National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2018

Fort Washington Park

Fort Washington Park

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish…a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places…of historic properties…

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)…Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA…No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior… (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying… historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary…

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A)

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories…about cultural resources in units of the national park system…Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,… and historic sites…

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, "*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*" charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency's mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America's Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service's role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America's Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America's Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, "Park Pulse." Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to "*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*" The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

1) Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation's heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;

2) Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS

3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;
4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and
5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.

Scope of the CLI

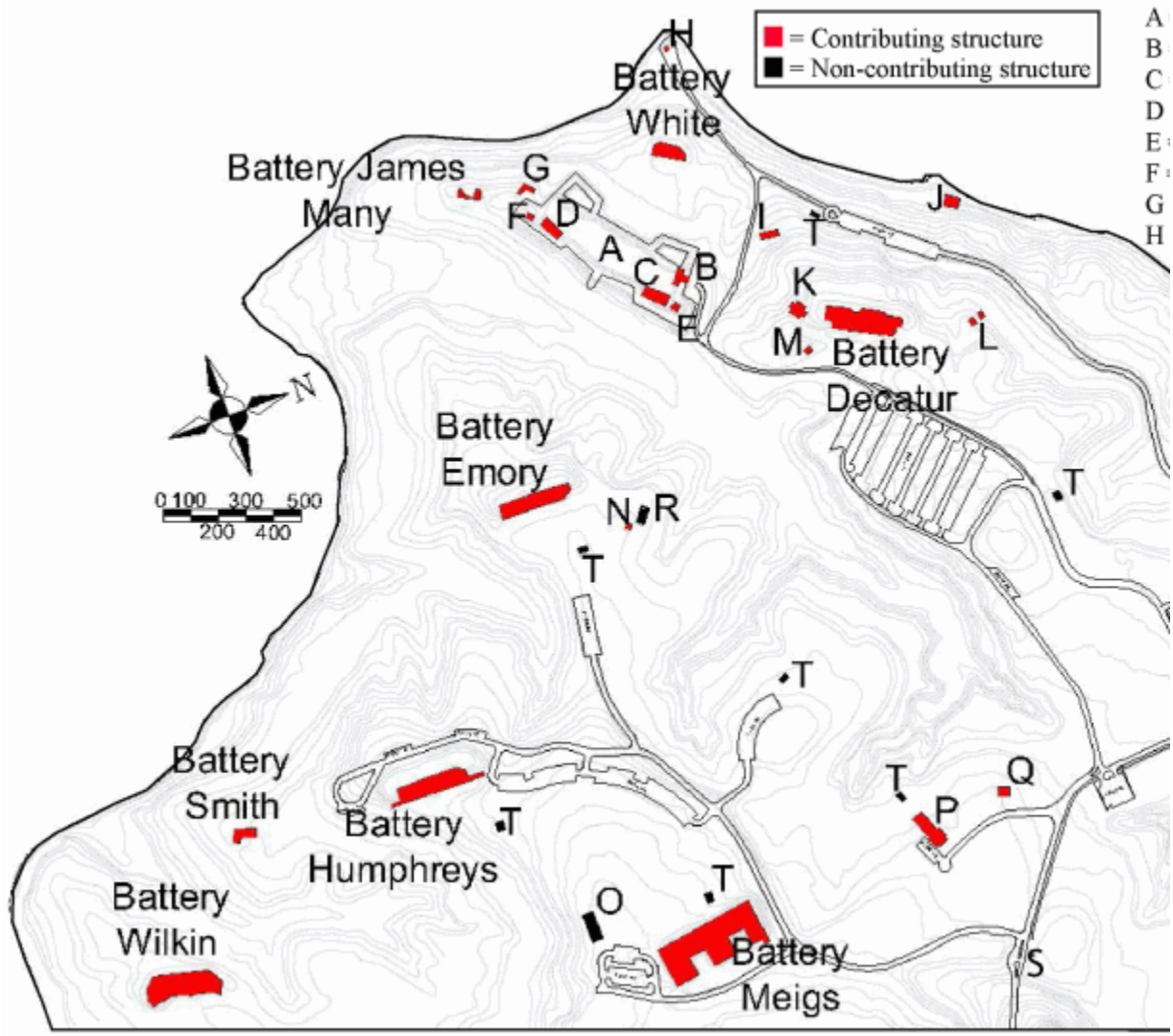
CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

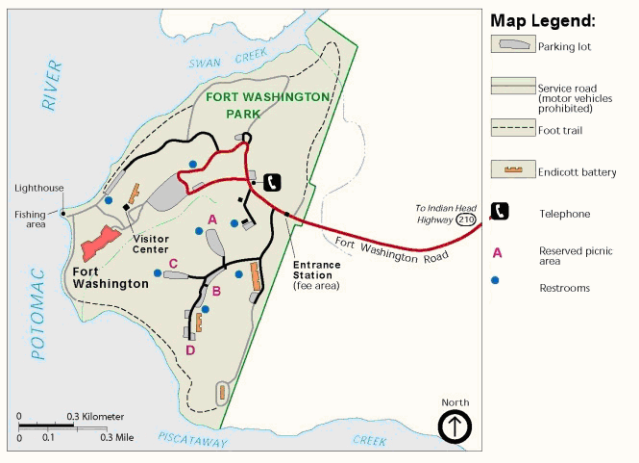
Fort Washington Park is a 341-acre historical and recreational area located in Prince George's County, Maryland, approximately 11 miles south of Washington, D.C. The park is under the administration of National Capital Parks-East. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the defined period of significance for the Fort Washington landscape is 1808-1921.

The current landscape of Fort Washington Park is that of a typical recreational area, with large, well-manicured open spaces interspersed with lightly-wooded picnic areas and mature woodlands accessible by an extensive modern paved road system, as well as a number of service roads and foot trails. The park landscape retains good historical integrity from the various eras in which it served as the principal defensive post protecting the Potomac River access to Washington, D.C. The massive and imposing 1824 fortification overlooking Digges' Point is the park's most apparent built feature, and a handful of significant nineteenth-century structures beyond the fort remain from the pre-Civil War period, as well. Fort Washington Park also retains significant physical evidence of its service as an Endicott period Coast Defense installation from 1890 through 1921, including eight artillery batteries; a handful of command/fire-control, residential, and administrative buildings; and a variety of vestigial small-scale features. The integrity of these features ranges from good to poor.

Site Plan



Location of fortifications at Fort Washington Park, Site Plan, 2006 (James River Institute for Archeology)



Fort Washington Park Brochure, showing road system, picnic areas and general location of cultural features. (NPS)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Fort Washington Park
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600098
Parent Landscape:	600098

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Fort Washington Park -FOWA
Park Organization Code:	3551
Park Administrative Unit:	National Capital Parks-East

CLI Hierarchy Description

Fort Washington Park is one of 12 major park areas within the administrative unit of National Capital Parks-East that are considered individually significant cultural landscapes in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory. There are no component landscapes within Fort Washington Park.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Incomplete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Fort Washington Park CLI was originally researched and written by Matthew R. Laird, Ph.D., of the James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. Dr. Laird was employed under a cooperative agreement with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). He conducted primary and secondary research; conducted site visits; developed maps; analyzed photos; and wrote the site history and CLI text. GIS subcontractor Edward J. Thornton produced the maps.

Research material was gathered from the following collections: NPS National Capital Region Land Use Coordination Files; List of Classified Structures (LCS); FOWA park ranger and maintenance files, photos, and maps; National Archives and Records Administration I and II (Nara I and II); and the Library of Congress. Of particular help was the collection of maps and photographs compiled by Lord, Aeck & Sargent Architecture in association with the Project to Stabilize Fort Washington.

The current version of this document reflects the CLI Update conducted in fiscal year 2018 and changes made by NCR CLI Coordinator Daniel Weldon .

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/18/2006

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/18/2006

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The original National Register nomination for Fort Washington completed in 1966 focused exclusively on the ca. 1824 fortification, a deficiency that was rectified in 1987 when NPS Historian Dr. Marilyn Nickels revised the nomination to include the entire 341-acre park and a total of 25 contributing resources. While the 1987 nomination provided a relatively thorough catalog of the park's most significant surviving structures, a number of additional resources have subsequently been determined by the NPS to contribute to the nomination, with concurrence from the Maryland SHPO. Resources associated with the original fort include the parade, counterscarp gallery, well, and the steps to the water battery; Endicott Period resources include the Algiers Test battery footing, platform for 10-inch gun, mine cable anchor system, Engineer's wharf seawall, and mine control casemate.

A more intensive examination of the park and its surviving resources indicates that a number of additional resources should be considered contributing to the park's defined period of significance, ca. 1808-1921. These include a walkway/stairs to the command structure, rifle range butts, Light 80, an Endicott Period lamppost, remnants of the narrow guage railway bed, and surviving sections of Endicott Period roads. A variety of views and vistas should also be considered contributing to the National Register nomination.

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Maryland concurred with the findings of the Fort Washington Park CLI on 09/18/2006, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the "National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date" refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of listing on the National Register.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

September 18, 2012

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Fort Washington Park Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Alex Romero, Superintendent of National Capital Parks-East, concur with the condition reassessment for the Fort Washington Park cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Fort Washington Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East — Date 9/19/12

Concurrence memo for FY2012 signed by the NACE superintendent on 9/19/2012. This was a condition update.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

August 3, 2006

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Fort Washington Park Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, J. Rodney Little, Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Fort Washington Park Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on August 3, 2006.

Elizabeth Hughes, DSHPO, for
J. Rodney Little,
State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Maryland

9·18·2006
Date

Concurrence memo for FY2006 signed by the Maryland SHPO on 9/18/2006.

Fort Washington Park

To:	Chief, Cultural Resources National Capital Region
From:	Superintendent, Piscataway Parks – Fort Washington, Oxon Hill, Piscataway, Harmony Hall, Fort Foote
Subject:	Cultural Landscape Inventory Statement of Concurrence-Condition Reassessment for Fort Washington

I, Christine Smith, Superintendent of Piscataway Parks, concur with the condition update for the Fort Washington.*

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: FAIR

The cultural landscape inventory condition update for Fort Washington is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, ~~NACE~~ PISC

11/16/18
DATE

* In FY 2017 the National Capital Region updated its condition assessment process for the Cultural Landscape Inventory to provide a more comprehensive condition assessment. For the Fort Washington Park CLI, this involved a collaborative on-site documentation of contributing resources, and a recording of visible deficiencies to the standards of FMSS with NACE staff from facilities, resource management, and park leadership; the NCRO CLI Coordinator; and WASO Cultural Landscape Program staff. This documentation process led to the generation of proactive preservation treatment recommendations and generated related work orders in FMSS to provide guidance on improving the condition. Previous condition assessment updates were limited in scope and only provided a cursory condition assessment for the CLI. Therefore, this assessment should not be considered as a part of a continuum of assessments previously done under this title

Superintendent Concurrence FY 2018 (NCR CLP 2018).

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Change in Condition

Revision Date: 09/19/2012

Revision Narrative:

Condition update. Condition of the Fort Washington Park cultural landscape improved from

Fort Washington Park

Poor to Good.

Revision Date: 09/30/2018

Revision Narrative:

During the 2018 fiscal year, a reevaluation of the previously approved Cultural Landscape Inventory was completed by NCR Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator Daniel Weldon. The reevaluation included an initial site visit to the Fort Washington cultural landscape with WASO Program Lead Susan Dolan, FMSS Stephanie Sanidas, NACE Cultural Resources Program Manager Kate Birmingham, and NCPE Interns Diana and Elise Elder and occurred on July 27th, 2017. A follow up site visit was conducted on May 3rd, 2018. The site visit included Mike Commisso, Acting Chief of Resources, Chantae Moore, H.O.P.E. Crew lead, Thomas Anger, and Elizabeth Milnarik, Regional Historical Architect. The site visits conformed to the standards established by the Washington Support Office Cultural Landscape Program and included the documentation of all contributing resources, a recording of visible deficiencies to the standards of FMSS, and the completion of a tree survey. This documentation process led to the generation of proactive preservation treatment recommendations and generated related work orders in FMSS. The documentation of resources, treatment, and work order are included in an appendix at the end of the document.

Updates were made to all required fields in the document as needed. Photographs from the site visit replaced the previously embedded existing condition photos. Additional photographs from the site visit are included in an appendix at the end of the document.

Updates to the document included revisions to the chronology, history narrative, analysis and evaluation narrative, condition, and existing condition photographs.

The condition of the cultural landscape is 'FAIR.'

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Fort Washington Park study area correspond to the historic boundaries of the Coastal Defense Fortification known as Fort Washington. The park is bounded by Swan Creek to the North, the Potomac River to the west, Piscataway Creek to the south, and private landholdings to the east.

State and County:

State: MD

County: Prince George's County

Size (Acres): 341.00

Boundary Coordinates:

Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0211552040
Longitude:	38.7163555910
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0233234894
Longitude:	38.7116776340
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0228573527
Longitude:	38.7114604380
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0232917440
Longitude:	38.7105518620
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0237502555
Longitude:	38.7104988710
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0283238728
Longitude:	38.7095635880
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0239331674
Longitude:	38.7006741780
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0307956626
Longitude:	38.7014111570
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0308364343
Longitude:	38.7028521400
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0373940200

Longitude:	38.7049906630
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0350033559
Longitude:	38.7058432600
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0356776500
Longitude:	38.7052908850
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0374528281
Longitude:	38.7070620660
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Longitude:	38.7086951840
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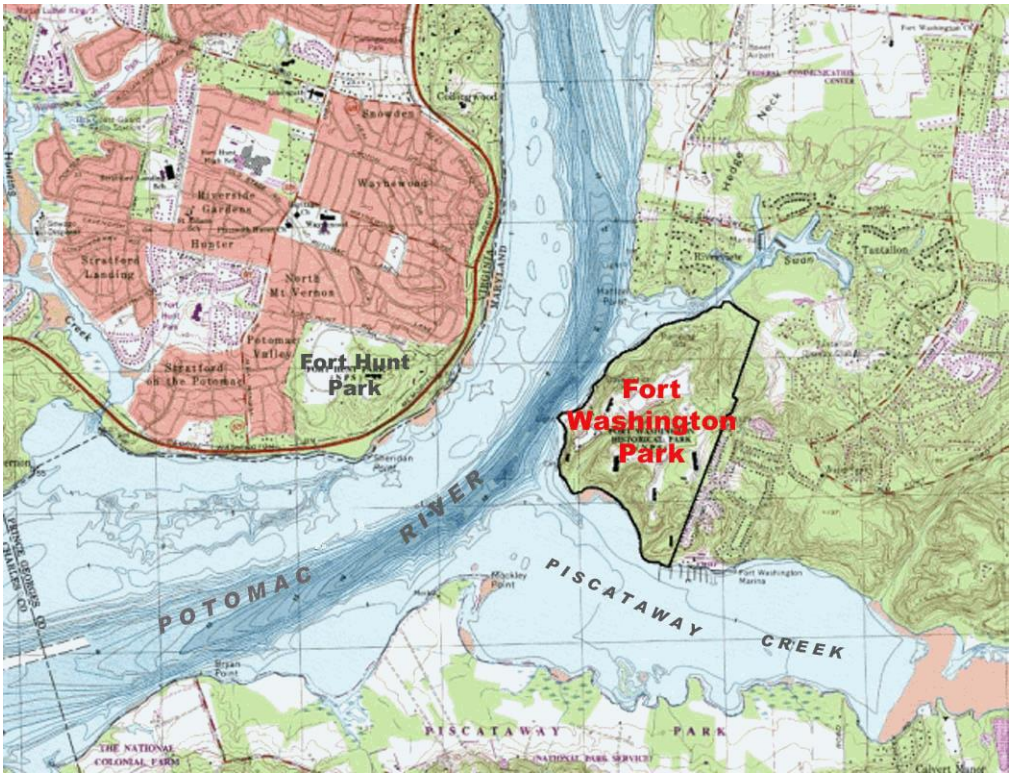
Latitude:	-77.0367249412
Longitude:	38.7097779190
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0375448877
Longitude:	38.7103042610
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0358450019
Longitude:	38.7111898850
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0325893929
Longitude:	38.7139947660
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-77.0276028403
Longitude:	38.7166043350

Location Map:



Location of Fort Washington Park on USGS 7.5' Mt. Vernon quadrangle sheet, 1983.

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Originally the site of Warburton Manor, a large plantation established by the Digges family in the early eighteenth century, Fort Washington Park is best known for its role in protecting the Potomac River, with a significant military occupation spanning the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The most imposing and historically significant component of Fort Washington Park is Fort Washington itself. Built on the site of the earlier Fort Warburton—destroyed by its own garrison during the War of 1812—this masonry fortification was completed in 1824, becoming the sole permanent defensive work guarding Washington, D.C., from seaborne attack. Significant alterations and additions were made in the 1840s, yet the fort was largely unmanned until the months just prior to the Civil War, when it was re-garrisoned by Union troops. Although Fort Washington never saw military action, the troops remained until the early 1870s. At the recommendation of the Board on Fortifications or Other Defenses (Endicott Board), Fort Washington's defenses were expanded and modernized beginning in 1891 as an important component of the nation's new coastal fortification system. Over the next several years, eight state-of-the-art concrete artillery batteries were built across the enlarged post, in addition to numerous additional support facilities. Stripped of its guns during World War I, Fort Washington remained occupied by Coast Artillery and Army troops until the War Department transferred the property to the National Park Service in 1939. Briefly home to Civilian Conservation Corps Camp NP-4-MD, the reservation was drafted into use as an Adjutant General's School and associated officer's candidate school during World War II. Fort Washington was returned to the National Park Service in 1946. Since that time, the park has been managed as an historic site and popular recreation area.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Fort Washington Park is located in the Upper Coastal Plain physiographic region of Maryland. The northwestern corner of the park lies in the floodplain of Swan Creek, an area markedly different from the steep Potomac River Escarpment bluffs along the Potomac River and Piscataway Creek shorelines that descend from as high as 150 feet to the mean water level below along the western and southern shores of the park. Although the central portion of the park is comprised of relatively broad, level uplands, the northern, western, and southern portions of the park are dissected by numerous long, deep ravines with steeply sloped walls. For much of Fort Washington Park, the original surficial geology is of Pliocene age and comprised of Terrace Deposits, composed of interbedded sand, clayey sand, and pebbly sand with minor deposits of gravel and silt-clay. All of the broad terrace is chiefly derived from the influence of Piscataway Creek, and is composed of younger material deposited on the older geologic strata. Two major soil associations are represented within the park. The Sassafras-Keyport-Elkton Association is situated on the terraces along the Potomac River and Piscataway Creek, while the Sassafras-Croom Associaton is located on the slopes and gullies of the inland portion of the park (Steury and Davis 2003: 274-75).

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Fort Washington Park is administered by National Capital Parks-East, a multi-unit park and administrative unit, under the jurisdiction of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service.

Management Unit: National Capital Parks East

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/18/2006

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Washington was first listed in the National Register of Historic Places in October 1966. This nomination included only the ca. 1824 fortification, however, and in September 1987 the nomination was revised by NPS Historian Dr. Marilyn Nickels to include the entire 341-acre park and a total of 25 contributing resources.
The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

Maintenance Location Code: 3100

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

The Department of the Interior possesses the land of Fort Washington Park in Fee Simple. The tracts comprising the park were purchased by the War Department between 1808 and 1875. The site was transferred to the National Park Service in 1940.

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

The grounds of the park are open from 8 am until sunset year round. According to the park website, the fort proper is open to the public from 8 am to 6 :30 pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The park is closed on January 1st, Thanksgiving, and December 25th.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The limits of Fort Washington Park are essentially the same as those established by January 1875. The park is surrounded by navigable waterways to the north, west, and south, and its landward side borders residential subdivisions established in the post-World War II era.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Washington was first listed in the National Register of Historic Places in October 1966. This nomination included only the ca. 1824 fortification, however, and in September 1987 the nomination was revised by NPS Historian Dr. Marilyn Nickels to include the entire 341-acre park and a total of 25 contributing resources.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Fort Washington
NRIS Number:	66000965
Primary Certification Date:	09/17/1987
Name in National Register:	Fort Washington
NRIS Number:	66000965
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1808 - 1921
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860
Facet:	War Of 1812, 1812-1815
Other Facet:	Post-war Nationalism, 1816-1828
Time Period:	CE 1808 - 1921
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	The Civil War
Facet:	Battles In The North And South
Time Period:	CE 1808 - 1921
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939
Facet:	America Becomes A World Power, 1865-1914

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Engineering
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

The period of significance for Fort Washington Park extends from 1808, when the federal government first acquired property at Digges' Point to build a fortification, to 1921, when the last Coast Artillery troops were withdrawn and the post no longer served a defensive role. Given its association with events that have made a significant contribution to U.S. history, Fort Washington is significant under Criterion A. During its lengthy occupation as a military installation, Fort Washington was the most important defensive work protecting Washington, D.C., from seaborne attack via the Potomac River. Replacing the earlier Fort Warburton which was destroyed during the War of 1812, Fort Washington—a large masonry fortification—was completed in 1824. Despite major modifications in the 1840s, the post remained largely unmanned until the Civil War, when it was occupied as a Union garrison. At the recommendation of the Endicott Board, Fort Washington's defenses were expanded

and modernized beginning in 1891. Eight concrete artillery batteries were built across the enlarged post, as well numerous additional support facilities. When completed, the new Fort Washington formed a critical component of the nation's coastal fortification system, representing the state of the art in military technology as the United States emerged as an international power.

Many of the defensive and support facilities survive in Fort Washington Park, including the original masonry fort and other associated early nineteenth-century structures, most notably the Post Commander's House, which now serves as the Visitor Center. The park also retains significant physical evidence from the Endicott period, including all eight artillery batteries; a handful of command/fire-control, residential, and administrative buildings; and a variety of vestigial small-scale features. Indirectly related to the military history of the property, Light 80 is a working lighthouse located on Digges' Point. Originally built in 1882 as a fog bell tower, it was converted when the associated 1870 frame lighthouse was demolished in 1901. During the property's period of significance, it served as an important aid to navigation on the Potomac River.

Although the 1987 National Register nomination did not consider the cultural landscape, the property encompasses a variety of surviving historic landscape elements that contribute to the significance of the property. The park's spatial organization retains a high degree of integrity for the period of significance. The original Fort Washington has remained relatively unaltered in appearance since its last major modifications in the late 1840s, as have several associated antebellum structures. Similarly, the post layout from the Endicott Period is easily recognizable. All eight concrete artillery batteries remain in their original locations across the property, as do a number of other military features including command structures and features associated with the control of an underwater minefield. Although the vast majority of ancillary buildings from the Endicott Period have since been removed, the Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium survive in their original locations. The modern park road system mirrors the main circulation pattern during the Endicott Period, while the open fields in the central portion of the park recall their use as open space during this era. The densely wooded "Fort Ravine" located east of the original Fort Washington represents the historic vegetation patterns typical of the period ca. 1808-1921, and also includes a 32-acre Ecologically Sensitive Area (DNR) defined by Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as an "exceptional example of a mature, mesic, deciduous forest." Finally, a number of historically significant views and vistas, particularly up- and downriver from the original Fort Washington, have been preserved relatively unchanged since the military occupation of the property.

As outlined in the 1987 National Register nomination, Fort Washington is eligible under Criterion C, as the original masonry fortification embodies a distinctive "transitional" style, incorporating design elements from two successive eras of coastal fortifications, the Second Phase (ca. 1807-1814) and the Third Phase (ca. 1817-1867). The surviving concrete artillery batteries and support facilities also manifest the unique characteristics of Endicott Period defenses, including innovations in military weapons technology and building materials.

The results of previous subsurface testing has indicated that Fort Washington Park encompasses a variety of archaeological resources, including numerous features associated with the military occupation

of the post during the nineteenth- and early twentieth centuries. In addition, the former site of Warburton Manor, the eighteenth-century Digges' family plantation that predated Fort Washington, is located within the park. Given the potential offered by further archaeological research for providing important information concerning the historic use of the property, Fort Washington is eligible under Criterion D.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Battery (Defense)

Primary Current Use: Campground/Picnic Area

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Fortification-Other	Historic
Parade Ground	Historic
Military Facility (Post)	Historic
Coast Guard Facility	Historic
Battle Site	Historic
Exhibit	Current
Comfort Station (Latrine)	Current

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Warburton Manor	Historic
Fort Washington	Both Current And Historic
Fort Washington Park	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation

CE 1655	Established	Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Realm granted 1,200 acres, including the future site of Fort Washington Park, to his personal physician, Luke Barber, in 1655.
		Luke Barber
CE 1661	Platted	Luke Barber formally patented the 1,200-acre tract in 1661. It is unclear whether anyone was living on the property at this time.
		Luke Barber
CE 1662	Purchased/Sold	In 1662, Luke Barber exchanged the 1,200-acre property, now known as "Barberton," with Luke Gardner (or Gardiner) for another property on the Patuxent River.
		Luke Gardner
CE 1674	Land Transfer	Luke Gardner willed the estate, now known as "Warberton [sic.] Manor," to his son, Richard Gardner, in 1674.
		Richard Gardner
CE 1700 - 1708	Land Transfer	John and Luke Gardiner inherited portions of Warburton Manor from their father, Richard Gardner. At some time between 1700 and 1708 John surrendered his part of the property to Luke.
		Luke Gardner
CE 1717	Purchased/Sold	Charles Digges purchased Warburton Manor from Luke Gardner in 1717.
		Charles Digges
CE 1717 - 1734	Built	The first documented reference to a brick manor house at Warburton dates to 1734, suggesting that Charles Digges built his home at some point between 1717 and 1734.
CE 1744	Land Transfer	Charles Digges willed Warburton Manor to his eldest son, William, in 1744.
CE 1783	Land Transfer	Charles Digges, the eldest son of William Digges who was to have inherited Warburton Manor, died prematurely in 1769. When William Digges died in 1783, the estate passed to his second son, Thomas Attwood Digges.

CE 1783 - 1792	Farmed/Harvested	Although he had inherited Warburton Manor from his father, Thomas Attwood Digges continued to reside in London, where he had made his home since the early 1760s. During his absence, his younger brother, George, and his family lived at Warburton, by now a prosperous plantation worked by upwards of 128 African-American slaves.
		Thomas Attwood Digges
		George Digges
CE 1798	Inhabited	Thomas Attwood Digges returned to Maryland in 1798 and took up residence at Warburton Manor. The Federal Tax Assessment of that year recorded a large 2-story brick house, with an attached stone and brick kitchen, and a brick study on the estate.
CE 1808	Purchased/Sold	After years of negotiations, in 1808 Thomas Attwood Digges sold just over 3 acres at Digges' Point to the U.S. government for the construction of a fort to protect the Potomac River access to the new national capital.
		United States
CE 1808 - 1809	Built	Fort Warburton, a component of the "Second System" of fortifications built to protect the U.S. coast, was completed in 1809.
CE 1814	Destroyed	Ordered to abandon Fort Warburton only in case of a landward attack, post commander Captain Samuel T. Dyson nevertheless destroyed the fort on 27 August 1814 when it was assaulted by a British naval squadron.
CE 1814 - 1824	Built	Shortly after the destruction of Fort Warburton in August 1814, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant was ordered to inspect the ruined works and rebuild them as necessary. L'Enfant began the project with the construction of a ravelin, a V-shaped earthwork near the river. The government soon became disenchanted with L'Enfant, however, and replaced him with Lieutenant Colonel Walker K. Armistead, who presented his new plan for a new, more substantial fortification. The construction of Fort Washington, a large brick and stone work typical of American forts of the "Third," or "Permanent System," of fortifications was completed by 1824.

CE 1815	Purchased/Sold	In August 1815, Thomas Attwood Digges sold an additional five acres of land to the U.S. to enlarge the Fort Washington property.
CE 1821	Land Transfer	Thomas Attwood Digges died in December 1821, and Warburton Manor passed to his nephew, William Dudley Digges. L'Enfant, who had continued to live at Warburton after being dismissed from government service, finally moved away in 1824. No Digges family member appears to have lived there after that time.
CE 1830	Land Transfer	Heavily in debt when he died in 1830, William Dudley Digges left Warburton Manor to his widow, Norah Digges.
CE 1833	Purchased/Sold	In repayment of her husband's federal debt, Norah Digges sold 43 acres to the U.S. for the expansion of Fort Washington in May 1833.
CE 1836	Purchased/Sold	Norah Digges sold the remaining Warburton Manor acreage to John Robertson and William Kerby in August 1836, ending the nearly 120-year tenure of the Digges family.
CE 1836 - 1874	Farmed/Harvested	The Kerby family lived briefly in the old Warburton Manor house while they built a new farmhouse on the property. The old manor house, long deteriorated, evidently had collapsed into ruins by the early 1870s.
CE 1841 - 1848	Altered	Between 1841 and 1848, Captain Fred A. Smith and his civilian successor, Samuel Cooper, made a number of alterations and modifications to the fort, many of which had been suggested by the young Lieutenant of Engineers Robert E. Lee in 1836. When completed, Fort Washington had assumed the basic form it has retained until the present.
CE 1857	Built	Concerned over the safety of Potomac River shipping, Secretary of the Treasury James Guthrie requested permission from the War Department to erect a light at Digges' Point. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis concurred, on condition that the light be located on a wharf, not within the fortifications, and that it would come under military authority. An iron light pole subsequently was erected by November 1857

CE 1863 - 1872	Built	Prior to the Civil War, the relatively small garrison at Fort Washington had confined its activities primarily to the area within the fort and ravelin. Severe overcrowding during the war years, however, spurred the construction of a number of buildings beyond the fort in the area of the Commandant's House. New structures built between 1863 and 1872 included an enlisted men's barracks, officers' double-houses, a chapel (also used as a schoolhouse), laundresses' quarters, and a hospital with a number of associated outbuildings.
CE 1870	Built	A new lighthouse to replace the 1857 light pole was completed at Digges' Point in 1870. A wood frame structure approximately 16 feet tall, the lighthouse housed a sixth-order Fresnel lens.
CE 1872 - 1890	Abandoned	Fort Washington's garrison was permanently withdrawn in September 1872, and its smoothbore guns had been dismantled and removed by the 1880s.
CE 1872 - 1875	Built	In 1872 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorized construction of four 15-inch Rodman gun mounts and a magazine in the ravelin; work began in 1873 but was suspended for lack of funding in 1875 with the defenses only partially completed.
CE 1875	Purchased/Sold	Barbara Kerby sold just over 289 acres to the U.S. in January 1875, enlarging the boundaries of the reservation to coincide almost exactly with the current limits of Fort Washington Park.
CE 1882	Built	Responding to complaints from ships' captains that the Digges' Point lighthouse was ineffective in foggy conditions, a 32-foot-tall frame fog bell tower was erected in 1882.
CE 1890 - 1891	Established	Based on the recommendations of the Endicott Board, in 1890 the Board of Engineers for Fortifications drew up plans for modernizing Fort Washington's defenses within the new coastal fortification system. Construction of Battery Decatur, the first of eight planned artillery batteries, began in September 1891.
CE 1896	Developed	In November 1896, Fort Washington was re-garrisoned with artillery troops for the first time since 1872.

CE 1897	Built	The initial construction of Battery Decatur, the first of the Endicott period artillery batteries, was completed in 1897.
CE 1944 - 1947	Established	The Fort Washington Hospital and Home for convalescing service personnel was established in October 1944, and operated at the reservation until January 1947.
CE 1898 - 1905	Built	Seven additional artillery batteries (Emory, Humphreys, White, Meigs, Wilkin, Smith, and James Many) were completed between 1898 and 1905. This period also saw the development of an extensive submarine mine system, the erection of a system of fire control structures, the development of a light gauge railroad to serve the batteries, and the construction of about 60 brick and frame buildings to support the functions of the Coast Artillery post.
CE 1901	Abandoned	In 1901, the 1870 Digges' Point lighthouse was dismantled, and the light transferred to the taller 1882 fog bell tower.
CE 1917	Altered	In 1917, three of Fort Washington's large 10-inch guns were removed and sent to France for use by American forces in World War I.
CE 1921	Abandoned	By the end of World War I Fort Washington's remaining defenses had become redundant, and the last two remaining Coast Artillery companies were withdrawn in September 1921.
CE 1921 - 1939	Maintained	Between 1921 and 1939, Fort Washington served as the headquarters of the 3rd Battalion, 12th U.S. Infantry Regiment, which largely performed ceremonial duties in Washington, D.C.
CE 1940	Land Transfer	Under the authority of the 1930 Capper-Cramton Act, Fort Washington was transferred to the Department of the Interior in August 1940 and became part of the National Capital Parks system under the authority of the National Park Service.

National Park Service

CE 1940 - 1941	Maintained	Camp NP-4 (Maryland) of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) occupied Fort Washington between December 1940 and December 1941. The CCC camp used the former military buildings during their short occupation, and engaged in maintenance projects at Fort Washington.
	Maintained	During this period, a number of the former military quarters were used as low-rent housing for defense workers and government employees in a project sponsored by the Welfare and Recreational Association.
CE 1942 - 1944	Established	In January 1942, the Adjutant General's School, and an associated officer's candidate school, was established at Fort Washington. By the end of 1942, at least 150 new temporary buildings, including quarters, mess halls, administrative offices, and educational and recreational facilities, had been erected.
CE 1946	Land Transfer	In October 1946, the Department of Defense returned Fort Washington to the Department of the Interior.
CE 1946 - 1954	Inhabited	Between 1946 and 1954, as many as 65 families of government employees occupied former military dwellings at Fort Washington under a program administered by Government Services, Inc., a private contractor.
CE 1948 - 1960	Destroyed	Between 1948 and 1960, the majority of the reservation's 200+ military structures were demolished to accommodate the park's primary mission as a recreational area. After Light 80 at Digges' Point was automated in 1954, the associated lighthouse keeper's dwelling, oil house, and wharf were removed.
CE 1956 - 1960	Restored	Funds allocated through the Mission 66 program were used to perform limited restoration work on the fort; construct recreational facilities at the park, including comfort stations, picnic tables, and fireplaces; and improve roads and build parking areas.
CE 1960 - 2006	Maintained	During this period, the NPS maintained Fort Washington Park as both a recreational area and historical site.
CE 1966	Maintained	Fort Washington was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places when it was instituted in 1966.

