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Olmsted Center
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Cultural Landscape Report For Governors Island National Monument

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Volume 1:

INTRODUCTION

SITE HISTORY

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ANALYSIS

By Lisa Nowak

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
National Park Service, Boston, Massachusetts, 2010

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Cover Photo: Governors Island and Manhattan, circa 1932. GOIS image collection.

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FOREWORD

Located just off the tip of southern Manhattan, Governors Island National Monument is an incredible place to explore and learn about the evolution of coastal defense and military communities as well as the harbor's rich history and ecology. The cultural landscape is integral to understanding the significance of the Monument's resources. With this foundational report, one can see the changes over time and how the landscape connects and informs our view of Castle Williams and Fort Jay, two outstanding examples of coastal defense fortifications.

The information contained in this report will be extremely helpful as we begin the implementation phases of the General Management Plan. Of particular interest are the photos and maps which chronicle the changes to the island and the monument in an engaging way showing the influence of people, events, and natural forces. Drawing on this foundational report will help us enhance the interpretive experience for our audiences as well guide the management of these important cultural treasures.

This report would not have been possible without the superb expertise of the staff at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Lisa Nowak is to be commended for her dedication and guidance in producing this excellent report. I want to thank her and all the individuals who contributed to this timely and important reference.

Patti Reilly
Superintendent
Governors Island National Monument

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Numerous repositories were consulted during the historic research phase of the project. Thanks are due to the archivists and reprographic staff at the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Museum of the City of New York, the Center for Military History in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

INTRODUCTION

For over two hundred years, Governors Island, located off the southern tip of Manhattan, was home to a military community and played an active role in the defense and development of the New York Harbor area. Now, in the twenty-first century, as both a unit of the National Park Service and a city-owned space for public enjoyment, Governors Island takes on a new role in the continuing evolution of the New York metro region. Governors Island National Monument, an approximately 22-acre space focused around the late-eighteenth and nineteenth-century fortifications Fort Jay and Castle Williams and their associated landscapes, partners with the city-owned Trust for Governors Island to serve as stewards of the island as it enters a dramatically new phase in its development.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Cultural landscape reports serve as the National Park Service's primary document for the treatment of cultural landscapes – defined as geographic areas associated with a historic event, activity, or person, or as areas that exhibit significant cultural or aesthetic values. Cultural landscape reports are tools to inform day-to-day decision making as well as long-term landscape preservation strategies. These reports provide information about a site's history and evolution, existing conditions, historical significance, and historic integrity to guide treatment actions.

This report represents the first volume of a cultural landscape report, including a site history, existing conditions, and an analysis of significance and integrity that will inform a comprehensive landscape treatment plan in the future. A general management plan was recently completed for Governors Island National Monument to help guide and coordinate park planning and management for the next twenty years. Treatment actions proposed in a forthcoming second volume of this report will support the strategies outlined in the general management plan.

