Napoleon I. The purpose of the fort was to afford a protected anchorage for the United States Fleet by controlling the channel from the Chesapeake Bay into Hampton Roads. The fort would also close the waterway to enemy fleets attempting to attack cities of the Hampton Roads area, as had occurred during the Revolution and the War of 1812. The batteries would also dominate an approach to Washington by way of Chesapeake Bay as the British had done in 1814. For all these reasons Fort Monroe became the keystone of an entire chain of forts, built under Bernard's direction extending from Maine to Louisiana.

The Army's first service school for instruction in artillery was established at Fort Monroe in 1824. It remained there with temporary closings until 1946. The buildings still remain and are in use as TRADOC Headquarters. The development of coast artillery and fortifications in the United States from 1824 to 1904 is represented first by the initial fortification, the Endicott Batteries, and later by the anti-aircraft guns which are no longer extant in the landscape. The Endicott Batteries, six of which exist, were built

along the waterfront of Fort Monroe between 1892 and 1906. They were used as 90 mm. anti-aircraft batteries throughout World War II.

The NRHP Criterion for Evaluation describes how properties/districts are significant for their association with important events or persons (Criteria A and B), for their importance in design or construction (Criterion C), or for their information potential (Criterion D). The following is a brief description of each of the four Criteria (excerpted from *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*):

Criterion A. Event--associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

Criterion B. Person--associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

Criterion C. Design/Construction--embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion D. Information Potential--yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Fort Monroe was designated a National Historic Landmark on December 19, 1960 and added to the NRHP in 1966. It is significant under Criteria A, B, and C for construction of coastal fortifications, Civil War, Jefferson Davis, fortification construction, and military architecture.

Integrity and Character-Defining Features

The character, quantity, quality, and combination of resources that exist at Fort Monroe are extremely high. The condition and integrity of these resources, due to the continuing care of the Army, is also high. Overall, Fort Monroe retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a Third System, Coastal Defensive fortification. Fort Monroe is a National Historic Landmark District with a determination that the resource retains a high degree of integrity.

“Historic properties either retain integrity (this is, convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.”²⁴

The seven aspects of integrity as outlined in National Register Bulletin #15, read as follows:

Location

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

Design

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. It results from conscious decisions made during the original conception and planning of a property (or its significant alteration) and applies to activities as diverse as community planning, engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture. Design includes such elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials.

Setting

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. It involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space.

Materials

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form an historic property.

Workmanship

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

Feeling

Feeling is a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period.

Association

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and an historic property.

²⁴ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin #15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: National Park Service) 1991.

The Fort

Integrity

The integrity of the landscape inside the fort is high. The casemates are in great condition and the presence of the museum, its gun displays, and vibrancy are a great benefit to interpretation of the historic landscape (Figure 155). The quarters, with the exception of one that is boarded up, are in good condition and occupied. Parking is at a minimum inside the casemate and seeing cars parked on the grass detracts some but one needs to remember this is a functioning military installation and not a national park or museum. The continued occupation of these buildings and quarters is what has helped maintain the setting and feeling and preserved the materials and workmanship of the casemate and buildings.

The open parade ground with some of the remaining mature live oaks is the main landscape feature inside the casemate. Architectural changes and condition of Building 5 affect the integrity of the parade ground some since it is such a prominent building in the viewshed. The addition of a large parking lot between Building 5 and the parade ground also detracts from the feel and setting of the parade ground (Figure 156). There are fewer live oak trees and some are missing branches, most likely due to Hurricane Isabel in 2003. However, standing in the center of the parade ground and viewing the historic buildings and quarters lining the edge make one realize how important Fort Monroe is to our national heritage (Figure 157).

Character-Defining Features

- Fort
- Moat
- Parade ground
- Live oaks lining parade ground
- Quarters and buildings lining the parade ground and fronts
- Lincoln Gun
- Guns and monuments in front of museum
- Cistern
- Views from top of terreplein to Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads and Mill Creek
- Views of fortification from water bodies and rest of installation
- Pet cemetery on terreplein
- Views across parade ground

- Flagstaff bastion
- Jefferson Davis Park and sign



Figure 155. Guns in front of Casemate Museum, 2009.



Figure 156. Parade ground, parking lot and Building 5, 2009.



Figure 157. Live oak trees lining parade ground, 2009.

Yard and School

Integrity

The addition of the Coast Artillery School in 1906 completely changed the industrial feel of this area. Designed and planned as a unit (HARB, 29) these buildings have a campus feel, even with the Library on other side of street. The Board building was added almost 20 years later as was Cullen Hall (163) and additions to the barracks (Building 161). The school was an impressive addition to this area and stands adjacent to the stately Chamberlain (Figure 158).

The circulation and parking around the school buildings is confusing at best. It is not helped by the blurry edge between the school buildings and the housing area to the north. Two new buildings were built in the parking lot (Building 267 and 266) behind the barracks and north of the garage. The mine and shop buildings and wharfs (204 and 205) are now in use by the Navy and are surrounded by an unattractive chain-link fence. All these factors affect the integrity of the school.

The landscape around the school buildings Green space and lawns Today, the courtyard area between buildings 133, 163, 134, and 37 is hardscape and used for parking and deliveries. Sides and fronts of buildings along Fenwick and Ingalls Roads have mature foundation plantings and planting beds.

