
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2009

Revised: 7/2025



Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Resource Classification:	Cultural Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975526
Parent Landscape:	975526
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Gateway National Recreation Area
Alpha Code:	GATE
Park Organization Code:	1775
Park District:	GATE
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	No

Landscape Description:

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds is an approximately 138-acre site at the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. The study area is located in the northwest area of the peninsula, just south of the U.S. Coast Guard, Sandy Hook Station, an active Coast Guard base that is closed to the public. Sandy Hook, a recreational park that is open to the public, is well known for its expansive sandy beaches. The bulk of the peninsula's landscape exists in a natural state, with dunes, native holly forests, and fresh and salt water marshes predominating. Contrasting with this setting, the Post Grounds include over 100 historic buildings and a designed landscape created in 1896. The Post Grounds are characterized by expanses of open lawn, uniformly styled buildings in a buff-colored brick, mature street trees, and sweeping views of Sandy Hook Bay.

The study area is a component landscape of the Fort Hancock Military Reservation, or what the entire peninsula was known as when it was an active Army base, containing facilities that historically supported the garrison assigned to the Fort Hancock coastal batteries. The Post Grounds also include a few resources that were initially associated with the Sandy Hook Proving Ground and transferred to Fort Hancock after the Proving Ground's deactivation in 1919.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Private citizens from New York financed the construction of the Sandy Hook Light on the tip of the peninsula in 1764 to guide ships into the lower New York Harbor. The Light played a role in the American Revolution after being seized by the British, who moored their fleet in the lower harbor before launching an assault on New York in the summer of 1776. Local patriots disabled the Light and attempted to gain control of it with no success. The British retained control of the Light for the duration of the war. It was ceded to the Federal Government in 1789.

The Sandy Hook peninsula is positioned at the mouth of the New York Harbor and has been home to military defenses since the Revolutionary War. The Army solidified use of Sandy Hook as a strategic defensive location by beginning to build a granite fortification on the northern tip of the peninsula in the 1850s. This work was never completed but subsequent efforts in the later 1800s established the area as a permanent military post. Fort Hancock was established in 1896, when the Army designed a base to quarter the troops assigned to the Sandy Hook batteries. The

Quartermaster's Department rejected a formalized Beaux Arts design by a New York architectural firm and created their own plan for the fort. The resulting plan incorporated gently curved streets to create two central open spaces, the Parade Ground and Athletic Field, around which were specialized districts of officer's quarters and enlisted men's barracks.

The Army expanded the fort in the early 1900s by constructing new roads and buildings, most of which shared similar materials and design elements with the original buildings to create a visually cohesive district. To combat the drifting dunes that were depositing loose sand on the Parade Ground, the Army built seawalls along Sandy Hook Bay. They then deposited topsoil to create a suitable planting base, and added turf, street trees, and street lights to the landscape.

During World War I, the number of troops stationed at Fort Hancock increased significantly and temporary camps were located along the periphery of the Post Grounds. The number of troops fell sharply after the conflict and the temporary camps were largely dismantled. This intensive building program began anew in the build-up to World War II when scores of wood frame buildings and tents were erected in camps on the northeast portion of the site. Many of the decorative displays of armament located throughout the Post Grounds were collected and resmelted for the war effort.

The military went through a significant downsizing after World War II and Fort Hancock was briefly closed. Shortly after the deactivation, the site was chosen as a location for Nike missiles and reopened. Fewer soldiers were needed to man the automated Nike systems so the Post Grounds hosted a much smaller force during the Cold War than in previous decades. Inside the Post Grounds, many of the World War II buildings deteriorated and were dismantled. The last major site improvement made by the Army was the construction of Guardian Park. This open space at the "front door" of the fort, at the intersection of Magruder Road and Hartshorne Drive, was designed to commemorate the Nike period of Fort Hancock's history. Two deactivated Nike missiles were mounted on concrete pads and surrounded by shrub plantings.

By the early 1970s, the Nike system had been replaced by the development of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and many former Nike defenses were closed, including Fort Hancock. The Army deactivated the fort in 1974, transferring the entire Sandy Hook peninsula to the National Park Service for inclusion in Gateway National Recreation Area.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds was listed on the National Register in 1980 and as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1982 as a component of the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District. The Post Grounds are significant under NHL Criterion 1 (National Register Criterion A) for military and social history between 1896 and 1974, representing the time when the Army designed, constructed, and inhabited the Post Grounds, a support facility for the Sandy Hook Proving Grounds and the Fort Hancock coastal batteries. This period of significance ends in 1974 when the base was deactivated and turned over to the National Park Service for inclusion into the newly formed Gateway National Recreation Area. The site is also significant under NHL Criterion 4 (National Register Criterion C) for engineering between 1874 and 1919, the period when the Army's Ordnance Department operated the Sandy Hook Proving Ground. The Sandy Hook Light is also a NHL, as determined in 1977, and is significant under NHL Criterion 1 (National Register Criterion A) in the areas of commerce and transportation for the date of the Light's construction, 1764.

During the early part of the period of significance, the Fort Hancock coastal fortifications served as the key defensive post guarding the entrance to New York Harbor. After World War I when air power rendered many of the Fort Hancock batteries obsolete, the Post Grounds evolved into a key training, troop processing, and administrative facility. During the Cold War, the Post Grounds supported the Fort Hancock Nike missile facility.

For the purposes of this CLI, the historic significance of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds is evaluated according to National Register criteria A and C, which align with NHL Criterion 1 and 4, respectively. Fort Hancock's Post Grounds are also potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for community planning and development. The Post Grounds were designed in-house by the Army's Quartermaster Department who laid out a military district with a system of curvilinear streets, sidewalks, and open spaces that reflected spatial patterns used by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. This potential area of significance requires further examination that falls outside the scope of this CLI.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

Significant landscape characteristics identified for the Post Grounds include natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, buildings and structures, and small scale features. Many landscape features associated with these characteristics contribute to the overall historic significance and identity, while others do not. By comparing historic conditions with existing conditions, the CLI has determined that the Post Grounds landscape retains integrity to the periods of significance: 1764, 1874-1919, and 1896-1974.

Fort Hancock's Post Grounds are defined by the spatial organization of their elements. Open space, buildings, circulation routes, and plantings are all carefully designed to reflect a hierarchical arrangement of space appropriate to a military environment. Three major open spaces, the Parade Ground, Athletic Field, and Bay Frontage, along with scores of smaller open spaces form the backbone of the village or campus-like environment suited to the historic domestic, supply, and command functions of the former base. A series of vehicular and pedestrian circulation routes reinforce the graceful, arcing shapes of the Parade Ground and Athletic Field and connect the numerous buildings to one another. The gently undulating Hartshorne Drive parallels Sandy Hook Bay and is the location of the ranking officers quarters, where all views on site are focused. These eighteen distinctive buff-colored brick officers quarters are similar to one another in scale, design, material, and detailing and also share similar elements with the majority of the other buildings in the fort, contributing to the visually cohesive, planned community. Even the placement of vegetation and small scale features are subordinate to the larger design, being placed along roads and sidewalks to accentuate open spaces and to expose open view corridors.

The study area retains integrity to the periods of significance (1764, 1874-1919, and 1896-1974). Since the site has such a long period of significance, many features were added, removed, and altered throughout the historic period. However, for the purposes of assessing integrity, the CLI concludes that the overall historic character evident at the end date of the period of significance, 1974, exists today to convey historic conditions. Of the seven aspects of integrity defined by the National Register program, the Fort Hancock Post Grounds retain integrity of location, design, association, and materials. The site no longer retains integrity of setting, feeling, and workmanship due to shifting land use, deferred maintenance, and natural weathering.

The Post Grounds landscape is in good condition due to routine maintenance and selective rehabilitation projects. The park has replaced deteriorated concrete sidewalks, reset bluestone sidewalks, pruned street trees, and improved visitor services, notably by the extension of the multi-use path. They maintain picnic facilities at Guardian Park, maintain roads regularly, and mow the turf regularly. The one exception to this is the poor condition of the lighting system. The study area is inadequately lit by a random collection of street light styles.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Fort Hancock Post Grounds, along with the Fort Hancock Coastal Defense Batteries and Proving Ground, are two component landscapes of the larger Fort Hancock Military Reservation landscape, at the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. Gateway is comprised of two other units. The Jamaica Bay Unit contains the Breezy Point, Fort Tilden, Jacob Riis Park, and Floyd Bennett Field landscapes. The Staten Island Unit contains the Fort Wadsworth (including the Battery Weed Headlands component landscape), Great Kills, and Miller Field landscapes.

Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name: Fort Hancock Post Grounds **Other Name Type:** Current

Other Name: Fort Hancock **Other Name Type:** Historic

Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area



Site map, 2025 edits.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/18/2009

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI was compiled based on the 1997 Historic Landscape Assessment and the 2007 Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan. Site visits were conducted as components of each project.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

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P.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area

Gateway National Recreation Area concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Fort Hancock Post Grounds including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: 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 Inventory for Fort Hancock Post Grounds is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area

8/18/09

Date

Park concurrence form, August 18, 2009.

most populous urban area and principal port. A portion of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds are also significant under Criterion C in the area of engineering for its association with the operation of the former Sandy Hook Proving Ground. The Sandy Hook Light, also located within the Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of commerce and transportation and its role in guiding mariners into the busy port of New York past the dangerous shoals off the northern tip of Sandy Hook. Fort Hancock's Post Grounds may also be significant at the state or local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of community planning and development. The Post Grounds were designed by the Army's Quartermaster Department who laid out a military district with a system of curvilinear streets, sidewalks, and open spaces that reflected spatial patterns used by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. However, a formal investigation supporting this additional area of significance falls beyond the scope of this report.

There are three significant dates, or periods, associated with the Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape. The first being 1764, the date of the Sandy Hook Light's construction; the second period relating to the 1874-1919 operation of the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, when the United States Army Ordnance Department developed and used the facilities surviving within the study boundary of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape. The third period of significance is 1896-1974, beginning with the initial design and development of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds and extending to the de-activation and military divestment of the greater Fort Hancock Military Reservation.

The CLI fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that overall the Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance in the areas of military, social history, commerce, transportation, and engineering. The landscape characteristics and features that date to the period of significance should be preserved since they contribute to the historic character of the property. As noted previously, 112 of the resources and features on the enclosed lists have already been evaluated. There are 20 additional features related to spatial organization, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features that also contribute to the significance and historic character of Fort Hancock Post Grounds headland.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, the National Register Information and the statement of significance, and the Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we are confirming the following:

- The Fort Hancock Post Grounds, located within the Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of military and social history for the period 1896-1974, and Criterion C in the area of engineering for the period 1874-1919.
- The Sandy Hook Light, located within the Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of commerce and transportation, for the year 1764.

Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area

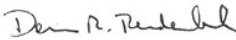
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- The property retains landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the sites' historic character (see enclosed lists).
- The cultural landscape retains integrity to the periods of significance.

If you concur with our categorization of the landscape resources and features at Fort Hancock Post Grounds at Gateway National Recreation Area, as contributing and noncontributing, enumerated on the enclosed list, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator, National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109. We would appreciate your response within thirty days. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 617-223-5053, or by email at jeff_killion@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Reidenbach
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosures

cc:
Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds resources and features at Gateway National Recreation Area as contributing or noncontributing.



DEPUTY
New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer

9/11/09

Date

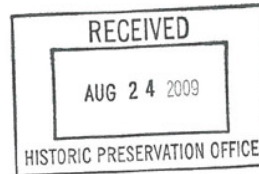
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-005)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-006)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-007)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-008)
- * Captains' Quarters (SH-009)
- * Captains' Quarters (SH-010)
- * Captains' Quarters (SH-011)
- * Commanding Officer's Quarters (SH-012)
- * Captains' Quarters (SH-013)
- * Captains' Quarters (SH-014)
- * Captains' Quarters (SH-015)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-016)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-017)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-018)
- * NCO Quarters (SH-020)
- * Duplex Officers' Quarters (SH-021)
- * Enlisted Men's Barracks (SH-022)
- * Enlisted Men's Barracks (SH-023)
- * Enlisted Men's Barracks (SH-024)
- * Enlisted Men's Barracks (SH-025)
- * Post Headquarters (SH-026)
- * Bachelor Officers' Quarters (SH-027)
- * Guardhouse (SH-028)
- * Duplex NCO Quarters (SH-029)
- * Duplex NCO Quarters (SH-030)
- * Quartermaster's Office and Storehouse (SH-032)
- * Bakery (SH-033)
- * Fire Station Office (SH-034)
- * Chapel (SH-035)
- * NCO Club-Post Stables (SH-036)
- * Pump House and Sewage Lift Station (SH-037)
- # Bus Shelter (SH-039)
- * Service Club YMCA Building (SH-040)
- * Post Office (SH-041)
- * Weighing Station (SH-044)
- * Shell Warehouse (SH-045)
- * Commissary (SH-047)
- * Quartermaster Warehouse (SH-049)
- * Fire House #1 (SH-051)
- * Duplex NCO Quarters (SH-052)
- * Administration (Canteen) Building (SH-053)
- * Mess Hall (SH-055)
- * Mess Hall (SH-056)
- * Mess Hall (SH-057)
- * Mess Hall (SH-058)
- * Post Exchange Service Station (SH-060)

Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
AUG 07 2009



H30 (NER-HPPC-OCLP)

Daniel Saunders
Acting Administrator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
501 Station Plaza PO BOX 404
Building 5 - 4th floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0404

Dear Mr. Saunders:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Fort Hancock Post Grounds, located within the Gateway National Recreation Area and consisting of resources associated with the military post developed in support of the garrison stationed at the Sandy Hook coastal defenses guarding the entrance to the New York Harbor. We seek your confirmation on previously evaluated resources and concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI and previously unevaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the National Park System, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one

SHPO concurrence letter, September 11, 2009 (8 pages).

component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds were included in the December 17, 1982 National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation for Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District. The NHL boundary included the entire Sandy Hook peninsula. Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground derives significance under NHL Criterion 1 for military and social history for the dates 1859-1950s relating to the development of Sandy Hook defenses and 1895-1949 for the operation of the Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station. The district is also significant under NHL Criterion 3 for engineering for the dates 1874-1919 as related to the operation of the Sandy Hook Proving Ground.

The Sandy Hook Light, which is located within the study boundary, was designated a NHL on January 29, 1964. It was administratively listed on the National Register on October 15, 1966. National Historic Landmark documentation for the Sandy Hook Light was approved on December 7, 1977. The Light derives significance under NHL Criterion 1 in the areas of commerce and transportation within the bracketed years 1700-1799, with a specific date of significance of 1764, the date when the structure was built.

In 1996-1997, your office and the NPS agreed to revise the end date of the period of significance to include the Nike missile era. Correspondence from the NPS to the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer in 1996 relating to the park's List of Classified Structures (LCS) explains that "... because the Nike missile era identified in the NHL documentation continued almost to the date of transfer between the military and the NPS, December 31, 1974, the deactivation date for Fort Hancock is used as the end date of the period of significance." Your concurrence with the NPS on January 2, 1997, established 1974 as the end date. This date has not been confirmed by the NHL program.

Prior to the NHL listing, the study area was a component of the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District, listed on the National Register on April 24, 1980. The boundary for this nomination included areas in the northern portion of the Sandy Hook peninsula that were historically associated with Fort Hancock and the Proving Ground. The 1982 NHL documentation supercedes the 1980 National Register documentation. The Post Grounds landscape is not described and evaluated in any documentation using National Register or NHL criteria.

For the purposes of this CLI, the historic significance of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds is evaluated according to National Register criteria A and C, which align with NHL Criterion 1 and 4, respectively. Consistent with NHL documentation, the findings of this CLI indicate that the Fort Hancock Post Grounds is significant under Criterion A in the area of military and social history for its lengthy period of service and role in the defense of New York City as the nation's

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area – Sandy Hook Unit
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Features
July 2009

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places. Those marked with an * have been listed in National Historic Landmark documentation. Features marked with a # have been determined eligible by the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office.