One of the key objectives of this volume of the report is to provide a description of the landscape through all historic periods up to and including present management based on primary and secondary sources. This information is used to identify important historic contexts and periods of significance associated with the landscape. Additionally, documentary evidence is synthesized to identify landscape characteristics and features that contribute to the historic character of Governors Island National Monument.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Governors Island National Monument is an irregularly shaped 22.78-acre parcel situated on the north side of Governors Island, New York. The 172-acre island is located one-half mile south of Manhattan and one-third mile west of Red Hook, Brooklyn at the mouth of the Hudson River (Figure 1.1). The northeastern portion of the island is a designated National Historic Landmark District containing the National Monument property and numerous other historic resources relating to nineteenth and twentieth-century military operations (Figure 1.2). Governors Island National Monument includes Castle Williams and Fort Jay, the island's most prominent historic resources. Castle Williams, a circular, casemated fortification, sits at the northwest corner of Governors Island, just feet from the water's edge, overlooking Manhattan, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, New Jersey, and the Brooklyn Bridge. Fort Jay, a modified star-fort, is located near the center of the National Historic Landmark District, surrounded by portions of the historic glacis that has been used more recently as a parade ground and golf course. Several twentieth-century buildings and parking lots are included in the National Monument boundary, as are vegetative features and circulation patterns established by the twentieth-century.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Native Americans of the Manhattan area, a sub-group of the Munsee Delaware tribe, used Governors Island, or what was originally known as Pagganack, as a seasonal fishing camp. They sold the island to the governor general of New Amsterdam, Wouter Van Twiller, in 1637, who was sent to oversee the Dutch West India Company's commercial endeavor in North America. Van Twiller purchased the island for his private interests and Pagganck and the rest of his personal holdings reverted back to the Dutch West India Company upon his return to the Netherlands in 1642. Beginning in 1664, the British were the next European power to govern the northeastern United States. They recognized the island's strategic value during the French and Indian War and, in 1755, their soldiers became the first military troops stationed on the island. However, it wasn't until the American Revolution when the first substantial defensive elements were constructed on the island, beginning with earthen fortifications built by Colonial soldiers to fend off a British attack. Their efforts proved futile in the face of the British attack on New York City in 1776. After the Colonial defeat, the British occupied the island for the remainder of the conflict. From this point onward Governors Island served almost continuously as a military installation.

After the Revolutionary War, Governors Island was briefly abandoned, only to be later integrated as a component of the First System of New York harbor defenses in 1794. The First System, funded by the federal government, involved the

construction of fortifications at several key harbors along the eastern seaboard. Fort Jay was constructed over the ruins of Governors Island's former fortifications, which were built largely from earth and vegetative materials. It stood on the highest point of the island, approximately in the center, and commanded sweeping views of the harbor after many trees were cleared. Later improvements, ordered by Congress during the Second System of harbor defenses in the early 1800s, resulted in the reconstruction and strengthening of Fort Jay and the construction of a new all-masonry circular fort, Castle Williams. These two structures and other Second System forts including South Battery, constructed prior to the War of 1812 on the east side of Governors Island, Castle Clinton off the southern tip of Manhattan, and Fort Wood, which is now the base of the Statue of Liberty, provided strategic coverage of the upper New York Harbor.

In the nineteenth century, the Army continued to expand the infrastructure on Governors Island to support additional personnel, military stores, and administrative functions. The island's fortifications became increasing obsolete during the mid-to-late 1800s due to advances in military technology and the Army began to construct buildings on the open lawn and parade ground. This trend of changing land use and spatial organization continued into the late 1800s when Governors Island was designated as an administrative center for the Army's eastern command.

An additional 103 acres were added to the island in 1911, created with fill from the excavation of the New York City subway. Military activities continued to alter the island through the construction of an airstrip, temporary barracks and warehouses during the global wars of the twentieth century. Recreational facilities were constructed, including a polo field, golf course, and tennis courts. The Army continued to develop permanent facilities to support the island's expanding population through the end of their occupation of the island.

The Army vacated the island in 1966, relinquishing control to the Coast Guard, who maintained the island as an active base until 1996. The Coast Guard also altered the landscape to suit their needs by demolishing World War II-era buildings and adding contemporary, high-rise barracks to increase housing capacity.

The Coast Guard consolidated their New York operations in 1996 and vacated the island, leaving a small caretaking crew to maintain the mothballed base. On his last days in office in 2001, President William J. Clinton established Governors Island National Monument to protect and preserve the approximately twenty-two acres containing the historic forts of the island. The remainder of the island was transferred to the city and state of New York in 2003 to be managed by a public benefit corporation called the Governors Island Preservation and

Education Corporation, or GIPEC. The National Park Service and GIPEC took over joint management and caretaking duties of their respective properties in 2003. Ownership of the island was transferred solely to New York City in 2010 and GIPEC was reorganized and renamed the Trust for Governors Island.

SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLOGY

The cultural landscape report for Governors Island includes three primary sections, a site history, a review of existing conditions, and a landscape analysis and evaluation. The site history documents broad changes made to the landscape from Native American habitation to the present day. Information regarding physical changes made during times of peace and during times of military conflict is presented. Additionally, the site history addresses the evolution of the island's landform - its expansion from a small rocky island into the 172 acres that exist today - and associated land use changes. While the most detailed information is presented about features found within the National Monument boundary, the history of the entire island has been presented to provide an understanding of the island's evolution in its entirety and the larger context for the National Monument property.

The site history was researched and written at a level of investigation consistent with that of "Thorough Historical Research," as defined by "*A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques. - Landscape Lines #2 Levels of Investigation.*" This included the use of readily available primary and secondary sources. Research was undertaken at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland and the Center for Military History in Carlisle, Virginia. The project team sought narrative and graphic information from the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Historical Society, and the Museum of the City of New York. Primary research was synthesized with secondary source material, notably the recently completed historic structures reports for Castle Williams and Fort Jay and the Historic Resource Study for the National Monument. Findings are presented as a narrative containing supporting graphics. The site history narrative is subdivided into historical periods that coincide with significant events such as the purchase or sale of the property, or the beginning and end of an important period of landscape stewardship.

Documentation of existing landscape conditions is accomplished through narrative text, photographs, and graphic plans. Plan documentation is based on the best currently available survey information supplied by the park and by on-site observation. The island's structures are referenced to the park's List of Classified Structures (LCS), but the primary emphasis is placed on documenting landscape conditions. Contemporary site functions, visitor services,

interpretation, park operations, and maintenance are described to the degree they influence the treatment of the landscape.

The analysis and evaluation of the Governors Island National Monument landscape evaluates the site's historical significance using criteria determined by the *National Register of Historic Places* program. A discussion of the landscape's integrity is included to determine whether current conditions reflect the site's appearance during the period of significance. Additionally, the landscape evaluation draws on the findings of the site history and existing conditions components of this report to identify landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the historic character of the National Monument. This section is organized using seven landscape characteristics, including views and vistas, spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, and small scale features.