Character-Defining Features

- Architecture of school buildings and library (Buildings 133,134, 138, 37, 161, 163)
- Commanding presence at crossroads of Ingalls and Fenwick
- Green space around buildings
- Mature foundation plantings
- Views to and from Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads



Figure 158. Coast Artillery School buildings from Chamberlin roof deck, 2009.

Ingalls Road

Integrity

The streetscape and overall landscape of Ingalls Road remains strong. Historically, Ingalls Road was the entrance to Fort Monroe. Visitors arriving drove right down the center of Ingalls Road until security was tightened after 9/11. The character of the architecture, the compatible mix of housing and administration, and the feeling of the historic street really add to the integrity of Ingalls Road (Figure 159). There are street trees, attractive foundation plantings, parks and open space.

Ingalls Road also contains the main entrance to the fort (Figure 160). A triangle, which forms Cannon Park, is in the center, and the headquarters, YMCA, St. Mary Star of the Sea Chapel, and hospital all line the edges of the triangle. While Ingalls Road evolved over 60 years with no formal plan, the overall feeling is one of cohesiveness.

Character-Defining Features

- Compatible architecture but varying and interesting

- Street trees
- Parks and open space (Sherwood Park and Cannon Park)
- Consistent setbacks and streetscape
- Lighting and signage
- Attractive foundation plantings and flower beds
- Views up and down Ingalls Road
- Views toward fortification



Figure 159. Building 100, 2009.



Figure 160. View from above main gate, 2009.

Waterfront

Integrity

The colorful tourist landscape of the waterfront has been gone for many years, the many souvenir and newspaper shops, the hustle and bustle of trolley and steam boat traffic, and the tourists milling about is missing. The absence of Baltimore Wharf affects the integrity some since it was the heart of travel to and from Fort Monroe and the tourist landscape for so long. However, the adaptive reuse of the Chamberlin and its restored condition still anchors the waterfront area and Fort Monroe.

The stately row of officers' quarters along Fenwick drive, the lighthouse and keeper's house, and the waterfront really add to the character of Fort Monroe (Figure 161). The quarters and lighthouse are in good condition and significantly add to the character of Fort Monroe (Figure162). The view along Fenwick drive remains impressive.

The Continental Park and bandstand are still in use for ceremonies and concerts. The Engineer Wharf is in constant use for fishing and people are frequently seen walking up and down along the water and seawall.

Character-Defining Features

- Views toward the flagstaff bastion
- Engineer Wharf
- Continental Park
- Bandstand
- Row of officers' quarters
- Lighthouse
- Hotel Chamberlin
- Walkway along water and seawall
- Views to and from Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads



Figure 161. View east from Hotel Chamberlin, 2009.



Figure 162. Lighthouse, Keeper's House and Building 64, 2009.

Batteries

Integrity

Six of the Endicott period batteries or mortar batteries are standing today. Four of the original batteries were removed to make room for construction at an earlier date. Initially these battery walls were earthen covered, both as protection and for disguise. Since being exposed to the elements, most have been closed to the public (Figure 163). The batteries are massive in the landscape and serve as visual reminders of the coastal defensive mission.

At Battery DeRussy, Wherry housing was constructed between the battery and the water. Since there is a historic association with these batteries and views, this affects the integrity.

Character-Defining Features

- Size and mass of batteries
- Earthen mounds on sides
- Views out from batteries to the Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads

- Views to batteries from water and installation
- Location and distribution along the coast



Figure 163. Battery Church, 2009.

Interwar and WWII

Integrity

This component landscape is an interesting mix of the interwar Georgian Revival duplexes and multifamily homes to the west along Ingalls Road and the more utilitarian WWII landscape to the east. Reeder Circle was designed for the Liberty Theater which stood at the end of the circle. This theater was replaced in 1938 by the Fort Monroe Theater, and the terminus is now a tennis court. The Interwar housing was carefully added into the circle landscape and it is not evident it was not designed at the same time (Figure 164). The stately BOQ adjacent to the main gate lends a formal presence to the area.

The submarine Mine Depot (Building 28) is surrounded by WWII temporary buildings and Interwar-era motor pool, Quartermaster Barracks and ordnance machine shop. Adjacent is the 1908 ordnance storehouse. This component landscape (grouped mainly by date of construction) has a high level of integrity. While the circulation along Pratt Street and Darby Road is confusing and lacks planning, the Interwar architecture is strong and there is cohesiveness in this landscape.

Character-Defining Features

- BOQ at main gate
- Reeder Circle
- Planned clusters of buildings with uniform style and setbacks
- COhesive architecture
- Views to and from Hampton Roads and Mill Creek



Figure 164. Student Apartments, 2009.

Training and Recreation

Integrity

This area is no longer used for training. The batteries are closed and deteriorating, the shooting ranges gone, the railway gone, and Wilson Park no longer evident. When the Army filled in a portion of Mill Creek in the early 1940's, they added an airfield, a golf course and some ball fields. The airfield is now a heliport and lacks integrity and the golf course is gone. However, some of the fields are still in use and picnic areas, a campground and playgrounds have been added to the recreation landscape. The facilities

were added adjacent to other recreational resources such as Dog Beach and the old Officers' Beach Club (Figure 165).