CE 1987	Maintained	The entire 341-acre Fort Washington Park property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, including the fort and an additional 24 contributing structures.
CE 1999 - 2003	Restored	In 1999, a section of the fort walls near the main gate collapsed due to moisture build-up resulting from the use of Portland cement in repair work conducted in the 1970s. Repairs were completed in 2003.
CE 2003	Land Transfer	After more than 50 years of desultory negotiations with the NPS, the U.S. Coast Guard declared Light 80 surplus property. Jurisdiction was transferred to the NPS under the terms of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000.
CE 2007 - 2009	Built	A Gothic Arch picnic pavilion was constructed in order to improve visitor facilities. The pavilion is located on an existing concrete pad in reserved areas B &C. The structure has a measurement of 24ftx 48ft (PEPC 17667).
	Reconstructed	Four replica Civil War cannon carriages were replicated and remounted on the circa 1824 Fort Washington parapet wall (PEPCE 17683).
	Rehabilitated	A supporting beam of the circa 1882 lighthouse was documented as being 80 percent rotted. As a result, the beam was repaired and all destabilized structural components repaired. The exterior shiplap was replaced, repairs to the roof system, replaced the entry door, and repairs to the brick foundation as needed (PEPC 20269).
CE 2009	Rehabilitated	The wooden replica 42.2 by 20 foot drawbridge was proposed for a repair (PEPC 27934).
	Rehabilitated	The Northeast Bastion and Latrine Wall of Fort Washington received emergency repair stabilization. The latrine wall measures 16 feet high by 80 feet long with a width of 1-1/2 feet. The wall was reconstructed with an appropriate lime mixture added to the mortar. The turf associated with the wall was restored (PEPC 28087).
CE 2014	Rehabilitated	The lower beam of the exterior of the lighthouse was determined to be rotting and in need of replacement. The beam was replaced in- kind (PEPC 52855).

CE 2015	Built	A pavilion structure, measuring 20'x 30' was installed on an new concrete pad in picnic Area A (PEPC 55207).
	Rehabilitated	Five comfort stations, located in areas A, B1, B2,C, and at the Potomac River were rehabilitated. This included the exterior steel doors, replacement in kind of gutters and downspouts, exterior painting, and interior retrofitting (PEPC 60969).
CE 2017	Rehabilitated	Deferred maintenance and cyclic maintenance was preformed on the Fort Washington's Officers and NCO quarters buildings. This included the replacement and repair of failing boards, cleaning, and the painting of exterior structural materials (PEPC 71207).

Physical History:

8,000 B.P.-1716: From Piscataway to Warburton

Rich in natural resources, the upper Potomac River valley began attracting settlement at the outset of the Archaic era, as early as 8,000 years ago. By about 1500 A.D., the Fort Washington area was encompassed by the territory of the Piscataway Indians, an allied member of the Algonquian-speaking Conoy chiefdom whose principal palisaded village was located just south of the confluence of the Potomac and Piscataway Creek in what is now Piscataway Park (Potter 1993: 21, 117, 180).

Despite the efforts of Jesuit missionaries to protect them, European disease, raids by the rival Susquehannas from the north, and the encroachment of land-hungry colonists ultimately forced the Piscataways from the area. In 1655, Oliver Cromwell, then Lord Protector of the Realm, granted his personal physician Luke Barber 1,200 acres in Maryland north of Piscataway Creek. Though he ordered a survey of the tract in 1658, Barber did not formally apply for a patent until 1661. The following year he arranged to exchange the property, now known as "Barberton," with Luke Gardner (or Gardiner) for St. Richard's Manor on the south side of the Patuxent River. Although the basic outline of land-ownership is known, it is unclear who may have lived here in the latter years of the seventeenth century. John Gardner, who had renamed the property "Warberton [sic.] Manor," willed it to his son Richard Gardner in 1674. Richard subsequently passed the land to his son John who, with his brother Luke, sold off 327 acres to Colonel John Contee, a Nottingham merchant. Whether is was occupied by the Gardners or their tenants, it is certain that at least portions of the property were planted in tobacco, the staple export crop that by then completely dominated Maryland's economy (Toogood 1970: 6-8).

1717-1806: The Digges Family of Warburton Manor

The Digges family, whose tenure at Warburton Manor would span nearly 120 years, first acquired the property in 1717, when Charles Digges purchased Luke Gardner's share of the estate, as well as an adjacent 800-acre plantation known as Frankland. The 1717 deed of sale made no mention of built improvements at Warburton; in fact, the first known reference to buildings on the property dates to 1734, suggesting that the brick manor house at Warburton was constructed sometime between 1717 and 1733. When Charles Digges died in 1744, he left to his eldest son William "all that my Land, or Mesuage, with the appurtenances Whereon, I now Dwell, Called Warberton [sic.] manner. . . ." William Digges, whose inheritance established his position in the upper ranks of Maryland's colonial plantation gentry, continued to live at Warburton until his death in 1783 (Toogood 1970: 8-16).

William Digges had three sons: Charles (1740-1769), Thomas Attwood (1742-1821), and George (1743-1792). When Charles died prematurely in 1769, Thomas Attwood Digges became heir to the Warburton estate. Of all the sons, however, he would spend the least amount of time at the family's Maryland home, traveling frequently to Europe as a young man, and eventually taking up residence in London where he served as the London agent for a British shipping firm. Living in England when war broke out with the rebellious American

colonies, Digges worked diligently to improve the treatment of American prisoners of war, and advocated a negotiated peace between Britain and the colonies. Eventually he took an oath of allegiance to the new United States and became an American agent, working to further the cause of independence. Although a public falling-out with Benjamin Franklin over the disbursement of funds would tarnish his reputation, he remained a strong supporter of the new nation in the postwar years (Toogood 1970: 20-29).

During Thomas Attwood's Digges' long absence from Maryland, his younger brother George Digges continued to live at Warburton Manor with his wife, Catherine Brent Digges, and their two children, Ann and William Dudley. Although he never achieved the same level of renown as his elder brother, George was a loyal patriot during the American Revolution, and served as a delegate to Maryland's constitutional conference, voting in favor of ratification. After his death in 1792, political enemies of Thomas Attwood Digges attempted to confiscate Warburton Manor under laws allowing for the seizure of property belonging to supporters of the Crown during the Revolution. Only the personal intervention of President George Washington, a long-time friend and neighbor of the Digges family—his home at Mount Vernon on the Virginia side of the Potomac could be seen from Warburton Manor—prevented the estate from being seized (Toogood 1970: 31-32).

After spending virtually all of his adult life abroad, Thomas Attwood Digges returned to the family's Maryland estate in 1798. Coincidentally, the first known physical description of Warburton Manor was recorded in conjunction with the abortive Federal Tax Assessment of that year. According to the assessment, the manor consisted of:

A brick Dwelling house 2 stories high 48 feet
by 35 feet 25 windows 216 square feet 1
kitchen built with stone adjoining 2 stories
high 15 feet by 50 feet----------
1 Brick Study 12 feet by 20 feet----------

Comparative research conducted by National Park Service historian Anna Coxe Toogood on building types and values listed in the Prince George's County assessments of the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment suggests that Warburton Manor, despite its advancing age, remained an impressive symbol of wealth and privilege. In contrast with the majority of properties in the area—typically single-story frame dwellings worth between $100 and $800—the two-story brick Warburton manor house was valued at the considerable sum of $1700. Of the 24 kitchens recorded in the assessments for Piscataway and Hynson Hundreds, the majority ranged in size between 12 and 21 feet in length/width. The two-story stone kitchen at Warburton, however, was significantly larger, at 50 feet long by 15 feet wide. As well, the very presence of a separate brick building used as a study marked Warburton Manor as an elite residence (Toogood 1970: i-iv).

Although the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment focused specifically on the most valuable buildings, including the manor house, the adjoining kitchen, and the study, additional documentary and cartographic sources offer additional insights into the character of Warburton's natural and

cultural landscape in the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth centuries.

Chesapeake plantations in the colonial period were populated largely by the enslaved African Americans who provided the labor essential to the economic prosperity of their owners. The Digges family, like their neighbors the Washingtons across the river, owned a large number of slaves. A 1776 census indicated that William Digges owned as many as 128 African-Americans. Most would have worked as field laborers on the 1,200-acre estate, though some would have served in the Digges' household. An inventory of the estate taken after George Digges' death in 1792 listed both carpenter's and blacksmith's tools, and a later advertisement also noted the presence of "smith's shops" that were supervised by an overseer, all of which suggests that some slaves may have been trained craftsmen, as well. Even after Thomas Attwood Digges had left Warburton Manor, a number of slaves remained on the property. In July 1818, he placed an advertisement for an overseer to supervise his plantation and its 18 "field Negroes" (Toogood 1970: 54; City of Washington Gazette, 10 July 1818, p. 3).

In September 1823, William Dudley Digges, who was then managing the property, advertised the estate for lease:

The subscriber will rent, for the ensuing year, his Warburton Farm, containing about 1,000 acres of land, upwards of 500 of which are arable. The land, with the exception of one small field, is very fertile, and well adapted to the growth of tobacco, corn, and small grain. Any person who may rent it, shall have the privilege of seeding this Fall. From a good tenant only a moderate rent will be exacted. A reserve will be made of the old dwelling house, yard, and garden. There are several comfortable buildings on the place, good stables and cow-house, corn-house and four large tobacco houses (Daily National Intelligencer, 25 September 1823, p. 4).

In her study of housing in Virginia's Northern Neck in the latter part of the eighteenth century, Camille Wells describes a rural Chesapeake landscape characterized by largely self-sufficient farms and plantations. This distinct form caught the attention of a German traveler in 1783. "A plantation in Virginia," he wrote,

and also in the lower parts of Maryland, has often the appearance of a small village, by reason of the many small buildings, which taken all together would at times hardly go to make a single roomy and commodious house. Here are living-rooms, bed-chambers, guest-chambers, store-rooms, kitchens, quarters for the slaves, and who knows what else (Wells 1994: 6).

Wells' study of property advertisements from the Virginia Gazette and other records suggested that each plantation was a highly structured landscape, "determined by the impulse of land-owning planters to achieve, maintain, and demonstrate their authority over others." Around the main house were arrayed a number of satellite structures, kitchens, smoke-houses, dairies, barns, sheds, and slave quarters, comprising the "small village" so remarkable to visitors (Wells 1994: 28).

In addition, Thomas Attwood Digges leased at least three valuable "fishing landings," one at Digges' Point, another at the mouth of Swan Creek, and a third north of the mouth of

Piscataway Creek. As the Chesapeake tobacco economy lapsed into decline after the American Revolution, landowners on the Potomac had turned increasingly to shad and herring fisheries to supplement declining incomes. An 1809 advertisement for the use of the landings and associated facilities at Warburton Manor noted that the lessee would have "the full use of the Warehouse and 3 or 4 other out houses, saving to himself the celler [sic.] under the brick dwelling, and the locked up room at the end of the large ware houses and other conditions—for which house he has been offered, exclusive of the fisheries, 200 per year" (Toogood 1970: viii, 57-58).

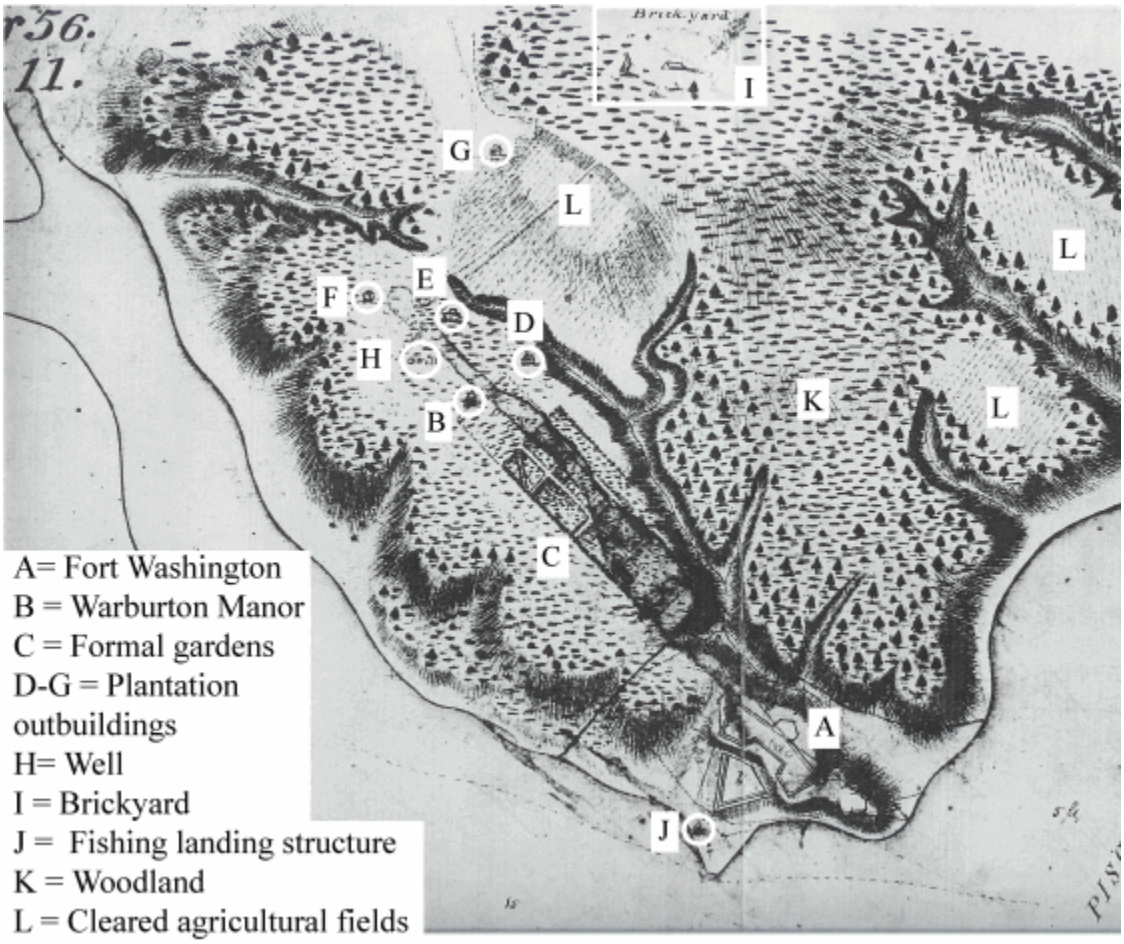
Although no accurate graphic representation of the Warburton manor house or other buildings has yet been identified, maps created by the U.S. Army Engineers' in 1807, 1816, and 1826 depict the landscape of the property in significant detail. Situated on an elevated terrace to the northeast of Digges' Point, Warburton Manor evidently sat at the eastern end of a sizeable formal garden that included, according to the descriptions of contemporary observers, a long avenue of trees, possibly locusts (Toogood 1970: vi-viii).

In respect to its general layout and design, Warburton Manor appears to have been entirely in keeping with contemporary elite plantation properties in the Potomac River Valley. Digges' friends and neighbors, both in Maryland and Virginia, included George Washington of Mount Vernon, George Mason of Gunston Hall, the Fairfaxes of Belvoir, and the Lyles' of nearby Harmony Hall. Taking advantage of the topography of the area, these properties were all sited on high ground with broad, sweeping vistas of the river, which was the main artery of trade, transportation, and communication. Terraced gardens, or "falls," descending from the house towards the water were a common feature of these properties, which were intended to emulate the estates of the English gentry. This landscape design had a two-fold effect: the placement of terraces, gardens, and formal avenues of trees created an aesthetically-pleasing vista from the house; at the same time, visitors approaching from the water were greeted with a suitably well-ordered and awe-inspiring view of the house and property calculated to command respect. Although Warburton Manor evidently did not incorporate multi-leveled terraced gardens into its landscape design, a similar effect was created by the situation of a formal garden and avenue of trees between the house and the edge of the bluff nearest the river (Bisbee 1994: 16; Griswold 1999: 11, 38; Sarudy 1998: 24, 27-29, 32, 41, 56-58).

Though the 1807 and 1826 maps focus primarily on the manor house and gardens, the 1816 map prepared by T.W. Maurice is the most detailed depiction of the entire physical landscape of the property. Maurice noted the presence of a well and at least three unidentified buildings a short distance to the southeast, east, and northeast of the manor house, and another somewhat further to east, near what is now the eastern boundary of Fort Washington Park. A brickyard, probably associated with the construction of Fort Washington, is located even further to the east, probably in an area beyond the park boundary now occupied by a residential neighborhood. Another building, possibly the fishing landing warehouse described by Digges in his newspaper advertisements, was located at Digges' Point. The main road to the property approached from the east, and passed directly north of the manor before turning southwest and terminating at Digges' Point. In terms of the natural environment, much of the property encompassed by Fort Washington Park appears to have been wooded at this

time; the largest cleared agricultural areas appear to have been located to the north and east of the manor house, and on two terraces in the southern part of the property adjacent to Piscataway Creek.

One feature not noted on any of the maps is the Digges' family cemetery. In fact, the only known contemporary reference is in the 1805 will of Ann Digges, who asked that she be buried "in the family cemetery at Warburton" (Toogood 1970: vii). Interestingly, an oral history taken from Henry Clagett by a National Park Service researcher in June 1953 includes an intriguing reference to a possible graveyard. Clagett, a civilian employee at Fort Washington between 1903 and 1940, had no specific recollection of the Digges' family cemetery per se; however, he did recall that around 1905-07, a fellow employee inadvertently dug up what appeared to be human remains while leveling an area near the location of the manor house site. Despite his friend's hesitation, a concrete floor was laid and a shed built atop it. The shed later blew down in a windstorm, and the concrete floor was broken up and removed. Clagett claimed to remember the "exact spot" of the shed and promised to show it to the NPS employee. However, no further information has been found to document the location (Fizgerald 1967: 280).



Annotated map of the "Survey of the Grounds, Rivers and Creeks in the Vicinity of Fort Washington", 1816 (Map 117 8-11, NA RG 79

1793-1814: The Rise and Fall of Fort Warburton

The first documented proposal to erect defensive fortifications on the Potomac River at Digges' Point was made by President George Washington in a letter to Tobias Lear dated 3 November 1793. Washington had frequently crossed between Mount Vernon and Warburton Manor, and was well aware of the strategic advantages of this location for protecting the river approach to the future national capital. "The Channel at Digges' Point," he wrote,

is not twenty feet from the shore. A vessel can approach no otherwise than with her bow to a battery at that place from at least three miles; and present her stem unavoidably the same distance when she passes it, and the whole width of the channel at that place scarcely exceeds 300, I am sure not 400 yards" (Luzader 1976: 1).

In March 1794, the United States Congress authorized the first series of defensive works to protect the harbors of major American cities. In May, Washington once again reiterated his

interest in seeing a fort built at Warburton Manor, informing Secretary of War Henry Knox that "a certain bluff of land, on the Maryland side, near Mr. Digges's (the point formed by the E. branch of the Potomac), would be a proper situation for the fortification to be erected" (Salay 1986: 67; Luzader 1976: 2).

Despite the President's stated interest in the site, more than a decade would pass before any serious action was taken to begin fortifying the site. The owner of the property, Thomas Attwood Digges, remained in England until 1798, and even after his return he was reluctant to sell even a small portion of his property at Digges' Point to the federal government. Expressing fears that a military occupation would cause "injury to domestic Comforts to the future possessors of Warburton," and be particularly damaging to his valuable shad and herring fishing shores, Digges delayed any serious negotiations with the War Department until 1807, although he had allowed a small military depot to be established at Digges' Point the year before. By this time, Anglo-American tensions were once again on the rise, and the Chesapeake incident of June 1807, in which HMS Leopard seized the American frigate Chesapeake and forcibly "repatriated" four crew- members, prompted Congress to authorize a new defensive network—the "Second System" of fortifications—to replace the rudimentary "First System" of the 1790s. After somewhat contentious negotiations, Digges finally relented and sold 3 acres and 127 perches to the government for $6,000 on 15 April 1808 (Elias and Finch 1982: lxxiii; Toogood 1970: 61-62; Luzader 1976: 2-3; Salay 1986: 67).

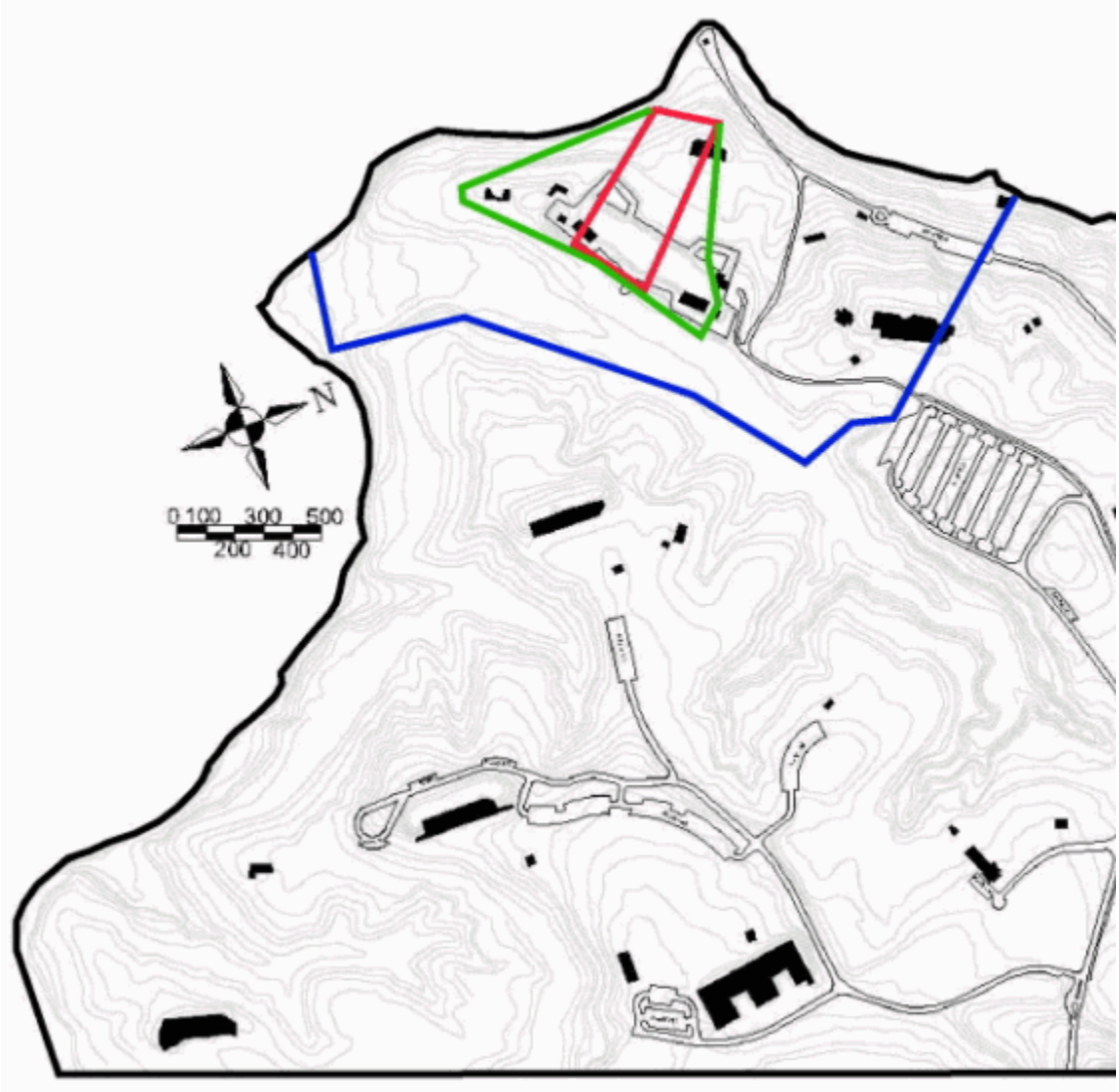
In August 1808, Digges noted that work on the new "Fort Warburton" was proceeding "with more than heretofore celerity." And, though he expressed admiration for Lieutenant George Bumford, the young officer of Engineers in charge of construction who was living with him at Warburton Manor, he complained of "dayly vexations" caused by "a set of lounging Idlers, watermen & Labourers that pray upon my green corn, my stock, Hen roosts, all kinds of fruit even to garden vegetables." In fact, Digges's relationship with the War Department would remain strained for the remainder of his life, as all his worst fears concerning the effect of the fort and garrison on his property were realized (Elias and Finch 1982: 506, 508).

In June 1809, President Thomas Jefferson described Fort Warburton as "a new inclosed work on the Potomac…of stone and brick masonry, to which was attached a strong battery of like materials. By December the fort was essentially completed, and included the main fort with 13 guns, an octagon stone tower mounting six guns to defend the rear of the fort, as well as a brick magazine, barracks, and other subsidiary structures (Washington Post 1884: 1).

Three years later the Americans and British were once again at war. Although Digges was generally pleased with the professional conduct of the milita units garrisoned there, he was distressed that the fort's ditches were causing serious erosion problems, the wharf was in disrepair, and the fort's bakehouse and the majority of "Octagon battery" extended beyond the property line and onto his land. But Digges and the War Department soon had more serious matters to contend with in the form of the British Navy. On July 25, 1814, the fort's commander, Lieutenant James L. Edwards, complained to his superiors about "the defenceless situation of this post." Lacking the proper equipment, they had been unable to mount the 18-pound cannon that had been delivered, while the depth of the gun platforms in the fort was

insufficient for the operation of the heavy pieces. They also lacked ammunition for the 18-pounder ships' guns in the water battery, he claimed, and the post was undermanned. Edwards' concerns were timely, for in late August 1814 a British naval squadron comprised of two frigates, two bomb-ships, two rocket-ships, and a schooner sailed up the Potomac in coordination with the overland attack on Washington, D.C. Despite Edwards' warning, the American military authorities continued to assume that Fort Warburton was impregnable against naval forces. They realized, however, that the position was vulnerable to a landward assault, and so ordered the post's new commander, Captain Samuel T. Dyson, to destroy the fort and move his command across the Potomac should the British advance on him from the rear (Salay 1986: 67; Elias and Finch 1982: 548, 552; Luzader 1976: 3-5).

Sailing up the Potomac, the British squadron reached Fort Warburton on the evening of 27 August and began to bombard the fort. Dyson immediately blew up the defenses and ordered the 50-man garrison to retreat without mounting any resistance. Several days after the attack, Digges mentioned in a letter to President James Madison, who had recently fled Washington, that he had "the pleasure to hear & see dozens of Mortars. Rockets &ca. pass in direction very nearly over my house & some not far from my Well & within my front fields." He had also spent the better part of a day picking through the smoldering remains of the fort, detailing the damage. "Every thing was ruind," he noted, "save the two Columbiads of 52 lb. Each—the rest are all useless as Cannon—The walls of The Fort & octagon stockades have not been touched by a shot & seem as perfect as ever save in the ribband edge of the top brickwork thrown over by the explosion or burnt down by the grass dryd & yet hot fire of the sod." Finally, in an implied commentary on the embarrassing performance of the American garrison, Digges told the President that he had spoken with a party of British naval officers who visited Warburton Manor after the attack. They expressed "great admiration" for the advantageous position of the fort, he reported, and admitted that a force twice as large could not have bypassed the guns had they been properly manned (Luzader 1976: 5-6; Elias and Finch 1982: 559-60).



Expansion of Fort Washington boundaries, 1806-1875

1814-1824: Building Fort Washington

In the wake of the disastrous Fort Warburton incident, which had allowed the City of Alexandria to fall into British hands, Captain Dyson was court-martialed for dereliction of duty and dismissed from the Army. However, as the British had noted, Digges' Point remained an ideal location for a defensive work. In September 1814, acting Secretary of War James Monroe ordered Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant to inspect Fort Warburton and repair or rebuild the works as necessary. The French-born engineering officer had served admirably under Washington in the Revolutionary War, and won fame for his design for the new capital city. But by the time he was given the Fort Warburton assignment, the 59-year-old L'Enfant's career was in decline. According to Digges, who invited the engineer to live with him at

Warburton Manor, L'Enfant was eager to take up the challenge and threw himself into the rebuilding effort. By the spring of 1815 he was underway with the construction of the ravelin, a V-shaped earthwork near the river, and was rebuilding the wharf. Frustrated by criticism from the federal authorities, however, L'Enfant refused to submit progress reports or provide a comprehensive plan for the project. As a result of this impasse, work was suspended in July, and L'Enfant was dismissed in September (Luzader 1976: 9; Elias and French 1982: 561, 580n.).

Even before L'Enfant was removed from his post, the War Department had ordered Lieutenant Colonel Walker K. Armistead, U.S. Army Engineers, to inspect the progress on the fort—now better known as Fort Washington—and to make recommendations concerning its status. [Note: The earliest known reference to "Fort Washington" is found in the August 1810 muster roll of Captain Beale's Company, with the heading "Fort Washington on the Potomac" (Personal collection of NPS Ranger Don Steiner)]. Digges persisted in referring to it as "Fort Warburton" until his death in 1821, but did acknowledge its new name in a letter dated 19 December 1819, mentioning "Fort Warburton now called Fort Washington" (Elias and French 1982: 626, passim)]. A West Point graduate, Armistead had served as chief engineer on the Niagara frontier during the War of 1812 and most recently had superintended the defenses of Norfolk and the Chesapeake. His report, submitted at the end of July 1815, was not favorable. "Fort Washington as it now stands," he noted, "exhibits no regular plan of work, except, the unequal faces of an unfinished Ravelin, and if finished on the plan of its present projection will be expensive." Convinced that a new approach was necessary, in August the War Department ordered Armistead to return to Fort Washington and devise a workable strategy for completing the project (Luzader 1976: 9-11).

In October 1815, Armistead presented his new plan for Fort Washington, which had been drawn up with the assistance of Lieutenant Theodore Maurice. A new masonry fort would be constructed 115 feet above the high water mark, while L'Enfant's ravelin would be completed as a major outwork nearer the waterline. The main fort would include two bastions facing the river, with its landside defenses consisting of two demi-caponiers and a caponier overlooking the deep ravine to its east [Note: In military engineering parlance, a caponier is a protected passageway with firing ports that extends into or crosses a ditch, from which guns can be brought to bear along the length of the ditch]. Two blocks of barracks and two magazines near the curtains—the main fort walls—would be located between the demi-caponiers and the caponier, with a hot-shot furnace in each of the two bastions [Note: Designed to set wooden ships ablaze, "hot shot" was regular solid shot heated red-hot before firing]. Digges agreed to sell an additional five acres of land to accommodate the new, enlarged fortifications, and the deed was recorded on 31 August 1815. The War Department approved the overall plan in February 1816, with the addition of a 20-gun water battery, and work on the new Fort Washington commenced shortly after (Luzader 1976: 12-13; Salay 1986: 67).

Despite the perennial complaints of Digges concerning the ruin of his fishing landings, and the typical problems associated with hiring and retaining large numbers of laborers, the initial construction of Fort Washington was completed by 1824 at a total cost of $446,467.37. A casemated brick and stone fort with associated earthen outerworks, Fort Washington was

typical of American forts of the "Third," or "Permanent System" of fortifications that protected the nation until the Civil War. The main fort was characterized by a long curtain paralleling the river that provided space for guns. Two demi-bastions, or projections, at the northeast and southwest corners with casemates (rooms within the walls) protected the curtain from attack. The east or landward side of the fort had a long curtain broken by a lunette, or projecting work, in the center, and had two corner bastions to protect the fort's flanks. The fort had three entrances: the main gate in the center of the north flank had a one-story gatehouse structure with arched brick bombproof passageway, heavy doors, and a bridge; the second entry provided access between the fort and the ravelin and water battery to the west, and consisted of a door in the center of the west curtain which was entered through a covered passageway and ramp, a single stairway to the casemate level, and a double stairway to the parade ground in the center of the fort; the third entry was through the postern gate and a fixed bridge that provided access to the reverse fire casemate and mortar battery. Bridges were required both at the main gate and the postern gate because the fort had 33-foot-wide moats or ditches on these two sides (Elias and French 1982: 618; Luzader 1976: 13-64; Salay 1986: 69-70).

In addition to the fort's walls and moats, a system of outerworks provided added protection. The major exterior feature was the large ravelin initially begun by L'Enfant in 1814 that protected the fort's western, or riverside, curtain. A mortar battery was located across the moat from the fort's left (southern) flank, and a reverse fire casemate on the counterscarp (or exterior wall) of the southeast bastion completed the outer defenses (Salay 1986: 69).

In February 1825, Chief of Engineers Major General Alexander Macomb noted that:

the position of Fort Washington is exceedingly strong and the work is built of the most durable materials and executed in the best manner. Its batteries command completely the channel of the River Potomac and cover the District of Columbia, including the National Capital, from an attack by water. Fort Washington, on the land side, is very strong, being defended by high walls and a deep ravine. It is so well situated that it cannot be taken unless invested and regularly besieged, and even then it may be considered competent to hold out until relieved by the forces of the country (Washington Post 1884: 1).