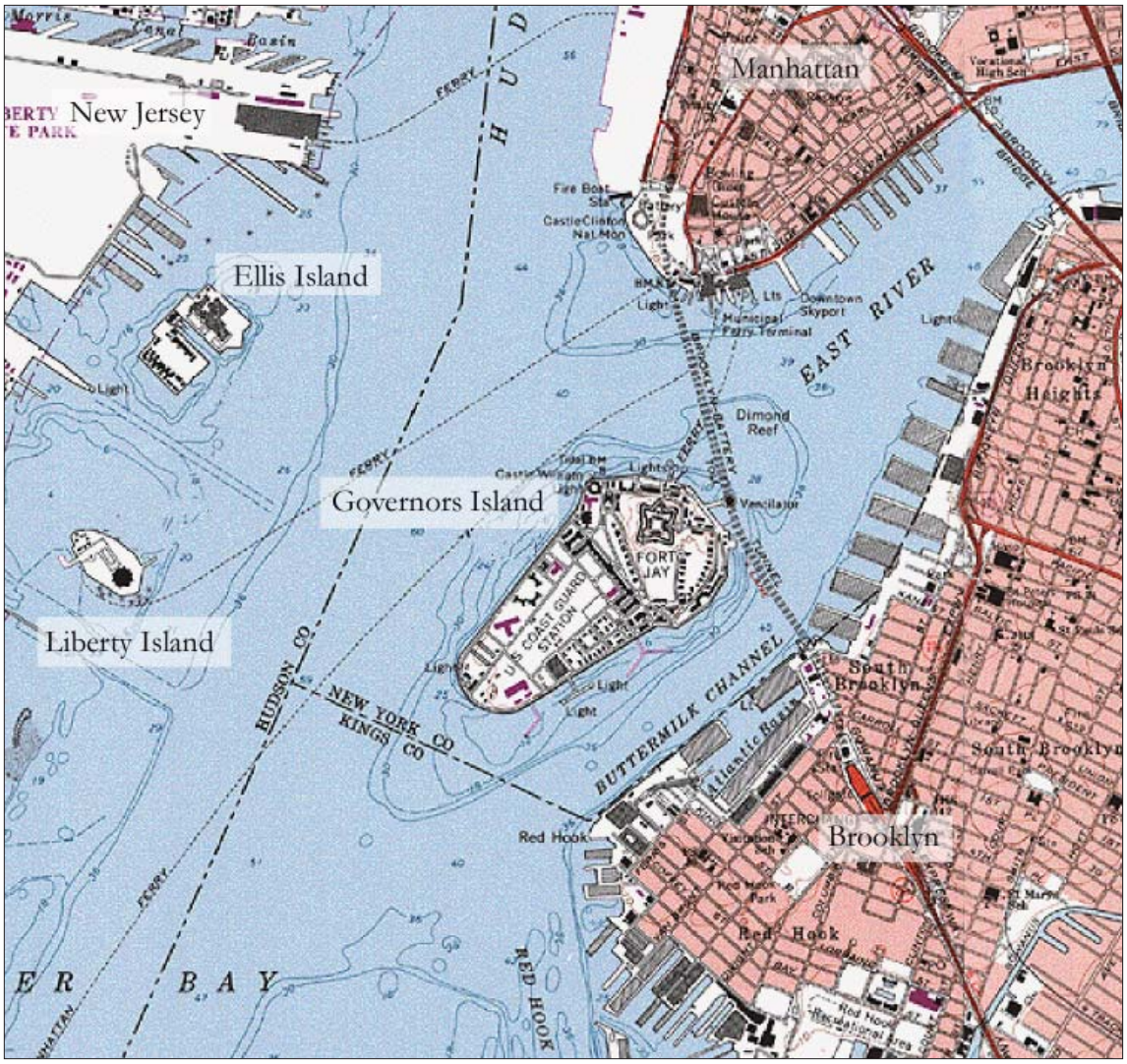


Figure 1.1. Governors Island and surrounding New York Harbor (OCLP, 2002).



Figure 1.2. Governors Island National Historic Landmark District encompasses the northern portion of the island (outlined in blue). Governors Island National Monument is contained within the landmark district (outlined in red). Not to scale (OCLP, 2008).

PRE-HISTORY TO 1783

NATIVE AMERICAN AND EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

The Manhattan people, part of the northern Delaware tribal group, called Governors Island "Pagganck" in a reference to the abundant nut trees established on the island.[1] It is unclear from archeological investigation whether they used the island for hunting and gathering or if they established permanent settlements and engaged in agricultural pursuits.[2] However, being so near to settled sites on Manhattan and Long Island made the island a likely place to fish and gather shellfish and nuts.

European contact with Native American groups in the area began in 1524 during Giovanni da Verrazano's exploration of New York Harbor for the French government. The French were followed by the Dutch who sent Henry Hudson to North America in search of a water route to Asia in 1609. Hudson did not find the elusive "northwest passage," but did report finding plentiful natural resources including timber and animal furs. Impressed with his discovery, the Dutch, under the auspices of the Dutch West India Company, sent a ship to scout the North American coast for an appropriate settlement in 1621, first landing on Pagganck, which they translated to Nutten Island.[3] This fledgling group was soon followed by several families who were part of a larger community of Walloons from Belgium recruited by the Dutch West India Company to populate company settlements in the Hudson River valley.[4] Yet, the first European settlement of Nutten Island was short-lived as the families soon moved to Manhattan in search of more land and better protection from hostile Native American groups.[5]