The natural landscape of the spit that connects Fort Monroe to the mainland has undergone some changes as well. The area once covered with pine forests is now, flat open space due to a hurricane in 1933. It is hard to picture that the landscape was once clustered with trees.

Character-Defining Features

- Wide, open space
- Natural features including beaches, marshes, and mature vegetation
- Views to and from Mill Creek and Bay
- Ball fields and other historic recreational resources
- Location of Bay Breeze Club and pool
- Batteries



Figure 165. Formerly Officers' Beach Club, currently Bay Breeze Community Center, 2009.

Cold War

Integrity

While the Wherry housing appears to have good integrity, many of the buildings are missing. Historically, the housing area extended all the way to the old Officers' Beach Club (Building 185). Today only 31 of the original 53 units remain. The portions that do remain are intact and have many of the characteristics of Wherry housing, wide curving roads, grassy common areas, and orderly rows of homes (Figure 166).

Character-Defining Features

- Simple, orderly
- Rows of houses along Fenwick and its semi-circular drives
- School and other community buildings
- Minimal plant materials
- Playgrounds and community open space
- Wide curving roads
- Consistent setbacks and orientation towards the street
- Views to and from Mill Creek and Bay



Figure 166. Row of Wherry housing, 2009.

6 Recommendations

These general recommendations are made for the proposed management zones as outlined by Fort Monroe and the stakeholders as part of the Programmatic Agreement dated 1 June 2009. These recommendations are intended to be used by the stakeholders and future parties in determining reuse options for Fort Monroe.

Zone A (West Peninsula)

- Since the land use of this area has consistently been for training, recreation, and the airfield, it is recommended that any future land use be compatible.
- The area around Wilson Park was heavily wooded with pines prior to the hurricane of 1933. It is recommended that the natural ecosystem of this area be restored.
- Dog Beach has never been developed, and it is recommended that this area remain undeveloped.

Zone B (East Peninsula)

- Views to and from the water should be maintained.
- Wherry housing has been determined significant to the Army and covered under a program comment (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 2002).
- Replacement of Wherry housing should retain the existing landscape layout and be in mass, size, and height as the existing duplexes and quadplexes and compatible building materials with the rest of the historic district.
- It is recommended that no new housing be built between batteries and water.
- Guidelines for redeveloping Wherry housing landscapes is available (R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, 2003).

Zone C (North Gate Road/Stillwell Drive)

- While the historic land use in this area was industrial, recent infill has been administrative in function.
- WWII warehouses should be reused if possible, since their uniform linear layout is military in character and speaks to the history of the military.
- This area has the most diverse style of architecture and building volume and footprint.
- Some of the contributing buildings in this area are large in size and mass, the Mine Depot Building (28), Motor Pool (57), Power Station (59). This area would be adaptable to new construction of some size, for example, a parking garage.

Zone D (McNair, Ingalls, and Fenwick Corridors)

- Cannon and Continental parks should be preserved. At Cannon Park, consider replacing holly tree with a circle of guns or monuments as seen in historic photographs.
- A comprehensive parking plan should be established for the whole historic district. Ideally, parking should be minimized along Ingalls Road and around the main gate and Cannon Park.
- Any new construction in this area should be of equal mass and size to adjacent architecture and building materials and style should be compatible.
- Replace demolished housing along Ingalls Road. New construction should be same materials and size and mass as previous houses or new construction must be of similar/consistent size, height, and mass as adjacent properties. Setbacks and lot lines should match adjacent properties. Compatible materials should be used as well as compatible architectural styles.
- Historically the west side of Ingalls Road at the north end has been open space due to the transportation needs of Fort Monroe.
- Any new construction must be of similar/consistent size, height, and mass. Setbacks and lot lines should match adjacent properties. Compatible materials should be used as well as compatible architectural styles.
- Historic small scale features such as lighting, benches, flagpoles, monuments, trophies markers, and signage should be retained. A comprehensive object inventory should be completed and management of these resources coordinated with FMFADA and the Casemate Museum.

- Design guidelines should be generated to include fencing, air conditioning units, vegetation, street trees, monuments, and signage (FMFADA is currently working on The Historic Preservation and Design Standards) within the historic district.

Zone E (Stone Fort and Moat)

- Preserve terreplein and views from terreplein.
- Views toward the fortification should be preserved.
- Preserve the few remaining outworks and approaches to the main walls of the fort.
- While there have always been pipes and exhaust vents and pipes on top of the casemates, air conditioning units should be kept to a minimum.
- Pet cemetery should be preserved as well as the walking trail.
- Flagstaff bastion should be preserved.
- The Jefferson Davis Memorial Park arch and associated historic features, if original, should be preserved.
- Trophy Park should be restored if possible in the southwest corner of the parade ground.
- Historic small scale features such as lighting, benches, flagpoles, monuments, trophies markers, and signage should be retained. A comprehensive object inventory should be completed and management of these resources coordinated with FMFADA and the Casemate Museum.
- The formal garden behind Quarters 1 should be enlarged, restored and the pavilion moved back from Quarters 117.
- A comprehensive parking plan should be established for the whole historic district. Parking needs to be minimized inside the fort. Ideally, parking should be eliminated between parade ground and surrounding buildings.
- Parade ground and relationship to surrounding buildings needs to be preserved. No new buildings should be added in this area.
- All buildings within the fort should be preserved. Ideally, there would be no new construction within the fort boundaries. However, any new construction must be of similar/consistent size, height, and mass. Set-backs and lot lines should match adjacent properties. Compatible materials should be used as well as compatible architectural styles.
- Design guidelines should be generated to include fencing, air conditioning units, vegetation, street trees, monuments, and signage (FMFADA is currently working on The Historic Preservation and Design Standards) within the historic district.