Spatial Organization

- Parade Ground
- Athletic Field
- Bay Frontage

Circulation

- # Guardian Park-Walkways (SH-P)
- # Enlisted Barracks-Walkways (SH-A)
- # Sergeant's Row-Walkways (SH-B)
- # Officer's Quarters-Walkways (SH-C)
- # Bluestone Curbing (SH-D)
- Hartshorne Drive
- Magruder Road
- Hudson Road
- Gunnison Road
- Mercer Road
- Kearney Road
- South Bragg Drive
- Kilpatrick Road
- Canfield Road
- M.A.S.T. Way

Vegetation

- Street Trees
- Turf
- Officer's Club Plantings

Buildings and Structures

- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-001)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-002)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-003)
- * Lieutenants' Quarters (SH-004)

- * NCO Quarters (SH-335)
- # Post Theater Transformer Building (SH-W)
- * Sandy Hook Light (SH-LIGHT)
- # Officer's Club-Outbuilding (SH-AA)
- # Officer's Row-Wood Bulkheads (SH-F)
- # Concrete Seawall (SH-H)

Views and Vistas

- Views of Sandy Hook Bay from Officer's Row
- Views between Officer's Row and Enlisted Men's Barracks

Small-scale Features

- * Flag Pole (SH-061)
- * 20 inch Rodman Gun (SH-100)
- # Mileage Markers (SH-E)
- # Nike Hercules Missile (SH-N)
- # Middletown Marker (SH-O)
- Aluminum Street Lights along Hartshorne Drive
- Concrete Street Lights

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation

- M.A.S.T. Campus Walkways

Vegetation

- Austrian Pines at Flagpole
- Successional woodland

Building and Structures

- James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory
- Building 303

Small-scale Features

- Tennis Courts (SH-091)
- Tennis Courts (SH-093)
- MAST and NOAA Street Lights
- "Cobra Head" Street Lights
- Benches at YMCA
- Picnic Tables at Guardian Park
- Street Signs and Directional Signage
- Trash Cans and Dumpsters

- * NCO Quarters (SH-064)
- * Storehouse (SH-065)
- * Duplex NCO Quarters (SH-066)
- * Theater (SH-067)
- * Post Exchange (SH-070)
- * Two Family NCO Quarters (SH-071)
- * Two Family NCO Quarters (SH-072)
- * Two Family NCO Quarters (SH-073)
- * Barracks and Mess (SH-074)
- * Two Family NCO Quarters (SH-075)
- * Fire House #2 (SH-076)
- * Post Laundry (SH-077)
- * Duplex NCO Quarters (SH-080)
- * Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keeper's House (SH-084)
- * Garage (SH-085)
- * Ordnance Barracks (SH-0102)
- * Foreman's Residence (SH-104)
- * Locomotive Engineer's Residence (SH-108)
- * Bus Shelter (SH-110)
- * Laundry (SH-113)
- * Brick House (SH-114)
- * Barracks (SH-119)
- * Barracks (SH-120)
- * Power Plant (SH-124)
- * Machine and Blacksmith Shop (SH-125)
- * Warehouse and Storehouse (SH-130)
- * Shelter House (SH-131)
- * Paint Shop (SH-132)
- * Duplex Officers' Quarters (SH-144)
- * Duplex Officers' Quarters (SH-145)
- * Post Engineer Warehouse (SH-156)
- * Officers' Latrine (SH-300)
- * Officers' Mess Hall (SH-301)
- * Camp Headquarters (SH-302)
- * Officers' Latrine (SH-304)
- * Dispensary (SH-305)
- * Sewage Pump Plant (SH-306)
- * Sewage Pump Station (SH-307)
- * Enlisted Men's Mess Hall (SH-315)
- * The Camp Post Exchange (SH-316)
- * Enlisted Men's Mess Hall (SH-317)
- * Enlisted Men's Latrine (SH-318)
- * Men's Lavatory Building (SH-319)
- * Enlisted Men's Latrine (SH-320)
- * Enlisted Men's Latrine (SH-321)
- * Post Morgue (Dead House) (SH-326)

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2025**

Gateway National Recreation Area
Battery Weed Headland, Floyd Bennett Field,
Fort Hancock Post Grounds, Fort Tilden

Gateway National Recreation Area concurs with the updates for the following CLIs,
including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Battery Weed Headland
 Fair – Floyd Bennett Field
 Fair – Fort Hancock Post Grounds
 Poor – Fort Tilden

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 CLI Updates at Gateway National Recreation Area are hereby approved and accepted.

EMINA SENDICH  Digitally signed by EMINA
SENDICH
Date: 2025.07.23 16:31:33 -04'00'

Acting Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area

Date

Park concurrence form, July 23, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	07/23/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Fort Hancock Post Grounds CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
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Size (Acres): 138

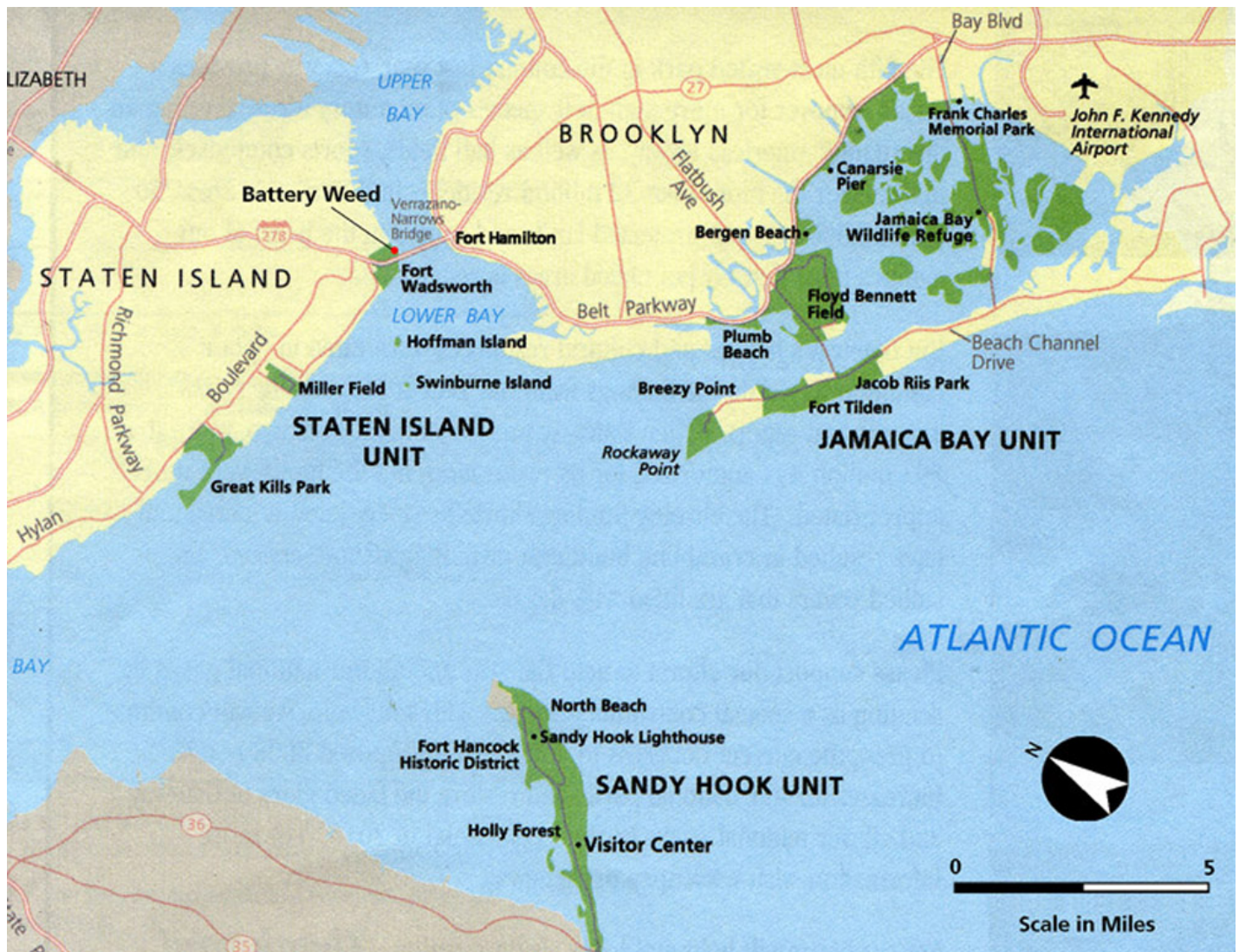
Land Tract Number(s)

Boundary Description:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) boundary focuses on lands on the northwest side of the Sandy Hook peninsula. The study area primarily encompasses facilities built to support the Fort Hancock coastal batteries. The study area is comprised of approximately 138 acres on the south side of the U.S. Coast Guard, Sandy Hook Station.

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds are accessed via the park’s main gate and entry road that branches off of New Jersey State Route 36. The study area begins at the intersection of Hartshorne Drive and Magruder Road and is prominently marked by the Nike missile displayed at Guardian Park. Traveling north from Guardian Park along Hartshorne Drive, the project boundary encompasses Officer’s Row and the open space along Sandy Hook Bay. The boundary includes a small projectile of land surrounding the chapel and ferry landing before making a turn northeast to exclude the active Coast Guard base. The boundary continues north before turning east at the NPS maintenance area. The boundary then turns southeast and follows Atlantic Drive at the northern most portion of the study area before turning southwest on South Bragg Drive. At the intersection of South Bragg Drive and Knox Road, the boundary turns south, following Knox Road to its juncture with Hudson Road. It follows Hudson Road to the intersection with Magruder Road before turning east to include the M.A.S.T. campus. The boundary turns east along Gunnison Road before turning southeast to include the Howard Laboratory on Magruder road. The boundary then follows Magruder Road southeast, past Guardian Park to the point of beginning.

Location Map:



Location Map Information. Image depicting the units of Gateway National Recreation Area. Sandy Hook is in the bottom center of the image (GATE files).

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds, part of the Sandy Hook peninsula, are characterized by natural features, notably the flat terrain and proximity to water. The evolution of the site is a consequence of the peninsula's location at the mouth of the outer New York Harbor. Early in the development of the Post Grounds, the Army built seawalls along Sandy Hook Bay to stabilize the shoreline. They also graded the natural topography and added topsoil to create a suitable base for planting. These efforts reduced the appearance of the site's natural characteristics, creating a highly manipulated landscape that is still evident today.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Post Grounds were historically used as an Army base. The number of stationed personnel varied greatly throughout the period of significance from several hundred to several thousand, depending on the political climate. The post served as the home base for the men assigned to the Fort Hancock coastal batteries and as a processing center for troops departing for and returning from war during the World Wars of the twentieth century. After 1974, the Army deactivated Fort Hancock and the area became part of the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area (NRA). Since that time, the entire peninsula, minus the active Coast Guard base at the northern tip of the peninsula, has functioned as a recreational park and is open to the public.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds are a component of the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway NRA. Prior to 1974, the peninsula was controlled by the Army who operated a base on site beginning in 1896. The Army had a presence on site prior to that when they began, but did not finish, a masonry fortification in the late 1850s. The Army deactivated Fort Hancock in 1974 and the peninsula, minus the Active Coast Guard base, was incorporated into Gateway NRA that had been established in 1972.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/18/2009

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Both the Sandy Hook Light and the Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District have been designated National Historic Landmarks. Therefore, the management category is "Must Be Preserved and Maintained."

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 03/31/2010

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The American Littoral Society occupies building 18 under a special use permit that will soon be converted to a lease.

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 03/31/2014

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Clean Ocean Action occupies building 18 under a special use permit.

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 06/30/2019

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Brookdale Community college occupies building 53 under a special use permit.

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Sandy Hook Child Care Center occupies building 335 under a special use permit. An extension of the agreement is pending.

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 12/31/2020

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The New Jersey Audubon Society occupies building 20 under a cooperative agreement.

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 09/22/2018

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The Marine Academy for Science and Technology occupies twelve buildings on site under a memorandum of agreement.

Type of Agreement: Memorandum of Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 02/21/2022

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The Sandy Hook Foundation occupies building 84 under a memorandum of agreement.

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 04/03/2010

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The New Jersey Lighthouse Society occupies building 84 under a commercial use authority.

Type of Agreement: Lease

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 06/30/2025

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The New Jersey Marine Science Consortium occupies building 22 under a lease agreement.

Type of Agreement: Lease

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 08/07/2091

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The State of New Jersey has a 100 year ground lease on building 74 and the Howard Laboratory

Type of Agreement: Lease

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 06/30/2064

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Sandy Hook Partners has a 60 year lease on 36 buildings on site

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

The surrounding ocean, Sandy Hook Bay, and coastal batteries contribute to the setting and historic character of the Post Grounds.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds were included in the December 17, 1982 National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation for Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District. The NHL boundary included the entire Sandy Hook peninsula. Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground derives national significance under NHL Criterion 1 for military and social history for the dates 1859-1950s relating to the development of Sandy Hook defenses and 1895-1949 for the operation of the Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station. The district is also significant under NHL Criterion 3 for engineering for the dates 1874-1919 as related to the operation of the Sandy Hook Proving Ground.

The Sandy Hook Light, which is located within the study boundary, was designated a NHL on January 29, 1964. It was administratively listed on the National Register on October 15, 1966. National Historic Landmark documentation for the Sandy Hook Light was approved on December 7, 1977. The Light derives significance under NHL Criterion 1 in the areas of commerce and transportation within the bracketed years 1700-1799, with a specific date of significance of 1764, the date when the structure was built.

In 1996-1997, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service (NPS) agreed to revise the end date of the period of significance to include the Nike missile era. Correspondence from the NPS to the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer in 1996 relating to the park's List of Classified Structures (LCS) explains that "... because the Nike missile era identified in the NHL documentation continued almost to the date of transfer between the military and the NPS, December 31, 1974, the deactivation date for Fort Hancock is used as the end date of the period of significance." This date has not been confirmed by the NHL program. Concurrence on this matter from the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office on January 2, 1997, established 1974 as the end date of the period of significance.

Prior to the NHL listing, the study area was a component of the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District, listed on the National Register on April 24, 1980. The boundary for this nomination included areas in the northern portion of the Sandy Hook peninsula that were historically associated with Fort Hancock and the Proving Ground. The 1982 NHL documentation supercedes the 1980 National Register documentation. The Post Grounds landscape is not described and evaluated in any documentation using National Register or NHL criteria.

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/11/2009

Concurrence Narrative:

The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office concurred with the categorization of the landscape resources and features at Fort Hancock Post Grounds, Gateway National Recreation Area, as contributing and noncontributing, on September 11, 2009. The SHPO had no additional comments on the report.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The following statement of significance for the Fort Hancock Post Grounds Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is based on, and consistent with, the 1982 National Historic Landmark (NHL) documentation for the Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District; the 1981 Historic Resource Study for Fort Hancock; the 1997 Fort Hancock Landscape Assessment; and the 1997 findings of the Gateway National Recreation Area List of Classified Structures (LCS) for the Sandy Hook Unit. Based upon these documents, the Fort Hancock Post Grounds is significant under NHL Criterion 1, which corresponds to National Register Criterion A, in the area of military and social history for the dates 1896-1974. A portion of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds are also significant under NHL Criterion 4, which corresponds to National Register Criterion C, in the area of engineering for the dates 1874-1919 owing to the presence of facilities of the former Sandy Hook Proving Ground. The Sandy Hook Light, also located within the Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape, is significant under NHL Criterion 1, which corresponds to National Register Criterion A, in the area of commerce and transportation for the date of 1764, when it was constructed.

The boundary of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape inventory primarily includes resources associated with the military post developed in support of the garrison stationed at the Sandy Hook coastal defenses guarding the entrance to the New York Harbor. Before 1896 the military post at Sandy Hook was simply known as "The Fort at Sandy Hook." After 1896, the entire Sandy Hook peninsula was renamed as the Fort Hancock Military Reservation. The Fort Hancock Post Grounds were developed as central open spaces, facilities, and infrastructure, making possible the operation of the coastal batteries found throughout the greater military reservation. Owing to its historic defensive purpose, the Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape is significant for its association with the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, and with the Cold War-era Nike missile defense systems. The Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape is also the site of facilities associated with the administration of the former Sandy Hook Proving Ground, an important armament testing facility operating between 1874-1919. The Sandy Hook Proving Ground, pursuing an independent military mission and purpose separate from the direct defense of New York Harbor, maintained separate administration, staff, and specialized facilities relating to the development and testing of weapons. Most of the facilities superintended as the Sandy Hook Proving Ground were located outside of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds, yet several buildings in the northern portion of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds were historically developed to support the Sandy Hook Proving Ground.