Documented improvements to the island were first recorded in the mid-1620s. The earliest known depiction of Governors Island appears on a 1639 map of New York Harbor that documents dwellings, outbuildings, fortifications, and mills throughout what is now known as Manhattan, Brooklyn, western Long Island, Staten Island, and eastern New Jersey (Figure 2.1).[6] As shown, Manhattan was the most densely populated area at the time, though diffuse settlements appeared throughout the region, hugging the shoreline. Among the scattered outlying development was a windmill on Nutten Island, labeled as belonging to van Twiller. Wouter van Twiller was the governor of New Amsterdam and the director of the Dutch West India Company in 1639 who purchased Nutten Island in 1637 for his personal use. He owned the land for five years until returning to Holland in 1642. His use of the island has been speculated about at length and includes reports that he built a house, raised animals, and cultivated the land. However, documentary and archeological evidence uncovered to date only suggests the presence of the windmill built in the 1620s (Figure 2.2).[7]

Nutten Island resided midway between the southern tip of Manhattan and a spit of land on the west shore of Brooklyn, now known as Red Hook. The shore line was irregular with several inlets cut into its perimeter. Although the size of the island seems out of scale compared with depictions on later historical maps, the 1639 map appears to reflect the extents of the island at low tide. The shore would have been a mix of rocks and sand, backed by steep bluffs. Although no vegetation is shown on the 1639 map, it is likely that Nutten Island was covered in mature hardwood trees, as its name reflects, and as was typical of the majority of land on the eastern seaboard at the onset of European settlement.[8]

After van Twiller returned to Holland, Nutten Island was transferred to the Dutch West India Company for use by the governor generals, ending the only period of private ownership in the island's history. Little documentation exists about the activities occurring on the island for the remainder of the Dutch occupation of New Amsterdam, outside of an account of Governor Wilhelm Kieft leasing some acreage for tobacco cultivation.

Fellow colonial power, England, set its sights on controlling the northeast region of North America by the mid-1600s. Unable to compete with Britain's superior naval strength, Holland surrendered control of New Amsterdam in a bloodless exchange in 1664, giving up all rights to their holdings in the northeast. Under proxy British rule, administered by the New York colonial legislature, population and development increased from the low levels sustained during Dutch control.[9]

The legislature offered Nutten Island to the royal governors for their personal use, establishing the island as a private retreat for New York's political rulers.[10] Reportedly, British Governor Lord Cornbury built a house on the island circa 1702, although no evidence of the structure remains.[11] Several decades later, Governor Cosby chose to use the island as a preserve to breed pheasants for hunting.[12] Despite the recreational uses of the governors, the period was likely characterized by limited human intervention, resulting in a rugged, natural shoreline and abundant native vegetation.

One documented interruption to the secluded, private use of the island occurred in 1710 when it was used as a temporary quarantine station. A group of Palatines, German Protestant refugees being resettled from London, were housed on the island for the summer. Their numbers, which had already been reduced by disease on the arduous sea journey, dwindled further after reaching New York where many more died and were buried on Governors Island.[13] No documentary or archeological evidence has been found to date to suggest that permanent structures were built to house the refugees so the footprint from their occupation may have been slight. Tents and temporary shelters were easily removed, leaving a limited impact on the landscape outside of felled trees and burial sites.

GOVERNORS ISLAND AS A DEFENSIVE POST

Colonial warfare was a near constant threat for Great Britain, as the Crown sought to protect and expand British interests in North America. Conflict with France, actual and imagined, led Colonial officials to consider fortifying New York Harbor as early as 1741. Governor Clarke advocated for the construction of defensive works in an address to the New York Legislature: "There is great cause to apprehend a speedy rupture with France. Your situation ought therefore to awaken you to see the importance of erecting batteries in proper places… and one at Red Hook to prevent the enemy landing upon Governor's [sic] Island."[14] Although no timely action was taken to fortify Red Hook, the more immediate response to preventing an enemy landing on Governors Island was to use the island as a garrison. The first military encampment on the island occurred in 1755, during the last conflict of Britain's seven year war with France, now known as the French and Indian War. Little documentation or physical remains exist to suggest the layout, size, or character of the encampment. The scant remains suggest that it was temporary in nature with tents or other impermanent shelters used to house the troops.