Yet Fort Washington was more than the sum of its defenses. In this era, it was expected that fortifications would be relatively self-contained and self-sufficient communities, and much of early post life was centered within, and in close proximity, to the fort. Living quarters inside the fort walls included a large two-story brick enlisted men's barracks with a slate roof and piazza across the front that was designed to house 60 men, roughly the size of an artillery company. Another building of similar size and construction served as officers' quarters. Other rooms within the main fort included an office and guardroom with cells for holding prisoners in the gatehouse. Maintaining a garrison of men also required a considerable number of outbuildings that, for reasons of space and function, were more conveniently located beyond the walls of the fort. As well as emplacements for guns, the ravelin enclosed a stable, blacksmith's forge, storehouse, magazine, shot furnace, and two guard houses. Only three other structures were located beyond the fort. The most significant of these was the two-story brick commanding officer's quarters, built opposite the main gate on a hillside so that the lower floor opened on

ground level to the west. A nearby frame dwelling to house a junior officer survived only until the 1830s, while a small, one-story brick house downslope from the commanding officer's house served as non-commissioned officers' quarters (Salay 1986: 70-75).

An 1830s Andrew Jackson Davis watercolor of Fort Washington shortly after its initial construction, and prior to the subsequent modifications of the 1840s. (Fort Washington photo files).

1807-1875: The Final Years of Warburton Manor

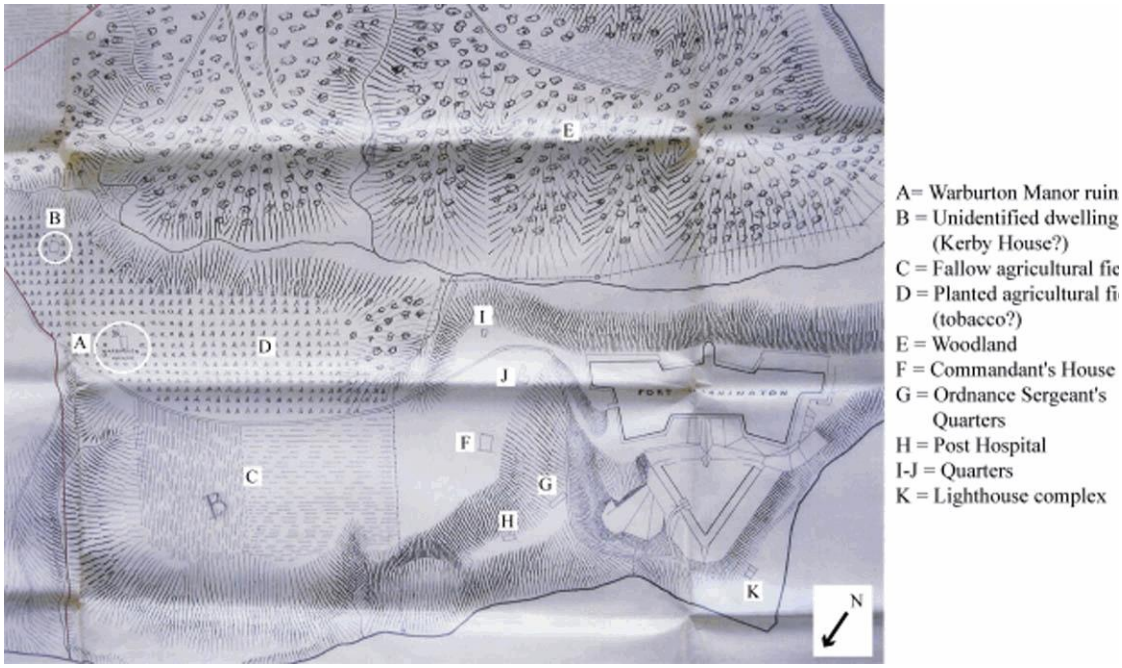
Thomas Attwood Digges had feared that the construction of the fort would hasten the ruin of his property and, while he ultimately became resigned to the presence of Fort Washington and its "vile soldiery," his ancestral home would never be the same. Digges continued to bemoan the frequent trespasses of the laborers and soldiers, the dumping of large quantities of soil on his property, the ruin of his once valuable fisheries, and other assorted annoyances. He did manage to secure an injunction against the engineers over the soil dumping issue, and work stopped briefly in September 1816 until the problem was resolved, but for the most part he was unable to halt "progress." In an odd twist, L'Enfant—whose professional career was now finished—remained living at Warburton Manor even after the ailing Digges moved to Washington in 1818 to be nearer his doctors. A terrible hailstorm that spring had done severe damage to the eastern side of the old manor house, and Digges wrote to James Madison that he feared he could not maintain the property much longer. He even contemplated turning the estate into a "tobacco plantation" (Elias and French 1982: 592-93, 618; Toogood 1970: 69).

Digges died in a Washington hotel in December 1821. He had no children, so Warburton passed to his nephew, William Dudley Digges. For the next three years L'Enfant continued to live at Warburton, which was literally falling down around him. He moved to Green Hill, another Digges family property, in 1824 and died there the following year. It does not appear that anyone lived at Warburton over the next several years. William Digges was heavily in debt at the time of his death in 1830, and his widow Norah was forced to sell off the entire estate to pay his debts. On 27 May 1833 she transferred to the United States a 43-acre parcel adjacent to Fort Washington, satisfying her husband's debt to the government, and allowing the fort additional property for expansion. The remainder of the property was surveyed in 1834 and, despite the last-minute efforts of William's son, George Attwood Digges, to buy the property, the estate was sold as four separate lots to John Robertson and William Kerby on 9 August 1836, ending the nearly 120-year tenure of the Digges family at Warburton. The manor house reportedly remained standing for some time afterwards. William Kerby's daughter, Hanna Harmon, recalled that the family had lived briefly in the dilapidated dwelling while building their new farmhouse, but that it had collapsed into ruins soon after (Elias and French 1982: lxxvi-lxxvii; Toogood 1970: 76-79).

An 1872 topographical map of the Fort Washington vicinity indicated the location of Warburton Manor with an "x" marked beside it and the note: "no longer standing as of 1873" (Note: A projection of this map on 2004 base-mapping confirms that Warburton Manor was situated at the same location now indicated by the Maryland historical marker). A second unidentified building, which may have been the Kerby house, was situated a short distance to the northwest. According to this map, the areas to the west and north of the former manor site consisted of fallow agricultural fields, while the fields immediately surrounding the site were planted in an unidentified crop, possibly tobacco. The steeply dissected area to the west and northwest of Fort Washington was unimproved woodland at this time (Toogood 1970: 79; Chief of Engineers, Land Papers, Maryland, Fort Washington, NA RG 77).

By the early 1870s, the U.S. government was beginning to consider expanding Fort Washington once again, and Major William T. Craighill was authorized to begin negotiations with the widowed Barbara Kerby, who lived with her children on the neighboring farm. As Craighill reported to his superior, Brigadier General A.A. Humphreys, only about 175 acres adjacent to the existing Fort Washington property was needed for the planned expansion; but Kerby was reluctant to sell what she knew to be the most valuable section of the 315-acre farm, contending that she could not make a living farming the residual acreage. Even though it meant purchasing more land than necessary, Craighill recommended proceeding with the purchase on Kerby's terms. "They have long been disagreeable neighbors for the successive garrisons at the Fort," he argued. "The possession of the whole farm would rid the U.S. of them entirely and isolate the garrison from other neighbors who might be equally disagreeable." As an additional prod to resolving the matter, Craighill noted that the Kerbys continued to allege that the garrison had done considerable damage to their property during the Civil War, particularly through the cutting of timber, and had not been adequately compensated. The government ultimately concurred with Craighill's assessment of the situation, and purchased just over 289 acres on January 19, 1875. This final major acquisition enlarged the boundaries of the

reservation to coincide essentially with what are now the present limits of Fort Washington Park (Chief of Engineers, Land Papers, Maryland, Fort Washington, NA RG 77).



Topographical Map of Fort Washington and Vicinity, 1872 (Chief of Engineers, Land Papers, Maryland, Fort Washington, NARA RG 77).

1825-1889: Fort Washington in Peace and War

As with any major construction project, a number of oversights and imperfections in the fort and its associated features became apparent after the main building phase had been completed, and a variety of alterations and modifications to the built environment began almost immediately. As a young Lieutenant of Engineers, Robert E. Lee inspected Fort Washington, reporting his findings to Chief of Engineers Brigadier General Charles Gratiot on January 4, 1836:

… The casemates of the Main Work, 21 in number are dry in good order, though without floors or Gun-traverses. There are besides two bomb proof Apartments suitable for munitions of War, and two excellent, large and dry magazines, now ready for the reception of powder. The ramparts and parapets of the Water front of the Main Work are in like good order; and those of the Land-front though well prepared against the Batteries of an Enemy, are not so secure against escalade. The Scarp Wall of the S.W. Face of this front is only 5 feet high, and there is none on its advanced curtain. The first could be raised, and the latter constructed at little expense, which would add much to the moral and real security of the Garrison in time of War, and in time of peace would place it more under the control of the Comg. Officer. . . .

….The ravelin in advance of the Water Front, furnishes a powerful Water Battery, raking the channel of the river, and to which all vessels ascending must approach head on. It is in good

condition in all its parts and provided with a magazine similar in all respects to those of the Main Work. At each shoulder of the Ravelin, a single Embrun….Caponnier is constructed in the ditch for the purpose of defending it which bear on the Capital; and the entrance into the Ravelin between the shoulders and Main Work are only guarded by fire from the flanks of the Water front. The difficulty of escalade would be greatly increased by constructing a palisade and abbatis [sic.] along this space, or more permanently by a wall or ditch. Both the main work and Ravelin are without furnaces for heating shot. The position of this Fort, though well calculated to command the channel of the river, could be easily taken in rear by an enemy landing at the head of Piscataway Creek, and taking possession of the Hills back of it. To guard the approach of this side extensive Field Works would be required (Luzader 1976: 69-70).

Lee's observations were duly noted, but it would be five years before any of his recommendations were implemented. On March 1, 1840, Captain Fred A. Smith conducted another inspection of the fort, reiterating many of Lee's critiques concerning the fort's defensive weaknesses. As a result, Smith was charged with overseeing major improvements to Fort Washington, which he began the following year. One of his primary tasks was to stabilize the earthen embankments around the fort and prevent the frequent washouts that were beginning to undermine the walls. He directed the construction of a second story and gun emplacements on the main gatehouse; had the parapets modified to accommodate the newer 32-pounder cannons; paved the terreplein, the top of the rampart where the guns were placed behind the parapets; built hot-shot furnaces in the fort and ravelin; and modified the 1816 magazine. Smith also considerably improved the fort's weak landward defenses, raising the east curtain and replacing the lunette bastion with a caponniere. He also had the hill north of the fort cleared of trees to prevent an attacker from sheltering there. Finally, Smith and his civilian successor, Samuel Cooper, strengthened the fort's entry doors and built the drawbridge at the main gate. When the work was completed in 1848, the fort had assumed roughly its present appearance (Luzader 1976: 64-68, 71-78; Salay 1986: 70-71).

While Fort Washington now protected the capital city from seaborne assault, there was increasing concern over the safety of friendly vessels navigating this stretch of the Potomac. The main river channel was only about 50 feet from Digges' Point, which posed a hazard to shipping, particularly at night or in poor weather. In 1856, Secretary of the Treasury James Guthrie requested that a navigational light be placed at Digges' Point. Permission was sought from the War Department, which owned the property, and Secretary of War Jefferson Davis agreed, on condition that the light was built on a wharf rather than within the fortifications, and that the light keeper was subordinate to the military command of the post. The Lighthouse Board appropriated $500 for the erection of an 18.5-foot iron light post, which was operational by November 1857. Care of the light was given to Ordnance Sergeant Joseph Cameron, the sole occupant of Fort Washington at that time. The 1857 light remained in operation until 1870, when a new, more substantial lighthouse was completed. The frame structure measured sixteen feet tall, and housed a sixth-order Fresnel lens. Although the lighthouse was a considerable improvement, a number of ships' captains petitioned the government in 1881, claiming that a bell would assist their navigation in foggy conditions. Their request was noted, and in 1882 a new, 32-foot fog bell tower was built at Digges' Point. A 2 ½-story, seven-room,

frame lighthouse keeper's cottage was built in the vicinity of Light 80 in 1885 (De Gast 1973: 51).

There was no serious threat of a foreign attack on Washington from the 1830s through the 1850s, and Fort Washington was occupied sporadically by a succession of artillery companies during these years. Although a non-commissioned ordnance sergeant remained at the post, no garrison was present during the periods January-September 1836; December 1836-October 1848; October-December 1850; and October 1853-January 1861 (Battery Emplacement and Fort Record Books, NARA RG 392, Entry 278).

With the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861, however, Fort Washington immediately assumed a role of great importance as the only permanent fortification guarding the Potomac River approach to Washington, D.C. Yet the post was hardly prepared to repel a Confederate assault, having been essentially abandoned from October 1853 through January 1861, during which time the guns had been dismounted and the barbette carriages stored in the ravelin. After his inspection of January 9, 1861, Lieutenant Miles D. McAlester expressed grave concerns about the state of the fort's armament. With war looming, the War Department ordered the Logan Guards from Lewistown, Pennsylvania, and the Washington Artillerists of Pottsville, Pennsylvania—among the units subsequently known as Washington's "First Defenders"—to garrison the post and ready it for battle. According to Sergeant Valentine Schichter of the Washington Artillerists, during the month of May the troops mounted guns on the water battery, received six large 24-pounder guns; five 8- and 10-inch columbiads, a 32-pounder gun, and large quantities of shot and shell, all of which they laboriously hauled up to the fort with the help of "twenty head of cattle" (Salay 1992: 79).

On May 28, 1861, the Democrat National Intelligencer confidently reported that:

Commandant Maj. Joseph A. Haskin has strengthened his position. The 32-pounders are all mounted, furnaces for heating shot are in apple-pie order, magazines are full, hand grenades are ready for use at a moment's notice, bombs are lying around loose and the artillerists sleep nightly beneath their guns (Salay 1992: 80).

Although the perceived threat to Washington lessened significantly after Union forces occupied Alexandria and environs in late May 1861, the Army continued to send considerable quantities of ordnance supplies to Fort Washington throughout the following year. As new guns arrived, some of the older and less reliable cannon were replaced. By September 1862, the fort had received the full complement of arms it would mount during the war, including forty-one 24-pounder cannon, seventeen 32-pounders, six 24-pounder howitzers, six 8-inch seacoast howitzers, four bronze 6-pounders, two 24-pounder Coehorn mortars, two 12-pounder mountain howitzers, one brass 12-pounder field howitzer, and one 8-inch siege howitzer, for a total of 80 guns (Salay 1992: 80).

For the remainder of the war, the duties of the volunteer artillerymen lapsed into a tedious routine of drill, guard duty, and maintenance of the aging fort. Although Fort Washington was now sufficiently armed, the arrival of unprecedented numbers of troops precipitated an acute

crisis of space. Designed to accommodate only about 60 enlisted men, the fort was now occupied by upwards of 270. Other buildings and tents were used to handle the overflow, while every available corner of the fort was used for storing supplies. Even the casemates, long vacant due to dampness and poor ventilation, were pressed into service, housing a sutler's store, bakery, guardhouse, and the post hospital (Battery Emplacement and Fort Record Books, NA RG 392, Entry 278: 1-2; Salay 1992: 420-21; Salay 1986: 73, 76).

By the latter part of the Civil War, the overcrowding of the old fort had prompted the increasing use of space outside its walls. In the immediate postwar years this trend continued, with a new complex of buildings emerging around the commandant's house, including a two-story enlisted men's barracks designed to house 100 men, with a kitchen, mess hall, wash room, store room, and company offices on the lower floor; three 1½-story frame double-houses for officers; a chapel (also used as a schoolhouse); and laundresses' quarters. Fort Washington had long been considered an unhealthy post, and at any given time about 10 percent of its garrison was on sick call, a number that climbed as high as 24 percent during the Civil War. In August 1870, it was reported that every man, woman, and child at the post was suffering from "intermittent or remittent fever." Before the war, a portion of the first floor of the enlisted men's quarters had provided ample space for a sick room. The larger hospital space set up in the casemate in 1861
was unsatisfactory, and in 1863 a frame hospital building with two wards for 16 patients was built outside the fort. The building, which was prone to infestation, was soon deemed inadequate, and a more spacious facility was completed in 1872. The new hospital included beds for 24 men, 2 attendants' rooms, a dispensary, and bathroom. Associated buildings included detached kitchen with a covered passage, hospital stewards' quarters, a privy, and a "dead house." Soldiers who died at the post were buried in a small cemetery in a low-lying area at the foot of a hill near the river. Given their waterside location, the graves often were submerged, prompting the Surgeon General in 1870 to recommend the use of Arlington National Cemetery. Two years later, however, it appears that the graveyard was still in use (Salay 1992: 421-424; Salay 1986: 76; Washington Post 1884: 1).

Troops were permanently withdrawn from Fort Washington in September 1872, and the installation would remain unmanned—except for a resident ordnance sergeant—for more than twenty years. Despite the absence of the garrison, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers drew up plans for updating the fort's defenses beginning in 1872, and between 1873 and 1875 four 15-inch Rodman gun mounts and a magazine were partially completed in the ravelin before the necessary funding was withdrawn and the work suspended (Snell 1976: 16-17).

An important account of Fort Washington's physical appearance during this long period of inactivity is found in a detailed article in the Washington Post of 17 August 1884.

Having convinced the reluctant military authorities to allow him access to the post, the unnamed journalist—accompanied by a sketch artist, since the government forbade the taking of photographs—was given a thorough tour of the property by Ordnance Sergeant R. F. Joyce, the fort's caretaker who lived in the non-commissioned officer's quarters downhill from the commandant's house. The reporter's impression of Fort Washington was of a place that had

long since outlived its usefulness:

An air of desertion hangs over Fort Washington to-day. Its buildings, built of brick said to have been imported from England, still stand in a remarkable state of preservation, but they are old and tenantless [Note: There is no historical evidence to support this assertion that the bricks were imported from England. In fact, the brickyard depicted to the west of the fort in T.W. Maurice's map of 1816 almost certainly produced the bricks used in the construction of Fort Washington]. The picturesque gate, with its drawbridge over the moat, is overgrown with vines, snakes creep through the tall rank grass and lizards of brilliant hues are the only sentinels who mount guard upon the walls. Cannons of patterns long since obsolete, lie imbedded in earth and grass, or frown with unconscious impotence, from the casemate windows. From the little crevices between the piled-up cannon balls the long stalks of golden rod find their upward way. The brick passageways are overgrown with grass and weeds and scarlet trumpet flowers and other creeping vines are fast covering the walls (Washington Post 1884: 1).

By this time the fort was sustaining damage not only from the lack of maintenance, but through abuse at the hands of unauthorized visitors. Sergeant Joyce pointed out gouges in the steps leading to the platform over the drawbridge gate that had resulted when a party of men had snuck across the river and carried off the brass gun that had fired off the morning and evening salutes. Chipped steps leading down to the casemates evidenced the common practice of children and picnickers of rolling cannonballs from top to bottom (Washington Post 1884: 1).

With no one left to maintain it, the natural environment was changing, as well. "Behind the fort is a deep ravine," the reporter noted,

300 feet wide at the top, with sides sloping precipitously about eighty feet, terminating in a narrow plane about one hundred feet wide. The ridge is composed of clay, sand and marl, and many fossils have been found in the vicinity of the marl beds, which open on the river bank. The sides of the ravine were formerly heavily timbered, but this was cut away during the late war, and are now covered with a vigorous growth of young trees, principally chestnut and locust (Washington Post 1884: 1).

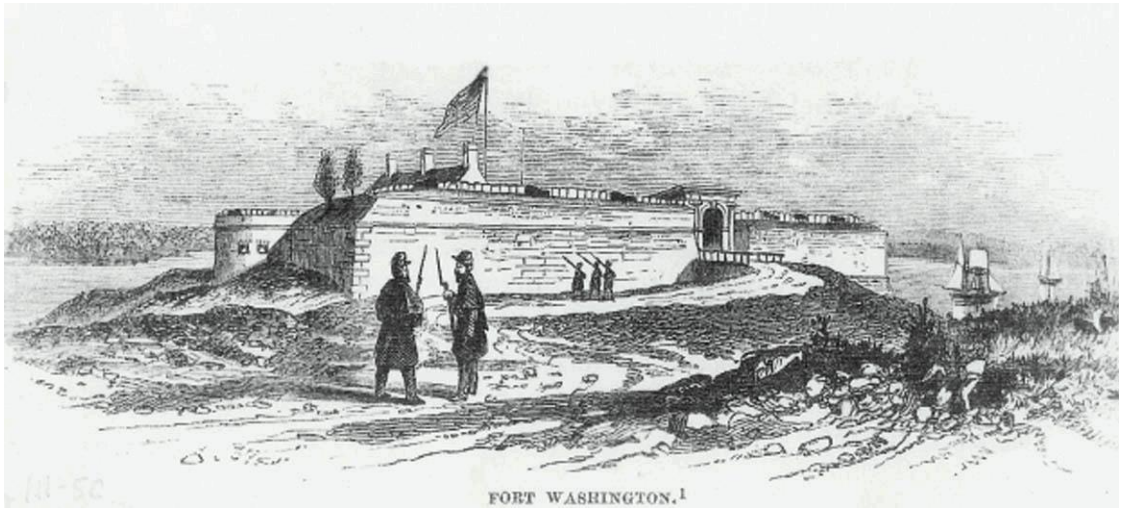
In contrast to the more poetic observations of the Washington Post reporter, Engineer Major Peter C. Haines, who inspected Fort Washington that same summer, offered a more businesslike military opinion on the post's state of preservation:

The masonry of the old work is still in good condition, but as the fort was designed more than half a century ago, it is not adapted to receive guns of modern size or to defensive purposes against such guns. At the present time the defenses known as Fort Washington consist practically of four fifteen-foot gun platforms, without a parapet in front of them and without magazines. The twenty-four pound barbette guns in the old fort are practically worthless, as they could do no harm. This fort, together with Fort Foote, a work of less strength, if that be possible, constitute the defenses of the Capital of a great nation (Washington Post 1884: 1).

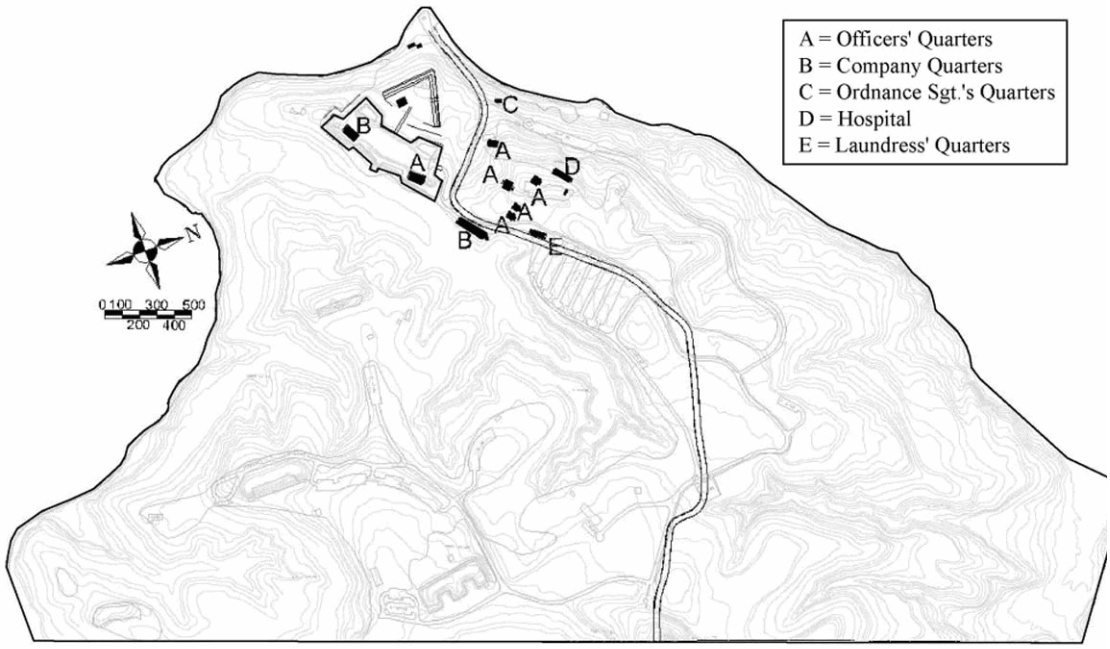
Recognized as useless in the context of modern warfare, Fort Washington's smoothbore guns

would shortly be removed and sold as scrap. Henry Clagett remembered playing on the guns in the late 1880s or early 1890s, and seeing them piled up near the wharf to be hauled away. Later, when he began working at Fort Washington, he was told that they had been loaded onto a barge that proceeded to sink just off the dock. Evidently no effort was made to recover them (Fitzgerald 1967: 281). [Note: Nickels stated in the National Register nomination that the guns were removed in 1885 (1985: 8.10)].

In May 1888, the U.S. House of Representatives considered a resolution that would have allowed one Frederick Freund to build a hotel on Fort Washington land. When asked by the Chief of Engineers to comment on the proposal, Peter C. Haines, now a Lieutenant Colonel, vigorously opposed the idea. Although the existing fortifications were outdated, the location still remained strategically important to the defense of Washington, D.C. "This site is of utmost importance," he asserted, "and should be held for military purposes" (Chief of Engineers, Land Papers, Maryland, Fort Washington, NA RG 77). As it turned out, Haines' views were prescient. Fort Washington would not remain idle for long, as it was about to enter an entirely new phase of military development.



This undated engraving evidently depicts Fort Washington during its occupation by Federal troops during the Civil War. (NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Drawer 45, Maryland-general (frontier days)).



Post layout, 1886 (source: Plat of the Government Reservation at Fort Washington, Maryland, 1886. NARA, RG 77, Map 117.8-51)

1890-1920: Fort Washington Revitalized

By the mid-1880s, American military planners had come to realize that, in light of recent advances in naval engineering and armaments, the nation's aging system of coastal defense had become dangerously outdated. In 1885, President Grover Cleveland appointed the Board on Fortifications or Other Defenses, otherwise known as the Endicott Board, after its President, Secretary of War William C. Endicott. The Board, which included both military and civilian representatives, divided the task of reporting to Congress among six committees, charged with compiling a wide variety of information, from the penetration and effect of shot on armor, to the size and armament of foreign naval vessels, and the character and extent of existing defenses for the most important U.S. ports (Endicott et al. 1886).

The Endicott Board formally presented their findings to Congress in 1886. Their conclusion was disturbing: the United States simply was not equipped to repel a sea-borne assault by a major naval power. The Board made numerous recommendations for strengthening America's coastal defenses. To begin with, the report ranked the eleven ports where "fortifications or other defenses are most urgently required." These included, in descending order of importance: New York, San Francisco, Boston, The Great Lakes ports, Hampton Roads, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Portland (Maine), and the Rhode Island ports in Narragansett Bay. With respect to Washington, the Board noted that the channel of the Potomac River narrowed considerably above Mount Vernon, above which point the capital could easily be shelled. Protection for the upper Potomac was particularly important, given that

the existing defenses at Fort Wool and Fort Monroe in Hampton Roads could not adequately prevent the access of foreign vessels into the Chesapeake Bay, and that Fort Washington, in its current state, had little chance of stopping a naval attack on the capital. The Board recommended that Fort Washington be updated, and that a subordinate installation—what would become Fort Hunt—be constructed at Sheridan's Point on the Virginia side of the river. The total cost of constructing adequate defenses for Washington was projected to be $1,323,500, or 3.5 percent of the estimated $37,965,000 necessary for improving the entire nation's seacoast fortifications (Endicott et al. 1886).

Following the conclusions of the Endicott Board, the Board of Engineers for Fortifications made specific recommendations for improving the Fort Washington defenses, including the construction of new artillery batteries to include large rifled guns, mortars, and smaller rapid-fire guns, as well as a submarine mine system. Work began in September 1891 with the construction of Battery Decatur, the first of the planned eight artillery batteries. In 1896, the Rodman gun mounts and two magazines in the ravelin were completed as a temporary defensive measure, and it appears likely that the rifle trenches in this area were constructed shortly after during the Spanish-American War "emergency" in May 1898. It would take 14 years to complete the Endicott batteries but, when finished, they represented the state-of-the-art in weapons technology and provided a virtually impenetrable system of defense for the capital. The following section provides a summary of the location, characteristics, and armaments of the batteries in their order of completion:

Battery Decatur
Construction of Battery Decatur, the first of the new Endicott batteries at Fort Washington, began in 1891 and was essentially completed by 1897, when the two 10-inch Model 1894 breech-loading rifled guns with Buffington-Crozier disappearing carriages were mounted. When the battery was formally turned over to the artillery garrison in July 1899, the cost of construction totaled $128,492. Battery Decatur was located approximately 450 feet northeast of the original fort, in close proximity to the Commandant's House. Named in honor of Commodore Stephen N. Decatur, a Maryland native and veteran of the War with Tripoli and the War of 1812, the battery measured approximately 330 feet long by 90 feet wide. Both 10-inch guns were mounted behind an 8-foot-high protective wall above a circular passageway system immediately beneath, with ammunition handling and storage facilities. A massive sloped concrete retaining wall was located at the south end of the battery. Adjacent was a semicircular room with fortified slit windows for defense, a feature not seen in any of Fort Washington's other Endicott era emplacements. Electrical power was provided by an electric storage battery that was routinely hauled to the fort's power plant at Battery Emory for recharging. A sunken road to the rear of the battery was originally intended to extend underground past the Commandant's House to the sally port of the old fort, and it is possible that the storage area/bunker at the south end of the existing ditch is the remnant of this passage, which was never completed. Battery Decatur's guns were removed in 1917 and shipped to Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, two years later. The carriages were scrapped in 1920.

Battery Emory

Construction of Battery Emory, located approximately 750 feet southeast of the original fort, began in 1896 and was completed in 1898 at the cost of $91,000. The battery was named for Major General William Emory, a distinguished Maryland veteran of the Mexican and Civil wars. Measuring approximately 300 feet long by 60 feet wide, the reinforced concrete and steel emplacement had two 10-inch Model 1898 MII breech-loading rifled guns with disappearing carriages. The guns were protected by an eight-foot-high concrete face wall with earth fill behind and concrete topping slabs above. Additional facilities included two ammunition supply structures for the guns and protected interior rooms for ammunition storage. An observation post, measuring about 30 feet square, was located at the north end of the battery, and rangefinder stations were located at either end of the upper level. Battery Emory's two guns were removed in 1915 and shipped to Fort Morgan, Alabama.

Battery Humphreys
Named for Major General Andrew A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1866-79, Battery Humphreys is located approximately 2,000 feet southeast of the original fort. Construction was initiated in March 1898 and completed in June 1899 at a cost of $93,207. Measuring approximately 400 feet long by 75 feet wide, the emplacement had two 10-inch Model 1898 MII rifled guns with disappearing carriages, which were protected by an eight-foot-high protective concrete wall in front. Lower ammunition storage areas facing east had a protective overhanging covered walkway of reinforced concrete. Massive earth abutments and concrete retaining walls were located to the south, while a supplementary steel-framed concrete slab provided a walkway between the two guns.

Battery White
Located within the former ravelin between the original fort and the river, Battery White was relatively small, measuring 150 feet long by 60 feet wide. Construction began in May 1898 and was completed in June 1899 at a cost of $13,125. The battery was named in honor of Army surgeon William J.H. White, killed at the Battle of Antietam. The battery included platforms for two Driggs-Shroeder Model 1880 XII four-inch rapid-firing guns mounted on pedestal carriages. Each was protected by a two-foot-high wall. A central ammunition storage room between the two gun platforms measured 24 feet long by 15 feet wide by just over six feet high. The walls of the storage room were lined with structural clay tiles backed by concrete, while the concrete roof was reinforced with steel I-beams. Double observation posts at each end of the battery measured four feet square and were protected by two-foot-thick concrete walls. The observation posts and gun platforms were connected by an intermediate level walkway at the rear of the battery. The guns were removed in 1920 and shipped to the Soldiers' Monument Association in Ironton, Ohio, where they were scrapped during World War II.

Battery Meigs
Named for Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the Army from 1861 to 1882, Battery Meigs was an open battery for eight 12-inch Model 1890 M1 mortars located approximately 2,500 feet east of the original fort. Construction of Battery Meigs began in August 1898 and was completed in 1902 at a total cost of $117,000. The battery was comprised of two mortar emplacements, each approximately 80 feet square, surrounded by a

central storage area 100 feet long by 80 feet wide, and two side storage areas each 80 feet long by 60 feet wide. The magazine was protected by a concrete slab varying between five and ten inches thick and covered by up to 19 feet of earth. Shells were conveyed to the guns by overhead trolleys. Rangefinder stations, accessible by concrete steps, are located on the top of the structure.

Battery Wilkin
The battery most distant from the original fort, Battery Wilkin is located just over 3,000 feet to the southeast. Named for Captain Alexander Wilkin, 17th U.S. Infantry, who was killed in 1864 in Tupelo, Mississippi, the battery was begun in June 1899 and completed in October 1902 at a cost of $64,630. Measuring approximately 270 feet long by 75 feet wide, the battery had two Model 1897 6-inch guns mounted on Buffington-Crozier Model 1898 disappearing carriages. From the east the battery had two levels, the lower including ammunition and storage rooms. Each gun emplacement had five doors opening into the storage areas, and was protected by a one-foot-high concrete mass. An ammunition feed area was located to the left of each gun and an observation post to the right.