The Sandy Hook Light, a navigational beacon and lighthouse keepers quarters, is also located within the Fort Hancock Post Grounds and is significant under NHL Criterion 1 (National Register Criterion A), in the areas of commerce and transportation for the year 1764, the date of construction. The Sandy Hook Light was constructed to guide mariners into the busy port of New York past the dangerous shoals off the northern tip of Sandy Hook.

There are three significant dates, or periods, associated with the Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape. The first being 1764, the date of the Sandy Hook Light's construction; the second period relating to the 1874-1919 operation of the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, when the United States Army Ordnance Department developed and used the facilities surviving within the study boundary of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape. The third period of significance is 1896-1974, beginning with the initial design and development of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds and extending to the de-activation and military divestment of the greater Fort Hancock Military Reservation.

Fort Hancock's Post Grounds may also be significant at the state or local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of community planning and development. While a formal investigation supporting this additional area of significance falls beyond the scope of this inventory project, the following is presented as a preliminary examination of the facts.

As part of the nationwide Endicott System of coastal defenses constructed in the late-nineteenth century, the Fort Hancock Post Grounds were designed to accommodate a garrison of soldiers in relative comfort in spite of its isolated location. Fort Hancock, and other coastal defenses such as those defending Boston Harbor and Portland Maine, functioned much like self-sufficient planned communities. The Army's Quartermaster Department laid out the Fort Hancock Post Grounds in 1896 after rejecting the

regimentation of an earlier gridiron plan proposed by the New York architectural firm Carrere and Hastings. The Quartermaster Department's plan instead provided for a curvilinear system of roads and walkways recalling suburban patterns made popular by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. in his 1868 design for the town of Riverside, Illinois, and later at Baltimore's Roland Park, designed in 1891. The Army Quartermaster Department's design for the Fort Hancock Post Grounds also made use of design precedents established earlier at Fort Ethan Allen Vermont, constructed in 1894 using strikingly similar spatial patterns, curvilinear streets, and Georgian revival architecture.

Shade trees lined the gently curving streets of the Post Grounds, providing relief from the sun for soldiers, officers, and their families moving about through the landscape. Open spaces were provided not only for military drills, but also for the recreational and aesthetic enjoyment of those required to spend their leisure hours on site. Smaller details such as decorative street lighting, cobblestone crosswalks, and landscape plantings adjacent to residential buildings lent the Fort Hancock Post Grounds qualities similar to a small town. Nevertheless, the presence of decorative salute cannon, small monuments of stacked cannonballs, and the centrally located United States flag left no doubt as to the military purpose of this community.

NHL CRITERION 1 (NR CRITERION A) - MILITARY AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds is significant in the area of military and social history owing to its lengthy period of service and role in the defense of New York City as the nation's most populous urban area and principal port. The following exploration of the significant military and social history themes associated with the Fort Hancock Post Grounds have been excerpted from the 1982 National Historic Landmark documentation:

"For 200 years, Sandy Hook played an important role in the defense of the approaches to New York Harbor. In the summer of 1776, British warships and transport [ships] used Sandy Hook and Raritan Bays as a rendezvous, while Maj. William Howe's army flexed its muscles on Staten Island.... In the summer of 1778, following the battle of Monmouth, the British Army stole a march on the victorious Patriots and retired to Sandy Hook. From there, the troops were shuttled by the Royal Navy to New York City.

"During the War of 1812, the United States military, to prevent His Majesty's fleet from again occupying sheltered anchorages at Sandy Hook and Raritan Bays, rushed troops to Sandy Hook. Fortifications were erected and cannon emplaced, thus preventing British seapower from again using Sandy Hook as an anchorage and possible staging area for an attack on New York City, such as had succeeded more than one-third of a century before. At the end of the war, the troops were withdrawn from Sandy Hook and the temporary fortifications and camps merged into the landscape.

"By the 1850s, the United States had completed an integrated system of masonry fortifications for defense of New York City's inner harbor. But during these same years there had been a technological revolution afloat. Many merchantmen and warships were now propelled by steam, and were no longer subject to the whims of the winds. Powerful long-range shell guns were now mounted on ships and available for emplacement ashore. The time had arrived for the Nation to look to the outer defenses of New York Harbor. A site was selected and plans made for construction of a massive five bastioned fort on Sandy Hook.... In 1857 the Corps of Engineers began preparing the site and two years later broke ground for the fort. Work was pushed during the Civil War years. By 1863 construction had progressed on the huge granite fort to the point where cannon were mounted in a number of casemates on the channel fronts. Troops were sent to the Hook to man this armament and guard the public property. The Civil War accelerated a technological revolution in weaponry that made the handsome granite fort obsolete before it was completed. Construction was suspended in 1868.

"In 1886, the Endicott Board submitted its report calling for a comprehensive defense system to protect the United States' most important ports and harbors from naval attack.... Sandy Hook, under this program and ensuing ones, evolved into the most important complex guarding the approaches to New York Harbor.... Beginning in Fiscal Year 1890 and continuing through 1908, hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on construction and armament of seacoast and mortar batteries.

"Upon the completion of the initial set of defenses at Sandy Hook, it became essential that permanent facilities for a garrison be erected. In 1896, the Quartermaster's Department detailed Captain Arthur

Murray to draw up a master plan for the newly designated Fort Hancock. The site selected for the post was to the south of Battery Potter, and west of Battery Reynolds, but within a convenient distance of each. The site on the western side of the peninsula was cleared and graded and an irregularly oblong parade [ground] was laid out. The officers quarters were arranged in a row along Hartshorne Drive on the western side of the parade and the enlisted men's barracks were constructed on the eastern side. The guardhouse and administration building, as well as bachelor officers quarters, were arranged across the middle of the parade. The initial buildings were largely completed by private contractors by December 1899. As the fortifications expanded, it was necessary to enlarge the garrison as well, and construction of the post continued at a steady pace up to 1922 after which time [development] became more sporadic."

A continuation of the exploration of the significant military and social history themes has been excerpted from the 1981 Historic Resource Study of Fort Hancock prepared by Edwin C. Bearss:

"Fort Hancock was first garrisoned on March 14, 1898, five weeks before the United States declared war on Spain. Until the barracks and quarters were completed, the troops lived in temporary housing. The garrison was strengthened in the ensuing weeks as various units arrived and departed.

"During the years between the Spanish-American War and the entry of the United States into World War I, Fort Hancock was an important post garrisoned at first by four companies of coast artillery and then by six companies. Beginning in 1908, all coastal artillery units stationed in the New York Harbor Defenses spent several weeks annually at Sandy Hook firing the coast defense and rapid-fire guns... Class [es] from the United States Military Academy made annual visits to Sandy Hook.

"In the summer of 1917, following the nation's entry into the Great War, the coast artillery units manning the Sandy Hook defenses were heavily reinforced. A number of artillery and trench mortar units slated for service overseas were organized and trained at Fort Hancock. In 1918 the Ordnance Department established its important Sandy Hook Ordnance Depot on the reservation. Upon the return of peace, the post played a role in demobilization. Then in 1919, the Sandy Hook Proving Ground and the ordnance depot were phased out. The structures and improvements belonging to these two facilities were transferred to Fort Hancock.

"Between World War I and September 1940, the post was home to several coast artillery units of the country's small peacetime military establishment. During the summers, Fort Hancock provided facilities and instructors for the National Guard, civilian military training corps (CMTC), reserve officers training corps (ROTC) and army reserve encampments. Starting in 1937, Fort Hancock was also the site of a vital mission: the testing of equipment by the signal corps, which led the way in the development and deployment of radar.

"Taking cognizance of the growing threat to American security resulting from the sweeping successes scored by German military power in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a national emergency and federalized the National Guard, while Congress passed the nation's first peacetime Selective Service Act. Fort Hancock had an important role in the country's buildup of its defenses in the months between September 1940 and attack on Pearl Harbor. Units trained at Sandy Hook were manning coastal defense guns in Newfoundland and Bermuda when Japan struck.

"During World War II Fort Hancock became headquarters for the harbor defenses of New York and the New York Subsector. In addition to coast artillery and anti-aircraft units, a mobile defense force, the 113th Regimental Combat Team, was assigned to the command.... The number and strength of the units assigned to Fort Hancock and the New York Harbor Defenses were slashed. In the spring of 1944, the 113th Regimental Combat Team was reassigned, preparatory to redeployment to Europe. During 1945 and 1946, Fort Hancock served the nation as a primary reception center for troops returning from the European theater, before being demobilized and discharged. It was also the site of a disciplinary barracks, where military prisoners sent to the United States were confined.

"Between 1946 and 1950, when Fort Hancock was deactivated in the interest of economy, the post functioned as a key installation for defense of the New York area against air attack. It was again garrisoned by a small force and hosted the civilian soldiers of the army reserve during the summers."

The Fort Hancock Military Reservation was shuttered briefly for ten months prior to being reactivated in 1950 at the onset of the Korean War. Shortly thereafter, the defensive mission shifted as the Army utilized the Fort Hancock Military Reservation for Nike Ajax and Hercules missile systems defending the New York City metropolitan area against aerial attack by long-range bombers. Development of separate yet functionally linked Nike radar and Nike launch sites was accomplished well south of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds, however the pre-existing facilities and infrastructure of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds continued to serve as the administrative and support center for the missile systems. The development of supersonic Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) ultimately rendered the Nike system obsolete and by the late 1960s, discussions were underway that eventually lead to the abandonment of Fort Hancock and its coastal defense mission. The 1974 closure of the Fort Hancock Military Reservation took place as the United States and the former Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race. With the doctrine of "Mutually Assured Destruction" serving as the deterrent to nuclear powers contemplating a first strike, this effectively ended the defensive mission of Fort Hancock and other coastal defense sites like it throughout the United States.

Numerous surviving landscape features dating to the period of significance contribute to the historic character of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds cultural landscape. Important spatial relationships established early in Fort Hancock's development continue to reflect the former hierarchy of military life. The open spaces of the Parade Ground and Athletic Field served on a practical level as places for military drilling and recreation but also created open view corridors between the quarters for enlisted men and their commanding officers. Buildings were clustered according to use, creating zones of officer's housing, enlisted men's barracks and service buildings. Post roads lined with street trees were arranged into graceful curves that reinforced a sense of order and directed outward distant views between uniformly styled buildings. The minimal and largely uniform plantings of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape contributed to the institutional character of the district. Street trees, large expanses of turf, and limited foundation plantings at residential buildings completed the plant palette.

Existing landscape features that contribute to the historic character of Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape include the open spaces of the Parade Ground and Athletic Field, street trees, turfgrass, roads, sidewalks, flagpole, and the many buff-colored brick buildings.

NHL CRITERION 4 (NR CRITERION C) - ENGINEERING

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape is significant in the area of engineering owing to its association with the operation of the former Sandy Hook Proving Ground. The following statement outlining this significance has been excerpted from the 1982 NHL nomination:

"In August 1874, steps were taken by the Army's Ordnance Department to establish a Proving Ground at Sandy Hook, New Jersey. Operating on a shoestring budget, the Ordnance people moved expeditiously, and in the fourth week of October the first round was fired from a temporary proof battery. The testing facility soon became one of the Army's most important installations.

"A technical revolution in weaponry, sparked by the industrial revolution and fed by the fires of nationalism, was underway on both sides of the Atlantic. The United States at first lagged in the contest. But in the mid-1880s, Congress, taking cognizance of the powerful modern navies being built by a number of European powers, began to make significant appropriations for the development and manufacture of powerful, sophisticated rifled guns and mortar for emplacement in the Nation's coastal fortifications.

"The Sandy Hook Proving Ground played a vital role in this program. All the experimental guns and carriages for the sea coast defenses were tested at Sandy Hook. After a model had been accepted by the Ordnance Board and placed in production, all the guns and carriages manufactured by the Army Gun Factory, other arsenals, or private contractors were shipped to Sandy Hook to be proof fired before being sent to the site where they were to be emplaced. This practice continued for many years. All the big guns and mortars and their carriages mounted in the Nation's Endicott and Taft period coastal fortifications from [the] early 1890s through World War II were developed at Sandy Hook and many of them [were] proofed there..."

The primary structures relating to the test firings of weapons at the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, most

significantly the Proof Battery, reside outside the Fort Hancock Post Grounds. Others, like the Chemistry Lab (Building 109) are also found outside the Fort Hancock Post Grounds, being within the current active U.S. Coast Guard Station boundary. However, numerous structures once used for Sandy Hook Proving Ground housing, storage, and maintenance of weaponry are located in the northern portion of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape. These include the Officers Club (Building 114) once known as the Red Brick House when it was used by Proving Ground personnel, the Laundry (Building 113), the Master Workman's Residence (Building 112), the Foreman's Residence (Building 104), the Locomotive Engineer's Residence (Building 108), the Ordnance Barracks (Building 102), the Power Plant (Building 124), the Machine and Blacksmith Shop (Building 125), a Warehouse and Storehouse (Building 130), the Shelter House (Building 131), and the Paint Shop (Building 132). After the Proving Ground was shuttered in 1919, these buildings were redirected to support the defensive mission of the greater Fort Hancock Military Reservation.

NHL CRITERION 1 (NR CRITERION A) - COMMERCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Owing to the presence of the Sandy Hook Light being within its boundaries, the Fort Hancock Post Grounds are significant to the history of commerce and transportation. The following examination of the themes commerce and transportation associated with the history of the Sandy Hook Light has been excerpted from the NHL documentation of 1977:

"In 1761, the merchants of New York City financed a lottery to raise sufficient funds to erect a lighthouse on Sandy Hook to guide ships past the New Jersey Shoal into New York harbour. Built by Isaac Contro by June 11, 1764, the 105' brick and masonry lighthouse was called the "New York Lighthouse." The cost of construction was defrayed by a 22 cent per ton tax levied on ships entering the harbour.

"During the [American] Revolution, the Americans put the light out of operation in March, 1776, so that the British could not benefit from it. However the enemy soon repaired the beacon and despite an attempt to destroy it by cannon fire, by an intrepid band in small boat, the light has remained lit except during the blackouts of the Second World War.

"In addition to shining its beacon at night, the lighthouse communicated with lookouts on Staten Island during the day by flying a series of varicolored shapes on top of the tower, which indicated inbound inbound vessels at the Narrows.

"Sandy Hook Light was ceded to the Federal Government in 1789. In 1823 a light ship, the "Sandy Hook," was put into operation, to facilitate shipping. A light ship is still in use today, and the lighthouse is no longer listed by the Coast Guard as a seacoast lighthouse. Nonetheless, Sandy Hook Light and its fellow lights at Navesink still shine, warning mariners of the dangerous shoals of the New Jersey coast."