The physical appearance of the island is better documented beginning in 1766. Several plans of the harbor were produced in that year showing development on Governors Island, some of which may date to the military encampment during the French and Indian War (Figures 2.3 and 2.4). Several built features are consistently depicted on period imagery, including the presence of a geometric fort or building near the center of the island, several earthworks surrounding the fort, especially to the north and west, and land manipulated for a wharf on the east side of the island, facing Buttermilk Channel. It appears that a channel was dug through the steep bluff near the wharf to create a level docking area and to create a navigable road up to the fort. This also may have been created to provide a depressed path where soldiers would be protected from enemy fire by the earthen sidewalls.

A series of informal earthworks, or water batteries, were located around the perimeter of the island. These raised earth structures were built to provide a platform from which to skip projectiles across the surface of the water to impact the hulls of ships. The main fort stood at an advantageous elevation atop a regularly-shaped mound of earth with steeply sloping sides and unobstructed views. Much of the island was cleared of forest growth, though a few solitary tree specimens stood along the island's perimeter.

At this time, Governors Island's shoreline was irregular and craggy due to weathering from waves and wind (Figure 2.5). The beach was a combination of rocks and sand backed by steep bluffs. Though the island's use was primarily military, period imagery shows the citizenry milling leisurely about the beach,

illustrating that it was also used as a pleasure ground to those who could find water transportation.

In 1766, plans were drawn for proposed fortifications on Governors Island, likely to enhance the existing rudimentary fortification. One design by British engineer John Montresor called for a square fortress and moat at the center of the island (Figure 2.6). Montresor's plan used the same location as the existing geometric fort and may have been planned to encompass a portion of the extant infrastructure. He drew a detailed cross section of the dry moat, masonry fort walls, and sloped glacis designed to surround the main fortification (Figure 2.7). Smaller water batteries were planned for the four sides of the island. Montressor designed four roads radiating from the corners of the central fort to the outskirts of the island. These may have been intended to be covered defiles, or depressed walkways built to provide coverage from enemy artillery. Yet despite a plea made by the British colonial government in 1774 to appropriate funding for Montressor's plans, the fortifications were never built.[15]

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Conflict in the North American colonies first broke out in Boston, Massachusetts and spread across New England in 1775 and early 1776. In the winter of 1776, Continental generals and strategists foresaw that the battle would soon be for control of New York City, the largest port and commercial center in the colonies. Colonial General George Washington understood that the British sought control of New York and the Hudson River in hopes of splitting the colonies to sever lines of communication and hinder the transfer of goods. Washington was also aware of the difficulty of defending a city surrounded by water with essentially no navy.[16] As a reminder of British naval might, several warships had been moored in New York's inner harbor and only retreated to the outer harbor in early April.[17] Washington sent General Charles Lee, one of his most experienced officers, to New York to begin preparing a defensive plan.

Lee quickly recognized the challenges in defending New York from the world's most formidable navy. The many channels and rivers surrounding Manhattan, Brooklyn, Long Island, and Staten Island created prime opportunities for a naval offensive. Lee reflected, "What to do with this City, I own puzzles me, it is so encircled with deep navigable water, that whoever commands the Sea must command the Town."[18] A map of the inner harbor produced in 1776 illustrates Lee's predicament (Figure 2.8). Vast stretches of open water separated key land masses, making the selection of advantageous defensive posts essential to withstanding a naval attack.

Fort Stirling was built on the tall bluffs of Brooklyn Heights overlooking the East River. Eight cannon were mounted in the fort, which was expected to provide coverage of the approximately one mile wide East River and Manhattan because of its height advantage and sweeping views of the inner harbor.[19] On the other side of the harbor, the mouth of the Hudson was almost two miles wide, which was out of range for even the most powerful guns of the era.