Endicott Batteries

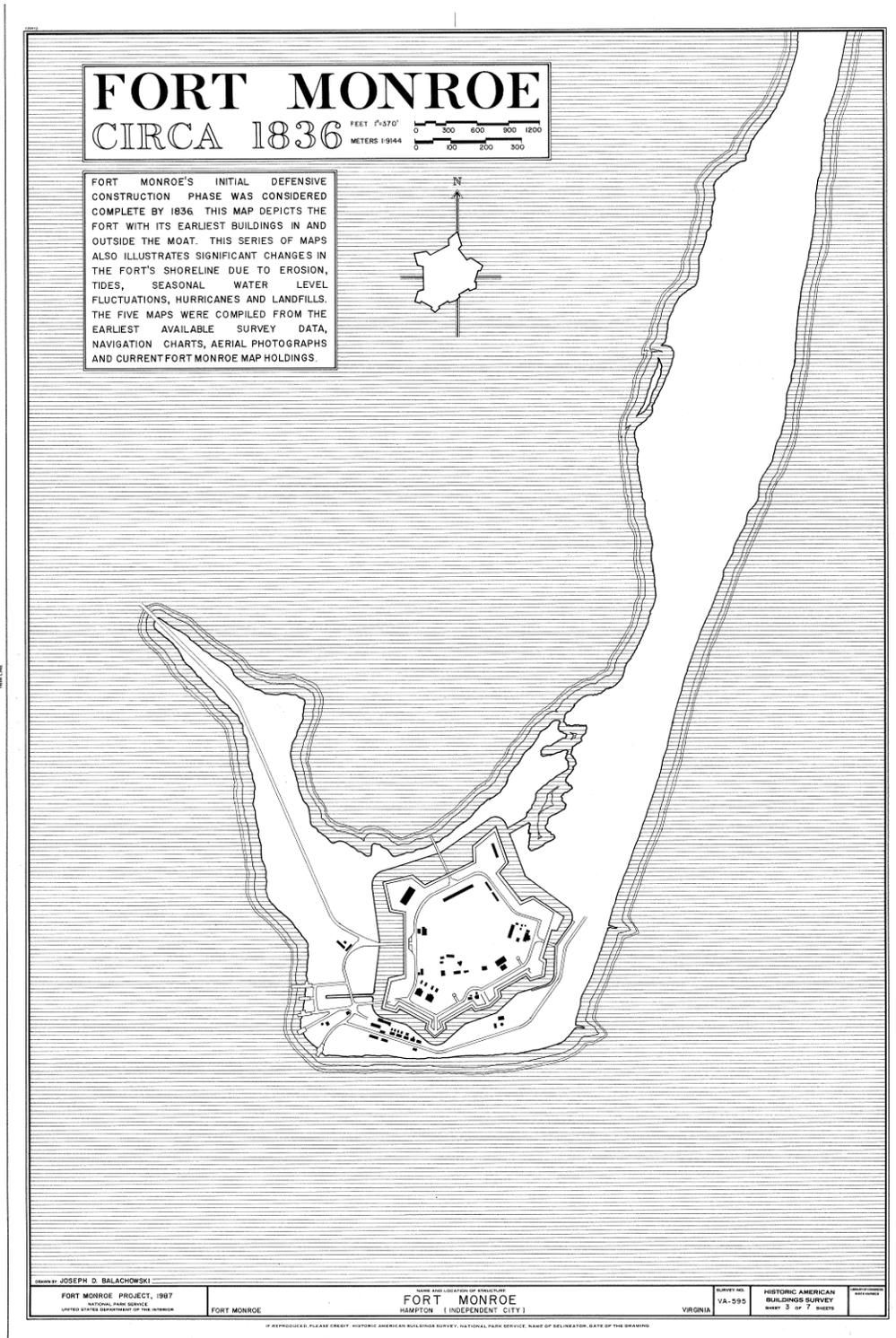
- Views should be preserved from Batteries out to the water.
- Safety permitting, access to batteries (like Irwin and Parrott) should be maintained for interpretation. Consider using Batteries Ruggles and Anderson for recreation possibly adding a walking hiking trail and clearing views. Other potential uses should be identified, assessed, and evaluated.
- Consideration should be given to replacing earthen embankments and lines-of-fire where feasible for protection and preservation. No construction should occur within historic footprint of earthen embankments.