National Register Significance Criteria:

- A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
- C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1764 - CE 1764

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Developing the American Economy	Shipping and Transportation by Water	Ships, Boats, Lighthouses, And Other Structures	

Time Period: CE 1874 - CE 1919

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939	America Becomes A World Power, 1865-1914	
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939	World War I, 1914-1919	

Time Period: CE 1896 - CE 1974

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs After 1945	The "Cold War" With The Soviet Union	
Shaping the Political Landscape	World War II	The Home Front	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Social History

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Transportation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Commerce

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Engineering

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS ID: 80002505

Primary Certification Date: 04/24/1980

NRIS ID: 80002505

Primary Certification Date: 12/17/1982

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number: 2024

Name: Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground
Historic District

Listed Date: 04/24/1980

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? Yes

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1764	Built	Sandy Hook Light is built to guide ships into New York Harbor.
CE 1859	Built	Work begins on a granite fortress on the northern tip of Sandy Hook. Work continues through the Civil War but the project is abandoned before it is complete.
CE 1896	Built	Planning and construction begins on Fort Hancock, New Jersey, named for Civil War Major General Winfield Scott Hancock. The fort is planned to accommodate soldiers assigned to the Sandy Hook batteries, built to protect the lower New York Harbor.
CE 1897	Built	Shoreline protection is installed along Sandy Hook Bay to contain the shifting shoreline.
CE 1898	Planted	A privet hedge is planted along Hartshorne Drive to prevent sand from drifting onto the fort landscape.
CE 1899	Graded	63,000 square yards of topsoil is added to the landscape to create a suitable environment for lawns and plantings.
CE 1899	Engineered	Brick and concrete walkways and macadam roads are built in the fort.
CE 1899 - 1905	Built	Additional buildings are constructed at Fort Hancock including mess halls, the YMCA, and service buildings.
CE 1902	Graded	Additional landscaping is done to remove large drifts of sand, add topsoil, and re-seed the Parade Ground and Athletic Field.
CE 1903	Moved	The twenty-inch Rodman Gun is placed in the planting area across from the former theatre.
CE 1905	Planted	Street trees are transplanted from the surrounding woods.
CE 1907	Built	A large, new barracks is built to accommodate the increased number of troops at Fort Hancock.
CE 1917	Built	Temporary service-oriented buildings are built along the perimeter of Fort Hancock to meet the needs of the additional troops on site during World War I.
CE 1922	Demolished	Many of the temporary buildings constructed to accommodate World War I activities are dismantled.
CE 1930 - 1939	Demolished	In the 1930s, a small lighthouse on Sandy Hook Bay, West Beacon, is demolished and an additional officer's quarters is constructed along Hartshorne Drive.
CE 1930 - 1939	Altered	The flagpole at the post flagstaff is replaced and the plaza around the flagpole is altered.
CE 1937	Moved	The Rodman Gun is moved to a traffic island at the intersection of Hartshorne Drive and Kearney Road.
CE 1940 - 1942	Built	In preparation for World War II, over one hundred temporary buildings are constructed at Fort Hancock along the periphery of the fort.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1942	Altered	The appearance of the Parade Ground is altered with the addition of a covered walkway connecting the hospital to the annex of Building 74.
CE 1942	Removed	Decorative ordnance that had been located throughout the landscape for decades is removed in the scrap drives of World War II.
CE 1950 - 1960	Demolished	Many of the temporary World War II structures are removed during the military cut-backs of the 1950s.
CE 1970 - 1972	Built	The Army builds Guardian Park at the entrance to Fort Hancock and places a Nike missile in the area. The park is minimally landscaped with turf grass and rose bush plantings.
CE 1974	Abandoned	The Army de-activates Fort Hancock.
CE 1974	Established	Fort Hancock, and all of Sandy Hook, is incorporated into Gateway National Recreation Area.
CE 1974 - 2009	Maintained	The NPS maintains the fort landscape and buildings to the best of their ability with limited funding. Some structures are used for park housings, some are leased to park partners, and some are vacant.
CE 1985	Destroyed	The hospital is burned to the ground by an arsonist.
CE 1986	Built	Park partner, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, builds a new facility on site to replace the space they lost in the hospital fire.
CE 2004	Built	The NPS builds a multi-use path the length of the peninsula for walking, jogging, and biking.

Physical History:

SANDY HOOK LIGHT

Private citizens from New York, needing to warn ships entering the busy port of New York about the dangerous shoals off the coast of New Jersey, financed the construction of the Sandy Hook Light on the tip of the peninsula in 1764. It was a tapered octagonal structure with eighty-five foot high masonry walls that were seven feet thick at the base. Shortly after its construction, the Light became contested ground during in the American Revolution. The British, who moored their fleet in the outer harbor prior to their assault on New York, seized the Light in the summer of 1776. Local patriots disabled the lighthouse and attempted to gain control of it using guerilla tactics with no success. The British retained control of the lighthouse for the duration of the war. It was ceded to the Federal Government in 1789. The light remains operational, after only being darkened during World War II, making it the oldest functioning lighthouse in the nation.

SANDY HOOK PROVING GROUND

The Army's Ordnance Department established an armament testing facility, or Proving Ground, at Sandy Hook in 1874. The post soon grew to become one of the Army's most important testing facilities. At one time, all the guns manufactured by the Army or private contractors were shipped to Sandy Hook to be tested before they were considered ready for use. Early temporary batteries were soon replaced by permanent structures, notably the Proof Battery, built on north beach. The large concrete structure was equipped with numerous gun mounts facing south for test firing down the beach. Several ammunition magazine structures were built in association with the Proof Battery. The Ordnance Department constructed numerous residential and equipment storage and maintenance buildings beginning in the 1870s to support Proving Ground activities and staff northwest of the testing range, inside the study area. These included officers' housing (that later became the Fort Hancock Officers Club), a laundry, paint shop, machine shop, chemical laboratory, and power plant, among others.

The Proving Ground served as one of the Army's key testing facilities until 1919 when the advancement of weaponry made the relatively short testing field at Sandy Hook too small. The Army deactivated the Proving Ground and the facilities in the northwest portion of the study area that had been devoted to Proving Ground activities were redirected to functions associated with Fort Hancock.

EARLY FORTIFICATION OF SANDY HOOK

By the 1850s, Army engineers turned their attention from fortifying locations in the inner New York Harbor to more remote locations to counter the advances made in naval armament. Enemy ships contained powerful guns that had the capability of hitting the city from safe distances in the outer harbor. To address this, coastal fortifications were moved farther away from major ports. Sandy Hook had been intermittently used as a defensive post for decades, during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Under the Third System of Harbor Defense, the War Department solidified Sandy Hook's role as a key strategic location for the New York Metro area, allocating funds for the construction of a permanent masonry fort on the northern tip of the peninsula. Work began on a large granite fortress in 1858 and progressed through the Civil War. Certain sections were finished enough to fortify with cannon but the project in its entirety was never completed. The invention of rifled artillery during the Civil War exposed the weaknesses of rigid masonry fortifications and future defensive works were constructed of a combination of earth and concrete. Most of the fortress was dismantled, with the exception of an east-facing portion that was incorporated into the west-facing entryway to Battery Potter in 1891.

FORT HANCOCK'S DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1885, President Grover Cleveland directed the Army to reexamine the state of the nation's coastal defenses, which had not been comprehensively studied since the Third System (between 1816 and the 1850s). The resulting study, generated by the Endicott Board, recommending the replacement of the out-dated granite fortifications at Sandy Hook, as well as dozens of others similar to it on the Atlantic coast. These older defenses were to be replaced with modern weaponry and fortifications equal to the task of defending the most important ports of the United States. The improvements recommended by the Endicott Board included high powered guns and mortars mounted in concrete emplacements, submarine minefields, floating batteries, torpedo boats, and rapid-fire guns to protect the minefields. The installation of this advanced weaponry made it necessary to provide for an expanded garrison of well trained soldiers to operate the new generation of armament. In 1895, planning for accommodating this garrison led to the establishment of what was known historically as "Fort Hancock." The name was chosen to honor Major General Winfield Scott Hancock who had served the Union during the Civil War and had made an unsuccessful campaign for the presidency in 1880.

Located on a remote site, this large garrison of artillery soldiers required a range of facilities where they could live in relative comfort and train in their specialties. Due to their isolation, Fort Hancock and other similar installations were required to be relatively self sufficient, functioning like independent planned communities.

The Army's Quartermaster Department detailed Captain Arthur Murray to draw up a master plan for the newly designated Fort Hancock Post Grounds. The site selected for the post was convenient to the gun batteries and well out of harms way of the Proving Ground test range to the east.

Captain Murray informally sought the advice of personal friends who were principals in the New York architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings. Excited to become involved in the detailed planning of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds, Carrere and Hastings submitted an ambitious Beaux Arts site plan for the Fort that was never implemented. The final site plan as developed by the Army's Quartermaster Department was more similar to Murray's preliminary sketches than to the Carrere and Hastings plan. The final scheme fit within the limits of existing railway lines serving pre-existing gun batteries and inside an area surrounded by marshland.

The final design concept for the Post Grounds organized the accommodations for the garrison of officers and enlisted men around and enclosing two primary open spaces. These spaces became the Parade Ground to the south of the Sandy Hook Light and an Athletic Field to the north of the Sandy Hook Light. These two open spaces were separated by Hudson Road running east-west from its intersection with Hartshorne Drive in a curvilinear line roughly east towards the Sandy Hook Light. The officer's quarters were organized in a row running north-south, fronting onto Sandy Hook Bay. The Commanding Officer's Quarters was located at the center of Officer's Row, close to the center of the Parade Ground and flanked by a descending hierarchy of quarters for ranking officers to the north and south. Captain's quarters neighbored the Commanding Officers, while most junior Lieutenant's quarters were placed north of Hudson Road. The site was further zoned from north to south, with the placement of workshops and other service buildings at the northern end of the fort. This left the fort's hospital, placed at the opposite southern end, in quieter zone well suited to recuperating medical patients (Figure 1). Building designs were selected from other military bases elsewhere in the country. One of the notable refinements was the specification of a buff or dusty yellow color for the exterior brickwork.

Fort Hancock's natural landscape was typified by the irregular topography of dunes and native vegetation. This vegetation included Eastern red cedars, holly, beach plum, and a considerable amount of poison ivy. In 1896, before construction could begin, it was first necessary to clear away the vegetation and conduct an accurate topographic survey. This was accomplished by late summer and regrading began in spring of the following year. Throughout 1897, problems with defaulting contractors delayed the progress of construction. By July 1898, only seven of the proposed thirty-two buildings were near completion.

One of the first construction projects that the new fort required was the stabilization of the constantly shifting shoreline of Sandy Hook Bay. The first shoreline protection was installed as early as 1897 and was reinforced over time. There is evidence that the surface of the bay frontage land along "Officer's Row" was covered with coarse textured beach grass. To both hide the potentially unkempt, "un-military" appearance of the beach grass, as well as to prevent sand from drifting across Hartshorne Drive, a privet hedge was installed at the eastern edge of the bay front open space. This hedge accompanied street tree plantings and helped to define the edge of the bay frontage open space. The total length of the privet hedge extended for almost three thousand linear feet.

In September 1899, twenty-three months after the date stipulated in the original contract, the last of the original thirty-two Post Grounds buildings had been completed. During the final months of construction, a contract for landscaping was carried out which included the installation of brick and concrete walkways as well as macadam roads, featuring stone and wooden curbing. Off shore winds had scoured the recently levelled grounds of the new fort. In order to establish turf and other vegetation, over 63,000 square yards of topsoil was installed as part of this 1899 landscape contract.

Additional facilities were constructed between 1899 and 1905. This included mess halls adjacent to each enlisted men's barracks, the YMCA social facilities, and various service oriented buildings. The Post Ground's landscape was further developed during these years with the installation of additional topsoil, the construction of walkways, and the installation of street lighting. Small trees were transplanted from the surrounding woods in the hope of eventually providing some shade for the fort.

The initial installation of topsoil in 1899 had apparently been inadequate. By March 1900, there was an urgent need for additional landscape work because the loose sand from the Parade Ground had blown over walkways and the bases of buildings, requiring a great deal of labor to remove it (Figure 2). Winds had scoured new gouges out of the Parade Ground and Athletic Field two to five feet deep. The resulting dunes were level with the tops of lamp-posts. As a result, an additional contract was let for landscaping specifying, "the spaces before referred to should be graded, covered with six inches of red soil and seeded." This work was completed in 1902.

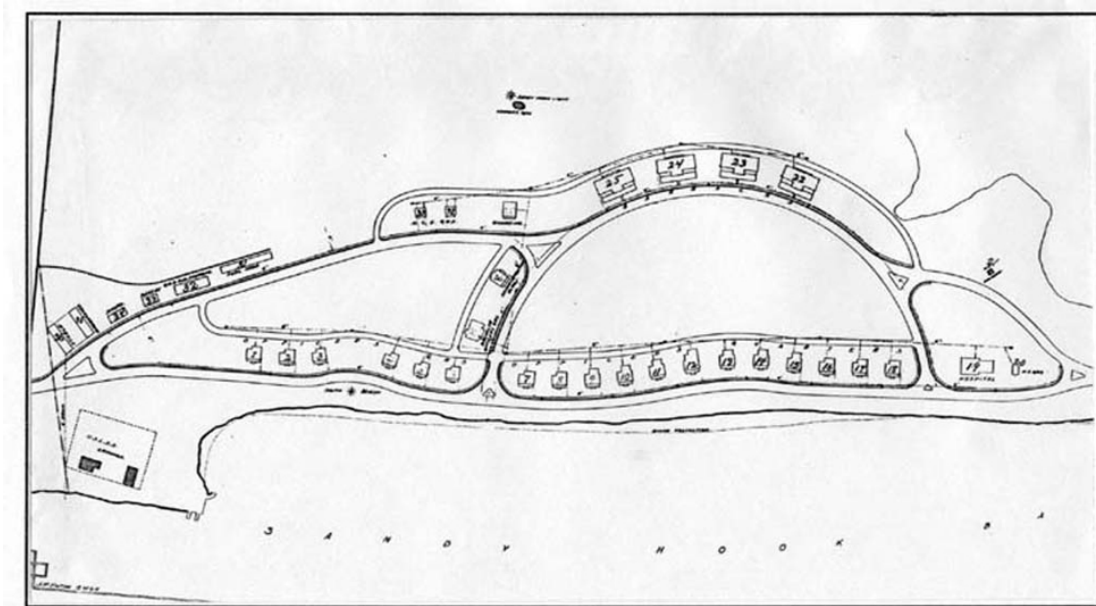


Figure 1. Plan of the initial development of the Post Grounds (Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, New Jersey, c. 1900. J.M. Hinton. National Archives, RG 77).



Figure 2. View of the Parade Ground, c. 1899. This view shows the drifting sand dunes along the brick walk west of the enlisted men's barracks (NPS/Gateway NRA Museum Collection).

THE POST GROUND'S WORLD WAR I LANDSCAPE

After the basic facilities for the Fort Hancock Post Grounds were completed c. 1905, the buildings and landscape continued to evolve to meet the needs of the garrison. In 1907, plans were made to increase the size of the force at Fort Hancock from four to six companies. This necessitated the construction of additional barracks. Planning began for a Double Barracks, a very large building designed to house and feed the additional two companies of men. With plans to increase the size of the garrison, additional smaller buildings also became necessary, such as housing for a larger group of non-commissioned officers. Other buildings completed at the time of the Double Barracks included a gymnasium, a fire station, and a laundry.

During the period of peace prior to World War I, the technical requirements of maintaining the readiness of a modern artillery force required a daily routine of drills and inspections (Figure 3). As artillery specialists, Fort Hancock's soldiers were required to practice using their complex armament. The specialization common to the work of the Coast Artillery may have de-emphasized the marching drills traditionally held on a military parade ground. Thus, the Post Ground's central parade ground became a space for ceremonial assembly and recreation. Though the central open spaces of the Post Grounds did not relate directly to military readiness in the modern science of artillery, their continued presence was a vital component of military life. Permanent buildings were never erected within these spaces in spite of the pressures to reinforce Fort Hancock's forces during World War I.

As the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, 1,400 additional soldiers reinforced Fort Hancock's existing garrison. Temporary "cantonments," or small military camps, were located directly behind the armaments that were to be operated by the additional forces. Temporary service-oriented buildings designed to meet the needs of these additional forces were located at the periphery of the original Post Grounds buildings, preserving the original design of the fort. The largest of these peripheral buildings included a summer hospital annex and a theater building (Figure 4).

At the end of the war, forces were quickly demobilized. By 1919, the garrison stationed at Fort Hancock had been reduced to only 30 officers and 656 men.



Figure 3. Military activities on the Parade Ground. The residences of Officer's Row are shown in the background, on the west side of the Parade Ground (General Inspection, Fort Hancock, NJ, May 18, 1913, Sandy Hook Files, GATE).