Battery Smith
The smallest of the eight Endicott period batteries at Fort Washington, Battery Smith was located to the south of Battery Humphreys, approximately 2,500 feet southeast of the original fort. Named for Lieutenant Joseph P. Smith, killed at Chapultepec during the Mexican War, the battery was begun in April 1899 and completed in May 1903 at a cost of $9,500. It measured roughly 75 feet square and consisted of two 3-inch Driggs-Seabury Model 1895 rapid-fire rifled guns protected at the front by a three-foot-high concrete wall. Each gun had an associated ammunition storage area at a lower level to its south. An intermediate walkway at the rear of the battery connected the gun platforms with an observation post at the south end.

Battery James Many
The last of the Endicott period batteries to be completed at Fort Washington, Battery James Many was transferred to the Artillery in May 1905 and cost $25,904. It was named for War of 1812 veteran Colonel James B. Many, 3rd U.S. Infantry, and was located immediately to the south of the original fort. Measuring 110 feet long by 75 feet wide, the battery was designed to mount two 3-inch Model 1902 M1 rapid-firing guns, protected by a two-foot high concrete perimeter wall. The ammunition magazine consisted of a series of three rooms between the gun platforms, and was constructed of thick concrete walls and a concrete roof covered with several feet of soil. Small storage rooms were located in the wing wall at the north and south ends of the battery (Cutts 1975; Nickels 1985).

Fort Washington's powerful guns would have been useless without an effective system for directing their fire, and an important part of the Endicott period defenses included two clusters of artillery-support fire control structures and three battery commanders' stations. A three-unit brick and concrete command structure, including the Battle Command Station and two fire command stations, were located on the edge of a steep hill to the north of Battery Decatur. This position included the post telephone system switchboard for communicating with the rest of the reservation. A second group of three fire-control stations was located between batteries

Smith and Humphreys in the southeast portion of the property. The three battery commanders' stations were designed as elevated and protected viewing posts for directing the fire of the batteries. Located adjacent to batteries Decatur, Emory, and Humphreys, they consisted of heavily fortified two-story brick and concrete towers (Snell 1976: 11-116; 133-45).

In conjunction with similar armaments at Fort Hunt on the Virginia side of the Potomac, the various guns and mortars mounted in Fort Washington's eight batteries provided ample firepower to prevent the passage of enemy ships. However, an additional feature of the river defenses recommended by the Board of Fortifications in 1890 was a submarine mine field spanning the river between Forts Washington and Hunt. The mines, also known as torpedoes, were not intended to destroy enemy ships so much as to slow their passage, allowing the gun batteries more time to fire upon them as they navigated the minefield. The rapid-firing guns of batteries White and James Many, located nearest the river, were intended to ward off enemy torpedo boats that might attempt to clear the mines. A number of other facilities associated with the storage and firing of the mines were built at Fort Washington during the Endicott period. Completed in 1890, the first structure to be built was a mining casemate located in a ravine about 2,100 feet north of the original fort. As the "nerve center" of the mine system, the casemate contained the electric switchboard that fired the mines, and thus was heavily protected from enemy fire. This first casemate was abandoned in 1906 after a replacement was built in the southwest demibastion of the original fort. Command and control of the mine defenses were the responsibility of the Mine Commander, whose Fire Control Station was located above the casemate on the ramparts of the fort's southwest demibastion. Originally stored in the fort, the mines were moved to a new torpedo storehouse near the Engineer Wharf in 1897. An adjacent Cable Tank housed the spools of lead-sheathed cable that connected the mines to the casemate's firing switchboard, while the mines were attached to their mooring and firing cables in the Torpedo Loading Room. A system of electric searchlights, powered by their own generators, completed the mine defense system, which was only actively deployed during the Spanish-American War, between April and July 1898 (Snell 1976: 230-257).

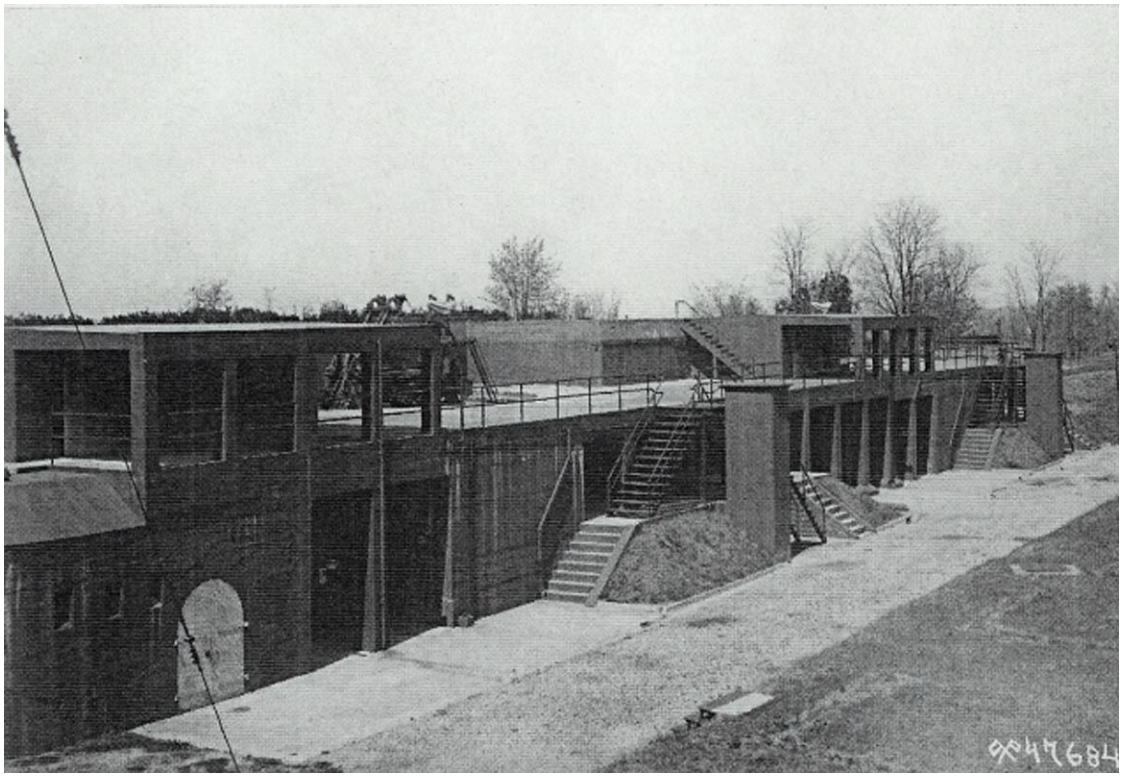
In November 1896, as work was progressing on Battery Decatur, Fort Washington was re-garrisoned for the first time since 1872. Subsequently, detachments from Batteries "M," "G," "I," and "A" of the 4th U.S. Artillery rotated between Forts Washington and Hunt, as well as Fort Monroe in Hampton Roads. A 1901 reorganization of the artillery, however, established Coast Artillery districts manned by 82 separate coast artillery companies. The Artillery District of the Potomac, which also included Fort Hunt, was headquartered at Fort Washington, which was now garrisoned by the 37th, 44th, and 104th Coast Artillery Companies (Battery Emplacement and Fort Record Books, NA RG 392, Entry 278).

As with any large military post, Fort Washington included a variety of administrative and support buildings, as well as facilities to house, feed, and entertain the officers and enlisted men of the garrison. By 1906, the post included approximately 60 new buildings and support facilities (e.g. a reservoir and water tanks) arrayed across the landscape of the reservation. This period also saw the improvement of the navigational aids at Digges' Point. In 1901, the ca. 1870 frame lighthouse structure was demolished, and its fixed white light was moved to the taller 1882 fog bell tower. Because of the number of similar lights along this section of the

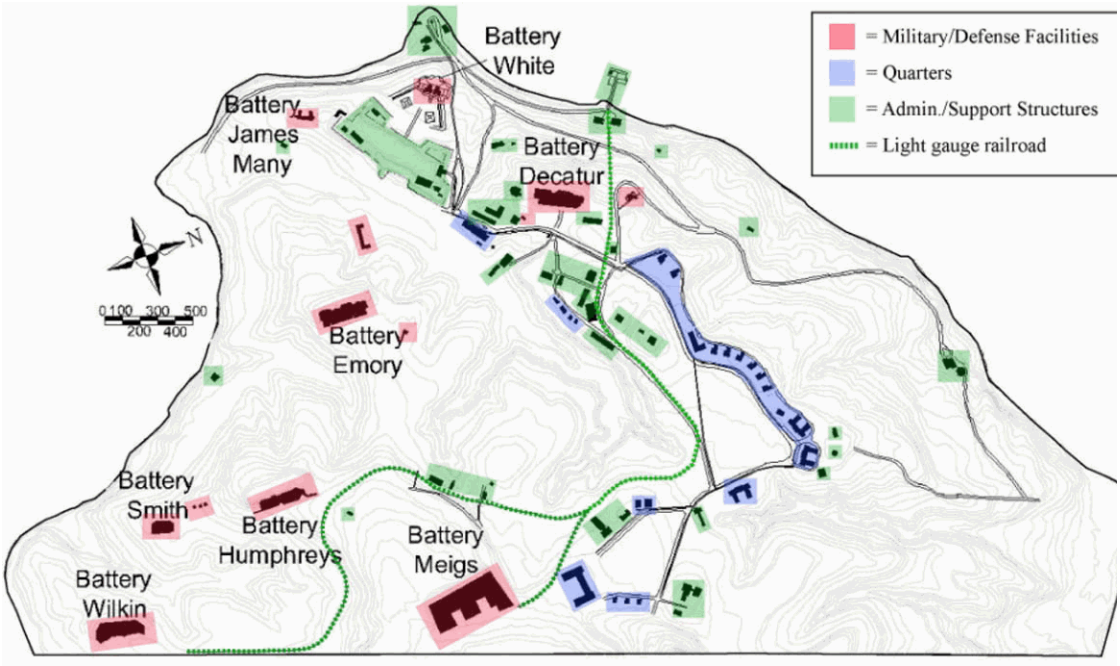
Potomac, the original white beacon was replaced with a fixed red light in 1920 (De Gast 1973: 51; National Capital Region, NPS, LCS Report: Light 80).

Although a naval attack on the capital never materialized in the early years of the twentieth century, the military authorities continued to allocate funds to upgrade the defenses and other facilities at Fort Washington. For example, Battery Decatur was taken out of commission in 1902 for numerous necessary repairs, as well as upgrades that included chain projectile and ammunition hoists, and landscaping to improve drainage and mask the battery from the river. Electric lights, telephones, and bathrooms later were added to the batteries, and additional structures, including an electric power plant and metereological and tide stations were constructed. One of the unique features at the post during this period was a narrow gauge railway, used for transporting ammunition and other supplies, which ran from the Engineer's Wharf on the river to Battery Wilkin in the far southeastern corner of the property. A stationary engine located near the east end of Battery Decatur pulled the cars up the steep hill where they were hitched to a locomotive. The railroad had one passenger car, the "Chevy Chase," and, according to longtime employee Henry Clagett, inspecting officers loved to drive the locomotive when visiting Fort Washington (Fitzgerald 1967: 283).

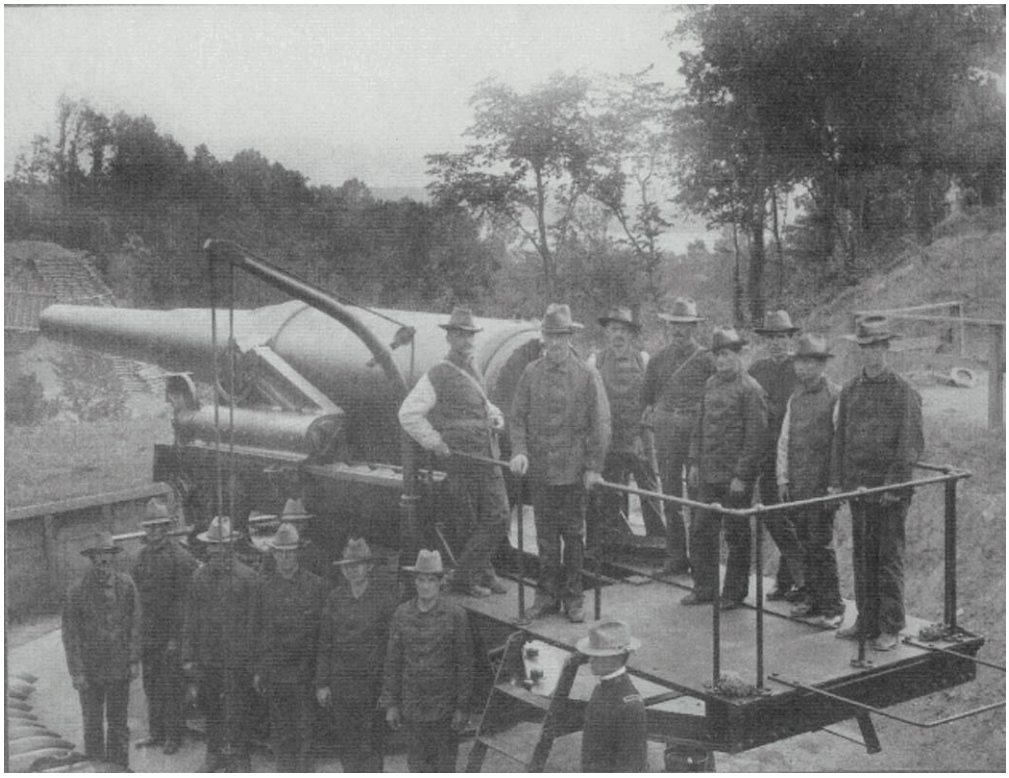
Prior to World War I, the coast artillery company of George Washington University (1st Company, Coast Artillery, District of Columbia National Guard) drilled alongside the regular garrison at Fort Washington. Shortly after the U.S. entered World War I, the country's Coast Artillery districts were reorganized, and Fort Washington became the headquarters of the Coast Defense Command of the Potomac, Middle Atlantic Coast Artillery District. By now, however, the threat of attack on Washington from conventional warships had waned, and three of Fort Washington's 10-inch guns were removed and sent to France for use "on railway mounts abroad." After 19 years of service protecting the capital, Fort Washington had once again become redundant (Fitzgerald 1967: 273; Order of Battle: v. 3(1): 152; v. 3(2): 806).



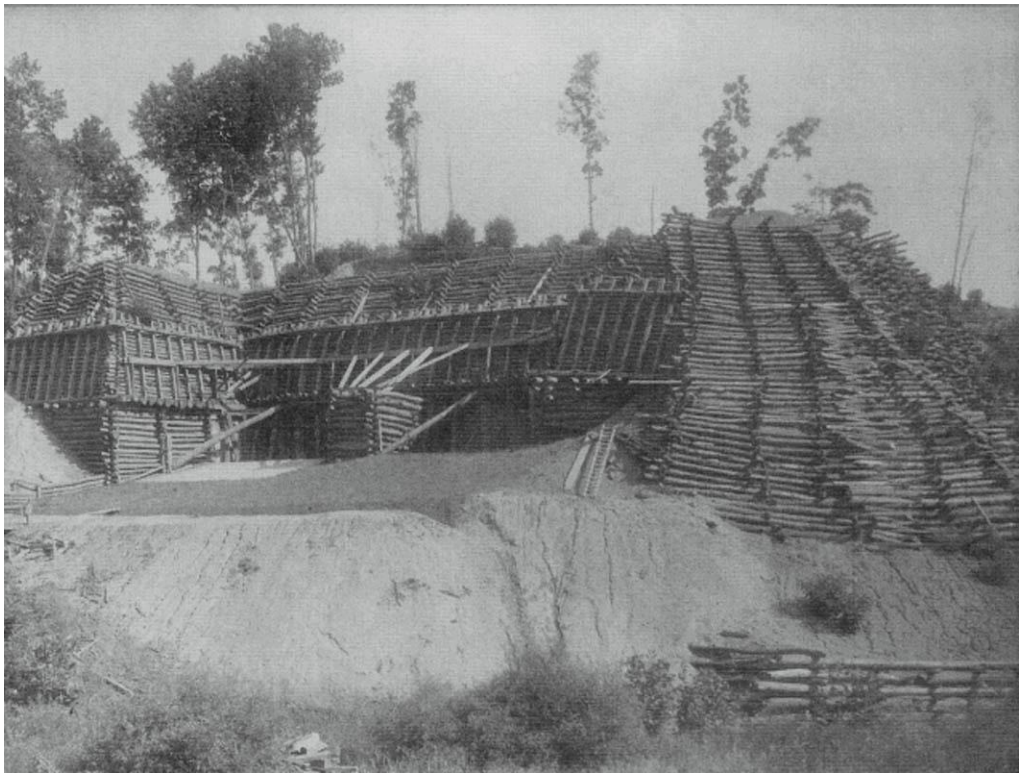
The decommissioned Battery Decatur in 1919. One of the Buffington-Crozier disappearing carriages remained mounted,but two 10-inch guns where removed by 1917. (NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Box 357, #47684).



Fort Washington Post layout, 1906. (source: Fort Washington, Maryland, General Map, 1906. NARA, RG 79, Map 117.8-85).

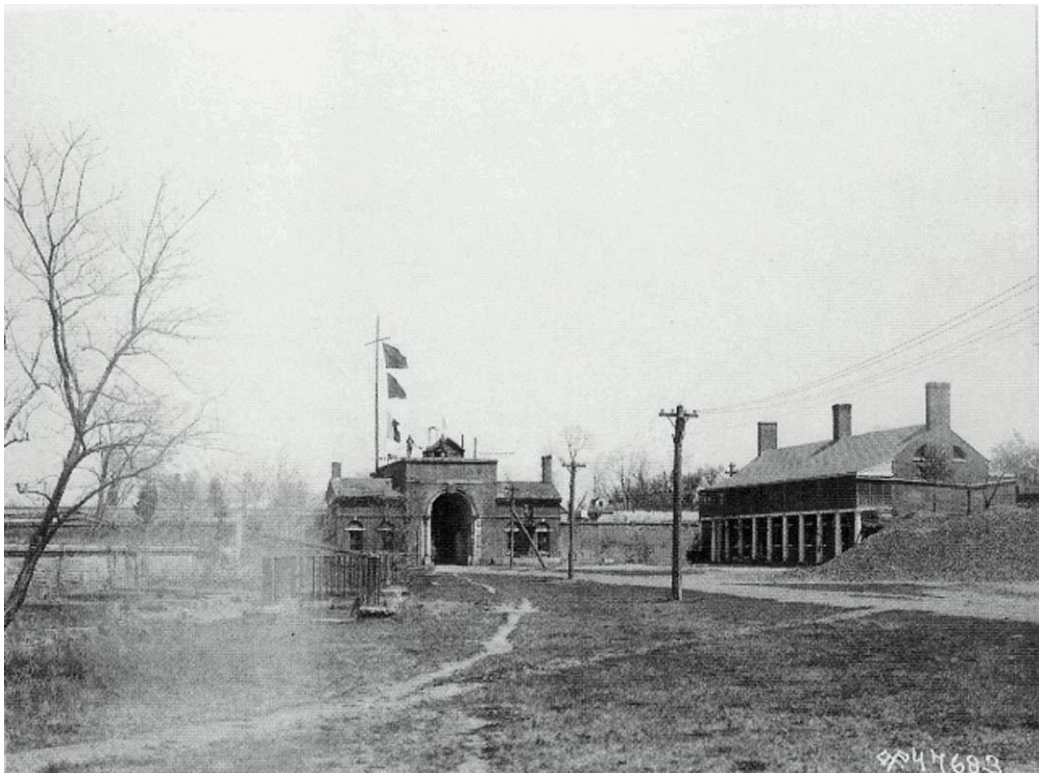


This 10-inch gun was used in the Algiers Test of June 1899, which evaluated new forms of rifled armament used against fortifications and armored ships. (NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Drawer 56, Sheet 79, 4).



Experimental parapet used in the Algiers Test of June 1899 was built in the ravine opposite the fort, The excavated slope is still visible(NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Drawer 56, Sheet 79, 5).

The Light 80 (originally built as a fog bell tower in 1882), and the ca. 1885 lighthouse keeper's house at Digges' Point shown in 1912. Note the Endicott period electric lamppost adjacent to the lighthouse. (Fort Washington photo files).



In a 1919 image, a signal station is placed atop the gatehouse of the main fort and an overhead utility line traversed the parade, (NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Box 357, #47683).

Two former brick dwellings housed the fort's commanding officer (right) and the second-in-command (left), consisting of a lawn and trees lining the front walks, 1919 (NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Box 357, #47693).

The former large bachelor officer's quarters (left) and smaller married officers' quarters, were located in what is now an open field east of the main parking area, 1919 (NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Box 357, #47691).

The former admin building, Coast Defense HQ (left) and large enlisted men's barracks, were located what is now a open field by east end of the Washington Dr. loop.(NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Box 357, #47692).

The post hospital, formerly located on the north side of Washington Drive near the main park entrance included a concrete walk lined with rows of deciduous trees, 1919 (NARA RG 111-SC, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Box 357, #47685).

1921-1940: Fort Washington Between the Wars

Only two Coast Artillery companies remained at Fort Washington after World War I, and they were placed on inactive status in September 1921. At this time, the post became the headquarters of the 3rd Battlion, 12th U.S. Infantry Regiment, which performed ceremonial duties in Washington until it was transferred to Arlington Experimental Farm in 1939, leaving behind a temporary caretaking detachment of twenty men who left the following year. During these years, Fort Washington also was the site of a Citizen's Military Training Camp (CMTC), a program overseen by the War Department that provided military training to civilians with the goal of promoting good citizenship and military preparedness (Fitzgerald 1967: 274; Washington Post, 5 September 1940: 3).

With the military occupation of Fort Washington ostensibly ended, the federal government began to consider other possible uses for this prime Potomac River property. As early as 1929, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had drawn up plans to make the tract the terminus of the proposed Fort Washington Parkway, which would parallel the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway on Maryland side of the river. A ferry crossing between Fort Washington and Fort Hunt would have linked these two routes, creating what one planner envisioned as a

"circuit drive . . . of truly outstanding scenic, historic and recreation value." Yet, although the Capper-Cramton Act of 1930 authorized the funding to acquire land in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland for a park and parkway system in the national capital, the Fort Washington Parkway was never built (Federal Records Center, File #1460/GWMP General Records 1933-1962, Box 22, 66A 1097, NCR-NPS Records; NA RG 77, Map 117.4-17).

Besides spurring the move to develop a parkway system linking Mount Vernon with the capital city, the bicentennial of George Washington also focused attention on the first President's connections to the Digges family at Warburton Manor, the site of which was now encompassed by the Fort Washington reservation. On October 29, 1932, members of the Prince George's County George Washington Bicentennial Committee dedicated an historical marker commemorating Warburton, the Digges, and their connections to the Washington family. Nora Digges Hill, great-granddaughter of George Digges, unveiled the tablet, which was formally presented to the United States Government (Washington Post, 30 October 1932: 13).

Despite the failure of the Fort Washington Parkway plan, the Department of the Interior nonetheless remained interested in incorporating Fort Washington into the National Capital Parks system, and by the late 1930s had begun negotiating with the War Department for its transfer. A Washington Post reporter who visited Fort Washington in the summer of 1936 noted that:

the post looks like any other—a strange combination of park and drill ground. The roadway takes you in broad curves between rows of military buildings, through clumps of trees, and down to the river where there is a wharf. . . . Inside the entrance are some of the dwelling houses of the modern fort, some of which are obviously old, others of more recent constructon. As you proceed into the center of the fort, you come to a maze of trees, gun mounts and walls, which finally leads you to a little square, where the semicircular gun mountings stand, covered with grass and shrubs (Washington Post, 12 July 1936: F1).

A map of the reservation completed in May 1938 indicates that the built environment of the post had changed relatively little since the Coast Artillery occupation. Although some outdated Endicott-era features, such as the Engineeer's railroad, had been dismantled, at least 80 buildings remained, including the brick officers' quarters, frame enlisted men's barracks, a variety of utilitarian structures, and the post hospital (Map 117.8-97, NA RG 79; Washington Post 5 September 1940: 3).

Fort Washington finally was transferred to the Department of the Interior in August 1940, although the United States Coast Guard retained jurisdiction over Light 80, the ca. 1882 lighthouse that stood at Digges' Point. One skeptical National Park Service official complained to the Washington Post that the Fort Washington deal was a "lemon," since they had acquired a deteriorating fort without the necessary funds to clean it up and run it as a park. These concerns were underscored the following month when a "spectacular" fire on the night of September 8, 1940, destroyed a two-story wooden barracks of World War I vintage and damaged two others (National Capital Region, NPS, LCS Report: Light 80; Washington Post 5 September 1940: 3; Washington Post 9 September 1940: 13).

Civilian Conservation Corps, work and occupation

At least a partial solution to the problem of maintenance came in the form of the nearby Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp NP-6-VA across the river at Fort Hunt. In addition to their work projects along the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, the Fort Hunt enrollees worked clearing brush, building roads, and improving drainage at the park between April 1937 and September 1938. Fort Washington eventually hosted its own CCC camp, NP-4-MD, one of last to be established in the Washington area. The camp was occupied from December 18, 1940, through December 20, 1941, during the 16th through 18th enrollment periods. Although many CCC camps across the country were established from the ground up, using prefabricated buildings for barracks, mess halls, administrative offices, and recreation centers, the Fort Washington camp used the preexisting military buildings during their relatively short stint at the park. A proposed layout of the camp drawn up in October 1940 indicates that the CCC planned to occupy at least 18 buildings, located mainly around the entrance to the park, including the former NCO's Quarters, Enlisted Men's Barracks, Gymnasium, and Ordnance Storehouses. The only new buildings added were a portable shop building and four portable garages. During their occupation, the CCC company worked on restoring the old fort and some of the other historic buildings, cleared the property of fire hazards, and removed 15 temporary World War I-era buildings. They also installed a heating plant, converted a former storehouse into a hangar, and manned a guide and contact station for the fort (Paige 1985: 190; Davidson et al. 2005: 68-69; NPS Map 852/80142, National Capital Region).

While the CCC worked to improve its physical condition, Fort Washington briefly became the site of a small "model community" of defense workers and government employees. Lacking the funding for extensive maintenance, officials of the National Capital Parks decided to turn over some of the former military buildings for a housing project administered by the Welfare and Recreational Association, a "quasi-governmental" agency that agreed to administer the plan for five years. By the summer of 1941, as many as 22 families were living on the reservation in low-rent housing that had been rehabilitated by the Association. In addition, the former post hospital was used temporarily as a boarding house for a group of Pennsylvania workers helping to install local power lines (Washington Post 29 August 1941: 10).

Undated aerial view of Fort Washington most likely dates to the 1930s, The area surrounding the historic fort had become heavily wooded, but otherwise the post appears the same as the Endicott Period (Fort Washington photo file).

1941-1945: Fort Washington in World War II

Although Fort Washington no longer had an active role in the nation's defense, the reservation was called into military service once again after the United States entered World War II, serving as the site of the Adjutant General's School and an associated Officer Candidate School. Essentially a school of Army administration, the Adjutant General's School had its beginnings in the Army War College in the fall of 1940 when a group of 50 officers attended a short course in the classification of inductees. After several more short courses at the college, a more formal school was established at Arlington Cantonment in June 1941. With the growing demand for trained administrative officers, however, the Army decided to establish a more permanent school at Fort Washington in January 1942. The first class completed its training in April 1942, with 25 enlisted men commissioned as second lieutenants. Later in the year, the school routinely was graduating classes of 200 officers every eight weeks (Adjutant General's School 1942: 5-6).

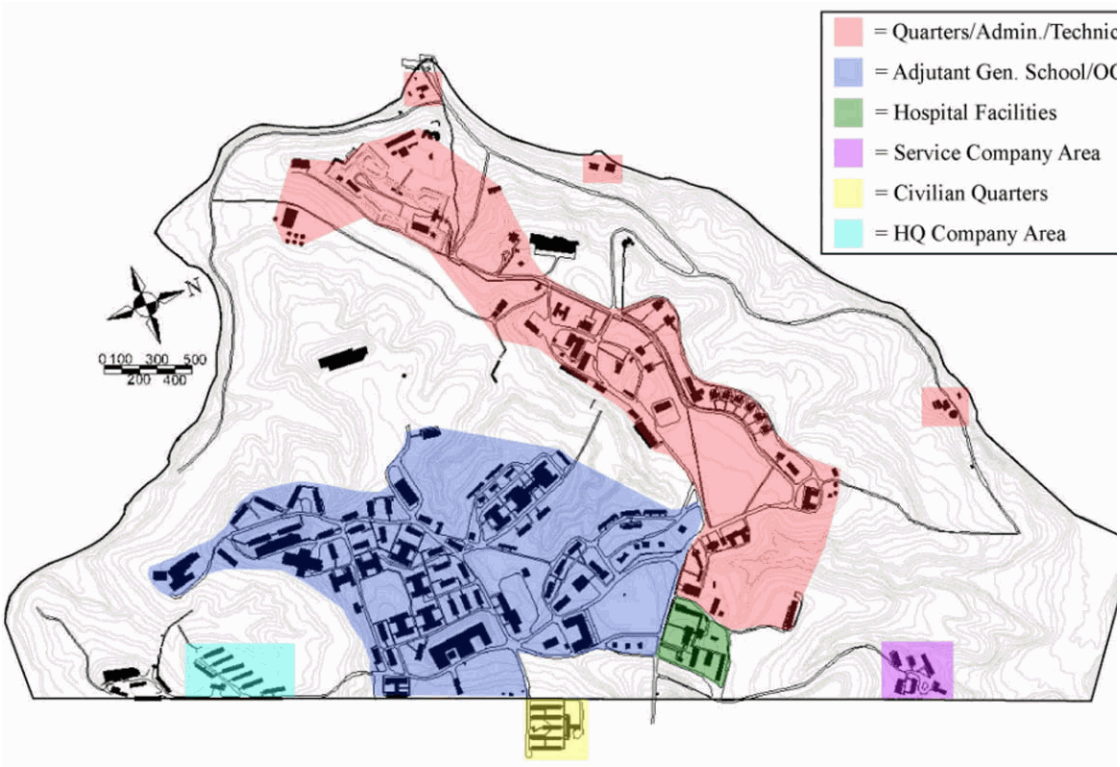
Organized as an army post, the Adjutant General's School was comprised of an academic department with three divisions of student officer courses: administration, machine records, and classification. An associated officer candidate school trained men in preparation for their

commissioning as officers, while an enlisted men's school conducted special training for men who would hold positions in administrative organizations and installations. An editorial division prepared manuals, instructional pamphlets, training aids, and a monthly bulletin dealing with administration, and provided teaching assistance to administrative personnel in the field. A visual teaching aids division produced a variety of materials for classroom instruction and filmstrips for distribution through the Signal Corps. A research division was responsible for developing new methods of administration, creating and revising forms and publications, and procuring, testing, and experimenting with new and existing office equipment. Finally, a machine records division included a model operating unit servicing approximately 100,000 troops,
as well as a machine records instructional laboratory (Adjutant General's School 1942: 6-7).

In August 1942, a Service Company was established at Fort Washington to provide for post maintenance, policing and firefighting, as well as medical, clerical, communications, and transportation services. In March 1943, the 67th Detachment of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) was posted to Fort Washington and became part of the post's Service Company. The WAACs took over administrative, communications, and transportation duties, replacing men who could then be sent overseas (Washington Post 21 November 1942: 10; 4 March 1943: B3).

The World War II period at Fort Washington witnessed the most extensive changes to the built landscape since the post's inception in the early nineteenth-century. Dozens of new temporary buildings were built to accommodate the Adjutant General's School and associated military activities in 1942, including military and civilian barracks, mess halls, administrative and educational buildings, and recreational facilities. By 1943, Fort Washington boasted more than 230 buildings and a variety of associated facilities, including water tanks, pump stations, sludge drying beds, and sedimentation tanks. Although new buildings were located in every corner of the post, from the Service Company area in the northeast corner of the reservation to Post Engineer area in the southeastern corner, the most intensive new construction was concentrated in the previously undeveloped area north of Battery Humphreys and west/ northwest of Battery Meigs. This area now encompassed dozens of new living quarters, as well as the main academic campus of the Adjutant General's School. Although the post's original road system remained relatively intact, a number of new thoroughfares were built to allow access to the temporary buildings that had recently been built (Map 117.8-107, NA RG 79).

As World War II entered its final year, the Adjutant General's School began to phase out its operations, and in October 1944 the Veteran's Administration took over a portion of the reservation to establish the Fort Washington Home and Hospital for convalescing servicemen (Washington Post, 6 June 1946: 7; Washington Post, 8 September 1946: M8).



Fort Washington Post layout, 1944. (source: Fort Washington, Maryland, Layout Plan, 1944. NARA, RG 79, Map 117.8-107).

1946-2005: Fort Washington as a National Park

The Veterans Administration continued to occupy the reservation after the end of World War II, and by the summer of 1946 more than 300 patients were still being cared for at the Fort Washington Hospital and Home. For a time it appeared that the V.A. would expand its presence at the site, since a plan for the construction of 80 new veterans' hospitals nationwide included a 600-bed facility at Fort Washington. However, the new hospital was never built, and the property was returned to the Department of the Interior in October 1946 (Washington Post, 17 February 1946: M1-2; Washington Post, 8 September 1946: M8).