Appendix A

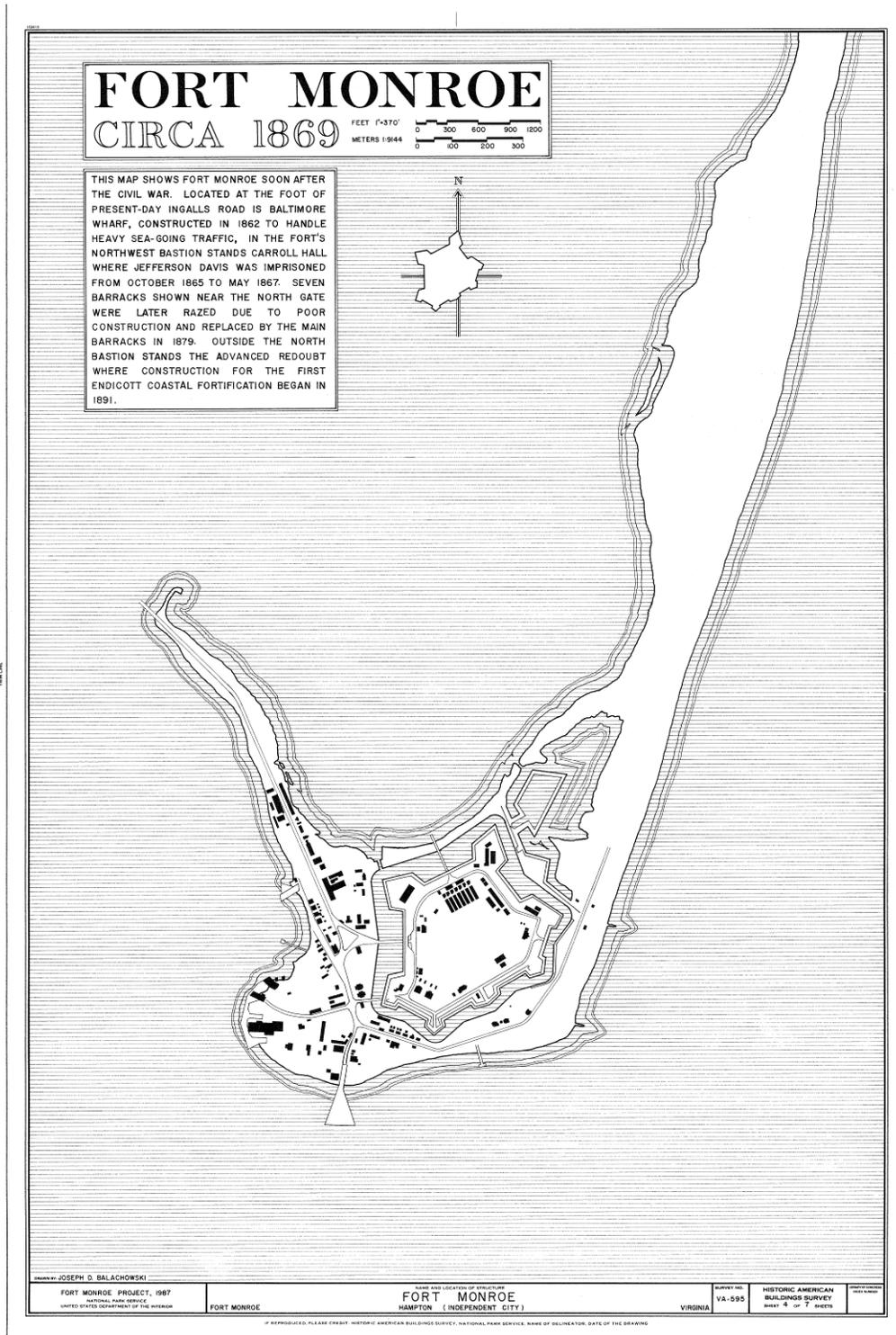
The following same-scale maps were created by the NPS in 1987 as part of the HABS/HAER documentation of Fort Monroe (current map was created by CERL for this report).²⁵ They are included as a part of this report because it is valuable to see the changes in the built environment overtime as well as the size increase as fill has been added along the coast.

²⁵ National Park Service, *The Architectural Heritage of Fort Monroe: Inventory and Documentation of Historic Structures Undertaken by the Historic American Building Survey, Volume I*, (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, HABS.HAER, 1987), 67-71.