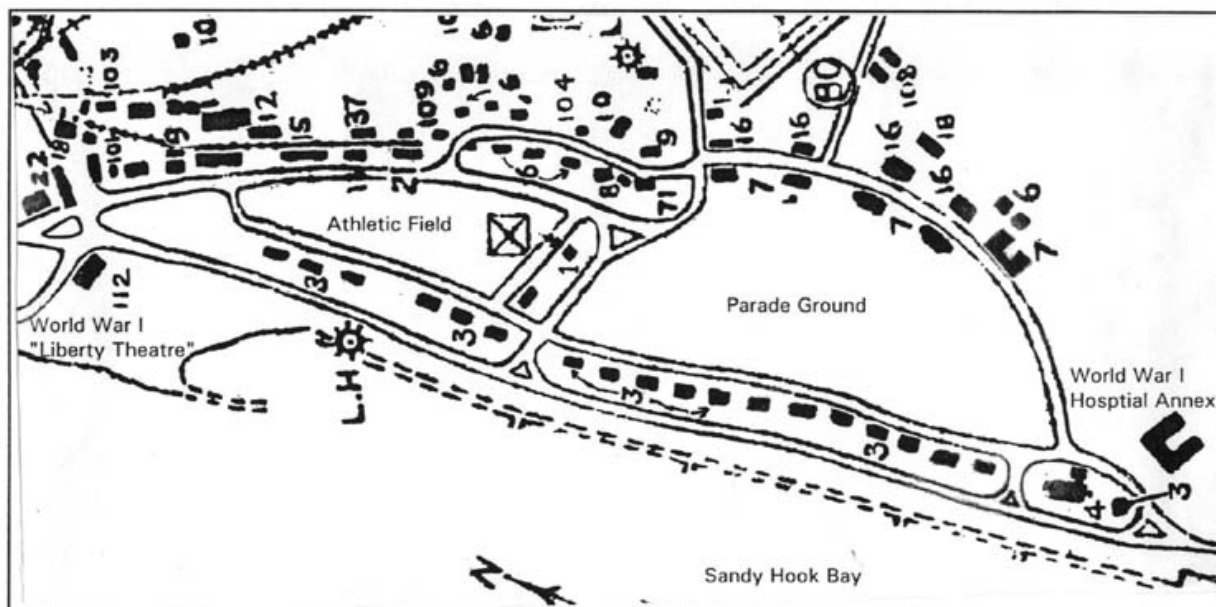


Figure 4. Map depicting changes made during World War I (New York Harbor, Fort Hancock -D1, Sandy Hook. Edition of 14 January 1915, last revision 15 September 1921. National Archives. Image enhanced by OCLP).

INTER-WAR YEARS

During the years of peace between 1919 and 1941, many changes occurred to the Post Grounds facilities. A program of demolition was begun in 1922, which destroyed almost every World War I-era building. By 1939, a total of forty three buildings had been torn down. Most of the buildings demolished had been of wood frame construction which could not withstand the salt air and strong winter winds of Sandy Hook. Most notable of these demolitions was the destruction of the theater building and the hospital annex, two very large buildings that had only been erected a few years previously (Figure 5).

During these inter-war years, new construction was also taking place, using the more relaxed schedules of peacetime to build with durable masonry. This new construction featured the same buff face brick that was used on the original Post Ground buildings and created a visual consistency between the newly constructed and original buildings.

During the 1930's, the West Beacon, a small low, lighthouse facing Sandy Hook Bay, was demolished, creating an opportunity for a new officer's quarters on Hartshorne Drive. [The West Beacon was constructed in 1892, pre-dating the facilities at Fort Hancock.] A gap in the row of Lieutenant's quarters had been intentionally left between buildings #3 and #4 which was across the road from the West Beacon. This gap most likely existed because the light from the small beacon would have shone directly into the upper windows of any residence placed across from it, making this location undesirable. Once the West Beacon had been removed, this permitted the space between building #3 and #4 to be developed. A new duplex officer's quarters, constructed of buff colored brick, was completed in 1939. This building is interesting because it was constructed of an entirely different architectural style than the existing Lieutenant's quarters which neighbored it. During the inter-war years, a buff brick theater building was also constructed near the site of an earlier World War I theater. Other new buildings included a service station building, and a replacement flagpole, and flag plaza.

Details of the Post Grounds landscape continued to evolve along with the fort's buildings. In 1925, an accidental explosion of decoratively placed artillery shells prompted the removal of a great amount similarly displayed ordnance from the sides of the fort's roads and walkways. However, not all displays of military hardware were removed. In 1937 the 20 inch Rodman Gun which had been located on the grounds of Fort Hancock since 1903, was fitted with a concrete base and moved to a traffic island at the intersection of Hartshorne Drive and Kearney roads.



Figure 5. The Fort Hancock Post Grounds between the World Wars (Confidential 41, 2.24.24, 14th Photo Section, Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, New Jersey, Declassified, National Archives, RG 77).

THE POST GROUNDS' WORLD WAR II LANDSCAPE

Germany's 1939 invasion of Poland renewed hostilities, which had been simmering in Europe since the end of World War I. As the conflict escalated, the United States quietly prepared for war. These preparations included pre-war plans in 1940 for a \$100,000,000 program of modernization for the nation's coastal defenses, developed in response to President Roosevelt's declaration of a limited national emergency.

In preparation for World War II, over one hundred buildings were hastily constructed at the Post Grounds. The speed with which these buildings were erected meant that it was impossible to continue to use the same materials and details that unified the original buildings. These World War II structures were typically constructed of wood framing and fastened to foundations of brick pilings, a typical practice in the Army at this time. This vast building program is well illustrated by comparing aerial photographs of the fort taken in 1940 and 1943 (Figure 6).

In December 1941, when the United States was finally drawn into the war, Fort Hancock took on the additional responsibility of serving as a training base and staging area for a large number of recruits being readied for service in artillery units overseas. These large numbers of personnel included a great number of women. An expansion of the hospital services into Building 74, which had been the Double Barracks, created a requirement for a greater number of nurses. Additionally, the creation of the Women's Army Corps (W.A.C.) created non-combat opportunities for women in the military. The integration of men and women created the need for some parallel facilities and offered an opportunity for social recreation that affected how the fort's landscape was used (Figure 7).

As had been the case during World War I, the majority of temporary buildings erected in preparation for World War II were located at the periphery of the Post Grounds. A great number of barracks were located to the east of the Post Grounds fronting on Gunnison Road. Buildings were also constructed at the southern tip of the Post Grounds, a triangular plot of land shaped by the intersection of Magruder Road and Hartshorne Drive. The buildings located in this triangle of land included barracks units for female medical personnel and a service club for the leisure time enjoyment of the enlisted men and women. Among the most striking changes that occurred in the Post Grounds was the construction of a covered passageway joining the original hospital to hospital administration buildings and to Building 74. Building 74 had been adapted for use as a hospital annex.

During World War II, much of the remaining decorative ordnance placed in neat pyramids at the intersections of roads were sacrificed to a national scrap drive for resmelting. Fort Hancock's salvage campaign gathered unused rail lines, obsolete cannon, and over 167,000 pounds of iron and steel cannonballs and projectiles for inclusion in the national metal drive.

The number of personnel stationed at Fort Hancock varied from 7,000 to 12,000 during WWII. The fort's population peaked at the end of the war when Fort Hancock became one of the Atlantic coast's major reception centers for troops returning from the European theater of operations. During this time, the number of troops at Fort Hancock grew to over 18,000.

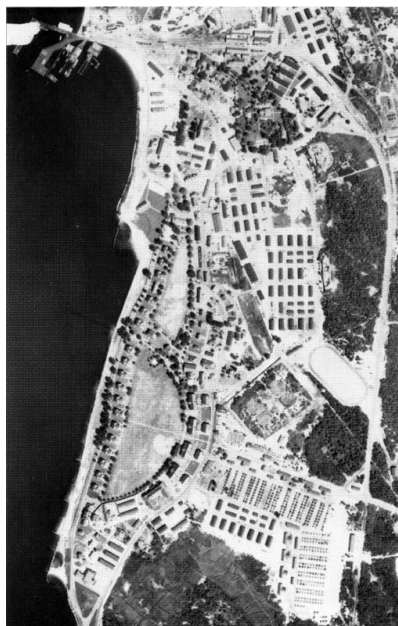


Figure 6. A 1943 aerial photograph, Fort Hancock, New Jersey. Notice the scores of World War II structures in the center of the image (NPS/GATE Museum Collection).



Figure 7. Co-ed softball on Fort Hancock's Athletic Field, July, 1943 (NPS/GATE Museum Collection).

POST-WAR YEARS

As the development of long range artillery had rendered the Civil War defenses at Sandy Hook obsolete, the development of long range, high altitude bombers during of World War II made the artillery defenses of Fort Hancock hopelessly ineffective. As a result, Fort Hancock's coastal batteries were phased out and disarmed by 1948. By the end of the Korean War, anti-aircraft guns which had been in place as a deterrent to air attack were replaced with the Nike system of anti-aircraft missiles. Two different versions of the Nike missile defense system were in use at Fort Hancock between 1954 and 1974.

Operating the highly automated Nike system of air defenses required fewer soldiers than were necessary for conventional artillery. This led to a contraction in the size of the required force, which coupled with normal peace time reductions, caused the abandonment and deterioration of many of the hastily built structures erected in preparation for World War II. Approximately two dozen of these buildings remained standing in deteriorated condition within the Post Grounds at the time of Fort Hancock's deactivation in 1974.

The development of the inter-continental ballistic missile in the 1960's once again challenged the military mission of Fort Hancock. The Nike air defense system was not capable of intercepting this new generation of weapons and was phased out of service nationwide in 1974. The proliferation of nuclear weapons among the world powers left no effective strategy for defense other than the grim concept of mutually assured destruction. Recognition of this led to the de-activation of Fort Hancock in December 1974.

At the time of Fort Hancock's de-activation, the Army chose to commemorate the fort's important mission with the creation of Guardian Park. This park was built at triangular plot of land defined by the intersection of Hartshorne Drive and Magruder Road. Disarmed Ajax and Hercules Nike missiles were installed as monuments to the last phase of Fort Hancock's defensive mission. A stone marker commemorating six U.S. Army enlisted men and four Ordnance Corps civilian employees, killed during a missile explosion, was also relocated to Guardian Park from nearby Leonardo, New Jersey (Figure 8). Following the 1974 deactivation, 1,674 acres of Sandy Hook and Fort Hancock were incorporated into Gateway National Recreation Area (NRA), created by Congress in 1972.



Figure 8. Deactivation Ceremony, Guardian Park, Fort Hancock, August 15, 1974 (NPS/GATE Museum Collection).

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Since Sandy Hook's inclusion as a unit of Gateway NRA, the historic structures and landscape of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds have been used on a limited basis for interpretation, research, and environmental education. Sandy Hook has become highly valued, and regionally well known for its swimming beaches as a unit of the National Park System. However, there is growing interest in the cultural resources remaining on the property from generations of military occupation. The National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Coast Guard now jointly occupy the 477-acre Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District. The portion of the historic district administered by the NPS consists of 380 acres and contains 219 historic structures dating from the last quarter of the nineteenth through the first half of the twentieth century.

The limited use of buildings and landscape has been managed on a permit basis in order to keep some of the buildings occupied and maintained. The largest of Fort Hancock's permittees has been the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Science Laboratory. NOAA had occupied the fort's historic hospital until it was destroyed by fire in 1985. The hospital structure was a total loss, and NOAA was permitted to build a contemporary facility to the east of Magruder Road. This newly completed building is designed to be compatible with the historic buff-colored brick Fort Hancock buildings, yet remains easily distinguishable as a contemporary building. Part of the agreement the NPS had with NOAA concerning this new facility included the provision that NOAA rehabilitate Building 74, the 1909 Double Barracks.

Additional structure fires and decay of World War II era buildings, has led to a program for the documentation and removal of many deteriorated wood frame World War II buildings. The majority of buildings that remain are unified by the consistent use of buff-colored brick exterior masonry construction.

The current goal of the NPS is to develop year-round uses for the Fort Hancock area by promoting the "Gateway Village" concept as outlined in the park's General Management Plan (GMP). The GMP calls for the placement of the majority of the Post Grounds' buildings within a "Rehabilitation" management zone. Because funding for the rehabilitation of these resources is not clear, the GMP includes the possibility of engaging in long-term lease arrangements with organizations, institutions, and corporations. Lessees would be responsible for adapting building space and providing support facilities and landscape amenities that are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Military Facility (Post)	Military Facility (Post)	Yes	No	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	No	Yes	Yes
Transportation	Water-Related	Lighthouse	No	No	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds are open to the public without restrictions, yet some of the buildings occupied by park partners, i.e the Howard Laboratory, are closed to the public.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Significant landscape characteristics identified for the Fort Hancock Post Grounds include natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, buildings and structures, and small scale features. Many landscape features associated with these characteristics contribute to the overall historic significance and identity, while others do not. The following section of the CLI evaluates the landscape characteristics and features to make a determination about their contributing or non-contributing status. By comparing historic conditions with existing conditions, the CLI has determined that the landscape of the Post Grounds retain integrity to the periods of significance: 1764, 1874-1919, and 1896-1974.

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds are defined by the spatial organization of their elements. Open space, buildings, circulation routes, and plantings are all carefully designed to reflect a hierarchical arrangement of space appropriate to a military environment. Three major open spaces, the Parade Ground, Athletic Field, and Bay Frontage, along with scores of smaller open spaces form the backbone of the village or campus-like environment suited to the historic domestic, supply, and command functions of the former base. A series of vehicular and pedestrian circulation routes reinforce the graceful, arcing shapes of the Parade Ground and Athletic Field and connect the numerous buildings to one another. The gently undulating Hartshorne Drive parallels Sandy Hook Bay and is the location of the ranking officer's quarters, where all views on site are focused. These eighteen distinctive buff-colored brick officer's quarters are similar to one another in scale, design, material, and detailing and also share similar elements with the majority of the other buildings in the fort, contributing to the visually cohesive, planned community. Even the location of vegetation and small scale features are subordinate to the larger design, being placed along roads and sidewalks to accentuate open spaces and to expose open view corridors.

Much of the historic character of Fort Hancock Post Grounds is visible today, evidenced by intact open spaces, unaltered circulation systems, and extant historic buildings. However, the deteriorated condition of many of the buildings and relative lack of activity compromises the historic village feeling that accompanied the busy and well maintained post during its active years.

INTEGRITY

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds retain integrity to the periods of significance (1764, 1874-1919, and 1896-1974). Since the site has such a long period of significance, many features were added, removed, and altered throughout the historic period. However, for the purposes of assessing integrity, the CLI concludes that the overall historic character evident at the end date of the period of significance, 1974, exists today to convey historic conditions. Of the seven aspects of integrity defined by the National Register program, the Fort Hancock Post Grounds retain integrity of location, design, association, and materials. The site no longer retains integrity of setting, feeling, and workmanship due to shifting land use, deferred maintenance, and natural weathering.

Location:

The land and associated features within the CLI boundary were historically part of Fort Hancock. The location of the site's remaining major features, including roads, Officers Row, Barracks, Mess Halls, Parade Ground, and Athletic Field, among others, have not changed since the end of the period of significance in 1974.

Design:

The design of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds, established beginning in 1896, is visible today through the presentation of roads, buildings, and open spaces. The arrangement of the officer's quarters on Hartshorne Drive and the enlisted men's barracks across the Parade Ground was developed early in the fort's history and dictated the layout of later development. The use of shade trees to define circulation routes began in this early period and continued through the period of significance to today. The Army added numerous wood frame buildings during the world wars to accommodate the increased number of troops and supplies. These have almost all been removed. Despite the loss of elements added during the world wars, the Post Grounds retain integrity of design to the period of significance through the preservation of character defining landscape features such as roads and sidewalks, the buff-colored brick buildings, the central open spaces of the Parade Ground

and Athletic Field.

Materials:

Many materials used during the period of significance are extant today at the Post Grounds. Among the most distinctive of these remaining historic materials are the buff-colored bricks used in the majority of Fort Hancock's buildings. Other materials that date to the early part of the period of significance include the flagstone walkways to the residences of Officer's Row, the bluestone curbing along Hartshorne Drive, and some of the mature London Plane trees throughout the district. Some materials changed over the period of significance, including the original World War I-era cast iron light poles and the stone-screened asphalt pavement. Exposed aggregate light poles and modern asphalt pavement replaced those early features, and some of these too, have been replaced again. Only a few non-functioning concrete light poles remain, having been largely replaced during and after the period of significance by aluminum fixtures. As a whole, enough historic materials remain on site to convey historic conditions, and as such, the Fort Hancock Post Grounds retain integrity of materials.