Having regained Fort Washington, the NPS planned to develop the property as an historical and recreational park. But in a Washington region still desperately short of accommodations, the remaining wartime infrastructure was simply too valuable a resource to be scrapped right away. For the next several years, the NPS allowed the private subcontractor Government Services, Inc., to manage a residential community for government employees and their families at Fort Washington. By the latter months of 1948, around 65 families were living on the property: a few resided in the officers' and enlisted men's barracks within the old fort itself, while the rest occupied former Endicott- era quarters. In September of that year, a two-room school was opened in the former administration building as a "stop-gap" measure to relieve overcrowding at the nearby Oxon Hill Elementary School. In its first year, 50 first- through

sixth-graders attended the school, which was administered by Prince George's County (Washington Post, 29 September 1948: B9; Washington Post, 14 November 1948: M1; Washington Post, 20 November 1952: 41).

The process of dismantling the more than 200 Army buildings arrayed across the landscape at Fort Washington began inadvertently in 1948 when the old officer's club caught fire on the night of November 13, 1948. The one-and-a-half-story building was being used by the NPS as a temporary storage facility for a variety of materials, including automobile tires and cooking ranges. The blaze, which completely destroyed the structure and injured several firefighters, was blamed on careless "late-season picnickers." Numerous other aging and superfluous buildings would be removed over the next several years. In November 1952, the NPS informed the 58 families still living at Fort Washington that they would have to vacate the property by September 1, 1954, when the remaining 40 housing units would be demolished. Acting Superintendent of the Department of the Interior Harry T. Thompson explained that the housing project had never been profitable, and the 50-year-old buildings were in a "deplorable state of repair." He estimated that it would cost at least $122,000 to make "bare necessity" improvements and bring the water and sewer system, streets, and sidewalks up to minimum safety standards. Thompson further claimed that the withdrawal of the NPS from the housing field would deflect the increasing criticism that the agency was supporting a "nonconforming" function unrelated to its principal mission (Washington Post, 14 November 1948: M1; Washington Post, 20 November 1952: 41).

During this period, the U.S. Coast Guard also considered relinquishing control over the lighthouse (designated "Light 80") and associated facilities, including the lighthouse keeper's dwelling, oil house, and wharf, although the transfer to the NPS never was concluded. The lighthouse functions were completely automated in 1954; photographic evidence indicates that by 1959 the now redundant lighthouse keeper's dwelling and other support structures had been dismantled, leaving only the 1882 lighthouse and 1857 light pole. In the late 1970s the fog bell broke and was not replaced. After decades of desultory negotiations, the Coast Guard finally declared the lighthouse surplus property and jurisdiction was turned over to the NPS in 2003 under the terms of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 (National Capital Region, NPS, LCS Report: Light 80).

While stripping Fort Washington of its redundant military architecture, the NPS was also taking small steps toward preserving and interpreting the long-neglected history of the property. A small museum opened in the guardroom at the fort's main gate in 1948.

Although open only on Saturdays and Sundays, by 1953 the fort was welcoming some 700 visitors each weekend. The presence of a single NPS historian on duty ensured that there was "no danger of being organized or prodded into exhausting tours or group activities," while the museum was "just about large enough to highlight its history without taxing the memory or the family's day of leisure" (Washington Post, 22 August 1948: M11; Washington Post, 24 July 1953: 25).

Mission 66

When the National Park Service's Mission 66 program was announced in July 1956, however, it seemed that Fort Washington's days as a decrepit and chronically underfunded historical site were numbered. A federally-sponsored program to improve conditions in national parks hosting an unprecedented number of visitors in the prosperous postwar years, Mission 66 promised a decade of spending on infrastructure and other improvements, including the construction of new "visitor centers" to accommodate both interpretive programs and administrative offices, as well as comfort stations, service buildings, staff housing, and modern roads and parking facilities. In the case of Fort Washington, Mission 66 committed much-needed funding to improve decaying historic buildings and structures, making them safe and attractive for public visitation. Almost immediately, National Capital Parks announced that it would make significant improvements to Fort Washington, guided by a master plan developed in 1955. An archeological study was conducted in the area of the fort to aid in reconstruction; plans were drawn up for creating a small museum in the former Commanding Officer's House, and for a self-guided interpretive tour; and $209,000 was allocated for long-overdue restoration work on the fort. By the summer of 1958, contractors were well underway in rebuilding brick gun emplacements and repairing the barracks within the fort. Unfortunately, these renovation efforts would be short-lived, suspended in April 1959 when Congress cut the Department of the Interior budget (Washington Post, 15 July 1956: A1-2; Washington Post, 9 July 1958: B2; Washington Post, 1 August 1958: B1; Washington Post, 12 April 1959: A12).

The truncated reconstruction efforts at Fort Washington were symptomatic of a longstanding tension between competing visions of the park as museum versus recreational space. Historically, during every period of diminished military use, pleasure-seekers had come to Fort Washington to enjoy its attractive river views, scale the picturesque ruins of the fort, and generally enjoy themselves on easy day-trips from the city. After World War II, the park once again became a popular picnic destination for increasingly mobile visitors. Accordingly, much of the park's Mission 66 budget was dedicated to facilitating recreational uses, including the construction of comfort stations, picnic tables, and fireplaces, and improving roads and creating parking lots. One of the great attractions of the park was its size and large open spaces. With virtually all the former military buildings now demolished, groups as large as 1,000 could easily be accommodated in various parts of the property. By the summer of 1958, the Washington Post reported, roughly 10,000 visitors were visiting the park each weekend (Washington Post, 24 July 1953: 25; Washington Post, 15 July 1956: A2; Washington Post, 1 August 1958: B1; Washington Post, 2 December 1976: MD 1, 4).

Although Fort Washington's success as a recreational haven was never in doubt after the NPS regained control in 1946, two controversial bureaucratic battles ultimately hampered preservation efforts at the park. As early as 1929, regional planners had envisioned a "Fort Washington Parkway" along the Potomac's Maryland shore to parallel the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Stymied by the Depression, then World War II, parkway advocates once again began agitating for the route in the postwar years. For a time it appeared that the project finally would be initiated, since Mission 66 funding seemed assured. Planners projected that, as the southern terminus of the parkway, Fort Washington would see a large injection of funds, allowing the park and its historical features to be revitalized as a national showpiece. But

Congress quashed the parkway plan in the summer of 1958, flatly refusing to consider the National Capital Planning Commission's urgent request to purchase the necessary 1,150 acres. By now the proposed construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge had boosted property values on the Maryland side of the Potomac, and developers—and their federal representatives—were reluctant to part with profitable riverside acreage. A final effort in the late 1960s to revive the parkway idea met with similar opposition by state and local legislators, and the 40-year-old idea of a Fort Washington Parkway finally was laid to rest (Washington Post, 16 April 1943: B1; Washington Post, 15 July 1956: A1-2; Washington Post, 18 July 1958: A2; Washington Post, 19 July 1958: D2; Washington Post, 23 March 1969: 53).

An equally contentious debate over the fate of Fort Washington would play out several years later. In early 1965, the Smithsonian Institution proposed building a new National Armed Forces Museum, selecting Fort Washington from among 33 proposed sites in the capital area. The terrain, they decided, was best suited for this ambitious undertaking, which would include large recreated battlefields and naval facilities. Predictably, the NPS balked at the prospect of losing much of its popular park, and quickly backed a dramatic counterproposal involving construction of a 10,000-seat amphitheater overlooking the river near the fort. The venue would host an historical drama in the same vein as "The Lost Colony" at Roanoke Island and "The Common Glory" in Williamsburg, whose author, Paul Green, was tapped to write a similarly stirring production with a War of 1812 theme. Despite the lobbying of the Fort Washington Historical Association of Maryland led by Maryland State Senator Fred L. Wineland, and the endorsement of Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall, Congress torpedoed the project. Opponents had portrayed the pageant as a transparent bid to block the Smithsonian's museum plan and, although the amphitheater project never got off the ground, it did succeed in this regard. After a heated public debate, the Smithsonian announced in March 1966 that it was no longer considering Fort Washington as a potential museum site (Washington Post, 24 March 1965: E6; Washington Post, 24 September 1965: B1; Washington Post, 6 October 1965: C6; Washington Post, 10 March 1966: C1).

Although the NPS had staved off a major redevelopment of Fort Washington Park, some feared that the bitter battle with the Smithsonian had set back preservation efforts, shifting attention, once again, away from the park's historic resources. In many respects, the 1970s marked the nadir of historical interpretation at Fort Washington. The last federally-funded restoration work on the fort and associated buildings had been completed prior to 1960, and all subsequent efforts, including the restoration of the enlisted men's barracks, were accomplished solely through the efforts of volunteers. Most remaining historic buildings were boarded up and decaying, while the Endicott batteries were being allowed to crumble, surrounded by high wire fences. Staff Historian Barry Mackintosh noted the persistent discrepancy between the park's dual missions in this period. Fort Washington, he mused, "has had a kind of funny position, and perhaps has suffered in the conflict between recreation and preservation, where in competing for a given amount of dollars, far too often we feel, preservation loses." Ironically, the park had emerged as one of the Washington area's most popular recreation areas, recording its highest visitation figures to date (1,125,000 visitors) in 1974. Of these, however, only 98,000—a mere 8.7 percent—actually visited the fort. Consequently, much of the park's $75,000 annual budget went simply to cleaning up the park after busy summer weekends (Washington Post, 2

December 1976: Md. 1, 4; 3 February 1977: DC4).

Although the NPS found it difficult to preserve the park's own decaying historic resources, Fort Washington became a convenient repository for assorted federal artifacts during this era. In the early 1960s, excess furnishings and artwork from the White House, including Woodrow Wilson's wheelchair and Franklin D. Roosevelt's cedar drawers, were placed in storage in the former stable building. And in 1962, the disassembled Truxton Fountain, originally erected in 1877 at Mount Vernon Place in Washington, was transferred to Fort Washington for safekeeping after a number of moves (Washington Post, 6 August 1961: F3; Miscellaneous files, National Capital Parks-East).

Throughout the mid-to-late 1970s, several historical, archeological, and architectural studies were conducted at Fort Washington in anticipation of a comprehensive restoration program. However, these efforts were suspended when the Carter Administration's "anti-inflation" budget of 1979 cut $455,000 earmarked for restoration efforts. Yet, significant progress in emphasizing historical interpretation was made in the early 1980s when the former Commanding Officer's House was renovated. A museum, featuring illustrated displays and an orientation film, was installed here in 1985. Two years later the NPS began charging admission to Fort Washington Park as part of an experimental initiation of "user fees" at various parks across the country (Washington Post, 1 February 1979: DC3; Washington Post, 18 February 1987: A17).

Another important advance in the preservation of Fort Washington and its associated historic resources came in 1987 when the entire 341-acre park property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although the fort itself had been listed individually when the National Register was instituted in 1966, the updated nomination, prepared by NPS historian Dr. Marilyn Nickels, included an additional 24 contributing structures throughout the park (National Register nomination 1987).

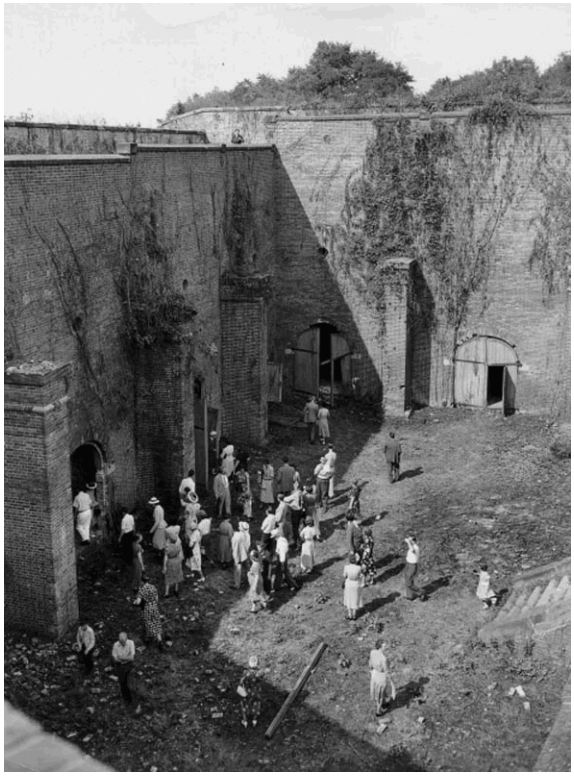
Restoration Efforts

A lack of funding throughout the 1990s prevented major restoration efforts at Fort Washington, an issue that came to a head when a portion of the fort wall near the main gate collapsed in 1999. Repointing of this section of the fort in the 1970s using Portland cement, rather than the original lime-based mortar, had trapped moisture within the walls, causing deep cracks. Repair work on the wall finally was completed in 2003 (Baltimore Sun, 17 August 2003: 12B).

Since the wall collapse of 1999, the NPS has recognized the problems inherent in "changes in use and management over time, decades of vacancy, repairs made with inappropriate materials, and periods of neglect." Currently, about 60 percent of the fort area—including the southwest demi-bastion, soldiers' barracks, officers' quarters, and lower-level esplanades—remains closed to visitors for safety reasons. In response, the NPS has initiated a two-phase project to stabilize Fort Washington. The first phase will address wall stability and problems with the supporting drainage system; the second will involve stabilizing the supporting earthen terraces, slopes, structural buildings, and features. In both phases, efforts will be made to deal with the

perpetual problem of vegetation encroachment that compromises the fort's integrity. Additional planned projects include the removal of contaminated soils between the soldiers' barracks and the powder magazine, improvements to the historic lighthouse, and the upgrading of the road between the Visitor Center and the fort (NPS 2004: 1-8).

Today, Fort Washington Park remains a popular recreation destination, hosting 292,736 visitors in Fiscal Year 2003. Meanwhile, the NPS remains committed to emphasizing the historical significance of the property. In the words of Park Ranger and historian Don Steiner: "Getting people to realize that this is more than just an urban picnic spot is our biggest challenge" (Washington Post, 17 February 1999: M26).



Visitors tour the northwest demibastion casemates in this 1949 photograph. Although the fort was in a poor state of repair, the park was now beginning to experience a postwar boom in visitation (Fort Washington photo files).

Stone coping is replaced on steps in the southwest demibastion in 1958. Rehabilitation efforts were funded under the Mission 66 program, but were halted the following year due to budget cuts (Fort Washington photo files).

2003 to 2018

In 2003, after more than 50 years of desultory negotiations with the NPS, the U.S. Coast Guard declared Light 80 surplus property. As a result of the dialogue, jurisdiction was transferred to the NPS under the terms of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. The terms of the transfer gave the responsibility of the upkeep of the structure to the National Park Service, whereas the U.S. Coast Guard was identified as the party responsible for the upkeep of the light proper.

Between 2007 and 2009, a set of Gothic arch formed picnic pavilion was constructed in order to improve and expand visitor facilities within Fort Washington grounds. The pavilions were located on existing concrete pad in reserved areas B &C. The structures have an overall measurement of 24ft x 48ft (PEPC 17667). Additional information regarding the parties responsible for construction and the timeline for construction phases were not identified in the PEPC packet. At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, these structures were still extant.

Originally proposed in 2007 but executed 2009, four replica Front Pintle, " in-Barbette, circa 1824 cannon carriages were replicated and remounted on the parapet wall (PEPC 17683).

Each of the cannons were replicated by a highly skilled crafts person and consisted of wood, brass and steel components associated with the original 19th century carriages. The carriages and guns were mounted onto an existing concrete pad. These were installed in the parade ground south and west of the officer's quarters. The installation was associated with the improvement of interpretation of armaments within the fort. At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, the project was complete and additional carriages were in the process of being replaced.

In 2009, a supporting beam of the circa 1882 Light 80 structures was documented as being 80 percent rotted and going into structural failure. As a result, the beam was repaired and all destabilized structural components repaired. In addition to the modifications of the beam, the exterior shiplap was replaced, repairs were made to the roof system, the entry door was replaced, and repairs were made to the brick foundation as needed (PEPC 20269).

However, by 2018 the Light 80 structure was again in structural failure. An assessment conducted on the same day as the CLI Update Site Visit, revealed that one of the foundation beams had failed and was not supporting the structure. Again rot and decay, in the form of water damage, were observed during the site visit. The beam was degraded to the point of pulp. The perpendicular beam was deflecting to the point of almost structurally failing. The bowing was visible. The overall structure was listing and leaning to the west. At the site it was identified that it would be necessary to contact a structural engineer to determine the next steps. Recommendations for the care of this structure will not be included in this CLI Update, but it is advised that the park should follow the suggestions of the Architectural Historian. It will be the onus of future Fort Washington CLI Updates to capture the rehabilitations associated with the structure.

In 2009, inspectors form the Federal Highway Administration identified the need to repair the wooden drawbridge of the Fort Washington Main Gate. The project was associated with a replica drawbridge, not the original historic feature. Structural stabilization measures were performed to the 42. 2 by 20 foot structure by the Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC). The scope of the repairs included the replacement of an area of decking measuring 12 feet by 20 feet. The wooden/ timber railings and posts on both sides of the bridge system were replaced. Repairs extended to the repairs of the masonry walls that supported the structure including the repair of a 20 to 30 foot crack and repoint of the masonry columns on both ends of the bridge. Five of the 42.2 foot long steel I- beams were repainted and removed to impeded the rate of structural deterioration (PEPC 27934). As a part of the process measured drawings and photographs were completed.

The failing of the drainage system associated with the Northeast Bastion and Latrine Wall facilitated the need to perform emergency stabilization repairs. The drain in question is located east of the Officer's Quarters on the western edge of the bastion wall. Seismic activity associated with the 2011 Washington D.C. area earthquake and improper maintenance of the structure led to the failure of the drain. As the system was failing, bulging of the walls, cracking and deterioration of the mortar, and the destabilization of the earthen fort terreplein were all observed. This was due to the collecting of water behind the ditch system and draining

of water through the wall system.

Following the guidance of an A & E firm, the area of potential effect consisted of a gutter channel in the latrine wall that measured a length of 80 feet with a width of 1-1/2 feet. The overall height of the project area was 16 feet. In order to address the problems, the entire wall was removed and reconstructed with an appropriate lime mixture added to the mortar. 41,500 existing bricks, used in the original construction, were salvaged, cleaned, and used to rebuild the wall. To support the structure more effectively, a new footing foundation system was poured. The turf associated with the wall was restored. The ditch channel was cleaned and reconstructed during the process of rebuilding the wall. It was necessary to alter the configuration of the drainage system in order to ensure proper flow of water through the system (PEPC 28087). As the site was previously investigated for archeological evidence, the A.P.E. was not screen, but monitoring did occur.

In 2014, Light 80 once again needed attention. The lower beam of the exterior of the lighthouse was determined to be rotting and in need of replacement. The beam was replaced in- kind by HPTC, following the plan of the previously replaced beam. The beam was primed and painted white to match the finish of the existing structure (PEPC 52855).

In 2015, NACE maintenance staff installed a picnic pavilion structure in Picnic Area A. The structure measured 20'x 30' and consisted of eight post supporting a simple gable roof with overhang. In order to support the pavilion structure, a new concrete pad, measuring 35’ by 40’ was installed. The foundation pad has a thickness of 6” (PEPC 55207).

In 2015, a project was proposed for the park to rehabilitate the five comfort stations, located in areas A, B1, B2, C, and the Potomac River Comfort station. The rehabilitation included modifications to the interior and exterior of the collection of structures. Regarding changes to the character of the cultural landscape, 10 exterior steel doors were replaced, gutters and downspouts were replaced in-kind, exterior paint was applied to exposed siding, and the wooden rack boards behind the gutters were replaced with AZEK board (PEPC 60969). The project was completed during the 2015 fiscal year.

In 2017, it was proposed that deferred maintenance and cyclic maintenance be performed on the Fort Washington's Officers and NCO quarters buildings. The proposals included the replacement and repair of failing exterior boards, cleaning of architectural elements, and the painting of exterior structural materials (PEPC 71207). At the time of the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, these projects were not started. Park staff did not indicate that these projects were in the FY 2018 maintenance work plan.

As a part of the FY 2018 NACE CLI FMSS pilot proposal, an initial site visit was conducted to FOWA in July 2017. A list of work orders, including the cleaning of the Northeast Bastion ditch, the removal of vegetation in the masonry wall system, and the removal of grasses along the bastion ramp were produced by the Washington Support Office Cultural Landscape Program. Due to the work orders, the park was able to submit a request and receive funding to sponsor an H.O.P.E. Crew during the summer of 2018. It will be the onus of future FOWA

CLI Updates to document the projects that were accomplished by the crew during the summer.

Panorama looking towards Fort Washington from the interpretation platform (NCR CLP 2018).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The period of significance for Fort Washington Park extends from 1808, when the federal government first acquired property at Digges' Point to build a fortification, to 1921, when the last Coast Artillery troops were withdrawn and the post no longer served a defensive role. Given its association with events that have made a significant contribution to U.S. history, Fort Washington is significant under Criterion A. During its lengthy occupation as a military installation, Fort Washington was the most important defensive work protecting Washington, D.C., from seaborne attack via the Potomac River. Replacing the earlier Fort Warburton which was destroyed during the War of 1812, Fort Washington—a large masonry fortification—was completed in 1824. Despite major modifications in the 1840s, the post remained largely unmanned until the Civil War, when it was occupied as a Union garrison. At the recommendation of the Endicott Board, Fort Washington's defenses were expanded and modernized beginning in 1891. Eight concrete artillery batteries were built across the enlarged post, as well numerous additional support facilities. When completed, the new Fort Washington formed a critical component of the nation's coastal fortification system, representing the state of the art in military technology as the United States emerged as an international power.

Many of the defensive and support facilities survive in Fort Washington Park, including the original masonry fort and other associated early nineteenth-century structures, most notably the Post Commander's House, which now serves as the Visitor Center. The park also retains significant physical evidence from the Endicott period, including all eight artillery batteries; a handful of command/fire-control, residential, and administrative buildings; and a variety of vestigial small-scale features. Indirectly related to the military history of the property, Light 80 is a working lighthouse located on Digges' Point. Originally built in 1882 as a fog bell tower, it was converted when the associated 1870 frame lighthouse was demolished in 1901. During the property's period of significance, it served as an important aid to navigation on the Potomac River.

Although the 1987 National Register nomination did not consider the cultural landscape, the property encompasses a variety of surviving historic landscape elements that contribute to the significance of the property. The park's spatial organization retains a high degree of integrity for the period of significance. The original Fort Washington has remained relatively unaltered in appearance since its last major modifications in the late 1840s, as have several associated antebellum structures. Similarly, the post layout from the Endicott Period is easily recognizable. All eight concrete artillery batteries remain in their original locations across the property, as do a number of other military features including command structures and features associated with the control of an underwater minefield. Although the vast majority of ancillary buildings from the Endicott Period have since been removed, the Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium survive in their original locations. The modern park road system mirrors the main circulation pattern during the Endicott Period, while the open fields in the central portion of the park recall their use as open space during this era. The densely wooded "Fort Ravine" located east of the original Fort Washington represents the historic vegetation patterns typical of the period ca. 1808-1921, and also includes a 32-acre Ecologically Sensitive Area (DNR) defined by Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as an "exceptional example of a mature, mesic,

deciduous forest." Finally, a number of historically significant views and vistas, particularly up- and downrive from the original Fort Washington, have been preserved relatively unchanged since the military occupation of the property.

As outlined in the 1987 National Register nomination, Fort Washington is eligible under Criterion C, as the original masonry fortification embodies a distinctive "transitional" style, incorporating design elements from two successive eras of coastal fortifications, the Second Phase (ca. 1807-1814) and the Third Phase (ca. 1817-1867). The surviving concrete artillery batteries and support facilities also manifest the unique characteristics of Endicott Period defenses, including innovations in military weapons technology and building materials.

The results of previous subsurface testing has indicated that Fort Washington Park encompasses a variety of archaeological resources, including numerous features associated with the military occupation of the post during the nineteenth- and early twentieth centuries. In addition, the former site of Warburton Manor, the eighteenth-century Digges' family plantation that predated Fort Washington, is located within the park. Given the potential offered by further archaeological research for providing important information concerning the historic use of the property, Fort Washington is eligible under Criterion D.

Aspects of Integrity: Location

Design

Setting

Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Buildings and Structures

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Contributing

The Original Fort Washington, ca. 1824-1875
The single most obvious and historically significant architectural component of Fort Washington Park is Fort Washington itself, which was included in the National Register of Historic Places at its inception in 1966. Built on the site of the earlier Fort Warburton—destroyed by its own garrison on the night of August 27, 1814—this brick fortification initially was completed in October 1824, becoming the sole permanent defensive work guarding Washington, D.C. from seaborne attack via the Potomac River. Significant alterations and additions were made to the fort between 1841 and 1848, including the construction of additional gun platforms, a new drawbridge, strengthened powder magazines, a heightened east wall, and counterscarp gallery to guard the approaches from Piscataway Creek. Fort Washington remained largely unmanned until the months just prior to the Civil War when it was re-garrisoned by Union troops. The fort was re-armed with 80 new guns and, although it never saw military action, the troops remained

until 1872. A brief effort to rehabilitate the fort in the early 1870s resulted in the installation of new Rodman batteries in the water battery, but work was suspended before the new defenses were completed. Based on the recommendations of the Board on Fortifications or Other Defenses, otherwise known as the Endicott Board, in 1890 the Board of Engineers for Fortifications drew up plans for modernizing Fort Washington's defenses within the new coastal fortification system. The principal result of this effort was the construction over the next several years of eight separate artillery batteries across the post; but a number of minor alterations also were made to the original fort, which remained occupied by Coast Artillery and Army troops until the War Department transferred the property to the National Park Service in 1939. Briefly reoccupied by the Adjutant General's School and an associated officer's candidate school during World War II, Fort Washington was returned to the National Park Service in 1946. Since that time, the fort has been managed as an historic site. Funds allocated through the Mission 66 program were used to perform limited restoration work on the fort in the late 1950s but—lacking federal funding—most subsequent improvements have been modest in scope. In 1999, a section of the fort walls near the main gate collapsed due to moisture build-up resulting from the use of Portland cement in repair work conducted in the 1970s. Repairs were completed in 2003.

Fort Washington consists of two demi-bastions flanking a central curtain, with one demi-bastion facing the river and the other a ravine. The landward ravine side is a crownwork of two bastions and a central caponier. The lower walls up to the level of the parade grounds are constructed of stone masonry (a local gneiss), above which is a stone cordon and a brick masonry parapet. The main entrance is through a gatehouse on the northeast side, while a sally port provides access to the lower works on the river, and a postern gate leads to the counterscarp on the southwest side. Fort Washington's guns were located in casemates on the lower levels and on barbette carriages along the parapet.

The National Register nomination for Fort Washington was updated in 1987 by NPS historian Dr. Marilyn Nickels, including the original fort and an additional 24 contributing structures throughout the park. Thirteen individual structures directly associated with the original fort are considered contributing elements: nine were listed in the National Register nomination, including the Scarp, Gatehouse, North and South Magazines, Officers' and Enlisted Men's Quarters, the Ravelin, and the North and South Magazines in the Ravelin; four were subsequently determined to be contributing by the NPS with concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of Maryland, including the Parade, Counterscarp Gallery, Well, and Steps to the Water Battery.

When Fort Washington was initially completed in the 1820s, it was expected that the post would be a relatively self-contained and self-sufficient community, with much of the garrison's life concentrated within the fort's walls. Aside from the utilitarian structures sheltered within the Ravelin, only three other structures were located beyond the fort. A frame dwelling to house a junior officer survived only until the 1830s, but the two other structures dating to this era, the Commandant's House and Post Hospital/Sergeant's House, are still extant.

Endicott Period Defenses and Infrastructure, ca. 1891-1921

By 1885, it was clear that the nation's aging system of coastal defense had become dangerously outdated. In response, President Grover Cleveland appointed the Board on Fortifications or Other Defenses, otherwise known as the Endicott Board, after its President, Secretary of War William C. Endicott, to study the problem. Based on the Endicott Board's recommendations, in 1890 plans were drawn up for modernizing Fort Washington's defenses within the new coastal fortification system. As it was implemented, the scheme essentially ignored the aging and obsolete fort, focusing rather on the construction of eight new concrete artillery batteries arrayed across the 341-acre reservation. Work on the first gun position, Battery Decatur, began in September 1891 and was completed in 1897. The additional batteries—Emory, Humphreys, White, Meigs, Wilkin, Smith, and James Many—were built between 1898 and 1905. All eight batteries were included as contributing structures in the National Register nomination.

Two additional structures have been determined eligible for listing in the National Register nomination given their association with the Endicott period defenses. The Algiers Test Battery Footing is the only surviving remnant of a gun mount used in the "Algiers Test" of 1899, which evaluated new forms of rifled armament used against fortifications and armored ships. Although it was not listed in the National Register nomination; the NPS subsequently recommended it as a contributing structure, and the Maryland SHPO concurred on July 27, 2001. In addition, the Platform for a 10-Inch Gun consists of the concrete platform briefly used to mount a gun during the Spanish-American War. The Platform for a 10-Inch Gun was not listed in the National Register nomination; the NPS subsequently recommended it as a contributing structure, and the Maryland SHPO concurred on July 27, 2001.

Fort Washington's powerful guns would have been virtually useless without an effective system for directing their fire, and an important part of the Endicott period defenses included two clusters of artillery-support fire control structures and three battery commanders' stations. Two of these remaining fire-control facilities, including the Battery Decatur Fire Control Tower and the Southeast Fire Control Tower, as well as the remaining elements of a group of Command Structures, are listed in the National Register nomination as contributing structures.

Although previously unrecognized in the National Register nomination or the LCS, a remnant portion of an Endicott period walkway/stairs to the Command Structure is extant. A section of concrete sidewalk poured in approximately 3-foot-square segments and measuring approximately 250 feet long runs from a point east of Washington Drive in the direction of the Command Structures complex. Although the western section of the walkway no longer exists, at its former terminus is a poured concrete staircase with 11 steps that descend a short slope to the Command Structures area. Although no pedestrian walkways were depicted on the ca. 1906 post map, the 1944 plan of Fort Washington indicates that this walkway was a component of the extensive sidewalk system that connected the Endicott Period officers' quarters and

barracks along what is now Washington Drive. An Army Signal Corps photograph from 1919 clearly shows a portion of this sidewalk system to the south of the post commander's house, indicating that these walkways considerably pre-dated World War II. It also is visible in an aerial photograph of the post that most likely dates to the 1930s. This route evidently was intended to provide pedestrian access between the officer's quarters area and the Command Structures and, since this complex became obsolete after Fort Washington's guns were removed, the walkway logically would pre-date World War I. This walkway/stairway structure was not listed in the National Register nomination, nor does it appear on the LCS or Shadow LCS. Although the condition of the walkway and stairs is relatively poor, this structure retains historical integrity as one of the few surviving portions of Fort Washington's Endicott Period pedestrian walkway system. As such, it is recommended that it be included in the National Register as contributing.

While the guns of Fort Washington's eight batteries provided ample firepower to prevent the passage of enemy ships, a submarine mine field spanning the river was included as an additional defensive feature. The mines, also known as torpedoes, were intended primarily to slow the passage of enemy ships, allowing the guns more time to fire upon them as they navigated the minefield. Four remaining Endicott era structures associated with the storage, deployment, and firing of the mines are contributing structures, including the Mine Control Casemate, Torpedo Storehouse, Mine Cable Anchor System, and Engineers' Wharf Seawall. Of these, only the Torpedo Storehouse was included in the National Register nomination. The Mine Cable Anchor System and Engineers' Wharf Seawall were determined to be contributing to the National Register nomination by the NPS and the Maryland SHPO in July, 2001. Finally, the Mine Control Casemate was not listed in the National Register nomination, but is listed on the LCS. Given its significance as the first of the Endicott period defenses built at Fort Washington, it is recommended that it be included in the National Register nomination as a contributing structure.

By 1906, a variety of new administrative and support buildings had been erected at Fort Washington, as well as facilities to house, feed, and entertain the officers and enlisted men of the Coast Artillery Corps garrison. Only two of these Endicott period garrison structures remain: the Bachelor NCO Quarters and Post Exchange/Gymnasium, both of which were listed as contributing structures in the National Register nomination.

The remaining contributing structures comprise an eclectic group of features relating to the early twentieth-century military occupation of the post, including the Rifle Range Butts and the Park Entrance. Of these, only the Park Entrance was included as a contributing structure in the National Register nomination. The Rifle Range Butts was not listed in the National Register nomination, but is listed on the LCS. Given its role in Endicott period military occupation of Fort Washington, it is recommended that it be included in the National Register nomination as a contributing.

Non-Contributing Structures

Seven "comfort stations," or public restroom facilities, were built throughout Fort Washington Park during the late 1950s and early 1960s as part of the Mission 66 rehabilitation of the park. Two basic styles were employed. The first type, four examples of which are located in the parking area at the end of L'Enfant Drive, behind the PX/Gymnasium Building off Old Quarters Road, and in Picnic Areas A and C, consists of a simple, one-story, rectangular, end gable design built of common bond brick with an asphalt shingle roof. The upper portion of the gable ends is sheathed in vertical wood siding. Separate male and female entrances are located at each gable end, and the entrances are shielded by a right-angled partial enclosure, with one wall of brick and another of wood. The small, high windows are covered with protective wire mesh. The second, more elaborate design, is evidenced in the remaining comfort stations, located on the north loop of Washington Drive, and in Picnic Areas B-1 and B-4. These are 1 ½-story common-bond brick structures with multidirectional shed roofs with relatively wide and low overhangs. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Separate, side-facing, covered male and female entrances are located on the gable ends of the structure, as are a series of high windows. All seven comfort stations include metal water fountains on an exterior wall. With the exception of the comfort station on Washington Drive, which has recently sustained some fire damage in the area above the female entrance, the comfort stations generally are in fair condition.