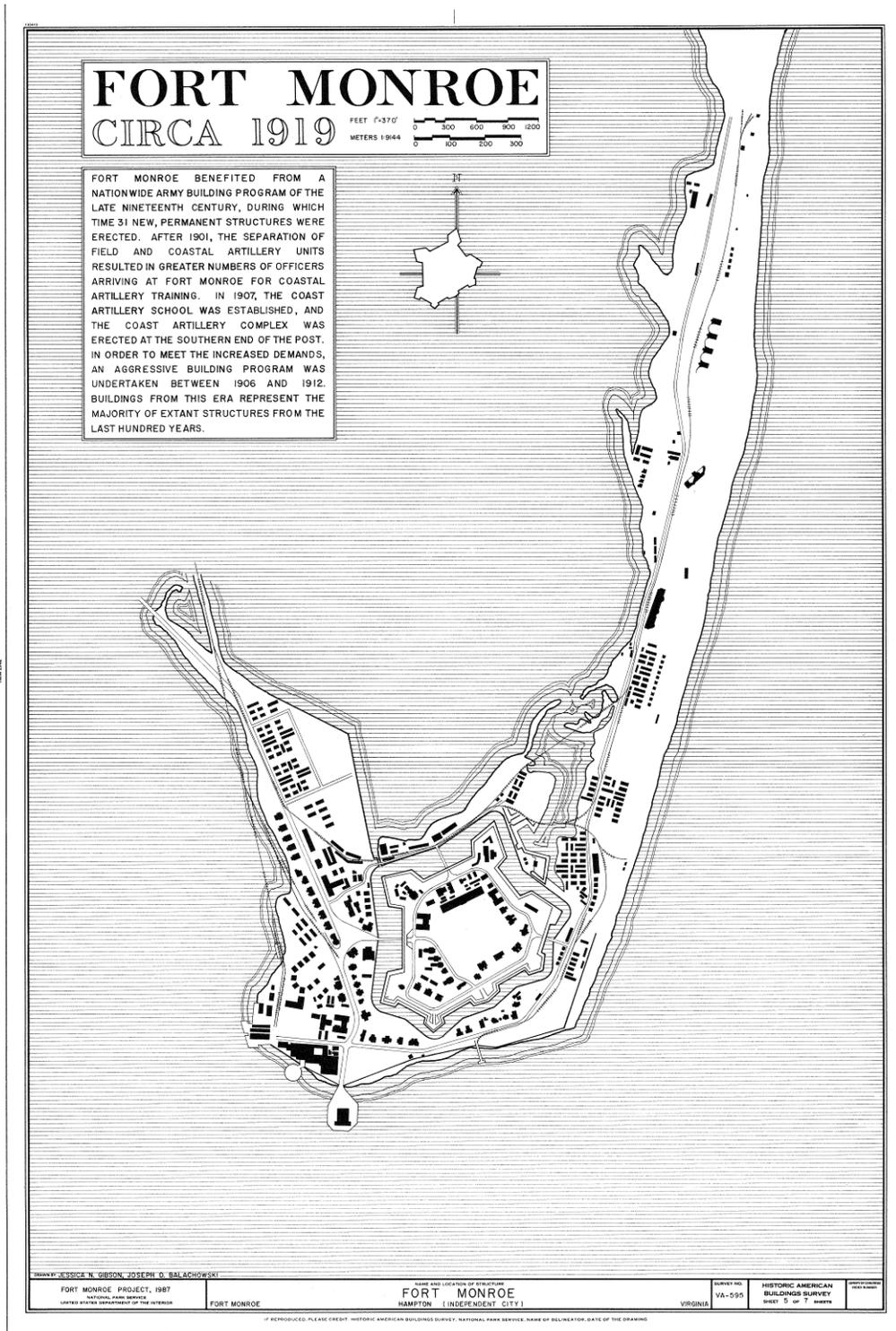
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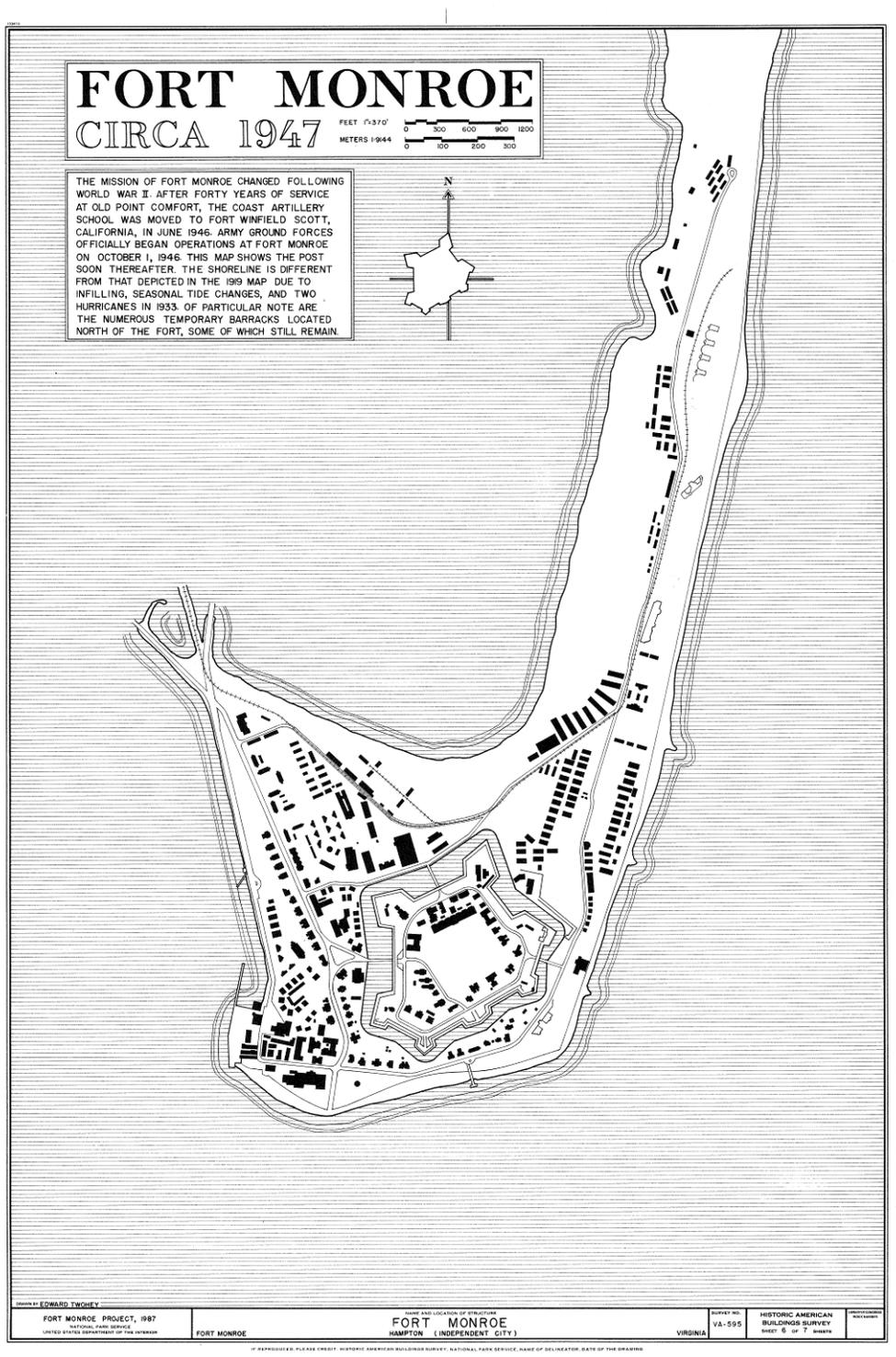
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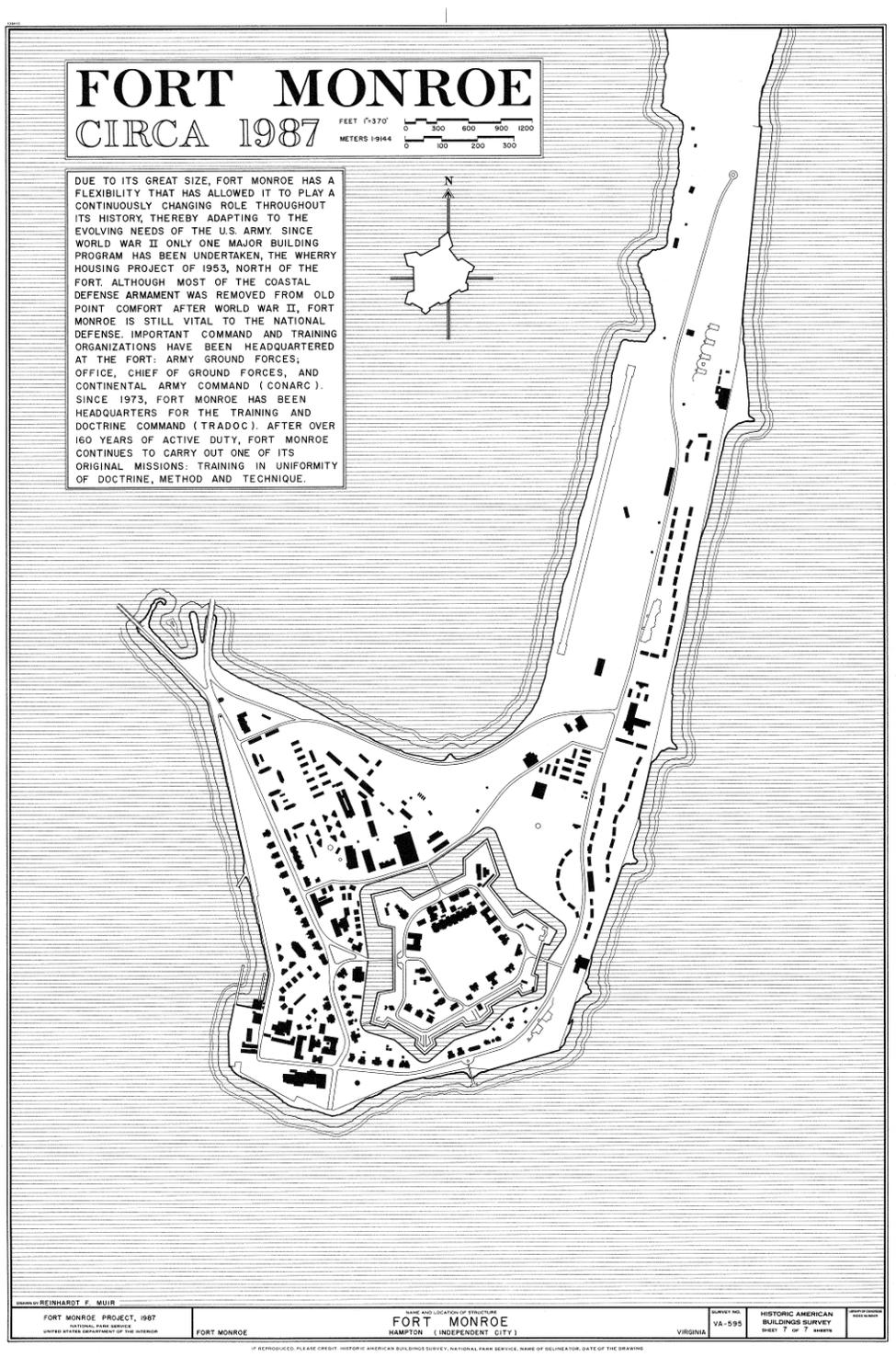