Association:

Many of the physical features built by the Army during the development of Fort Hancock remain, providing a direct physical link to the site's historic association.

Setting:

The historic setting of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds has been compromised by the change in land use. The fort was once a guarded base with limited access, contrasting with the open setting of today's national recreation area. Dog walkers and beach goers have replaced drilling soldiers. Also, the vastly decreased population at the Post Grounds has altered the historic setting. Whereas the base once hosted a sizable twenty-four hour population, only a few NPS employees live on site today. Because of this drastic change, the site no longer retains integrity in this area.

Feeling:

Integrity of feeling at the Fort Hancock Post Grounds has been diminished due to the lack of activity associated with a functioning military installation. Vacant and deteriorating buildings dot the fort's landscape, altering the feeling from the period of significance when the site was full occupied and maintained with military precision. Because of this altered condition, the site does not retain integrity of feeling.

Workmanship:

Historic workmanship is not sufficiently evident to retain integrity. Many original features have been replaced, repaired, or removed, including sidewalks, curbing, and street trees, which obscures the original intent and workmanship.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (through 1974):

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds sit on the northern end of the Sandy Hook peninsula, an elongated spit of land with sandy beaches, salt and freshwater marshes, and an extensive native holly forest. Wind and tidal action have changed the shape of the peninsula over time, evidenced by the fact that Sandy Hook light was initially constructed a few hundred yards from the northern tip of the peninsula and now sits much farther from the water's edge. The Army began construction of Fort Hancock on sand dunes in the 1890s and soon added seawalls along Sandy Hook Bay to protect the area from storms and moving sand. Sand dunes were soon replaced with turf grass and the coastal environment was changed into a manicured military campus.

Post Historic and Existing Conditions:

After the period of significance, the NPS has allowed more of the study area to revert to native vegetation to increase the amount of wildlife habitat. The core area of the fort has been retained as turf grass but other areas on the periphery of the study area including areas south of the M.A.S.T. campus, north of the Sandy Hook Light, and northeast of Sergeant's Row are now a mixture of grasses, forbes, and small woody vegetation. The shoreline along Hartshorne Drive and Officer's Row is unchanged from the period of significance due to the seawall built during the historic period.

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Condition (through 1974):

The topography of Sandy Hook has always been predominantly flat and characterized by gently undulating dunes. The study area was no exception and early photographs depict drifting dunes blowing up against the newly constructed buildings. Any small natural changes in topography were all but removed during the development of the fort.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Little to no changes occurred to the topography of the study area after the period of significance. Today, the entire area can be characterized as nearly flat, with gentle grade changes that are all but imperceptible to the casual observer.

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (through 1974):

The primary character-defining features of the Post Grounds landscape were created early in the development of the site and were defined by the placement of buildings, roads, and plantings. The layout of Fort Hancock's buff-colored brick architecture, and the alignment of its roads, walkways, and plant material, all worked to define these open spaces so important to traditional military life. Three major open spaces were created in the layout of the Post Ground's site plan: the Parade Ground, the Athletic Field, and the Bay Frontage.

At the Fort Hancock Post Grounds, as in other similar military installations, the Parade Ground served as the principal open space around which the fort was organized. The space was composed of an approximate 40 acre flat, crescent-shaped grassy open area, surrounded by a curving brick walkway lined with trees. The northern portion of the Parade Ground was historically distinguished by a ceremonial flagpole and its base, as well as a pair of accompanying salute cannon. This large,

open greensward was used for military drills, maneuvers, ceremonies, and recreation.

The smaller Athletic Field was separated from the Parade Ground by Hudson Road which continued the geometric arc established by the layout of the Enlisted Men's Barracks. The Athletic Field, sometimes referred to as the North Parade Ground, was of secondary importance. While the Parade Ground separated the Commanding Officer and his Captains from the enlisted men, the Athletic Field separated lower ranking Lieutenants from an assortment of service buildings and Non-commissioned Officers quarters. Since it filled a less central purpose in the military routine of Fort Hancock, the Athletic Field did not escape the installation of "temporary" buildings. A post library and a mess hall were located here during the years leading up to World War II. Nevertheless, these facilities were located at the perimeter of this space, preserving the majority of the Athletic Field. Like the Parade Ground to the south, the Athletic Field was surrounded by street trees, forming a single row around the perimeter of the field. The trees historically consisted of several different species and presented a fairly uniform edge to the open space.

Unlike either the Parade Ground or the Athletic Field, the Bay Frontage to the west of Officer's Row did not support any traditional military activities. Instead, this open space, looking out onto Sandy Hook Bay, was kept open to provide views of the waterfront for the commissioned officers occupying the dwellings of Officer's Row. This was almost certainly a valuable perquisite for the officers stationed at Fort Hancock. The presence of this remarkable visual amenity probably caused the landscape in "front" of the officer's quarters to be used as private space, as they were hidden from the eyes of the enlisted men to the east. Maintaining the open space of the bay frontage required the installation of a seawall and dikes to prevent shoreline erosion.

The bay frontage was rarely actively used. To the south, an area directly in front of the Commanding Officer's quarters, was used for a decorative display of cannon and ordnance until the Army deactivated Fort Hancock in 1974. To the north, in front of the lower ranking Lieutenant's quarters, the Army would periodically establish summer camps for reservists in the years prior to World War II. Other than these limited uses, the Bay Frontage existed merely as open space for the enjoyment of the view and breezes blowing off the bay.

Beyond the Parade Ground, Athletic Field, and Bay Frontage, the density and organization of buildings and open space became more diffuse. The Officers Club was located in the northwest corner of the study area. The distance from the more active areas on site and the informality of the landscape created a sense of separation from the hustle and bustle of the military base.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Temporary structures added throughout the landscape during World War II were removed incrementally, including after the period of significance, restoring the open appearance of several open spaces like the Athletic Field and areas north and east of Magruder Road (Figure 9). The open space of the bay frontage exists in its historic condition (Figure 10). An arsonist destroyed the historic post hospital that formed the southern edge of the Parade Ground in the 1980s. This left a gap in the perimeter buildings of the Parade Ground that altered the defined boundary of the space. Outside of these events, few changes occurred to the site's spatial organization in the post-historic period, and the patterns established in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century remain today.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Parade Ground	137686	Contributing					No
Athletic Field	137688	Contributing					No
Bay Frontage	137690	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 9. Parade Ground, taken from the southwest corner, looking west (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 10. View of the Bay Frontage, seawall, and chapel as seen from Officer's Row (OCLP, 2007).

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition (through 1974):

A hierarchical relationship between the single family dwellings of Officer's Row and the group housing of the Enlisted Men's barracks was established by their arrangement at the perimeter of the Post Grounds' primary open spaces. The crescent shape of the Parade Ground, as well as the Athletic Field to the north, created a line separating the historical residential facilities into two zones which at one time divided the military leadership from the soldiers under their command. The occupants of these two zones remained open to the inspection of the other, typical of the lack of privacy in military life. This was further reinforced by the alignment of the western facades of the Enlisted Men's Barracks, which were aligned in a graceful arc to focus the facade of each barracks on the Commanding Officer's quarters, located near the center of Officer's Row. Further importance was given to the Commanding Officer's quarters by the location of a central concrete walkway which began near the Commanding Officer's quarters and bisected the Parade Ground into two halves. This walkway extended eastward in a straight line, connecting the Parade Ground and the Commanding Officer's quarters with more contemporary additions to the fort that were organized along a road leading to one of the gun batteries facing the Atlantic.

The open spaces of the Parade Ground and Athletic Field also served as important buffer zones between work areas of the fort and its residential zones. Rather than mixing the fort's workshops and storehouses with residential buildings, places of work and service were concentrated at the north east side of the fort landscape. The fort's hospital was logically placed as far away as possible from these centers of busy activity on the southern extents of the Parade Ground.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

The land use of the Post Grounds changed immediately at the end of the period of significance when the Army vacated the base. After 1974, the entire Sandy Hook peninsula became a national recreation area and Fort Hancock became the park operations and maintenance headquarters. The NPS utilized several of the buildings for offices, staff housing, and maintenance operations, leaving a vast majority of the buildings vacant. Park partners including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Brookdale Community College, the Audubon Society, and the Marine Academy of Science and Technology have now leased space within the study area. Visitors to the Fort Hancock Post Grounds include users of the multi-use trail, dog walkers, school children, beach goers, and picnickers.

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (through 1974):

While the Fort Hancock Post Grounds buildings are arranged around central open spaces, its network of roads and walkways tie the buildings and landscape into one unified composition. The alignment and surfaces of roads and walkways evolved throughout the life of the fort. Fort Hancock's original road surfaces were constructed of layers of broken stone, graduated from large aggregates on the bottom to smaller pieces at the surface. The final wearing course of the roadway was surfaced with water bound macadam. This type of surface was common during the days of horse drawn vehicles equipped with iron rimmed wheels. The speed and texture of rubber-tired automobile traffic had the effect of pulling out the fine textured stone aggregates from the macadam surface, resulting in washboarding and ruts. This prompted the substitution of bitumen, an asphaltic compound, for clay to bind and seal the upper surface of the roadway.

Periodic resurfacing of the roadways was accomplished by laying down a uniform layer of crushed stone aggregate over an existing road. Over this raw stone layer, bituminous asphalt was applied and a final coat of stone screenings was rolled into the tacky surface.

The Post Grounds' system of pedestrian walkways historically featured a number of different surface treatments. Original cinder and gravel walkways were replaced with portland concrete early in Fort Hancock's history. A major exception to this was the long curved brick walkway to the west of the five Enlisted Men's barracks. This seven foot-wide brick walkway was wide enough to assemble soldiers for inspection as well as to occasionally serve as a service road. In early drawings of the Post Grounds, this walkway appears to be part of the road system. It is unclear why or when it was converted to a solely pedestrian route. However, the effect of excluding vehicles from this route resulted in the reinforcement of a separation of service functions from the domestic living quarters of the enlisted men. A portion of this handsome brick walkway was destroyed, beginning in front of Building 74 and extending to the southeast towards Sandy Hook Bay. It is likely that this portion of the brick walkway was removed during the demolition of a covered walkway which joined Building 74 to the Hospital during World War II. Where the road system and the walkway system crossed one another on Hartshorne Drive, cobblestone crosswalks at one time defined the pedestrian route. Other minor walkways, such as those leading from a main walkway to a residential building were made of a variety of materials including concrete, brick, or flagstone. Some minor walkways serving the Officer's Row quarters were constructed of flagstone salvaged from the terreplain of Battery Potter. Other minor brick walkways, such as those leading to Non-commissioned Officer's quarters featured a brick edging laid up to create a sawtooth effect. The curbing for the fort's road system was originally of wood and stone.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Changes to the circulation system at the Post Grounds have been minor since the period of significance. Many of the historic materials used in the circulation system are still extant throughout the study area. Deteriorated segments of historic concrete sidewalks have been replaced and some of the historic brick and flagstone walkways have been reset. The cobblestone crosswalks along Hartshorne Drive were obliterated as the result of a resurfacing projects carried out in the 1980s. The crosswalks may, however, still be present below the topmost layer of bituminous overlay.

Today, bluestone curbing remains on Hartshorne Drive from the Rodman Gun, south to the Hospital Steward's quarters. Bluestone curbing also extends eastward from Hartshorne Drive forming the edges of Hudson Road. Curbing elsewhere on the property is made of cast-in-place concrete. This concrete curbing, or earlier versions of it, may well have replaced sections of deteriorated wooden curbing, or were installed where no curbing had previously existed. The bluestone curbing forming the edges of Hartshorne Drive and Hudson Road is a beautiful historic detail of these sections of road and was valued and preserved by the Army despite numerous maintenance and modernization programs.

A few sidewalk segments have been built in the post-historic period around the M.A.S.T. campus to accommodate safety and movement between the campus buildings. Part of the park's multi-use path runs along the bay frontage on the west side of Hartshorne Drive (Figure 11). The fort's roads are paved with asphalt, as they were in 1974 (Figure 12). Several post-historic parking lots have been added, included one at the Double Barracks (Building 74), two at the new Howard Laboratory, and one on the south side of the park headquarters building (Building 58). As recommended in the 2007 Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan, the park added an unpaved parking lot to the open space south of the M.A.S.T. campus. Several more parking lots, large and small, are planned throughout the district to accommodate tenants of the proposed historic leasing program and may be constructed in the future.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Guardian Park-Walkways (SH-P)	137692	Contributing	41291		Location	21630	Yes
Enlisted Barracks-Walkways (SH-A)	137694	Contributing	41275		Location	21618	Yes
Sergeant's Row-Walkways (SH-B)	137696	Contributing	41276		Location	21620	Yes
Officer's Quarters-Walkways (SH-C)	137698	Contributing	41277		Location	21617	Yes
Bluestone Curbing (SH-D)	137700	Contributing	41278				No
Hartshorne Drive	137702	Contributing					No
Magruder Road	137704	Contributing					No
Hudson Road	137706	Contributing					No
Gunnison Road	137708	Contributing					No
Mercer Road	137710	Contributing					No
Kearney Road	137714	Contributing					No
South Bragg Drive	137716	Contributing					No
Kilpatrick Road	137718	Contributing					No
Canfield Road	137720	Contributing					No
M.A.S.T. Way	137722	Contributing					No
M.A.S.T. Campus Walkways	137724	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 11. View of the multi-use path and Officer's Row, looking south (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 12. Kessler Road, looking north. The Parade Ground is to the right of the treeline (OCLP, 2007).

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (through 1974):

The vegetation of the Post Grounds can be categorized in two basic ways. The first was the vegetation belonging to the fort's "public" areas. The vegetation within the public zone fell within primary open spaces, such as the Parade Ground and along the public way, such as roads, walks, and service areas. Vegetation serving the public areas of the fort included landscape plantings closely associated with social and recreational facilities such as the Fort's chapel, theater, and YMCA. The second category of vegetation belonged to the fort's "domestic" areas comprising the landscape closely associated with the fort's residential facilities. This included group residential facilities for the various Enlisted Men's Barracks and Mess Halls, and the dwelling quarters for the commissioned and non-commissioned Officers.

The palette of plant material used within the public landscape appears to have been limited in an effort to present a uniform appearance to the public areas of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds. However, historic photographs reveal that plant material used in close proximity to domestic or residential buildings was more varied, conforming to the individual tastes of the building's occupants. These individualized horticultural displays appear to have extended to an area only a few feet away from a residential foundation.

Service buildings within the "public" zone met the ground at right angles and featured no foundation planting. Examples of service oriented buildings include, the Guardhouse, Commissary, and Quartermaster's storehouse.

Another area that does not fit into either of these broad categories is the area surrounding the Officers Club. The Officers Club was built to sit apart from the key areas of activity at the northern extent of the study area. It was built on a slight rise, set back from the ocean and near what now functions as the park's maintenance facility. The area was planted liberally with street trees, shade trees, and ornamental shrubs that helped screen the building from surrounding post development and reinforced a sense of separation. Open lawn was maintained between the informally placed woody plant material. Unlike other areas around the fort, a diverse palette of trees was used at the Officers Club. Common landscape shrubs were planted in the lawn, although not surrounding the building's foundation, including hollies, lilacs, yews, and junipers.

The Vegetation of Public Areas

The most important character-defining vegetative features were the trees which line the primary streets of the Post Grounds. Plantings lining the roads and walkways provided welcome summer shade for those walking or driving between places of residence and places of work. The planting of street trees further helped to visually unify the spatial organization of the fort's buildings and open spaces. Original trees lining the Post Grounds' roads had been transplanted from the nearby woods. Later, replacement trees and additions to the road plantings were carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1938. The Post Grounds' tree plantings appear to be more closely allied to the service of the fort's roads and walks than to its buildings.