The Stables were built by the Army in 1934, towards the end of its occupation of Fort Washington. The 1½-story, rectangular, common-bond brick structure on a concrete slab foundation has a slate roof supported by wood trusses. The building has double-doors at each end. Small side windows have double rows of brick voussoirs, and there are gabled dormers that admit light to the upper level. At one time, the Stables were used as storage space for Presidential items from the White House. Currently the structure serves as the park maintenance facility. This structure was listed in the National Register nomination as non-contributing as it was built after the fort's use as a seacoast fortification.

A gasoline pump facility with "service station"-style steel shelter supported by two steel posts is located within the fenced parking lot to the rear (west) of the Stables/maintenance facility.

A small, one-story brick fee entrance station with slate roof is located near the park entrance. The structure, which was built in 1992 to accommodate NPS personnel while collecting park entrance fees, sits on a traffic island built in a widened section of Washington Drive near its intersection with Warburton Drive.

Three small World War II-era water pumping facilities or "lift stations" are located in the northern portion of the park adjacent to Swan Creek. They consist of wood frame structures on concrete pads that housed the pump equipment used to transfer water to the upland portions of the reservation. All three disused facilities are in poor condition and are not maintained. The concrete footing and reservoir of a fourth World War II era lift station are located in the deep ravine between Batteries Wilkin and Smith in the southeastern corner of the park. While these

structures are the only surviving World War II era above-ground resources at Fort Washington, they post-date the period of significance outlined in the National Register nomination.

A one-story cinderblock maintenance building with metal roof known as the "Paint Shop" is located directly north of the Southeast Fire Control Tower near Battery Emory. This structure originally was a Mission 66 era picnic pavilion with a shallow gabled composition roof supported by metal posts, a concrete slab floor, and a brick wall at the east end and a concrete hearth at the west. The building was fully enclosed and converted to use as a maintenance building around 2001.

A few remnants of the early twentieth-century Quartermaster Wharf survive at Digges' Point on either side of Light 80. They include concrete footing slabs about two feet thick and eight inches high laid atop one another. Other later slabs and blocks have been piled on and around the old wharf slabs to prevent erosion. Although they date to the Endicott period military occupation of the post, this structure lacks integrity and is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register nomination.

A 97-foot-tall flagstaff on the fort's parade is a reconstruction mounted on the base of the original pole. It consists of two large wooden poles joined by iron bands in typical shipmast construction and painted white. A Determination of Eligibility form prepared by NPS Richard Quin recommended this structure as ineligible, given that it is a reconstructed feature.

A stone drain or spillway runs down the flank of the hill just northeast of the historic fort's gatehouse, providing drainage for underground drains in the fort's northeast demi-bastion. Completed in 1987, it is approximately 45 feet long and built of two low mortared stone walls rising approximately one foot above grade and diverging from the outfall at the top of the slope. The base of the channel consists of stones laid on edge. A Determination of Eligibility form prepared by NPS Historian Richard Quin recommended this structure as ineligible, given that it is a modern feature.

A low coursed ashlar retaining wall forms the terminus of a ditch behind Battery Decatur; the ditch is the remains of a sunken road built to provide access to an Endicott artillery battery planned for the fort but never constructed. Built by the NPS in the 1990s, the semicircular wall is 54 feet long and between 2 and 4 feet high.

A flagpole is located approximately 140 feet northeast of the former PX/Gymnasium building that served as the post headquarters during World War II. A flagpole is depicted in this location on the 1944 post map of Fort Washington.

Constructed in 2002, an asphalt basketball court with metal goals is located north of the intersection of Warburton Drive and the entrance to the Picnic Area C parking lot.

Conclusion

Fort Washington Park encompasses 39 individual structures that contribute to the National Register nomination. Of these, 25 were included in the 1987 nomination, and nine more were subsequently determined eligible for inclusion in consultation with the Maryland SHPO. The remaining five structures have not been determined eligible, but possess sufficient significance and integrity to warrant inclusion in the nomination. Of these, four (Mine Control Casemate, Rifle Range Butts, Command Structures, and Light 80) are listed on the LCS or Shadow LCS. The final structure, the Walkway/Stairs to the Command Structures, is not listed on the LCS or Shadow LCS.

The largest and most significant structure in the park, Fort Washington has received the greatest share of historic preservation efforts in the post-1946 tenure of the NPS, and is overall in fair condition. Together with the ravelin, the Commandant's House, and the Post Hospital/Sergeant's House, the fort represents the period ca. 1824-1890 when these fortifications formed the primary defense of Washington, D.C., against seaborne attack. Numerous structures associated with the expanded and modernized Endicott period defenses at Fort Washington survive. Although the majority are not actively maintained and are in poor physical condition, they amply represent the final period, ca. 1890-1921, during which Fort Washington played an active role in the defense of the capital. All eight Endicott period artillery batteries survive, as do a number of other associated military structures, including command/fire-control structures and facilities related to the submarine mine field that was deployed in the Potomac River. A far smaller proportion of non-defensive structures associated with the post's Endicott Period military garrison survive, including the PX/Gymasium building, the Bachelor NCO's Quarters, Rifle Range Butts, and Steps to the Water Battery. Virtually all of the more than 200 structures associated with the most active period of occupation of Fort Washington during World War II were removed by the NPS in the 1950s.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Fort Washington

Feature Identification Number: 109934

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100147

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington

LCS Structure Number: 029-01

Feature: Scarp

Feature Identification Number: 109936

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Gatehouse

Feature Identification Number: 109938

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11975

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Gatehouse

LCS Structure Number: 029-02

Feature: North Magazine

Feature Identification Number: 109940

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100152

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, North Magazine

LCS Structure Number: 029-08

Feature: South Magazine

Feature Identification Number: 109942

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 46865

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, South Magazine

LCS Structure Number: 029-09

Feature: Officers' Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 109944

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Enlisted Men's Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 109946

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ravelin

Feature Identification Number: 111852

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100151

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Ravelin

LCS Structure Number: 029-05

Feature: Ravelin North Magazine

Feature Identification Number: 111854

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12906

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Ravelin North Magazine

LCS Structure Number: 029-03

Feature: Ravelin South Magazine

Feature Identification Number: 111856

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23418

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Ravelin South Magazine

LCS Structure Number: 029-04

Feature: Parade

Feature Identification Number: 111870

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100154

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Parade

LCS Structure Number: 029-12

Feature: Counterscarp Gallery

Feature Identification Number: 111860

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23459

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Counterscarp Gallery

LCS Structure Number: 029-13

Feature: Well

Feature Identification Number: 111864

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 210909

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Well

LCS Structure Number: 030-25

Feature: Steps to Water Battery

Feature Identification Number: 111866

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 210524

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Steps to Water Battery

LCS Structure Number: 030-22

Feature: Commandant's House

Feature Identification Number: 111878

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100149

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Commandant's House

LCS Structure Number: 029-06

Feature: Post Hospital / Sergeant's House

Feature Identification Number: 111880

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100150

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Post Hospital

LCS Structure Number: 029-07

Feature: Battey Decatur

Feature Identification Number: 111874

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100145

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery Decatur

LCS Structure Number: 030-05

Feature: Battery Emory

Feature Identification Number: 111882

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23421

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery Emory

LCS Structure Number: 030-08

Feature: Battery Humphreys

Feature Identification Number: 111888

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11979

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery Humphreys

LCS Structure Number: 030-03

Feature: Battery White

Feature Identification Number: 111890

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11977

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery White

LCS Structure Number: 030-02

Feature: Battery Meigs

Feature Identification Number: 111892

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100146

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery Meigs

LCS Structure Number: 030-07

Feature: Battery Wilkin

Feature Identification Number: 111896

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11986

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery Wilkin

LCS Structure Number: 030-04

Feature: Battery Smith

Feature Identification Number: 111906

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23422

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery Smith

LCS Structure Number: 030-13

Feature: Battery Many

Feature Identification Number: 111898

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11976

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Battery Many

LCS Structure Number: 030-01

Feature: Algiers Test Battery Footing

Feature Identification Number: 111908

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 210815

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Algiers Test Battery Footing

LCS Structure Number: 030-24

Feature: Platform for 10" Gun Mount

Feature Identification Number: 111912

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 210772

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Platform for 10" Gun Mount

LCS Structure Number: 030-23

Feature: Battery Decatur Fire Control Tower

Feature Identification Number: 111918

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11972

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington Battery Decatur Fire Control Tower

LCS Structure Number: 030-06

Feature: Southeast Fire Control Tower

Feature Identification Number: 111920

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11970

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Southeast Fire Control Tower

LCS Structure Number: 030-12

Feature: Torpedo Storehouse

Feature Identification Number: 111924

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11971

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Torpedo Storehouse

LCS Structure Number: 030-14

Feature: Mine Control Casement

Feature Identification Number: 111926

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23423

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Mine Control Casemate

LCS Structure Number: 030-15

Feature: Mine Cable Anchor System

Feature Identification Number: 111928

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 210919

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Mine Cable Anchor System

LCS Structure Number: 030-26

Feature: Engineer's Wharf Seawall

Feature Identification Number: 111930

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 102469

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Engineers' Wharf Seawall

LCS Structure Number: 030-21

Feature: Bachelor NCO Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 111932

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 414

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Bachelor NCO Quarters

LCS Structure Number: 10

Feature: Post Exchange/Gymnasium

Feature Identification Number: 111934

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11985

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Post Exchange/Gymnasium

LCS Structure Number: 030-11

Feature: Rifle Range Butts

Feature Identification Number: 111936

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100148

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Rifle Range Butts

LCS Structure Number: 030-17

Feature: Park Entrance

Feature Identification Number: 111938

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23425

LCS Structure Name: Fort Washington, Park Entrance

LCS Structure Number: 030-16

Feature: Command Structures

Feature Identification Number: 111940

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Walkway/Stairs to Command Structures

Feature Identification Number: 111944

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Light 80

Feature Identification Number: 111946

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stables/Maintenance

Feature Identification Number: 111952

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Gas pump/shelter at Stables

Feature Identification Number: 111886

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Quartermaster Wharf Remains

Feature Identification Number: 112196

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Flagstaff in Parade

Feature Identification Number: 112200

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Flagstaff near PX

Feature Identification Number: 112202

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Stone Drain

Feature Identification Number: 112208

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Comfort Stations (7)

Feature Identification Number: 112220

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Pump/Lift Stations (4)

Feature Identification Number: 112224

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: "Paint Shop" Building

Feature Identification Number: 112228

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Basketball Court

Feature Identification Number: 112234

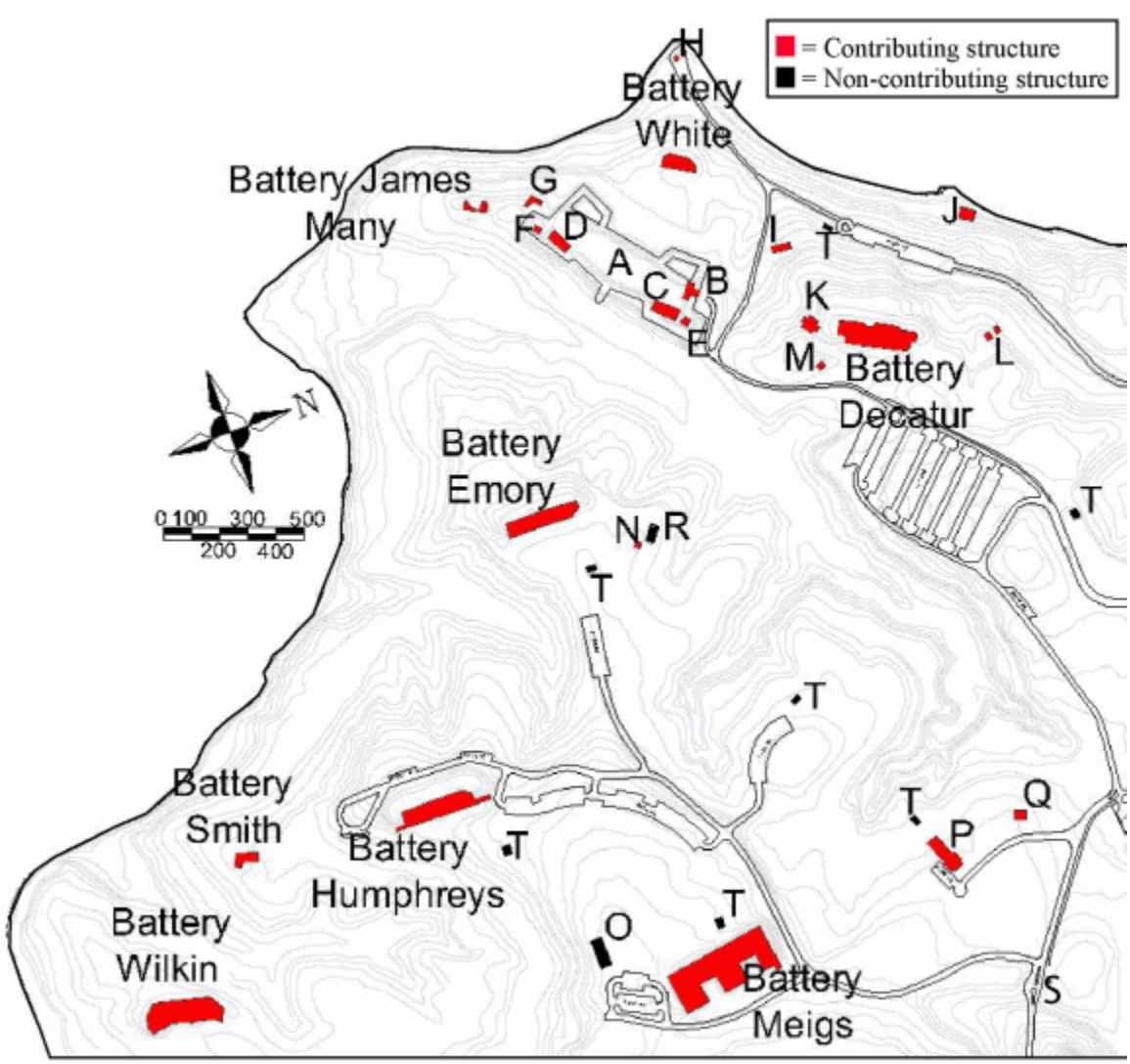
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Fee Entrance Station

Feature Identification Number: 112238

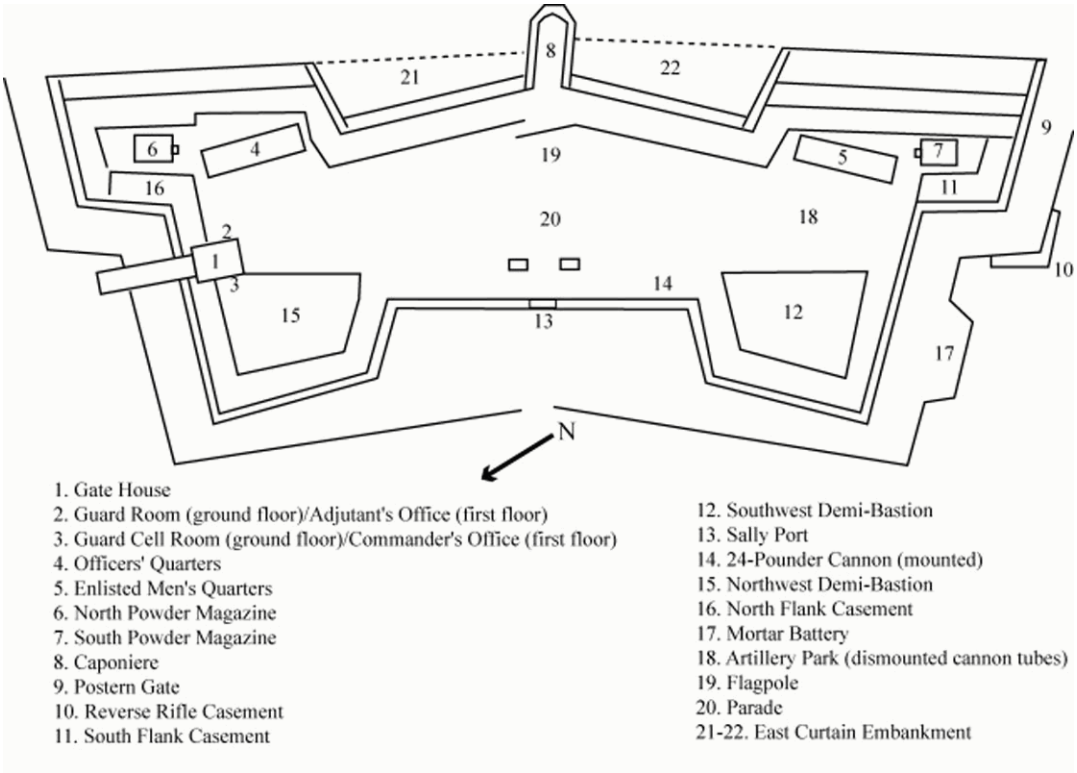
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Fort Washington Park location of fortifications, 2006 (source: Prince George's County Office of Information Technology, Geographic Information Systems Division).

Fort Washington Park



Principal Architectural Components of Fort Washington.

Fort Washington Gate House view towards the south (NCR CLP 2018).

Panorama inside Fort Washington (NCR CLP 2018).

Gate House and north elevation of the fort (NCR CLP 2018).

Interior Panorama looking north (NCR CLP 2018).

East elevation of the Officer's Quarters showing the reconstructed bastion and latrine (NCR CLP 2018).

Former post hospital/Sergeant's quarters (NCR CLP 2018)

Light 80 at Digges' Point (NCR CLP 2018).

View of Battery Decatur, the Commandant's House, and the fire tower (NCR CLP 2018).

Battery White looking south and west towards the Potomac River (NCR CLP 2018).

Battery Meigs (NCR CLP 2018).

Historic Gym/ Post Exchange (NCR CLP 2018).

Bachelor NCO Quarters (NCR CLP 2018).

Representative example of the comfort station buildings found in the cultural landscape (NCR CLP 2018).

Southeast Fire Control Tower with Paint Shop Building in background, view to north, December 2005 (Laird).

Command Structures, view to west, December 2005 (Laird).

Rifle Range Butts with Piscataway Creek in background, view to south, December 2005 (Laird).

Circulation

Fort Washington Park has an extensive modern paved road system that provides vehicular access to virtually every portion of the property. Although these roads are the product of rehabilitation efforts conducted by the NPS from the late 1950s through the mid-1960s, the existing road network in the central portion of the park between the main entrance gate and the historic fort closely mirrors the Endicott Period post road network that persisted with little alteration through the end of World War II. Similarly, the present road network linking Picnic Areas A, B, C, D-1, D-2, and D-3 in the southern portion of the property generally parallels that built to provide access to dozens of temporary post buildings constructed during World War II. For the most part, however, the original roads were obliterated during the 1950s and 1960s when the modern road network was constructed, with many disused routes simply buried with topsoil and grassed over.

The main entrance to Fort Washington Park, which lies at the end of Fort Washington Road, appears to have remained in generally the same location since 1885, when the U.S. War Department purchased the adjoining Kerby farm and expanded the post boundaries to include what is now NPS property. Until the 1890s, little development occurred beyond the immediate vicinity of the original fort. As Fort Washington's defenses were expanded during the Endicott Period, however, it became necessary to build a more extensive network of roads to link the artillery batteries and garrison buildings now arrayed across the entire property. By 1905, the

road system between the main gate and Battery Decatur had assumed the loop pattern still visible today as a portion of Washington Drive, providing access to a variety of post buildings, including the hospital, bowling alley, enlisted men's quarters, officers' quarters, and Engineers' facilities. More recent additions to the Washington Drive loop include concrete sidewalks and a restricted-use bicycle lane.

The present L'Enfant Road, which intersects with the northern loop of Washington Drive and continues west along the river to a parking area at its terminus, follows roughly the same route as an Endicott period road, as does Old Quarters Road, which connects the parking area adjacent to the PX/Gymnasium with Washington Drive. Warburton Drive, which runs south and west to a turnaround south of Battery Humphreys and provides access to Picnic Areas A, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, C, D-1, D-2, and D-3, generally follows the route of a road built ca. 1942 to provide access to dozens of temporary Army buildings that occupied the relatively level ground between Batteries Meigs and Humphreys. When it was constructed ca. 1964, Ainsworth Drive, which connects Warburton Drive with the Maintenance Building in the former stables, took a somewhat different route than its predecessor from the World War II era.

A paved service road runs from the west end of the Visitor Center Main Parking Area to a circular loop south of the Commandant's House. The road then continues downslope past the Ravelin and terminates in a loop at Light 80 at Digges' Point. This service road follows essentially the same route as the main post road that was in use by the 1880s. Although the turning circle feature south of the Commandant's House has since been repaved, it appears to have been built first during the World War II era.

A number of restricted-access service roads at Fort Washington Park are remnants of Endicott and World War II era roads. The route known as Pumphouse Road which loops north from Washington Drive, runs parallel with Swan Creek, then turns south to re-connect with L'Enfant Road, originally serviced the Endicott period pumphouse facility located on Swan Creek. A road that leads south from the end of Ainsworth Drive to Battery Wilkin definitely was in use by World War II and likely dates to the Endicott period. A segment of road that runs from L'Enfant Road upslope past the Command Structures complex is a remnant of an Endicott period road that once connected with what is now Washington Drive. A short segment of the road that formerly passed to the north of the Endicott period post commander's house survives, although is no longer used for circulation. Two additional service roads date from the Endicott Period, including the road that links the L'Enfant Road Parking Area and Digges Point, and the road that runs south from Digges' Point to the mouth of the ravine south of the historic fort. A partially paved service road intersects with Washington Drive just inside the main gate and runs parallel to the eastern boundary of the park to the site of the former World War II era Service Company complex. Finally, a short service road that leads from the terminus of Warburton Drive downslope into Picnic Area B-3 appears to post-date World War II.

Thirteen separate parking lots are located throughout Fort Washington Park, encompassing a total area of 470,832 square feet of paved surface area. The largest of these is the Visitor

Center Main Parking Area (204,869 square feet), located at the end of Washington Drive southeast of Battery Decatur. This lot, and the considerably smaller L'Enfant Road Parking Area (32,260 square feet) located at the end of L'Enfant Road near the river, were the first of Fort Washington's modern parking facilities, built ca. 1958 under the Mission 66 rehabilitation program. Most of the remaining parking areas provide convenient access to the park's various picnic areas, and were designed and built ca. 1964. The Picnic Area 1 (10,338 square feet) and Picnic Area 2 (14,319 square feet) lots both are located off Washington Drive in the northern portion of the park. The Picnic Area A lot (30,623 square feet) is located off Warburton Drive to the east of the PX/Gymnasium building. The large Picnic Area B lot (70,985 square feet) is located south of and parallel to Warburton Drive to the west of Battery Meigs. The Picnic Area C lot (30,913 square feet) is located off Warburton Drive east of Battery Emory. The Picnic Area D-1 (2,888 square feet), D-2 (2,968 square feet), and D-3 (15,565 square feet) lots are located directly along the southern portion of Warburton Drive in the vicinity of Battery Humphreys. The remaining three lots, including the Maintenance Parking Area (35,280 square feet) adjacent to the former Stables, the Old Quarters Parking Area (12,990 square feet) south of the PX/Gymnasium building, and the Warburton Manor Site Parking Area (6,834 square feet) on the south loop of Washington Drive are not associated with picnic areas (FHWA 2001).

Three foot trails are located at Fort Washington Park. One runs north along the northeastern park boundary and turns west to connect with Pumphouse Road. The southern section of this route is paved, and is the remnant of the road that connected Washington Drive with the World War II Service Company complex. The Waterside Trail runs parallel to the Potomac River from the Pumphouse Road to the L'Enfant Road Parking Area. The third foot trail runs along Piscataway Creek from Battery Wilkin to the southern terminus of a service road south of the historic fort.

One of Fort Washington's more unique Endicott period features was a narrow gauge railway used for transporting ammunition and other supplies throughout the post. The railway began at the Engineer's Wharf on the river, and a stationary engine near the east end of Battery Decatur pulled the cars up the steep hill, where they were hitched to a locomotive. The line ran in a curving route east around the main ravine behind the old fort, then turned south and passed behind (to the east of) the extant Bachelor NCO Quarters. The line branched at a point immediately to the east of the extant PX/Gymnasium building: a short spur line proceeded south to Battery Meigs, while the main branch continued south to Battery Humphreys, turning east to bypass another steep ravine, and then south again to its terminus just north of Battery Wilkin in the far southeastern corner of the reservation. Visible sections of the railway grade and/or bed survives in three locations throughout Fort Washington Park. The largest section consists of an alternating elevated and excavated bed that runs for a total distance of approximately 1,400 feet. The elevated portion of the bed commences a short distance east of the comfort station east of Battery Humphreys and runs for roughly 400 feet to a point south of the Stables. The remaining 1,000 feet consists of a slightly depressed grade that continues south to the original railway terminus north of Battery Wilkin. It appears that this portion of the former railway line

survived relatively intact because it was located on sloping terrain that was not conducive to construction and/or landscaping efforts during the World War II occupation. A shorter, slightly depressed section of the railway grade, measuring approximately 750 feet long, is visible from a point south of the southern loop of Washington Drive to a point east of the PX/Gymnasium building. The third and final surviving portion of the railway is a short, approximately 175-foot section of elevated bed that runs down the slope immediately south of the historic road trace located south of the Command Structure complex. These remnants of the Endicott Period narrow gauge railway are the only surviving traces of this significant historic feature, and thus should be considered as contributing to the National Register nomination.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Remnants of Narrow Gauge Railray Bed

Feature Identification Number: 112282

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pumphouse Road

Feature Identification Number: 112280

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Part of Service Rd. near Command Struct.

Feature Identification Number: 112294

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Service Rd (L'Enfant Rd to Digges Point)

Feature Identification Number: 112300

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Service Rd (Ainsworth Dr to Bat. Wilkin)

Feature Identification Number: 112306

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Rd. near Endicott period Commander's Hse

Feature Identification Number: 112310

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Washington Drive

Feature Identification Number: 112312

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: L'Enfant Road

Feature Identification Number: 112318

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Warburton Drive

Feature Identification Number: 112322

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Ainsworth Drive

Feature Identification Number: 112338

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Service Rd (Digges Pt. to ravine s fort)

Feature Identification Number: 112344

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Circle south of Commandant's Hse.

Feature Identification Number: 112350

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Service Rd (VC parking to Digges Point)

Feature Identification Number: 112354

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Service Rd (Service Company Complex)

Feature Identification Number: 112356

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: 13 Parking Areas

Feature Identification Number: 112340

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Foot Trails

Feature Identification Number: 112316

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Representative example of the road system in the park boundaries (NCR CLP 2018).

Example of the visitor trail circulation system leading to Fort Washington (NCR CLP 2018).

Land Use

During the period of significance, 1808-1921, the primary land use of Fort Washington consisted of open space for defensive purposes, agricultural land associated with Warburton Manor, and forest.

Today, Fort Washington Park serves both as a preserved historic site interpreting the evolving defenses of Washington, D.C. and as a recreational area. The original fort, the Visitor Center and museum in the former Commandant's House, and some of the more accessible Endicott period structures serve an educational and commemorative use, and no longer have an active military function. The park also includes roads, pathways, parking areas, picnic/recreation areas, and comfort stations which serve the general public who visit the park daily to exercise, picnic, use its recreational facilities, hike its wooded trails, and fish along the Potomac River.

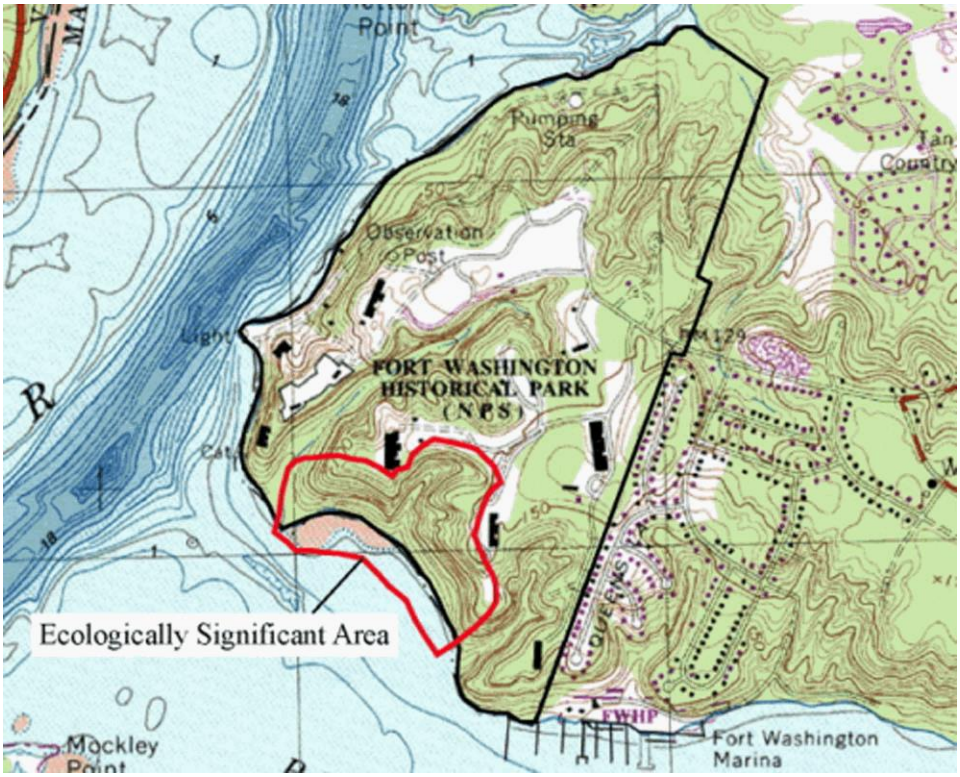
Since the NPS regained authority over Fort Washington in 1946, there has been an inherent tension between the park's dual land uses. The principal features that contribute to the historic significance of the site, including extant structures and archaeological resources, are protected within the park. However, large-scale recreational visitation often hampers the preservation of these features, both directly through inadvertent and intentional damage by park users, and indirectly by diverting funds to general park maintenance.

Natural Systems and Features

A number of significant natural features have been identified at Fort Washington Park, including selenite (gypsum crystals) in the ravines along Piscataway Creek; marine fossil beds of sharks' teeth below the waterline along the shorelines; Paleocene fossil outcrops abound in the glauconite rich gray clay substrata of the creek banks exposed beneath the deep rich surface soils in the ravines; fossilized gastropods in the ravines and along the shorelines; and the rare small flower nemophyla (Nemophyla aphylla) along one of the foot trails.

In 1997, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyed the "Fort Ravine," encompassing an area of approximately 32 acres along Piscataway Creek southeast of the historic fort, and defined it as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA). According to the survey report, the slopes and stream banks of the narrow ravine support an "exceptional example of a mature, mesic, deciduous forest." Given the extent of development in this region, forests of similar age are "extremely rare." Along the stream banks and lower slopes are scattered patches of Glade fern (Diplazium pycnocarpon), a State Threatened species that exists in less than ten sites in Maryland. More commonly found in the Piedmont and mountains than the Coastal Plain, this species requires the deep shade and organic, neutral soil of a mature forest. In addition, the mature forest provides feeding and nesting habitat for migrating songbirds.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Location of Ecologically Significant Area (Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2005).

Small Scale Features

Fort Washington includes a wide array of small-scale features, most of which are associated with the current recreational use of the park. With the exception of the sole surviving Endicott period electric lamppost, few visible features remain from the property's period of significance (1808-1921) defined in the National Register nomination; the majority date to the World War II occupation of the post and later, and so do not contribute to the nomination.

Contributing

Endicott Period Lamppost

The only small-scale feature that contributes to the National Register nomination is an Endicott period electric lamppost, the only remaining example of its type in the park. The ornate lamppost, of a style popularly known as the "Covington longarm," consists of a single cast-iron light standard located adjacent to the steps to the water battery, upslope from the Ravelin. The lamppost is approximately 18.5 feet tall, and appears to have been erected concurrent with the Endicott period electrification of Fort Washington. Typical of urban light standards manufactured post-1890, it features a pedestal cast with leaves as trim, and decorative scrollwork supporting the "mast-arm" that held the electric arc lamp. Rungs attached to the post enabled the light to be serviced. The manufacturer's name was cast into a service plate at the base, and reads: "ELMER P. MORRIS/CO./NEW YORK CITY/U.S.A./MFC'S

OF/ORNAMENTAL IRON POLES." The Elmer P. Morris Co., which became the Morris Iron Company in 1910, and later the Frederick Iron and Steel Company, produced ornamental electric lampposts for a number of large cities. Overall, the condition of this structure is poor: the cast-iron is corroded, the original glass globe and shade are missing, and wires protrude from the socket. This lamppost is the only remaining example of approximately 20 "arc lights" depicted on a 1906 plan of Fort Washington. A 1912 photograph in the collections of the U.S. Coast Guard depicts an identical lamppost directly in front of Light 80 at Digges' Point. An 1857 detail drawing of the original pole light in the collections of the National Archives clearly indicates that the extant post is significantly different in design from the original pole light, which was removed from the site at some unknown date. In addition, this structure was not included in the National Register nomination, but subsequently was misidentified as the ca. 1857 light pole and listed as "Light 80 (Original Pole Light)" in the LCS. In May 2002, NPS Historian Richard Quin recommended in a Determination of Eligibility form that the structure is "significant as the earliest navigational aid on the upper Potomac River and one of the earliest aids to navigation on the nation's rivers." There is no record that the Maryland SHPO reviewed and/or concurred with this determination. Although the statement of significance was prepared on the erroneous assumption that it represented the 1857 light pole, this structure still should be considered as contributing to the National Register nomination as the sole remaining example of Fort Washington's Endicott Period system of outdoor electric lighting.