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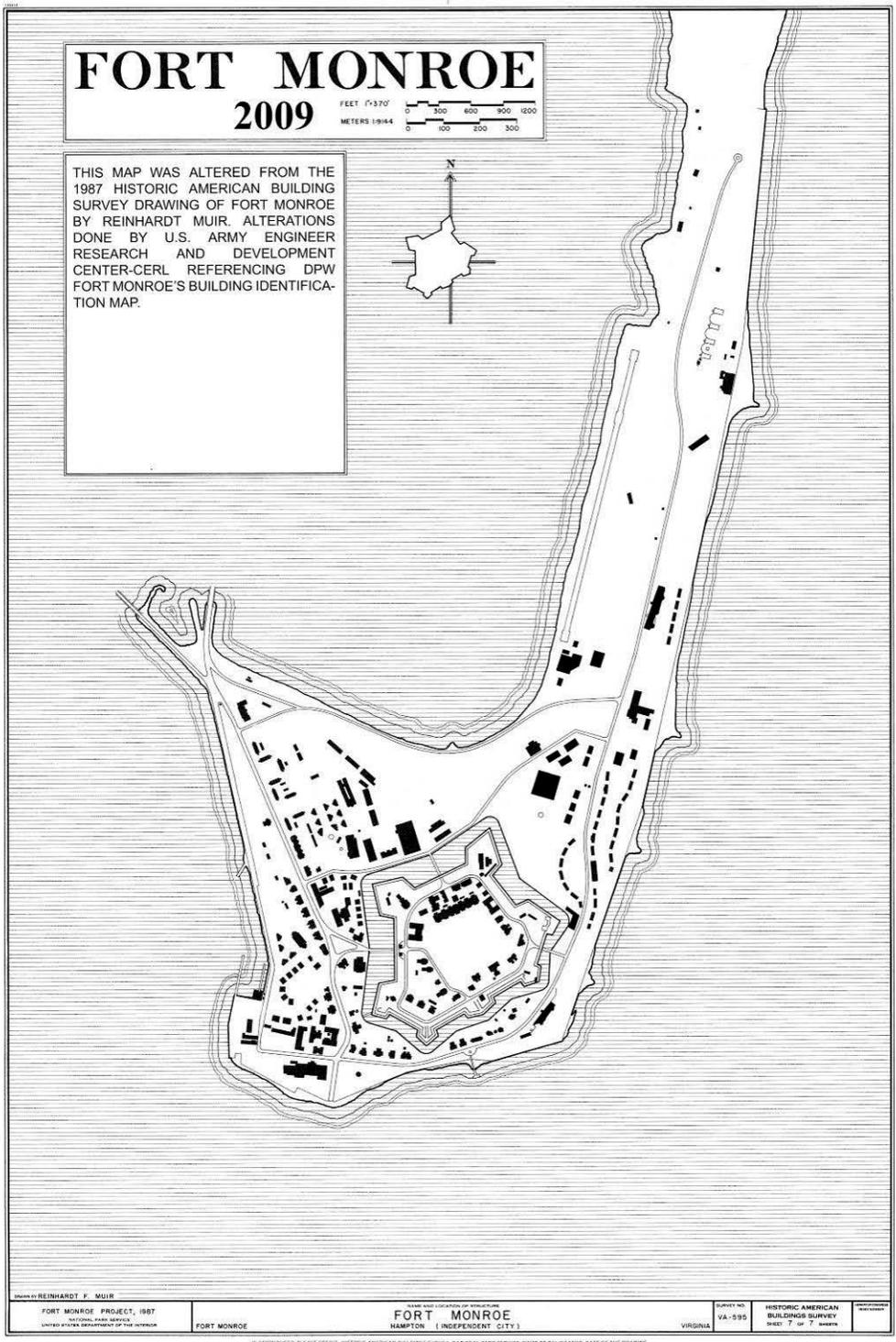
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Maps, Plans and Drawings