A landscape plan for the Post Grounds was drawn in August 1941 by the landscape architect Wolcott Erskine Andrews of New York City. In addition to recommending locations for new plantings, the Andrews landscape plan was valuable because it gave the locations, trunk diameters and common name of trees existing on the property in 1941. Common names included as existing street trees on the Andrews plan include: Norway maple, "maple," white poplar, catalpa, hackberry and London planetrees. The proposed plantings of the Andrews plan were never installed. However, his plan remains the best documentation available of the Post Grounds' street trees existing just prior to World War II.

Aside from street trees, the most significant historic vegetation of the Post Grounds' public area was a long privet hedge bordering the western edge of Hartshorne Drive and part of Hudson Road during the park's c. 1939 interpretive date. This feature was lost after World War II due to storm

damage. No allowance was made for shrub plantings adjacent to service buildings such as storehouses and stables. Historic photographs reveal the fort's service buildings bereft of plantings, giving them an austere appearance.

One notable exception to this is the treatment of the Post Headquarters building and the adjacent flagpole terrace. This office building, located in the center of the fort, received a foundation planting of yew shrubs. Across Hudson Road, opposite the Post Headquarters, the fort's flagpole and base stood as a landmark, visible throughout a large portion of the Fort. Nine Austrian pines historically encircled the concrete paving of this central feature, creating a focal point within the larger space of the Parade Ground.

Historic photographs of the Post Grounds c.1913 show displays of annual plants, bedded out in patterns in the public zones of the landscape. This type of horticultural display was popular in the early years of the 20th century, but fell out fashion during the lean years of the Great Depression. At the time of the Post Grounds' interpretive date, just prior to World War II, historic aerial photographs reveal that herbaceous plantings were limited to areas adjacent to the fort's residential and recreational facilities.

The Vegetation of Domestic Areas

Historic photographs of the Post Grounds show that any planting in close proximity to a building was carried out primarily to serve residential or recreational facilities. A greenhouse and plant nursery were located on the grounds of the Officer's Club. These facilities, and attendant staff, were used to maintain the entire landscape, and most probably made available a variety of plants for use at the fort. It is likely that any annuals or perennials propagated in the greenhouse were used creatively by individuals at their respective residences or quarters, since no evidence exists of decorative bedding in the fort's public areas after 1923.

The domestic areas of the Post Grounds included both the bay front residences of Officer's Row on Hartshorne Drive, the non-commissioned officer's quarters, as well as the group living and dining facilities for the enlisted men. There was some individuality associated with the planting adjacent to both the commissioned officer's quarters as well as the non-commissioned officer's quarters of the less elegant Sergeants Row. Typical foundation plantings, while greatly varied in their composition, were uniform in their extent. Historic aerial photographs reveal that these foundation planting extended no more than a few feet from the foundation of the building. No evidence of vines on the western (porch) facades of the Officer's Row quarters have been found.

Historic photographs often show single specimens of privet at corners of buildings or next to porch stairs, with the space between planted with annuals or perennials. In some instances, a single row of privet made up the entire foundation planting. Historic photograph also show that vines were permitted to grow on the sides of the buildings. The remnants of wisteria vines present adjacent to Buildings 8 and 12 attest to the presence of these vines. In addition to wisteria, other vines visible in historic photographs appeared to be Boston Ivy and climbing roses supported on fan shaped wall trellises. It should be noted that due to the presence of the large porches on the Officer's Row residences, plantings of vines were limited to facades other than the western facing facade. A profusion of herbaceous plant material adjacent to residential dwellings can be seen in historic photographs.

Turf

Turf grass is the one type of vegetation that belongs to both public and domestic areas. As mentioned earlier, the establishment and maintenance of turf on what had once been sand dunes was an enormous undertaking in the history of the Post Grounds. This required bringing thousands of tons of topsoil to the site before a viable stand of turf was eventually established. Without continued maintenance of the turf, this historic and essentially artificial treatment of the fort's ground plane would eventually be colonized by the native and naturalized vegetation. No information is currently available to describe the composition of historic turf grass mixtures used.

Post-Historic and Existing Condition:

The vegetation of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds suffered from the reduced maintenance regime

implemented by the NPS after the Army vacated the site. Many of the site's once abundant street trees have been lost and not replaced. Several distinctive clusters of mature London planetrees are still evident, including near the post theatre, the intersection of Kearney and Hudson Roads, and along the curved brick walkway on the east side of the Parade Ground. Many other wide stretches of road are missing street trees, including Hartshorne Drive, Kessler Road, and Magruder Road. Historically, there was greater diversity in the population of the Fort's collection of trees. Due to natural mortality of short-lived species, including the white poplars that were once abundantly planted on site, the Post Ground's collection of trees now features a great percentage of London planetree, a longer-lived tree (Figure 13).

The domestic plantings that once characterized many of the officer's quarters are largely missing. However, the most visible remnant of perennial plantings are the orange daylilies still growing on the north and south sides of the officer's residences. The non-commissioned officer's quarters, which are presently being used to house park staff are presently planted with the same kind of vernacular aesthetic, as seen in historic views. Appropriately, these contemporary plantings extend no more than two or three feet from the building foundation.

Vegetation at the Officer's Club is mature. The building is surrounded by a mixed-species planting of shade trees, mature shrubs, and turf grass (Figure 14). The flagpole planting, once comprised of nine Austrian pines encircling the flagpole, has been compromised by the loss of several trees and the over-mature state of the remaining ones.

The park mows the copious amounts of turf on a regular basis, keeping the study area tidy. However, the turf is in poor condition due to the presence of Canada geese and lack of cyclical maintenance regime of overseeding, fertilizing, and aeration. Accommodating a shift in focus to address more natural resource values, the park has allowed sections of the study area to revert to native grasses and forbes. These areas, located on the perimeter of the study area, provide wildlife habitat and blend with large swaths of the peninsula outside of Fort Hancock that exist in a natural state.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Street Trees	137726	Contributing			Asset	551806	No
Turf	137728	Contributing			Location	28561	No
Officer's Club Plantings	137732	Contributing			Asset	550943	No
Austrian Pines at Flagpole	137730	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Successional Woodland	137734	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 13. London plane trees, like the one at image right on Kessler Road, are the dominant species in the Post Grounds street tree grouping (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 14. Vegetation at the Officer's Club was planted in a naturalistic pattern. Today, the area contains numerous mature specimen trees and shrubs (OCLP, 2007).

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (through 1974):

The first building erected in the study area was the Sandy Hook Light, which dates to 1764. The development of the Fort Hancock Post Grounds began in the 1890s with the construction of thirty-two buildings clustered around the Parade Ground and Athletic Field. Officer's Row and the Enlisted Men's Barracks were among the first built. All shared similar design elements including Georgian Revival styling and buff-colored brick with blue-green painted trim. The Officer's Row quarters were virtually identical to one another and had equal setbacks from the road, creating a uniform appearance. Similarly, the Enlisted Men's Barracks were nearly identical and were arrayed along the arc on the east side of the Parade Ground. Later, the Army built mess halls east of the barracks, more officers quarters, and service buildings farther afield from the core areas of the Parade Ground and Athletic Fields. Almost all were built from the distinctive buff-colored brick used in the original Post Grounds buildings.

The most drastic departure from the design precedents set during the early days of the fort's construction occurred during World Wars I and II. To accommodate the surging troop levels that accompanied the conflicts, the Army built temporary wood-frame buildings on the periphery of the fort. During World War II, over 100 of these temporary buildings were erected. Most were simple, rectangular, one or two-story buildings with hipped roofs. With the exception of approximately two dozen, the buildings were demolished after the war.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

The NPS continued to remove deteriorated World War II structures after assuming control of the site in 1974. Some buildings became park housing, while some were used for NPS maintenance and administrative functions. The majority of buildings and structures on site were simply vacated at the end of the period of significance and remain empty today (Figure 15). Many of these vacant buildings are in poor condition. Several notable changes to the body of buildings and structures have occurred in the last twenty-five years. The hospital, located on the southern extents of the Parade Ground, burned to the ground in the 1980s. To replace the space they lost in the fire, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who was using the structure, built a new laboratory on the east side of Magruder Road and rehabilitated the Double Barracks (Building 74). Other partner organizations lease space in the Post Grounds, including the Audubon Society, the American Littoral Society, Brookdale Community College, and the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, among others, who make use of numerous rehabilitated buildings (Figures 16 and 17).

A more detailed analysis of the buildings and structures at the Fort Hancock Post Grounds is outside the scope of the CLI. For more information about the buildings and structures see the National Register listing for Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District, or consult the List of Classified Structures.

Items noted with an * are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-001) (Officer's Row)	138736	Contributing	8427		Location	21032	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-002) (Officer's Row)	138738	Contributing	8428		Location	21033	Yes

Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area

Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-003) (Officer's Row)	138784	Contributing	8429		Location	21034	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-004) (Officer's Row)	138788	Contributing	8430		Location	21035	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-005) (Officer's Row)	138794	Contributing	8431		Location	21036	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-006) (Officer's Row)	138798	Contributing	41309		Location	21037	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-007) (Officer's Row)	138800	Contributing	8433		Location	21038	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-008) (Officer's Row)	139968	Contributing	8434		Location	21039	Yes
Captains' Quarters * (SH-009) (Officer's Row)	139970	Contributing	8435		Location	21040	Yes
Captains' Quarters * (SH-010) (Officer's Row)	139972	Contributing	8436		Location	21041	Yes
Captains' Quarters * (SH-011) (Officer's Row)	139974	Contributing	8437		Location	21042	Yes
Commanding Officer's Quarters * (SH-012) (Officer's Row)	139976	Contributing	8438		Location	21043	Yes
Captains' Quarters * (SH-013) (Officer's Row)	139978	Contributing	8439		Location	21044	Yes
Captains' Quarters * (SH-014) (Officer's Row)	139980	Contributing	8440		Location	21045	Yes
Captains' Quarters * (SH-015) (Officer's Row)	139982	Contributing	8441		Location	21046	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-016) (Officer's Row)	139984	Contributing	8442		Location	21047	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-017) (Officer's Row)	139986	Contributing	8443		Location	21048	Yes
Lieutenants' Quarters * (SH-018) (Officer's Row)	139200	Contributing	8444		Location	28554	Yes
NCO Quarters * (SH-020)	139202	Contributing	8446		Location	21049	Yes
Duplex Officers' Quarters * (SH-021)	139204	Contributing	8447		Location	21051	Yes
Enlisted Men's Barracks * (SH-022)	139206	Contributing	8448		Location	21225	Yes
Enlisted Men's Barracks * (SH-023)	139988	Contributing	8451		Location	21226	Yes
Enlisted Men's Barracks * (SH-024)	139308	Contributing	8449		Location	21227	Yes
Enlisted Men's Barracks * (SH-025)	139310	Contributing	8450		Location	21228	Yes
Post Headquarters * (SH-026)	139312	Contributing	8452		Location	62954	Yes
Bachelor Officers' Quarters * (SH-027)	139314	Contributing	8453		Location	21230	Yes
Guardhouse * (SH-028)	139316	Contributing	8454		Location	21229	Yes

Fort Hancock Post Grounds
Gateway National Recreation Area

Duplex NCO Quarters * (SH-029)	139318	Contributing	8455		Location	21231	Yes
Duplex NCO Quarters * (SH-030)	139320	Contributing	8456		Location	21393	Yes
Quartermaster's Office and Storehouse * (SH-032)	139322	Contributing	8458		Location	21400	Yes
Bakery * (SH-033)	139324	Contributing	8459		Location	21402	Yes
Fire Station Office * (SH-034)	139326	Contributing	8460		Location	21403	Yes
Chapel * (SH-035)	139328	Contributing	8461		Location	21405	Yes
NCO Club-Post Stables * (SH-036)	139330	Contributing	8462		Location	21406	Yes
Pump House and Sewage Lift Station * (SH-037)	139332	Contributing	8463		Location	83298	Yes
Bus Shelter (SH-039)	139334	Contributing	8464				No
Service Club YMCA Building * (SH-040)	139336	Contributing	8465		Location	61151	Yes
Post Office * (SH-041)	139338	Contributing	8466		Location	21412	Yes
Weighing Station * (SH-044)	139340	Contributing	8467				No
Shell Warehouse * (SH-045)	139342	Contributing	8468		Location	82242	Yes
Commissary * (SH-047)	139344	Contributing	8470		Location	21415	Yes
Quartermaster Warehouse * (SH-049)	139346	Contributing	8471		Location	21418	Yes
Fire House #1 * (SH-051)	139348	Contributing	8472		Location	21419	Yes
Duplex NCO Quarters * (SH-052)	139350	Contributing	8473		Location	21420	Yes
Administration (Canteen) Building * (SH-053)	139352	Contributing	8474		Location	21422	Yes
Mess Hall * (SH-055)	139354	Contributing	8476		Location	21423	Yes
Mess Hall * (SH-056)	139356	Contributing	8477		Location	21424	Yes
Mess Hall * (SH-057)	139358	Contributing	8478		Location	21426	Yes
Mess Hall * (SH-058)	139360	Contributing	8479		Location	21431	Yes
Post Exchange Service Station * (SH-060)	139362	Contributing	8480		Location	21433	Yes
NCO Quarters * (SH-064)	139364	Contributing	8483		Location	21436	Yes
Storehouse * (SH-065)	139366	Contributing	8484		Location	21437	Yes
Duplex NCO Quarters * (SH-066)	139368	Contributing	8485		Location	21438	Yes
Theater * (SH-067)	139370	Contributing	8486		Location	21440	Yes
Post Exchange * (SH-070)	139372	Contributing	8487		Location	61151	Yes
Two Family NCO Quarters * (SH-071)	139374	Contributing	8488		Location	21441	Yes

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Two Family NCO Quarters * (SH-072)	139376	Contributing	8489		Location	21443	Yes
Two Family NCO Quarters * (SH-073)	139378	Contributing	8490		Location	21558	Yes
Barracks and Mess * (SH-074)	139380	Contributing	8491		Location	21560	Yes
Two Family NCO Quarters * (SH-075)	139382	Contributing	8492		Location	21561	Yes
Fire House #2 * (SH-076)	139384	Contributing	8493		Location	21563	Yes
Post Laundry * (SH-077)	139386	Contributing	8494		Location	28162	Yes
Duplex NCO Quarters * (SH-080)	139388	Contributing	8496		Location	21564	Yes
Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keeper's House * (SH-084)	139390	Contributing	8497		Location	21567	Yes
Garage * (SH-085)	139392	Contributing	8498		Location	21577	Yes
Ordnance Barracks * (SH-0102)	139394	Contributing	8499		Location	21580	Yes
Foreman's Residence * (SH-104)	139396	Contributing	8500		Location	21581	Yes
Locomotive Engineer's Residence * (SH-108)	139398	Contributing	8501		Location	21582	Yes
Bus Shelter (SH-110)	139400	Contributing	8502				No
Laundry * (SH-113)	139402	Contributing	8504		Location	21584	Yes
Brick House * (SH-114)	139404	Contributing	8505		Location	21585	Yes
Barracks * (SH-119)	139406	Contributing	8506		Location	21586	Yes
Barracks * (SH-120)	139408	Contributing	8507		Location	21587	Yes
Power Plant * (SH-124)	139410	Contributing	8508		Location	21592	Yes
Machine and Blacksmith Shop * (SH-125)	139412	Contributing	8510		Location	21594	Yes
Warehouse and Storehouse * (SH-130)	139414	Contributing	8511		Location	21595	Yes
Shelter House * (SH-131)	139416	Contributing	8512		Location	21596	Yes
Paint Shop * (SH-132)	139418	Contributing	8513		Location	21597	Yes
Duplex Officers' Quarters * (SH-144)	139420	Contributing	8517		Location	21599	Yes
Duplex Officers' Quarters * (SH-145)	139422	Contributing	8518		Location	21601	Yes
Post Engineer Warehouse * (SH-156)	139424	Contributing	8520		Location	21603	Yes
Officers' Latrine * (SH-300)	139426	Contributing	8549		Location	28122	Yes
Officers' Mess Hall * (SH-301)	139428	Contributing	8550		Location	28129	Yes
Camp Headquarters * (SH-302)	139430	Contributing	8551		Location	28134	Yes

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Officers' Latrine * (SH-304)	139432	Contributing	8553		Location	28143	Yes
Dispensary * (SH-305)	139434	Contributing	8554		Location	28144	Yes
Sewage Pump Plant * (SH-306)	139436	Contributing	8555		Location	28145	Yes
Sewage Pump Station * (SH-307)	139438	Contributing	8556		Location	28146	Yes
Enlisted Men's Mess Hall * (SH-315)	139440	Contributing	8559		Location	28148	Yes
The Camp Post Exchange * (SH-316)	139442	Contributing	8561		Location	28149	Yes
Enlisted Men's Mess Hall * (SH-317)	139444	Contributing	8560		Location	28150	Yes
Enlisted Men's Latrine * (SH-318)	139446	Contributing	8562		Location	28151	Yes
Men's Lavatory Building * (SH-319)	139448	Contributing	8563		Location	28153	Yes
Enlisted Men's Latrine * (SH-320)	139450	Contributing	8564		Location	28155	Yes
Enlisted Men's Latrine * (SH-321)	139452	Contributing	8565		Location	28156	Yes
Post Morgue (Dead House) * (SH-326)	139454	Contributing	8571		Location	21027	Yes
NCO Quarters * (SH-335)	139456	Contributing	8577		Location	21030	Yes
Post Theater Transformer Building (SH-W)	139458	Contributing	41299		Location	28188	Yes
Sandy Hook Light * (SH-LIGHT)	139460	Contributing	41303		Location	21565	Yes
Officer's Club-Outbuilding (SH-AA)	139462	Contributing	41306				No
Officer's Row-Wood Bulkheads (SH-F)	139464	Contributing	41280		Location	21616	Yes
Concrete Seawall (SH-H)	139466	Contributing	41282		Location	21616	Yes
James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory	139468	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Building 303	139470	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 15. Building 6 stands vacant like many of the Officer's Row residences (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 16. Sandy Hook Light and Keepers Quarters. The lighthouse is the oldest structure on the peninsula and predates the development of Fort Hancock (OCLP, 2007).