Non-Contributing

Artillery Displays
A modern addition to Fort Washington, a Model 1819 24-pounder cannon is permanently mounted on a brick base in emplacement #19 on the fort's west curtain. The rear of the reproduction carriage/mount is on an iron traverse rail set atop granite blocks. The initials: "W.P.F." (West Point Foundry) are marked on the trunnion, while markings on the muzzle indicate the gun was cast in 1827, weighs 5,514 pounds and was inspected by James Bankhead. The cast-iron barrel has a bore of 5.82 inches.

Two additional historic guns are on display between the Visitor Center Main Parking Lot and the Commandant's House. The first, which is located in the paved turn-around south of the Commandant's House, is a ca. 1814-15 transitional iron 6-pounder cannon with no visible markings mounted on an 1812 wooden carriage. The second is a Model 1897 three-inch rifled gun on a Model 1888 wooden carriage.

An artillery display of seven cannon tubes mounted on steel stanchions on a concrete slab is located in front of the Enlisted Men's Quarters in the fort. The four cannon tubes on the north side are reproduction Model 1845 24-pounder smoothbores, and the other three are reproduction 30-pounder Parrott rifles. All were cast at Lorton Prison. A Determination of Eligibility form prepared by NPS Richard Quin recommended this structure as ineligible given that it is a modern feature.

World War II Features

Aside from a handful of derelict pump station facilities, none of the more than 200 temporary buildings erected at Fort Washington during World War II survive intact. However, a few remnants of these buildings are still visible above grade. One significant concentration of such features is located in an undeveloped, wooded portion of the park along the eastern boundary line, approximately 1,400 feet north of the main entrance. At least six structures were erected here during World War II to accommodate the post's Service Company, including barracks, a mess hall, and recreation hall. Cinderblock and poured concrete building foundations are still visible on the ground surface, as well as utility pipes, and the remnants of an ovoid, mortared stone feature that may have served as a decorative planting bed in the turning circle visible on the 1944 plan of Fort Washington.

Historical Marker

A Maryland Historical Marker commemorating the site of Warburton Manor is located at the purported mansion house site, on a terrace located directly to the west of the Visitor Center main parking area. The sign was dedicated by members of the Prince George's County George Washington Bicentennial Committee in October 1932 and subsequently donated to the State of Maryland.

Signs and Interpretive Devices

Signs of three basic types are located throughout Fort Washington: interpretive, informational, and traffic/directional. Interpretive signs include combination graphic/text historical "wayside" signs within the original fort and adjacent to a number of the more accessible Endicott Period artillery batteries; text provides historical information on the military significance of the property from the Fort Warburton period through the end of its use as a coast defense installation in 1921. There is also a series of waysides along the Waterside Trail that interpret the park's natural environment and ecosystems. A number of sheltered "bulletin board"-type signs with shingled protective roofs are located throughout the park. There are also a wide variety of traffic/directional signs located at various points along the park's road and parking network, including typical traffic signs (e.g. "Stop," "Yield," "One-Way," "Bicycle Lane," "Handicapped Parking Only"), street name signs, and directional arrow signs (e.g. "Old Fort/Visitor Center).

Site Furnishings

A variety of outdoor seating types are located throughout the park. Benches, which are located primarily around the turning circle south of the Commandant's House, near the western entrance to the Visitor Center Main Parking Area, and the L'Enfant Drive Parking Area, consist of models with steel frames and wooden seats, and some of all-wood construction. There are also a large number of picnic tables scattered throughout the park's various picnic areas. The great majority of these consist of tubular frames with recycled plastic seats and tabletops.

The various picnic areas include a number of fixed metal barbecue grills supported on a metal

post anchored in the ground. Three permanent grills built of mortared dressed stone are located in Picnic Areas B-1, B-2, and B-3. The picnic areas also include trash cans of various types; the most common one is a metal can with a rounded metal lid. These occasionally rest directly on the ground, but many are supported off the ground by wooden posts, and are found in single, double, and triple configurations. The picnic areas also include galvanized metal cans for hot coals/ashes from the grills.

There is a small complex of playground equipment, including swing sets and climbing apparatus ("jungle gyms") in Picnic Area B-1, and climbing bars and a metal mesh baseball backstop in Picnic Area A.

Two types of drinking fountains are found throughout the park. The older ones are octagonal concrete fountains of a style installed in National Capital parks from the 1920s through the 1960s. These most likely date to the post-World War II use of the park; none appear to be functional. Examples of this variety are found in the parking lot at the end of L'Enfant Drive, and in Picnic Areas B-1, C, D-2, and D-3, and remnants of others may exist elsewhere. A free-standing modern metal drinking fountain is located in Picnic Area D-1. Metal drinking fountains are also mounted on the exterior walls of the seven comfort stations.

Fences and Barriers

A variety of fence types are used at Fort Washington Park. The park's eastern boundary with the adjoining residential subdivisions is demarcated with chain link fencing. A series of black painted post and chain barriers runs south of and parallel to Washington Drive from the main entrance gate to the fee entrance station. A protective wooden rail fence is located along the edge of the ravine at the western edge of the Visitor Center Main Parking Area, and a similar wooden rail fence encloses the Southeast Fire Control Tower. A low wooden guard-rail is located at the entrance to the short service road that leads down into Picnic Area B-3. A chain-link fence prevents access to Battery Emory, and chain-link fencing topped with barbed wire encloses the Stables maintenance area parking lot.

A number of gates control access to various thoroughfares throughout the park. Metal barrier gates are located at the main entrance off Fort Washington Road, on Washington Drive at the Fee Entrance Station, at the junction of Pumphouse Road and L'Enfant Drive, at the junction of Warburton Drive and the access road to Picnic Area C, at the west end of the Picnic C parking area, and at the entrance to the short service road that leads into Picnic Area D-3 at the terminus of Warburton Drive. Metal gateposts are located at the eastern entrance to Pumphouse Road near Picnic Area 2, and metal gateposts with a chain barrier are located at the junction of L'Enfant Drive and the service road that leads upslope to the Command Structures complex.

Concrete bollards flank the western entrance to the Visitor Center Main Parking Area from the service road leading to the turning circle south of the Commandant's House/Visitor Center. Metal bollards around the Fee Entrance Station protect the building from vehicle damage.

Pedestrian Bridges
Wooden footbridges are located along the Waterside Trail, a wooden ramp is located on the foot trail in the northeastern corner of the property, and combination wood/earthen steps with wooden handrails are located at various points along the foot trails.

Miscellaneous Features
When Fort Washington was converted to use as the Adjutant General's School in 1942, literally hundreds of new temporary buildings were erected across the entire property to house, feed, train, and entertain the military personnel stationed here. The post's electrical, sewer, and water systems also were greatly expanded at this time, and remnants of this infrastructure—which was largely abandoned in place in the 1950s when the NPS regained authority over the property—are still visible throughout the park. Associated features include manhole covers, fire hydrants, vestiges of water lines, and other now unidentifiable objects such as small concrete pads of unknown use.

Miscellaneous small-scale features also include a variety of architectural fixtures and materials stored in an unsheltered "boneyard" area behind Battery Emory; a public pay telephone with attached sign located in Picnic Area 1; and several electrical transformer boxes located throughout the park.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Electric Lamppost

Feature Identification Number: 112544

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Maryland Historical Marker

Feature Identification Number: 112548

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: 24-Pounder Cannon

Feature Identification Number: 112546

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: 6-Pounder Iron Cannon

Feature Identification Number: 112554

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: M1897 Three-Inch Rifled Gun

Feature Identification Number: 112552

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Artillery Display

Feature Identification Number: 112550

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Manhole covers

Feature Identification Number: 112578

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Fire hydrants

Feature Identification Number: 112580

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Remnants of utility system

Feature Identification Number: 112582

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Remnants of service company complex

Feature Identification Number: 112584

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: NPS interpretive waysides

Feature Identification Number: 112586

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: NPS regulatory/ directional signs

Feature Identification Number: 112588

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Sheltered bulletin boards

Feature Identification Number: 112590

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Benches (wood, wood and steel)

Feature Identification Number: 112568

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Steel and plastic picnic tables

Feature Identification Number: 112570

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Metal barbecue grills

Feature Identification Number: 112572

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Metal trash cans

Feature Identification Number: 112576

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Metal ash cans

Feature Identification Number: 112556

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Playground equipment

Feature Identification Number: 112594

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Baseball backstop

Feature Identification Number: 112596

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 112598

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Fences (wood, metal)

Feature Identification Number: 112602

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Wooden footbridges/ ramps

Feature Identification Number: 112566

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Wooden handrails

Feature Identification Number: 112600

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Wood/ earthen steps

Feature Identification Number: 112592

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Bollards (concrete, metal)

Feature Identification Number: 112604

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Stored architectural materials

Feature Identification Number: 112606

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Pay telephone

Feature Identification Number: 112608

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Electrical transformer boxes

Feature Identification Number: 112610

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Endicott Period electric lamppost along steps to the water battery, view to west, December 2005 (Laird).

Concrete foundation of World War II era water pumping station in ravine north of Battery Wilkin, December 2004 (Laird).

Representative picnic area (NCR CLP 2018).

Representative example of the interpretive waysides that are located in the FOWA cultural landscape (NCR CLP 2018).

Representative water fountain located near Fort Washington proper (NCR CLP 2018).

Representative bench found in the cultural landscape. Additional examples of benches are located in the appendix (NCR CLP 2018).

Archeological Sites

The former site of Warburton Manor is the only archeological site listed as contributing to the National Register nomination. Inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust as architectural resource #80-15, Warburton Manor purportedly stood on the elevated terrace located directly northeast of the Visitor Center main parking area. The location of the site is marked with a Maryland Historic Marker erected in October 1932. Warburton Manor was built by Charles Digges between 1717 and 1733, and evidently had fallen into ruins by the early 1870s. There is no known image of Warburton Manor, and little is known of its design, other than that it was a two-story brick dwelling, measuring 48 feet long by 38 feet wide. A two-story stone kitchen and brick study were associated with the main house. No recent archeological survey has been

conducted to confirm that this is, indeed, the location of the dwelling, or to determine its physical integrity. There is evidence to suggest that the site probably was disturbed to some extent by construction associated with the Endicott Period military occupation of the property. Former Fort Washington employee Henry Clagett reported that around 1905-07, a fellow employee accidentally unearthed human remains while excavating a building near the manor house. These remains may have been associated with the Digges' family cemetery referred to in the 1805 will of Ann Digges. At least two Endicott Period structures, an Engineers' quarters and office, were built at this location, which may have caused some subsurface disturbance. These structures had been removed by World War II, after which the site remained relatively untouched.

The first professional archeological investigations at Fort Washington were conducted in May 1958 under the direction of Benjamin B. Powell, an NPS archeologist "on loan" from Philadelphia's Independence National Park. The excavations, which were undertaken in conjunction with the Mission 66 rehabilitation efforts, focused entirely on the historic fort. Powell sought to address five specific research questions: 1) the nature of the 1842 hot shot furnace remains; 2) the nature of the 1808 blockhouse/Martello Tower remains; 3) the location of the 1823 and 1848 flagpole site; 4) the nature of the two floor levels and possible use of the caponier; and 5) the original levels of the parade ground. Powell succeeded in identifying the remains of part of the hot shot furnace, most likely a platform or "porch" feature located at the rear of the furnace. The masonry foundation of the 1808 blockhouse or Martello Tower was found just below the ground surface, and had an outside diameter of approximately 25 feet. The 12-square-foot mortar foundation of the 1848 flagpole base was uncovered near the entrance to the caponier and a soil stain representing the original pole was noted in the center hole. The investigation of the two floors in the caponier revealed that the original floor had slumped, and was covered with a second dry-laid brick surface, while the presence of faunal remains suggested its use as a kitchen. Powell's investigation of the stratigraphic character of the parade ground proved inconclusive, and he proposed that the present grade was at or below historic levels. Finally, a test trench excavated across the terreplein east of the sally port uncovered three cedar logs probably associated with a retaining wall (Powell 1958).

After Powell's admittedly brief efforts in the late 1950s, twenty years would pass before any additional significant archeological testing would be conducted at Fort Washington. In 1977, the NPS initiated a five-year plan to restore the fort to its historical appearance ca. 1848-60, and architectural restoration work commenced on the southeast bastion. In support of these efforts, NPS archeologist Thomas E. McGarry directed excavations from 1977 through 1979, focusing primarily on the fort itself, but also investigating the Commandant's House. The investigations associated with the fortifications included an analysis of historic parade grades in the fort and the ravelin; the storm sewer systems in the fort and ravelin; the stability of the slope on the east curtain and salient of the southwest demi-bastion; the mortar battery at the southwest demi-bastion; and the round building at the east end of the counterscarp wall. At the Commandant's House, McGarry's team investigated the patio on the south side of the dwelling; the location of the latrine, cistern, and well; a ruined structure west of the house; a fence/gate

complex; the condition of the foundation; and the bearings of the north porch (McGarry 1981).

A less extensive program of archeological testing was undertaken in the spring of 1987 under the direction of Matthew R. Virta, Staff Archeologist with the Regional Archeological Program of the NPS and the University of Maryland, College Park. This testing was performed prior to the anticipated repair work in various locations in and around the fort. Virta and his colleagues reestablished the location of the Martello tower first discovered by Powell so that a waterline could be rerouted around the feature, and excavated a number of small test units in the northwest demi-bastion. They monitored the excavation of drainage lines and drain inlets, as well as trenches in the parade ground, discovering a disused Endicott period electrical cable. The team excavated test units near the revetment/retaining wall on the parade ground south of the caponiere entrance, and completed the project by testing a proposed manhole location in the southeast corner of the ravelin (Virta 1988).

Although not technically an archeological project, the most recent subsurface testing at Fort Washington included a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) study and soil test borings conducted by Engineering Consulting Services, Inc., (ECI) a private consulting firm, in 2000. ECI employed GPR equipment to conduct non-destructive testing along the northwest and southwest demi-bastion walls and terreplein walkways in an effort to determine what, if any, structural elements were present below grade in these areas. The results of GPR testing suggested that pilasters began approximately 5 feet below grade in the northwest demi-bastion terreplein, as well as the presence of masonry below the reconstructed gun mounts. Evidence of welded-wire mesh reinforcing materials was found beneath the terreplein of the southwest demi-bastion. The soil borings, excavated east of the gatehouse and in the northwest and southwest demi-bastions, revealed fill depths ranging between 5.3 and 18 feet (Summers and Leffler 2000).

One of the largest and most visible archeological features at Fort Washington is the site of the experimental parapet used in the Algiers Test of June 1899, which evaluated new forms of rifled armament used against fortifications and armored ships. A 10-inch gun was mounted on the north edge of the deep ravine running behind the historic fort, and fired across the ravine at a parapet constructed specifically for the test. The parapet, which was built into the south slope of the ravine opposite the fort, consisted of two attached sections, and was constructed of wood, concrete, and steel. The parapet was dismantled after the successful completion of the Algiers Test, and the steel reportedly was used in the subsequent construction of the post's fire control towers. Although no portions of the experimental parapet remain, the large area excavated into the slope of the ravine is still visible.

Although a comprehensive archeological survey of Fort Washington Park has not been conducted, and the subsurface integrity of the area beyond the immediate vicinity of the historic fort is not known, it is clear that an array of subsurface cultural features could be expected across the property. Resources associated with the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century occupation of the land may remain, as well as the more recent manifestations of the more than 200 military buildings erected and subsequently dismantled between the 1890s and 1940s, and the subsurface utilities that served them.

Spatial Organization

Fort Washington currently encompasses three primary management zones: Natural, Historic, and Park Development.

The Natural zone includes large areas in the northern and southern portions of the park, which remain largely wooded and undeveloped. Unpaved service roads and trails in these areas facilitate pedestrian access.

The principal Historic zone is located in the eastern portion of the park near Digges' Point, and is centered around the historic fort, also encompassing the Ravelin and Battery White, Light 80, the former Commandant's House (Visitor Center), the former Post Hospital/Sergeant's House, Battery Decatur, the Battery Decatur Fire Control Tower, and the Command Structures complex. This area is maintained as manicured parkland, and includes interpretive waysides. Additional Historic zones include the site of Warburton Manor east of the Visitor Center Main Parking Area, the open fields east of the former Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium, and the areas immediately surrounding Batteries Meigs, Humphreys, Smith, and Wilkin.

Park Development zones, dedicated to picnicking and recreational activities, are divided into six separate areas. Picnic Areas 1 and 2 are located in the northern part of the park adjacent to Washington Drive. The remaining areas are concentrated in the south-central portion of the park, and consist of Picnic Areas A, B (subdivided into B-1, B-2, B-3, andB-4), C, and D (subdivided into D-1, D-2, and D-3). As with the Historic zones, the Park Development Zones are comprised of open fields or lightly wooded areas that are regularly maintained.

The park's spatial organization retains a high degree of integrity for its primary period of military significance ca. 1824-1921. The original Fort Washington has remained relatively unchanged in appearance since its last major modifications in the late 1840s, and several associated structures from the antebellum period remain, including the Ravelin, Commandant's House, and Post Hospital/Sergeant's House. Similarly, the post layout from the Endicott Period is easily recognizable. All eight concrete artillery batteries remain in their original locations across the property, as do a number of other military features including command structures and features associated with the control of the underwater minefield. Although the vast majority of ancillary buildings from the Endicott Period have since been removed, the Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium survive in their original locations. The modern park road system, particularly Washington Drive between the main gate and Battery Decatur, replicates the main circulation pattern during the Endicott Period. The open field encircled by Washington Drive east of the Visitor Center Main Parking Area, and the open field east of the Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium also remain virtually unchanged since their use as open space during the Endicott period occupation of the post.

Ironically, the most concentrated and extensive use of Fort Washington during World War II is barely represented in the current landscape. Virtually all of the more than 200 temporary structures erected on the post during this period were removed by the late 1950s, and only a handful of small, derelict pump station facilities survive. The only remaining features are the

extensive subsurface utility system and a few above-ground remnants of building foundations and utility outlets. The lack of integrity of the World War II-era landscape is irrelevant, however, in that this period is not defined as significant in the National Register nomination.

Topography

Fort Washington Park is located in the Upper Coastal Plain physiographic region of Maryland. The northwestern corner of the park lies in the floodplain of Swan Creek, an area markedly different from the steep Potomac River Escarpment bluffs along the Potomac River and Piscataway Creek shorelines that descend from as high as 150 feet to the mean water level below along the western and southern shores of the park. Although the central portion of the park is comprised of relatively broad, level uplands, the northern, western, and southern portions of the park are dissected by numerous long, deep ravines with steeply sloped walls.

Topography has been essential to the Fort Washington property throughout its history. The Digges' Warburton Manor was typical of elite Potomac River valley plantations in its topographic situation. Built on a prominent bluff, the house encompassed broad, sweeping vistas of the river, which was the main artery of trade, transportation, and communication. Similarly, the site naturally commanded the respect of those approaching from the river, with a suitably well-ordered, and awe-inspiring, view of the house and property. From a practical perspective, Warburton Manor—and the smaller farms that succeeded it—were working farms, and the broad, level terraces located to the west of the main house site evidently accommodated agricultural fields, pastureland, and orchards. Aside from the relatively small artificial terrace believed to have been the site of Warburton Manor, however, no visible traces of intentional landscaping from this era appears to have survived. Although large formal gardens evidently were maintained between the river and mansion, they were not terraced as at other Potomac River plantations. Any significant alterations to the landscape the Digges and subsequent owners may have made to the landscape have effectively been overshadowed by the later military construction.

Just as its topography proved attractive to the Digges family in establishing their genteel home site, the 1824 fort was built on the elevated terrace overlooking Digges' Point specifically to take strategic advantage of the views and range of fire this position allowed both up and down the river. Similarly, the Endicott period artillery batteries and assorted observation/command structures typically were situated on the brows of slopes throughout the reservation, allowing relatively level building sites while affording unobstructed views of potential enemy ships navigating the Potomac. Conversely, the deep ravines that dissect the property also dictated the layout of the post, particularly after it expanded to its current boundaries in 1875. Because the ravine slopes generally are too steep to be easily traversed, the post road network was designed to conform solely to upland areas, which accounts in large part for its irregular, curvilinear layout. The topography of the property also dictated the location of most non-defensive post structures. During the early periods of the fort's occupation, the relatively constrained limits of government property near Digges' Point dictated that structures immediately beyond the fort had to accommodate to the relatively uneven terrain that characterized the area around Digges' Point. As such, the surviving structures from this period, including the Commandant's House and Post Hospital/Sergeant's House, are built on

the few level areas available. Once the post had expanded to encompass the broad terraces to the east, however, this level ground became preferable for construction, and the majority of Endicott period structures, including the surviving Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium, were built in these areas.

The topography of Fort Washington Park historically has been altered in numerous minor ways since the construction of the original fortifications in 1808. Thomas Attwood Digges, for example, complained regularly to the government of the seemingly continuous grading and ditching carried out by the laborers building Fort Warburton, some of which occasionally spilled over onto his property. The construction and subsequent improvement of the 1824 Fort Washington and Ravelin required considerable earthmoving efforts, as did construction of the eight Endicott Period artillery batteries. Perhaps the most visible of these topographic alterations is the site of the experimental parapet used in the Algiers Test of June 1899, which evaluated new forms of rifled armament used against fortifications and armored ships. A 10-inch gun was mounted on the north edge of the deep ravine running behind the historic fort, and fired across the ravine at a parapet constructed specifically for the test. The parapet, which was built into the south slope of the ravine opposite the fort, consisted of two attached sections, and was constructed of wood, concrete, and steel. The parapet was dismantled after the successful completion of the Algiers Test, but the large area excavated into the slope of the ravine is still visible.

Vegetation

From the establishment of Fort Warburton in 1808 through the expansion of Fort Washington to its present boundaries in 1875, the natural landscape of what is now Fort Washington Park was divided into three basic zones—military/defense, agricultural, and undeveloped—with corresponding differences in vegetation. During the first half of the nineteenth century, Forts Warburton and Washington occupied a relatively small area near Digges' Point, while the remainder of the current park was encompassed by the Warburton Manor plantation. From the inception of Fort Warburton, the area around Digges' Point was kept clear of vegetation to allow its defenders the best possible views and lines of fire toward the river. Until the government acquired the adjacent lands, however, the remainder of the property consisted of a working farm, with a mixture of agricultural fields, orchards, and undeveloped woodland. A number of nineteenth-century maps give some indication as to the character and extent of these areas: a U.S. Engineer's map dated 1816 indicates that the area immediately surrounding Warburton Manor was comprised of open fields, with a large formal garden to the southwest separating the main house from the river. The relatively level landforms in the central and southern portions of the park consisted of cleared agricultural lands. Those remaining areas dissected by steep ravines that were unsuitable as agricultural or grazing land remained wooded.

The most radical change to the vegetative landscape within what is now Fort Washington Park occurred during the Civil War. Fort Washington's greatly expanded wartime garrison relied almost exclusively on firewood for heating and cooking. As was common in any area occupied for extended periods of time by troops, the surrounding landscape was essentially denuded of trees over time. After the war, the Kerby family who owned the farm adjoining Fort

Washington complained to the government that the soldiers had cut all their "best timber" without compensation, and a Washington Post reporter who visited the fort in 1884 remarked that the large ravine behind the fort, once heavily wooded, had been clear-cut during the war years. By the early 1870s, however, it appears that at least some of the woodland was being reestablished. An 1872 topographical map of the fort and vicinity indicates that the areas to the west and north of the former manor site consisted of cleared agricultural fields, while the area immediately surrounding the site may have been planted in orchards or some other crop. The steeply dissected area to the west and northwest of Fort Washington was wooded.

Because Fort Washington was essentially unoccupied from 1872 through 1890, no effort was expended to modify the vegetative landscape during this period. In fact, the Post reporter noted that the sides of the ravine behind the fort were now covered with a "vigorous growth" of young trees, particularly chestnut and locust.

The 1890s brought considerable changes to the landscape of Fort Washington, with the expansion of its defenses and facilities to accommodate its new role as a modernized Endicott period coastal defense fortification. Considerable tree-clearing was conducted in the vicinity of the eight new Endicott batteries and command structures to allow for unobstructed visibility of the river and clear arcs of fire. Photographic evidence indicates that landscaping efforts in both the residential and functional sections of the post included well-groomed lawns and open spaces, with numerous young trees but relatively few ornamental plantings of shrubs or flower beds.

After 1921, when Fort Washington became redundant as a Coast Artillery installation, it appears that little effort was expended to maintain unobstructed views from the artillery batteries and command/fire-control structures. Aerial photographs from the interwar years indicate that—aside from the relatively open areas in the post's central portion—much of the property was wooded, including much of the area between the historic fort and Digges' Point. A certain amount of tree clearing likely was conducted during World War II, with the construction of dozens of new temporary buildings in many parts of the reservation that had not previously been developed. But, because the post did not serve a defensive function during this period, it was not essential to maintain the open lines of sight to the river that had been essential during the Endicott period, and it does not appear that significant tree removal was undertaken.

As part of the postwar development of the property as a park and recreational area, the NPS has planted a wide range of primarily deciduous tree species, including varieties of oak (Quercus sp.), hickory (Carya sp.), maple (Acer sp.), sycamore (Platanus sp.), and elm (Ulmus sp.), as well as a lesser number of red cedars (Juniperus virginiana), such as those which flank the main park entrance. The majority of these trees are now mature (with older specimens likely 50-60 years old) although a number of "in-fill" plantings clearly have been introduced within the past several years. These trees have been sited primarily for aesthetic effect, lining virtually the entire road system of the park, and other highly visible and well-trafficked areas such as the medians of the Visitor Center Main Parking Area. Mirroring the historic land-use

patterns of the early twentieth century, relatively few trees have been introduced into the open, grassy areas in the western portion of the park, from the old fort to the Washington Drive loop road to the main park entrance. However, denser clusters of canopy trees were incorporated into the design of Picnic Areas A-D in the eastern section of the property, providing shade for picnickers, as well as creating a more rustic, naturalistic environment that contrasts with the more obviously planned formality of the route between the main entrance and the old fort.

Between 1995 and 2002, botanists Brent W. Steury and Charles A. Davis conducted a survey of the vascular flora of Piscataway and Fort Washington parks (Steury and Davis 2004). In the course of their study, they identified a variety of habitats in Fort Washington Park, the most significant including: 1) Creek banks, river banks, and seeps; 2) Deciduous woodland and ravine forest; and 3) Maintained yards.

Creek banks, river banks, and seeps
A number of intermittent streams originating on the Tertiary Slopelands of the Potomac Escarpment cross Fort Washington in numerous locations. The banks of these streams are often heavily vegetated, probably because of the more open canopy above the creeks, and provide an ideal habitat for water-loving plants. The Potomac River shoreline is a relatively narrow tidal beach at the foot of 12- to 45-foot high shore bluffs. These river banks generally are lined with woody vegetation that supports plants that are seasonally flooded, and is more open and prone to disturbance than other wooded inland sites. The seasonal seeps that spring from exposed clay banks in meadows or shallow soil in woods are often dry and hard during summer, but can be wet in spring and late summer, creating a habitat for some sedges and ferns.

Deciduous woodland and ravine forest
Fort Washington Park is located within the Oak-Pine Forest Region of the Atlantic Slope Section, which is characterized predominantly by pine (Pinus sp.), mixed with oak and hickory. Deciduous woodland is the most common cover type found in the upland portions of the park, with species such southern red oak (Quercus falcata), black/yellow oak (Quercus velutina), white hickory (Carya tomentosa), American holly (Ilex opaca), and blackjack oak (Quercus marilandica). Canopy species such as Southern red oak, chinkapin/chestnut oak (Quercus prinus), and bitternut/swamp hickory (Carya cordiformis) thrive in the park's distinctive ravine forests, which are characterized by high, steep bank slopes and calcareous soils. The steep Tertiary Slopelands at the mouth of Piscataway Creek contain large populations of chinkapin/chestnut oak, pignut/broom hickory (Carya glabra), and a variety of calciphilic sedge (Carex sparganioides). These areas also contain a number of ferns, sedges, and wildflowers not found elsewhere throughout the park.

Maintained yards
Fort Washington's open spaces consist of maintained yards that are regularly mowed and dominated by typical non-native grasses, including annual bluegrass (Poa annua), tall fescue (Festuca elatior), Indian goosegrass (Eleusine indica), and Bermuda grass (Cynodon dactylon).

Vegetation features that contribute to the National Register nomination include the lawn areas within the open field encircled by Washington Drive east of the Visitor Center Main Parking Area, and the open field east of the Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium, as these have remained virtually unchanged since their use as open space during the Endicott period occupation of the post. Although cleared of trees at various times, the "Fort Ravine" directly to the east of the original Fort Washington was wooded throughout much of the park's period of significance, ca. 1808-1921, and so this currently wooded area also contributes to the nomination.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Silver maple located along the drive (NCR CLP 2018).

Example of the deciduous vegetation found throughout the Fort Washington cultural landscape (NCR CLP 2018).

Views and Vistas

As early as the 1790s, George Washington recognized that the unparalleled views up and down the Potomac River from the heights of Thomas Attwood Digges' Warburton Manor offered an ideal strategic location for fortifications designed to protect the new capital of Washington, D.C., from naval attack. From the construction of Fort Warburton in 1808 through the removal of Fort Washington's Endicott period armament in the early 1920s, the views of the Potomac River provided from a variety of vantage points throughout the 341-acre reservation were critical to the defense of the capital city. Significant views associated with military defense include those of the river from Fort Washington; the Ravelin; all eight Endicott Period batteries (Decatur, Emory, Humphreys, White, Meigs, Wilkin, Smith, and James Many); the platform for a 10-inch gun mounted during the Spanish-American War in 1898; and the various Endicott period command and fire-control facilities, including the original Mine Control Casemate, the Command Structures complex, the Battery Decatur Fire Control Tower, and Southeast Fire Control Tower. Given the wooded nature of much of the park, unobstructed views of the river

are now possible only from Fort Washington, the Ravelin, Battery White, and the Battery Decatur Fire Control Tower. The views from all other defensive structures are either mostly or completely obstructed by trees.

The views from the 1821 Commandant's House, strategically placed on the brow of a hill overlooking both the river and fort, are significant in that they allowed the post commander the opportunity to monitor shipping in the river, and the activities of his subordinates in and around the fort and ravelin. Similarly, the views of the river and fort from the Post Hospital/Sergeant's House were significant during the 1850s, when Ordnance Sergeant Joseph Cameron, the sole caretaker of the fort and light pole at Digges' Point, purportedly resided here.

Although now largely obstructed by trees, the view from the Algiers Test Battery footing across the large ravine behind Fort Washington toward the Experimental Parapet is significant for its association with the successful Algiers Test of June 1899. Also obstructed by trees, the view southeast towards the Rifle Range Butts along the Piscataway Creek shoreline has significance in relation to the training of the Coast Artillery garrison.

Two open areas within the park offer views that retain integrity from the Endicott Period. The view from the main gate west across an open field to the Bachelor NCO Quarters and PX/Gymnasium remains unchanged from the early years of the twentieth century, as does that across the open field between the eastern end of the Washington Drive loop and the eastern end of the Visitor Center Main Parking Area.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Views to Potomac River from fort struct.

Feature Identification Number: 112616

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Commandant Hse. to fort, river

Feature Identification Number: 112618

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views from Post Hospital to river, point

Feature Identification Number: 112620

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Algiers bat. to exp. parapet

Feature Identification Number: 112622

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Piscat. Crk to rifle range

Feature Identification Number: 112624

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from main gate to NCO & PX

Feature Identification Number: 112626

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View across field w/n Wash. Dr. loop

Feature Identification Number: 112628

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

View towards the Potomac River (NCR CLP 2018).

View across the field towards the Gym (NCR CLP 2018).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/19/2012

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the Fort Washington Park cultural landscape was reassessed in FY2012. The Revision Concurrence Date is the date the concurrence memo was signed by the park superintendent.

Condition Assessment: Poor

Assessment Date: 09/18/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The "Condition Assessment Date" refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment when the CLI. was approved.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/2018

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

During FY 2018, the cultural landscape received a Condition Assessment of 'Fair'

A Condition Assessment of 'Fair' indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Despite an overall ranking of 'Fair' individual landscape features are in 'Poor' condition and require immediate corrective intervention to ensure the integrity of the cultural resources.

Problems identified during the FY 2018 CLI Site Visits include but are not limited to:

The deterioration of buildings and structures due to the growth of vegetation.

Structural failure, specifically the ravelin, portions of Fort Washington proper, and Light 80 were documented during the site visit. Of great concern is the state of the 2011 restored Northeast Bastion drainage feature.

Improper moth-balling practices of historic structures.

Improper maintenance practices associated with mowing, limb removal, and view and vista management.

Vandalism of the historic structures and subsequently security.

Deterioration of the integrity of circulation systems in the cultural landscape.

Condition of visitor infrastructure including benches, interpretive panels and picnic facilities.

Measures that can be taken to improve/ maintain the condition include:

Informed cyclic removal of vegetation from the cultural landscapes buildings and structures, with guided preventive repair work to impede growth.