All images, maps and drawings were collected from the National Archives II at College Park, MD (NARA College Park), the Library of Congress, Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe, VA, or from the DPW office at Fort Monroe, VA.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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14. ABSTRACT <p>This document is an inventory and evaluation of the historic landscape features of Fort Monroe. Fort Monroe is a designated National Historic Landmark and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1966. A Programmatic Agreement for the Closure and Disposal of Fort Monroe, VA has been executed between the US Army, VA SHPO, the Advisory Council, the Commonwealth of VA, the Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority, the NPS, and 27 other stakeholders interested in the preservation of Fort Monroe (signed May 2009). This document serves to meet the requirements of the Programmatic Agreement requiring the Army evaluate their historic landscapes and comply with Sections 110 and 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966).</p> <p>This report has divided the Fort Monroe landscape into 7 component landscapes based on the built environment and periods of significance: the Fort, Ordnance Yard and School, Ingalls Road, Endicott Batteries, Interwar and WWII, Recreation and Training, and the Cold War. For each of these component landscapes a development history was written and the existing conditions inventoried. In addition, each component landscape was evaluated for its significance and integrity and a list of character-defining features was compiled. Lastly, management recommendations were made for each of the management zones identified in the Programmatic Agreement to assist in the redevelopment efforts of this significant historic resource.</p>					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
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historic buildings		historic preservation		Casemate	
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