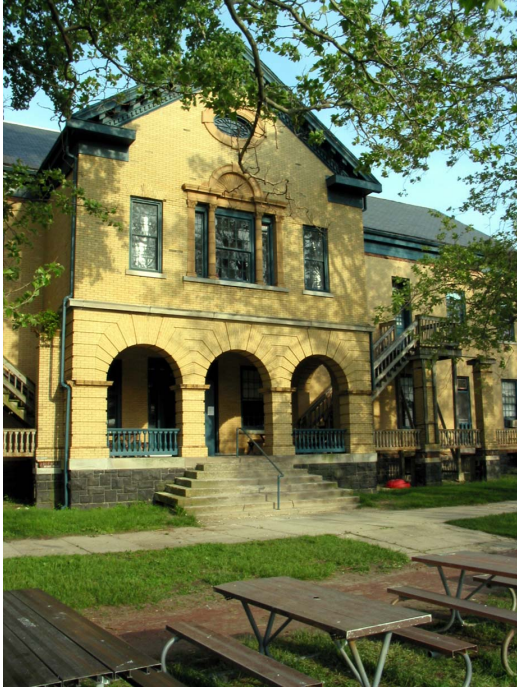


Figure 17. The west facade of one of the enlisted men's barracks (OCLP, 2007).

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (through 1974):

Views from the Fort Hancock Post Grounds were considered as part of the earliest planning process. The first buildings constructed at the fort, the residences of Officer's Row and the Enlisted Men's Barracks, both clustered around the Parade Ground and Athletic Field, were oriented to provide views of Sandy Hook Bay. The ranking officers at the Post Grounds lived in the residences on Officer's Row with lower ranking officers and enlisted men housed to the east, making the shoreline the focal point of the fort's viewshed. As such the Officer's Row buildings faced west, with wide front porches oriented toward the water. The uniform distance between the Officer's Row residences provided views of the water from areas on the east side of the fort.

Another important design element of the Post Grounds site plan that incorporated views was the concept of keeping open lines of sight within the fort landscape. The open space of the Parade Ground provided direct views between the Officers' back doors and the soldiers in the barracks, allowing everyone on base to keep an eye on one another.

Views are less important the further you get from the central features of the Parade Ground and Athletic Field. The spatial organization of buildings and open spaces becomes more random, allowing for fewer view corridors.

Post-Historic and Existing Condition:

No significant changes occurred to the views of the Post Grounds after the period of significance. Currently, the open space of the Parade Ground and Athletic Fields exists as it did historically and clear views are available between Officer's Row and the Barracks (Figure 18). Also, sweeping views of Sandy Hook Bay are available from the front porches of Officer's Row. As was the case historically, the street tree coverage along Hartshorne Drive is spotty and does not interfere with westward water views (Figure 19).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views of Sandy Hook Bay from Officer's Row	138948	Contributing					No
Views between Officer's Row and Enlisted Men's Barracks	138952	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18. The residences of Officer's Row frame views of Sandy Hook Bay (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 19. Street tree coverage on Hartshorne Drive is spotty, allowing for clear views of Sandy Hook Bay (image right) from the residences of Officer's Row (OCLP, 2007).

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (through 1974):

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds was characterized by numerous historic small scale features, including street lighting, recreational features, site furnishings, and decorative displays of militaria. Exterior illumination for the Post Grounds was first ordered in 1898 with the installation of twenty gas street lamps. These early lamps featured wooden posts in the "Deitz" pattern. This was a variation of the lightposts of the adjacent Proving Ground. One of these early Proving Ground lightpoles remains in place today at the rear of the Officer's Club, outside the study area of this report.

In 1902, the system of gas street lights was converted to electricity. This work involved the installation of twenty-eight cast iron street lamps of the "Westervelt" design. Transformers and wiring were placed underground. Historic photographs and drawings remain to document these "Westervelt" lamps, which are no longer extant. Refinements in the technology of electrical generators led to the construction of a new powerplant in 1912. With the installation of modern electrical generating equipment, the number of light fixtures were greatly increased. At this time wooden light posts were replaced with cast iron fixtures. The most common of these were new curved arm poles similar but larger than those located at the nearby Proving Ground. Approximately sixty examples of the new "Parade Ground Type" light fixture were installed around or near the Parade Ground. The same locations appear on later site plans. This was most certainly due to the fact that it was easier to utilize existing underground wiring as the lighting system continued to evolve.

In 1933, Fort Hancock's Quartermaster obtained fifteen surplus cast iron lamp posts from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in suburban Maryland. These special lamp posts were placed along Hartshorne Drive in front of the commissioned officer's quarters. Neither the Walter Reed or the Parade Ground light fixtures are extant on the property today and there is currently no information as to the details of their disposal.

The Army replaced many of the aging street lights with exposed aggregate, cast concrete light poles throughout the fort and spun aluminum light poles along Hartshorne Drive between the 1950s and 1974.

The original Post Grounds flagstaff and base were constructed in December 1898. This first flagstaff was 100 feet tall, braced with guy wires and was of a standard design on file with the Army's Quartermaster Department. This original flagstaff was installed at the center of a square concrete plaza. In 1930, the flagstaff and plaza were replaced with a newer design that remains in place today. The new pole was located at the same site as the old one and also extended to 100 feet in height. The difference in the new flagstaff was its ability to stand without the use of guy wires or side stays, and its placement in a round rather than square plaza. The plaza was encircled with a planting of Austrian pines.

Other site furnishings serving the Parade Ground and Athletic Field include provisions for the observation of the various exercises and drills. Several types of benches existed around the fort during the period of significance, though specific information about dates and locations of different styles is scant. One bench that is clearly documented in site photographs was the "World's Fair" style, which was a typical wood slat park bench with slender cast iron supports and circular armrests. Of a much less genteel nature were the observation platforms, constructed of rough timber, on which a sergeants would stand to shout instructions for morning exercises. These platforms appear quite heavy in historic views but not so as to make them permanent features in the landscape. A group of several men would be able to move these structures out of the way when not in use.

The maintenance of morale was an important consideration in maintaining combat readiness within the relative isolation of Fort Hancock. Games and sports were a popular activity that helped the

officers soldiers, nurses, W.A.C.'s, and their families pass the time. Outdoor recreation facilities within the study area of this report included baseball and softball fields, goalposts, tennis courts, and a handball court.

Fort Hancock's close association with the Sandy Hook Proving Ground made the acquisition of a variety of obsolete ordnance and armament an easy matter for the embellishment of the Post Grounds' roadways and public grounds. An explosion of an old projectile lining one of the Post Grounds' roadways prompted the removal of much of this kind of display in 1925. However, a significant amount of ordnance, piled in pyramidal stacks remained on the grounds of the fort until it was sacrificed to the scrap drives of the domestic war effort during World War II.

The enormous cannon which occupies the traffic island at the intersection of Hartshorne and Kearney Roads is the one remaining piece of the fort's historic decorative military hardware. This 20" Rodman Gun, at one time the largest cannon in the world, was fitted with a concrete base and moved to its current location in 1937.

The historic street signs of the Post Grounds were originally of very heavy cast iron construction. These signs were typically placed at intersections and featured the words, "Fort Hancock" at their tops. An example of minor signage serving the Post Ground's roadways included small concrete monuments which served as milemarkers. The numeric inserts for these monuments are missing and the location of the "zero point" for these markers is unknown.

Built just prior to de-activation in 1974, Guardian Park contains several small scale features. The Army moved a Nike Ajax missile to the park, placing it on a concrete pad. The park is also home to the Middletown Marker, a stone monument commemorating ten service members and civilians killed in a Nike Hercules explosion in 1958.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

A wide range of small scale features are located throughout the Post Grounds, representing many years of habitation and evolving land use. Only one of the "Deitz" style street lights from the early 1900s remains. Multiple other styles of street lighting were introduced in subsequent decades, several of which remain in varying states of repair. Multiple examples of the cast concrete street lights from the 1950s remain along Kessler Road and around Sergeants Row, though as a group they are in disrepair (Figure 20). In contrast, Hartshorne Drive has a series of modernly styled streetlights installed in the 1960s that are in good condition and provide visual continuity along the road.

The NPS installed new lighting around the Post Grounds in the 1980s to supplement the existing historic streetlights. These newer fixtures, sometimes called "cobra heads," have a square, tapered, grey-stained, wood poles and aluminum light fixtures supported by an aluminum arm. These are predominantly located along roadways and parking lots, not in pedestrian areas.

Lighting was added more recently around the M.A.S.T. campus and NOAA Marine Laboratory. The lights at both facilities are similar in style but the M.A.S.T. lights are pole-mounted square boxes that shine light downward and the NOAA lights have similar square luminaires mounted on arms. Both are painted a flat dark brown color. A few new experimental light poles have been added along Kessler Road that mimic the historic gooseneck and Walter Reed styles of the early 1900s.

The flagpole and surrounding concrete plaza from the 1930s remain, although the historic planting of Austrian pines has been compromised by age. Several of the historic trees are missing and the others are overly mature and do not reflect the historic design intent. It is unknown at what time the salute cannon at the base of the flagpole were removed. Two weathered wood benches are located at the YMCA. They are simple wood slat benches with metal pipe supports mounted permanently into the surrounding concrete pad.

Today, the historic recreational facilities once associated with the Post Grounds, including baseball and softball fields, goalposts, tennis courts, and a handball court, are extant but in disrepair. Two historic clay tennis courts on site, one near the theater and one near the Officer's Club, and have

reverted to grass but their concrete curbing and flat surfaces are visible. A softball field is still located on the east side of the Parade Ground and the handball court is extant on the south side of the YMCA. These features are in disrepair.

After the transfer of Fort Hancock to the NPS in 1974, the Army expressed interest in moving the Rodman Gun from the site but no action was taken and the feature stands in its historic location. Unfortunately, a decorative insert which had been installed in the muzzle opening was lost to souvenir hunters. Prior to the active management of the property by the NPS, the two Rodman guns in front of the Commanding Officer's quarters were removed by the Army for display at another active base.

The decorative Nike missile still exists at Guardian Park (Figure 21). Fifteen to twenty picnic tables are placed at Guardian Park in the warm months (Figure 22). These are typical aluminum tables on metal pipe supports. No trash cans for public use exist because of the park's carry-in, carry-out policy. Dumpsters and trash cans are provided around park housing and buildings occupied by tenants and NPS offices.

Several of the historic mile markers remain along Hartshorne Drive. None of the historic street signs remain in the landscape, although one is in the park's museum collection. Current street signage is contemporary in appearance and conforms to NPS standards.

Items noted with an * are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Flag Pole * (SH-061)	139098	Contributing	8481		Location	21435	Yes
20 inch Rodman Gun * (SH-100)	139100	Contributing	8230		Location	21605	Yes
Mileage Markers (SH-E)	139102	Contributing	41279				No
Nike Hercules Missile (SH-N)	139104	Contributing	41289				No
Middletown Marker (SH-O)	139106	Contributing	41290				No
Aluminum Street Lights along Hartshorne Drive	139108	Contributing					No
Concrete Street Lights	139110	Contributing					No
Tennis Courts (SH-091)	139112	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Tennis Courts(SH-093)	139114	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
M.A.S.T. and NOAA Street Lights	139822	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
"Cobra Head" Street Lights	139824	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Benches at YMCA	139826	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Picnic Tables at Guardian Park	139828	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Street Signs and Directional Signage	139830	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Trash Cans and Dumpsters	139832	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 20. A remaining historic concrete street light in Sergeant's Row (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 21. Guardian Park contains several small scale features including the Nike missile and Middletown Marker (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 22. Several picnic shelters and barbecue pits are located in Guardian Park (OCLP, 2007).

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 7

Next Assessment Due Date: 07/23/2032

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/23/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Post area is in fair condition. Several historic structures are in a deteriorated state. Much of the site's historic pavement and walkways are cracked with missing or damaged lighting. The deterioration of the seawall coupled with shoreline erosion at the Chapel affect the site's condition along the coast.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/17/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/18/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Fort Hancock Post Grounds landscape is in good condition due to routine maintenance and selective rehabilitation projects undertaken by the park. The park has replaced deteriorated concrete sidewalks, reset bluestone sidewalks, pruned street trees and improved visitor services, notably by the extension of the multi-use path. They maintain picnic facilities at Guardian Park, maintain roads regularly, and mow the turf regularly. The one exception to this is the poor condition of the lighting system. The study area is inadequately lit by a random collection of street light styles.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The park is working to solicit proposals for leasing opportunities to adaptively reuse more than twenty historic buildings in the fort area. This historic leasing program may impact the landscape.

Date Identified: 07/23/2025

Type of Impact: Accretion of noncontributing features

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: While the lease of the historic Mule Barn has resulted in the rehabilitation of the building, there is now a patio and expanded parking adjacent to the site. MAST Campus also has a significant presence onsite.

Date Identified: 07/23/2025

Type of Impact: Inundation/Flooding

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: The site's flat topography and high-water table make it vulnerable to flood events.

Date Identified: 07/23/2025

Type of Impact: Inundation/Sea Level Rise

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: An increase in the elevation of the mean sea level (MSL) of ocean and bay waters may cover typically dry land at the site.

Date Identified: 07/23/2025

Type of Impact: Inundation/Storm Surge

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Amplified tides during severe low pressure weather systems may flood the site.

Date Identified: 07/23/2025

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Numerous historic buildings are structurally deficient.

Date Identified: 07/23/2025

Type of Impact: Vandalism/Theft/Arson

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Structural deterioration of various structures has allowed access to vandals. Graffiti is an ongoing problem.

Date Identified: 07/23/2025

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 1979-07-18

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 2005-01-01

Title: Cultural Landscape Report for Fort Hancock, Treatment Plan, Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2187422>

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 1999-07-01

Title: Cultural Landscape Report For Proving Ground And
Wartime Expansion Areas, Sandy Hook Unit

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2286932>

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Bearss, Edwin	Historic Resource Study for Fort Hancock	1981	National Park Service, Department of the Interior			
Foulds, Eliot	Historic Landscape Assessment for Fort Hancock	1997	Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service, Department of			
n/a	Nomination for Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground National Historic Landmark District	1982	National Park Service, Department of the Interior			

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
GATE_Battery Weed-Floyd Bennett-Fort Hancock Post Grounds-Fort Tilden_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf		

Source