Alterations should be made to mowing contracts to change the terms to require proper disposal of grass clippings around drainage features to maintain cultural resources.

Establish and maintained ideal mown space measurements.

Routinely monitor the condition and status of the fortification structures for vandalism and security breaches. Working with the Architectural Conservator, the park should develop a plan to remove graffiti.

Perform routine maintenance on visitor infrastructure.

While beyond the scope of the CLI Stabilization Treatment measures, it is recommended that the park pursues additional treatment guidance in the form of an overall park CLR, the development of a site specific earthworks management plan, and the completion of individual HSRs. A more in depth list of treatment recommendations can be found at the end of the document in the appendix.

The previous evaluation of the cultural landscape was 'Good.' This assessment occurred in FY 2012. During the previous assessment, problems identified included:

Deferred Maintenance of historic structures outside the main fort area

The erosion of the plateau that Fort Washington was constructed

Deterioration of masonry material to the elements

Inappropriate maintenance in the form of previous restoration activities

Soil compaction in the picnic areas

Visitation

Vegetation growing in the masonry system

Stabilization Measures:

The NPS is currently in the process of repairing, stabilizing, and rehabilitating the original Fort Washington, which is in generally poor condition, resulting from long-term moisture intrusion and persistent vegetative growth on and into the stone, brick, and mortar façade. Under current management, the fort is repaired on an as-needed basis, with manual vegetation removal being an ongoing maintenance activity. In 1999, a section of the northwest demi-bastion wall collapsed; emergency repairs of this failure have recently been completed. The preferred alternative would stabilize the fort and arrest those problems currently contributing to the deterioration of the historic structure. The project would address and correct problems in two phases. Phase 1 would address issues of wall stability and problems with the supporting drainage system. Phase 2 would stabilize supporting earthen terraces, slopes, structural buildings, and features. Vegetation encroachment that compromises the fort's integrity would also be removed under both phases. An environmental assessment prepared in 2004 analyzed the impacts of continuing current management (Alternative A, the no action alternative) and of implementing a large-scale repair and rehabilitation program (Alternative B, the preferred alternative). The preferred alternative would protect historic structures, with few adverse effects to natural resources and to other cultural resources.

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Some of the contributing historic structures within the park are not regularly maintained, aside from periodic clearance of vegetation, which has led to continuing structural degradation. These structures are generally located outside the main fort area (2012). In 2018, the issue of unwanted and damaging vegetation in the cultural landscape's historic structures continues to be a problem. Trees, vines, and woody vegetation are growing in crevices, cracks, mortar joints, and other building surfaces, further exacerbating deterioration. The decline of structures due to vegetation is most noted at Battery White, Battery Decatur, and Battery Meigs. Fort Washington proper has additional vegetation issues that will be addressed in a separate entry.
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Internal

Impact Description: By virtue of their construction materials (e.g. stone, masonry, and concrete), all contributing structures at Fort Washington are prone to structural deterioration hastened by water damage and freezing-thawing. In many cases, the structures (e.g. the Endicott Batteries) have open interior spaces that are not adequately protected from the elements (2012). The deterioration of the structures due to the freeze thaw cycle creates fissures that have provided opportunities for plants to grow.

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Inadvertent damage to Fort Washington was caused in the course of past restoration activities by the use of inappropriate construction materials (e.g. Portland cement).

Type of Impact: Operations On Site

Impact Description: While previous versions of the Fort Washington CLI made reference to the restoration work of the structural deterioration of Fort Washington proper, it should be noted that the improper removal and disposal of vegetation is creating a condition similar to the era prior to the restoration. This is specifically in reference to the drainage ditch associated with the Latrine and the Northeast Bastion of Fort Washington. During the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, the feature was inundated with grasses growing in the channel and covering the top brick edging. This is caused by mowing practices that allow grass clippings to fall into the channel, collect, and then grow. If this is allowed to continue, the drainage channel will once again fail, causing structural damage to the wall system underneath.

Within the fort proper, the mowing practices have allowed grasses to cover the gun mounts, inundate the ramp along the eastern wall, and to grown along the eastern parapet. Additional grasses and vegetation were observed growing in mortar joints. In order to stabilize the condition of the cultural landscape, it is recommended that mowing practices be altered so that clippings are collected and properly disposed after each mowing. Grasses should be cyclically removed from masonry features with proper repointing to follow in order to ensure that growth is kept in check. However, prior to the wholesale removal of vegetation on the parapet level, a CLR should be developed in order to guide treatment.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: All significantly damaged structures, walls and drainage systems in the fort were repaired by the end of FY 2007. The first phase involved repairs to the northwest demi-bastion walls, esplanade drainage systems, Main Gate terreplein, slate roofs as well as the northeast bastion and terreplein. The ultimate treatment cost of $10 million included repairs and rehabilitation of the southwest demi-bastion walls, esplanade drainage systems and the earthen slope of the southwest demi-bastion. Nearly all of the vegetation has been removed from the walls of the fort. Interim emergency repairs and stabilization of the section of the northwest demi-bastion that failed in 1999 was repaired at a cost of $944,000. These structures are now in good condition on the LCS.

Endicott Period structures, including the batteries, command and fire-control structures, and administrative/supporting structures (e.g. Post Exchange/Gymnasium and Bachelor NCO Quarters) are not adequately maintained, and some are contaminated with toxic materials (e.g. asbestos, lead paint, etc.). These structures are in fair and poor condition on the LCS (2012).

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Light 80 is structurally failing due to decay and rot in the foundation system. The southwest and northwest floor frame beams have rotted and are deflecting to the point that the force of structure is resting directly on the brick pier, causing the building to list. Additional issues observed include the presence of bores in the siding from carpenter bees. It is recommended that the structural stabilization measures recommended by the Regional Historical Architect be followed as advised to address the issue.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: During the FY 2018 CLI Site Visit, it was observed that bricks were missing from the course of the ravelin masonry wall. This is of great concern regarding the integrity of the structure.

	However, a more pressing matter is the noted listing and throwing of the ravelin walls. The north wall is currently leaning towards the ravelin ditch proper. A combination of water drainage, vegetation, and the force of the surrounding soils are the likely sources of this movement. Consultation with a structural engineer is recommended in order to address the matter.
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	The improper securing of the Endicott era batteries, specifically Battery Meigs, has allowed for acts of vandalism in the form of spray paint tagging to occur on the interior of the structure. These actions are visible from the exterior. Additional security, in the form of a continuous barrier and better moth balling techniques should be performed on the perimeter of the structure. Working with the Architectural Conservator, a plan should be developed to remove the evidence of vandalism.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Despite attempts to moth-ball the Bachelor NCO Quarters and the Post Exchange/ Gymnasium structure, neither structure is properly secured. Some of the boards that cover the building openings are broken/ cracked, or missing. This does not form a continuous barrier as is recommended by the Preservation Brief 31, as this allows the elements, pests, and vegetation to enter into the building envelope. Additional problems noted on these particular structures includes the deterioration of structural members and systems, water damage, growth of vegetation in mortar joints.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Vegetation is encroaching in former open spaces including the edges of fields and in significant views and vistas. It is recommended that the park maintains existing edges and maintains existing openings. However, a CLR should be developed for the site prior to the restoration or re-establishment of historic views.

Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Unchecked vegetation has a deleterious effect both to the physical integrity of contributing structures and to the character of historic landscapes at Fort Washington. Invasive vegetation is periodically cleared from the original Fort Washington and many of the Endicott Period structures, but has resulted in structural damage over time. In addition, the mature deciduous woodland that has been allowed to flourish throughout many areas of the park now interferes with a number of historically significant viewsheds associated with the military occupation of the property (e.g. from the various batteries and command and fire-control structures toward the Potomac River; from the Algiers Test Battery footing across the main fort ravine to the experimental parapet; towards the Rifle Range Butts adjacent to Piscataway Creek, etc.).
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Down trees, dying specimens, and hazard trees were observed during the FY 2018 site visit. Based on observations, it appears that the trees are allowed to remain on the edge of open spaces and or are disposed by being made into mulch in the parking lot adjacent to the gun mount. Several large uncovered and unconfined mounds of mulch have been placed on the road associated with the gun mount. Maintenance staff should create the mulch in a location that is screened from the public and more stable to prevent the movement of the materials into the adjacent ravine.
Type of Impact:	Visitation
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Fort Washington Park receives approximately 250,000 visitors per year. Only about 25 percent of visitors enter the historic Fort Washington, and the resulting physical impact is minimal in relation to natural structural deterioration. The great majority of visitors use the park grounds for hiking, bicycling, jogging, picnicking, fishing, and nature study activities. The greatest impact from visitation is comprised of normal wear and tear to the picnic areas, walking trails, playground equipment, etc.

Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Visitor infrastructure, specifically waysides, benches, and picnic tables, are exhibiting signs of weathering due to exposure of the elements. Discoloration, leeching, and warping were observed. This is to be anticipated as the features are exposed to the sun. In addition, some of the features do not comply to ABA and should be modified should replacement occur.
Type of Impact:	Soil Compaction
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Minor soil compaction occurs in heavily-used portions of the picnic areas. In FY 2018, this continues to be a noted problem.
Type of Impact:	Structural Deterioration
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Due to the topography of the site and materials used for construction, the circulation features north and west of the fort proper are deteriorating. The edges of the feature are cracking and losing integrity due to the growth of grasses. At the bottom of the hill, water has created a hard channel, which has grown significantly over the course of a year.
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The stone paths leading to the Officer's Quarters are covered in grasses, obscuring the pathway. It is recommended that the grass be removed in order to once again expose the circulation.
Type of Impact:	Inundation/Sea Level Rise
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	The water level of the Potomac River has risen since the completion of the original CLI. As a result, landscape features that are adjacent to the shoreline have become inundated with water. This threatens the integrity of the cultural landscape

through the loss of contributing landscape features.

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The original Fort Washington was constructed on a relatively flat upland plateau, bounded to the northwest, west, and south by slopes of moderate to steep relief that drain stormwater to the Potomac River. The topography of this area was also heavily modified during construction activities in the nineteenth-century. As a result, the soils in the area west of the fort are unstable and prone to erosion and failure (2012).

In FY 2018, this continues to be a problem with areas of concern noted to the north and west of the fort. In FY 2017, the park began a conversation to address the stormwater run-off, specifically the use of swales and warm season grasses. However, implementation has not occurred at this time.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation

Approved Treatment Document: Other Document

Document Date: 09/01/2004

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:
The main feature of the property, Fort Washington is in generally poor condition, resulting from long-term moisture intrusion and persistent vegetative growth on and into the stone, brick, and mortar façade. To prevent further deterioration of the main fort, the NPS prepared an Environmental Assessment for a preferred treatment. It would stabilize the fort and then rehabilitate the structure to arrest those problems currently contributing to the deterioration of the historic structure. The project would address and correct problems in two phases. Phase 1 would address issues of wall stability and problems with the supporting drainage system. Phase 2 would stabilize supporting earthen terraces, slopes, structural buildings, and features. Vegetation encroachment that compromises the fort's integrity would also be removed under both phases.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 09/01/2004

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Supplemental Information

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Fort Washington

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Update 2018

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National Capital Parks - East

Fort Washington: Existing Conditons Site Plan

National Capital Region - Cultural Landscapes Program - Cultural Landscape Inventory

Legend

- Contributing: Entrance gate cannon
- Contributing: Trees
- Non contributing: Roads
- Non contributing: Foot Trails
- Contributing: Roads
- Non contributing: Post and Chain fence
- Contributing: Remnants of Narrow Gauge Railway Bed
- Contributing: Parade Grounds
- Contributing: Scarp
- Non contributing: Picnic Area
- Cultural Resource District Polygon
- Contributing resources
- Non contributing resources

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

See insert map

Insert Map

Number	Resource Name
1	"Paint Shop" Building
2	Algiers Test Battery Footing
3	Bachelor NCO Quarters
4	Basketball Court
5	Battery Decatur Fire Control Tower
6	Battery Emory
7	Battery Humphreys
8	Battery Many
9	Battery Meigs
10	Battery Smith
11	Battery White
12	Battery Wilkin
13	Battey Decatur
14	Comfort Stations (7)
15	Command Structures
16	Commandant's House
17	Counterscarp Gallery
18	Cuvert near Battery White
19	Enlisted Mens Quarters
20	Engineer's Wharf Seawall
21	Fee Entrance Station
22	Flagstaff in Parade
23	Flagstaff near PX
24	Fort Washington
25	Gas pump/shelter at Stables
26	Gatehouse
27	Light 80
28	Mine Cable Anchor System
29	Mine Control Casement
30	North Magazine
31	Officers Quarters
32	Parade Grounds
33	Park Entrance
34	Platform for 10" Gun Mount
35	Post and Chain fence
36	Post Exchange/Gymnasium
37	Post Hospital / Sergeant's House
38	Quartermaster Wharf Remains
39	Ravelin
40	Ravelin North Magazine
41	Ravelin South Magazine
42	Rifle Range Butts
43	Southeast Fire Control Tower
44	Stables/Maintenance
45	South Magazine
46	Stone Drain
47	Torpedo Storehouse
48	Steps to Water Battery
49	Walkway/Stairs to Command Structures
50	Well
51	13 Parking Areas
52	Ainsworth Drive
53	Circle south of Commandant's Hse.
54	Foot Trails
55	L'Enfant Road
56	Part of Service Rd. near Command Struct.
57	Pumphouse Road
58	Rd. near Endicott period Commander's Hse
59	Remnants of Narrow Gauge Railway Bed
60	Service Rd (Ainsworth Dr to Bat. Wilkin)
61	Service Rd (Digges Pt. to ravine s fort)
62	Service Rd (L'Enfant Rd to Digges Point)
63	Service Rd (VC parking to Digges Point)
64	Warburton Drive
65	Washington Drive
66	24-Pounder Cannon
67	Artillery Display
68	Electric Lamppost
69	Service Rd (Service Company Complex)
70	Maryland Historical Marker
71	Pay telephone
72	Remnants of service company complex
73	View across field w/n Wash. Dr. loop
74	View from Algiers bat. to exp. parapet
75	View from Commandant Hse. to fort, river
76	View from main gate to NCO & PX
77	View from Piscat. Crk to rifle range
78	Views from Post Hospital to river, point

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Cultural Landscape Name:	Fort Washington
Park Unit:	NACE
Cultural Landscape Type :	Vernacular
Period of Significance:	1808-1921
CLI Document ID:	600098
FMSS Location ID:	21306
FMSS Location Type:	3100
Notes:	

The FMSS CLI site visit was conducted on May 3rd, 2018. The cultural landscape is significant as a site associated with American military history and the defense of Washington D.C. The information as presented in this document reflects the observations and recommendations of NCR and WASO cultural landscape program staff.

Problems and Recommendations

FMSS actions:

Add CLI IDs to all FMSS entries for FOWA (review and see what Stephanie Sanidas has completed for NACE- this may already be done).
Create a Light 80 FMSS Location following the existing FOWA FMSS conventions.
Review 21306 Location entry; see if "Well" is included in the long description. If not, make an Asset nested under the Fort Location entry.
Review entries; currently there are more cannons on site than indicated in FMSS. Address by adding appropriate quantities to the existing FMSS entries.
Review Maintained Landscape 3100 Location - 21306; ensure that landscape furnishings (i.e. benches, trashcans, and picnic tables) are included in the long description. If not, add to FMSS accordingly.
Review Maintained Landscape 3100 Location- 21306; determine how vegetation is treated in FMSS. There should be a general vegetation point to capture the forested areas and trees of FOWA and an entry to capture the mown lawn/ turf areas of the cultural landscape.
Interpretive panels should be added to the park's FMSS data. A current Regional Facilities effort should capture associated data.

Problems and Recommendations:

*** A conversations with regional CR staff is needed to determine an appropriate plan of action for resource management in the Fort Washington cultural landscape. A regional earthworks management document could provide guidance on the treatment of the site in general. However, individual structures, including the batteries and fort proper, need HSRs and the cultural landscape as a whole is an ideal candidate for a CLR to provide more focused treatment recommendations.

Buildings and Structures

Battery Decatur:

Vegetation- Vegetation in the form of grasses, vines, shrubs, small trees and other woody plants are growing in the former wall surfaces, floor and roof planes, and walkways of Battery Decatur. It is recommended that this vegetation, along with accumulated dirt, be removed from the structure in a

cyclic manner and continue until additional guidance can be provided for the structure.
Security- For visitor and resource protection, it is recommended that the existing fence be reinforced in locations where it is exhibiting structural failure or does not form a uniformed continuous barrier. This should be routinely monitored and addressed as needed.

Battery Meigs :

Vegetation- Similar to Battery Decatur, vegetation is growing in the structure surfaces and building planes. It is recommended that this is removed in a cyclic manner.
Vandalism- Improper moth balling and securing of the structure (i.e. a missing security fence) has allowed vandalism in the form of spray-paint tagging to occur on the interior of the structure. The damage is visible in the openings of the structure. Damages to the doors of the structure were also noted. Working with the Architectural Conservator, a cleaning plan should be developed for the structure. Working with the Regional Historical Architect, a plan to secure the structure should be developed.
Rail Damage- Part of the roof rail system (southern portion of the structure) is broken and does not form a continuous barrier, preventing visitors from falling below. The matter should be addressed with the Regional Historical Architect.

Battery White

Vegetation
Similar to other batteries in the cultural landscape, vegetation, specifically vines in the form of poison ivy, is growing along the structure's exposed concrete walls and grasses are growing around the edges of the features pathways and concrete walkway panel joints. Piles of grass clippings were observed in the structure. It is recommended that the vegetation be removed in a cyclic manner.
Part of the historic railing is missing from the feature.
Culverts and drains associated with Battery White and the western side of Fort Washington have grasses and other vegetation growing in the drainage channels. It is recommended that this vegetation be removed. To further improve the conditions of the features, it is recommended that the mowing practices be altered in order to prevent clippings from going into the channels. These features should be routinely cleaned and appropriate repointing performed as needed.

Battery Humphrey's

Vegetation- Vegetation in the form of grasses and woody plants are growing in the surfaces of the structure. It is recommended that this growth be removed in a cyclic manner and monitored. Repointing should occur as needed.

Ravelin

Vegetation - Grasses, vines, woody vegetation, and small trees are growing in the masonry walls and channel of the feature. The vegetation should be removed and addressed cyclically. Repointing of the wall should occur as needed.
Structural Integrity- Bricks are missing from the courses of the wall cap. These should be replaced with a size and color appropriate brick. * However, it should be noted that the walls of the ravelin are listing or throwing forward. It is recommended that an additional study occur on the structure to develop a plan of action prior to the completion of any stabilization work and address the underlying issues.

Fort Washington

Ramp- The cobble stone ramp leading to the parapet is currently overgrown in grasses to the point that the pathway gives the impression that it is a grass walk. It is recommended that the grasses by removed, once again exposing the cobblestone. Missing mortar should be replaced as needed in the feature. The

feature should routinely have grasses removed.
Gutter System- During a previous site visit in July 2017, grass clippings, dirt, and growing grasses were observed in a previously restored gutter system to the north and east of the Officer's Quarters building. Recommendations to clean the feature and the altering of mowing practices were suggested by WASO CLP Lead Susan Dolan. During the May 2018 site visit, grasses were growing in the majority of the channel and the brick edge of the feature was almost completely covered. This condition is unacceptable. A combination of actions should occur to address the situation. Grasses, grass clippings, and dirt should be hand removed from the channel and brick edge cap of the gutter. Repointing should occur as needed. Mowing habits should be modified with grass clipping removal and proper disposal an added required step for the care of the space.

Fortification Walls

Vegetation- Vines, grasses, and other woody vegetation were observed growing in the walls of Fort Washington. It is recommended that the vegetation be removed by hand and the masonry be repointed afterwards. The vegetation should be cyclically removed.

Brick

Missing- throughout the Fort Washington wall system, bricks were noted as missing from the courses. Bricks of an appropriate color, size, and material composition should be installed in the courses.
Broken- Broken bricks were observed in the courses of the parapets, walls, and caps. These should be replaced with a color, size, and materially appropriate brick.
Loose- Several loose and unattached bricks were observed in the wall system of Fort Washington. It is recommended that mortar be reapplied to secure the structural member into the wall system.
Staining – Significant staining was observed on the north elevation of the northwest demi-bastion. A review of existing condition photographs from the past decade and a half shows that the condition has declined. It is recommended that the Architectural Conservator and the Regional Historical Architect conduct a site visit and develop an appropriate treatment method to address the situation.

Scarp – Erosion, due in part to the burrowing habits of groundhogs, was noted on the north eastern portion of the scarp. The park should monitor the erosion until a plan can be developed to address the issue. Several trees were also noted on the eastern face of the scarp. The park should monitor the trees. If a tree appears to be on the verge of topping over, the park should work with the regional office to determine the most appropriate method of addressing the tree.
Parapet- grasses and other vegetation were observed growing in the parapet. These should be removed and mortar repointed. Missing and broken bricks should be replaced with an appropriately size and color replacement. Loose bricks should have mortar reapplied in the course of the bricks.

Gatehouse

Walls- On the exterior entrance gate of the fort, water staining, biofilm, moss, vegetation, and other bio-growth were observed on the northern elevation of the structure. Working with the Architectural Conservator, a plan should be developed in order to address these issues.
On the southern elevation of the structure, biofilm and staining was observed on the ashlar stone Restoration work on the finish of the window frames should occur.
Gutter- the gutter located on the south west elevation of the gatehouse has grasses growing in the mortar joints, with gravel and dirt in the channel. It is recommended that the grasses be removed as needed and the mortar repointed.
A comment was made regarding the overall grade of the parade ground of Fort Washington proper and issues caused by drainage. It is recommended that prior to any modifications to the grade of the space, a CLR be completed to guide the effort.

Gun Mounts- The gun mounts and platforms in the eastern portion of Fort Washington are currently covered in grasses. It is recommended that the grasses by removed from the features by hand and the mortar be repointed in between the brick courses. The grasses should continue to be routinely removed after the wholescale removal occurs.

Northwest Demi-Bastion Doors- The doors of the Northwest Demi-Bastion were observed to be in various conditions of disrepair including broken panels, broken braces, off hinged, missing door panels. It is recommended that these issues be addressed and routine monitoring occur to observe damages.

Officer's Quarters

Brick condition

Paint delamination- During the site visit it was observed along columns and wooden structural members of the Officer's Quarters that paint was delaminating. It is recommended that a more in depth review of the features occurs in order to determine if there is water or insect damage occurring at these locations. Working with Historical Architect and the Architectural Conservator a treatment plan should be developed for the features and followed accordingly.

Walkways- The historic walkways leading to the Officer's Quarters building from the parade ground are currently overgrown with grasses. It is recommended that the grasses be removed from on top of the masonry material and the joints of the circulation system. The vegetation should routinely be removed from the pathway in order to retain integrity of the feature.

Shutters

Shutters are missing from some of the windows of the structure. These missing features should be re placed.

Light 80

Light 80 is structurally failing due to decay and rot in the foundation system. It is recommended that the structural stabilization measures recommended by the Regional Historical Architect be followed as advised.

Bachelor NCO Quarters

Paint delamination, water staining, deteriorating porch structure, broken railing, and the growth of vegetation around the foundation of the structure. Some of the window coverings appear to be less than secure. The moth balling of the Bachelor NCO Quarters should be reevaluated to determine if additional measures should be enacted.

Post Exchange/ Gymnasium

Moth Balling- Paint delamination, water staining, deteriorating structural columns, efflorescence, mildew, soffit deterioration, missing opening covers, missing gutters system, and the growth of vegetation around the foundation of the structure. Some of the window coverings appear to be less than secure. The moth balling of the Bachelor NCO Quarters should be reevaluated to determine if additional measures should be enacted.

Circulation

Path from Fort Washington to Battery White and Ravelin

Grasses are currently growing in the concrete joints and the collection of grass clippings has provided a stable medium for grasses to grow along the edges of the panels. It is recommended that grasses be removed the joints of the circulation panels. Grasses should be removed from the top of the feature. The circulation system should be edged in order to re-establish the form of the panels.

Path from Fort Washington to Light 80 and Hospital

Issues with this feature were first observed during the July 2017 site visit, including cracking in the sur face material, deterioration of the edge condition, growth of grasses, and loss of path integrity due to erosion. The condition of the feature has progressively gotten worse with cracking and the "wash-out" expanding.

General Comment- modifications to the existing circulation configuration, improvement to ABA compliance, and changes to materials should be informed by the completion of a CLR.

Sidewalks

Condition of materials- the condition of the sidewalk and circulation system throughout the cultural landscape should be monitored and deterioration in the materials should be replaced in kind.
Grasses growing in material joints should be cleaned.
Compaction- soil compaction was observed in the spaces adjacent to the circulation system and interpretive waysides. It is recommended that these spots be aerated and over-seeded in the spring and fall in order to encourage

Constructed Water Features

Culverts- Grasses and woody shrubs are growing in the culvert channels. It is recommended that this vegetation be removed and the missing mortar be repointed in order to ensure the structural integrity of the culverts and to allow water to drain.

Natural Systems and Features

Potomac River shoreline- During the site visit, the level of the Potomac River was obscuring the location of certain previously identified contributing resources in the flood plain. It should be noted that tide charts were not consulted prior to the site visit and that the inundation could be the result of high tide. Further conversations are warranted between the park and the regional office regarding the treatment of the shoreline.

Small Scale Features

Benches

Condition- There are a variety of bench types throughout the cultural landscape. While the benches have different seating configurations and heights, not all conforming to ABA standards, for the CLI Update, efforts should be made to ensure that the features are leveled and located on even surfaces.

Interpretation

It was observed throughout the site that the mounts for the interpretive panels are exhibiting uneven settling and discoloration. It is recommended that the mounts be reset and finishes reapplied.

Picnic Areas

Furnishing- Furnishings should be routinely cleaned and treated accordingly.
Trash Receptacles- Trash receptacles throughout the cultural landscape have broken wooden slats on the sides of the features. It is recommended that these be fixed.
Surface materials- the mulch material that is defining the picnic areas

Post and Chain fence- Paint on the post and chain fence is delaminating and allowing rust to form on the post. It is recommended that the powder coated treatment be reapplied to the feature.
Pylons – The concrete pylons in the Fort Washington parking lot are currently listing. It is recommended that the lists be rectified and the features set at a 90 degree angle.

Vegetation

Trees

Hazard tree limb removal- throughout the FOWA cultural landscape hazard limbs were noted above picnic areas and circulation paths, as well as adjacent to contributing buildings and structures. It is recommended that these limbs be routinely removed and properly disposed prevent harm to the public or cultural resources.

Hazard tree removal- While conducting the FY 2018 CLI it was noted that several trees were down within the forested zones of the cultural landscape and along the edge of maintained mown space. The down trees along the edge of the mown space should be properly disposed in order to prevent the creation of conditions that are ideal to allow additional encroachment along the edge of the open spaces.

Tree disposal- Throughout the cultural landscape, several dead and dying trees were marked for removal from the cultural landscape. Along the lawn and open edges, several downed trees were observed. Downed limbs were observed near trees, pathways, and in open spaces. Presently, a large wood chip pile can be observed blocking the drive north of the Platform for the 10th Gun Mount, without visitor screening or more importantly a means to contain the chips along the slope. Several partially sawed logs were observed adjacent to the wood piles. It is unclear how the wood chips will be used in the park. A better method of disposal should be used.

Earthworks- trees are currently growing on the various earthworks and erosion issues were also observed during the site visit. The park should engage in routine monitoring. The implementation of a regional earthworks management plan will guide future preservation efforts on the features.

Tree line- The existing tree line should be maintained. The existing tree line should be mapped using GPS/ GIS and evaluated at the end of each growing season. Mowing efforts should maintain this line.

Turf

Existing turf/ mown spaces in the Fort Washington cultural landscape should be maintained.

Views and Vistas

Vegetation is encroaching on the identified contributing views. It is recommending that the existing views be maintained through periodic cutting. The re-establishment of a particular view should be informed by the completion of CLR and is beyond the scope of the CLI Update Stabilization recommendations.

1. View towards Battery Decatur Fire Tower (L), the Commandant's House (Center), and Battery Decatur (R).
Direction: Southwest

2. Battery Decatur.
Direction: Northwest

3. Battery White
Direction: South and west

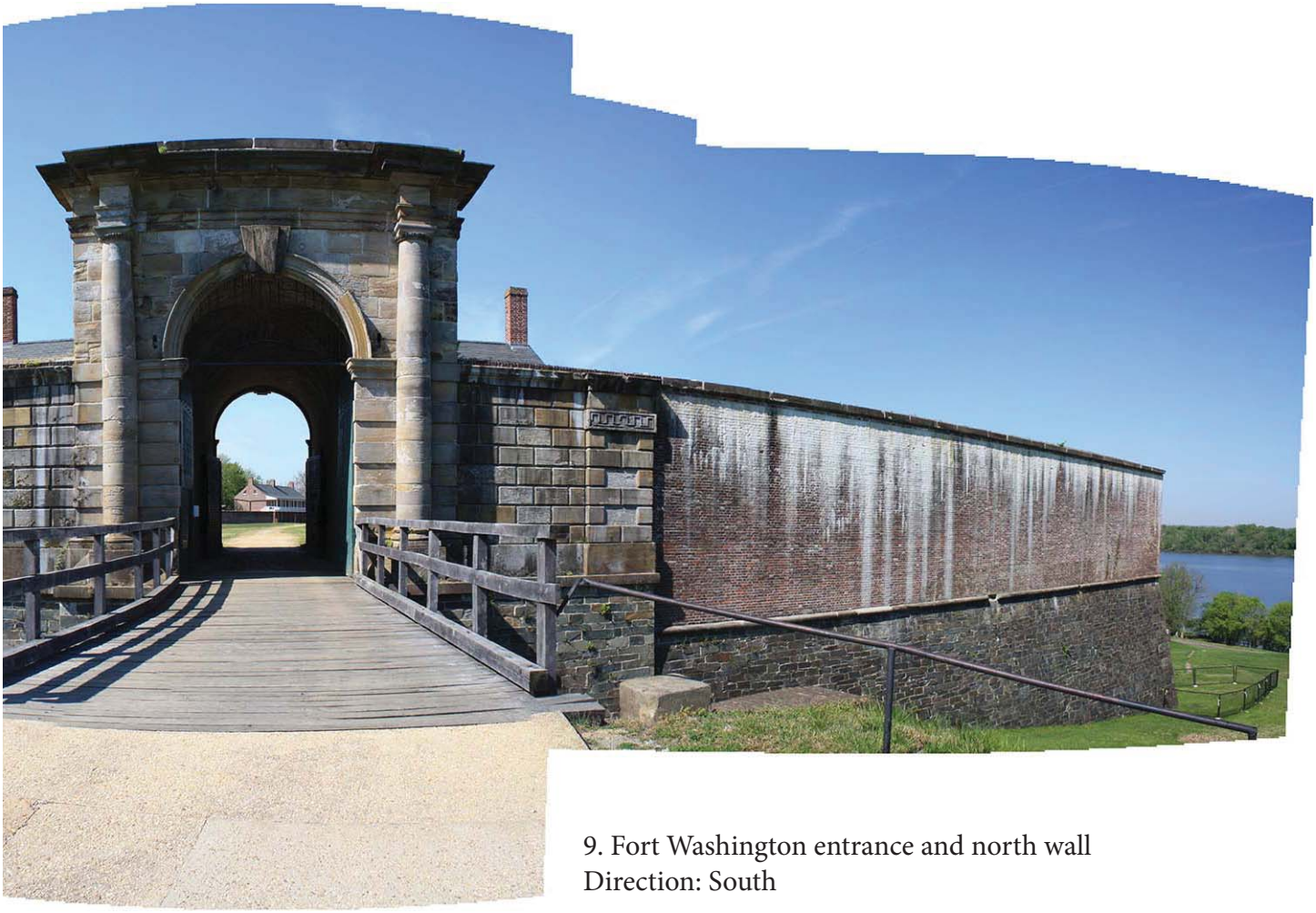
4. View towards Fort Washington
Direction: East

5. Ravelin
Direction: East

6. Battery Humphrey's
Direction: South

7. Battery Meigs
Direction: West

8. View towards Fort Washington
Direction: South



9. Fort Washington entrance and north wall
Direction: South

10 Fort Washington Gatehouse (L) and Officers Quarters (R)
Direction: North and east

11. Fort Washington Gatehouse detail
Direction: North

12. Fort Washington panorama
Direction: South

13. View towards the Enlisted Men's Quarters
Direction: South

14. Officer's Quarters details

15. View towards the Potomac River
Direction: West

16. View of the Scarp
Direction: West

17. Gun Mounts
Direction: West

18. Ramp leading to the Scarp
Direction: South

19 and 20. Condition of the parapet

21. Eastern elevation of the Officer's Quarters and the Gatehouse
Direction: West

22. Eastern gunmount condition
Direction: West

23. and 24. Condition of the Latrine gutter system

25. View towards the Post Exchange/ Gym and Bachelor NCO Quarters
Direction: Southwest

26. Bachelor NCO Quarters
Direction: West

27. Post Exchange/ Gym
Direction: West

28. Post Exchange/ Gym
Direction: West

29. Norway Maple
Direction: South

30. Representative picnic area

32. Representative comfort stations

33. Representative water fountain

34. Representative bench

35. Representative example of the tour road

36. Example of Visitor Circulation
Direction: North

37. Quartermaster Wharf Remains
Direction: South

38. Post Hospital
Direction: North

39. Light 80
Direction: Northwest

40. Commandant's House
Direction: North