Protecting Long Island was paramount to initial campaign planning for the Brooklyn Heights defenses. Four additional forts were built in Brooklyn to safeguard Fort Stirling and the Heights: Fort Greene, Fort Putnam, Fort Box, and lastly, Fort Defiance, which sat on the shores of Red Hook, across Buttermilk Channel from Governors Island.[20] On Manhattan, guns were placed at Old Fort George near the battery and all streets that terminated on the East or Hudson Rivers were barricaded with timbers to stymie a land assault.[21]

Governors Island was viewed as a key defensive position. Its location as the closest of the inner harbor islands to Manhattan and Brooklyn made fortifying the island a strategic imperative. Benjamin Franklin wrote about the island's prominent setting and recommended creating defensive works fortified with six guns.[22] General Lee supported Franklin's assessment and organized civilian work crews from Manhattan to begin digging fortifications in April 1776.[23]

After the British fleet evacuated Boston in the spring of 1776, Washington sent much of the Continental Army to New York in anticipation of the next significant battle. The entrenchments begun on Governors Island were improved by the arrival of Colonial General Israel Putnam and one thousand soldiers from Boston.[24] Construction of the fortifications continued over three months. Heavy-handed earth moving projects undoubtedly altered the natural topography and vegetation around the fortifications. Many trees were removed to provide uninterrupted fields of fire and for firewood for the encamped troops (Figure 2.9). A surviving farmhouse and barn were razed for the same purpose.[25] Yet, as shown in period illustrations, the island was not cleared of all vegetation. A sketch drawn by a British officer in 1776 shows most of Governors Island's fortifications obscured by vegetation (Figure 2.10).

Historic maps depict several fortifications on the island in 1776 and though discrepancies exist between the available maps, a fair picture of the Revolutionary fortifications can be synthesized through their comparison. Similar to earthworks erected during the French and Indian War, a series of water batteries surrounded the island along the shoreline (Figure 2.11). Likewise, an earthen fortification stood near the center of the island at the highest elevation. In what appears to be a new feature, an additional raised battery was built on the northwest corner of the island and connected to the central fortification by a covered defile (Figure 2.12). Along with the defensive works, the

island hosted a temporary garrison of one thousand soldiers. Tents, latrines, and weapons storage would have been located around the island, most probably south and east of the central fort.

Despite Lee's apprehension about the tenuous Colonial control of New York, General Washington felt bolstered by the strength of the Governors Island fortifications. He wrote to Lee, "In a fortnight more I think the city will be in a very respectable position of defense. Governors Island has a large and strong work erected and a regiment encamped there."[26] However, Washington's optimism faded as the British engaged the Colonial positions. Testing the waters, several British ships sailed into the inner harbor along the unfortified Staten Island shore in July 1776. The Colonials fired on them unsuccessfully from Fort George in present day southern Manhattan, Red Hook, and Governors Island.[27] British sailor Stephen Kembal witnessed the action and reported: "Observe the Rebels have fortified Governor's Island very strongly… About half after three in the Afternoon His Majesty's Ship Phoenix… and the Rose… with the Tryal Schooner and two Tenders got under sail to pass the Town of New York…. They received the whole of the Rebel fire from Red Hook, Governor's Island, the Battery and from some Guns in the Town."[28]

Although one of the ships was damaged in the exchange, the Colonial positions were not effectively placed to stop their progress past Manhattan and up the Hudson to Haverstraw Bay.

Although they had successfully passed through the Colonial defenses and traveled north up the Hudson, the British fleet stayed moored in the lower harbor awaiting reinforcements. There, they waited through the month of July and into August, amassing scores of warships and thousands of British and Hessian troops. In the interim, Washington divided his force between Manhattan, Long Island, Brooklyn, and Governors Island, not knowing where the British land assault would begin.[29] He planned to use the East River as the main transportation route should his forces in Brooklyn and Long Island need to retreat or be repositioned. Old ships were sunk at the mouth of the East River near Governors Island to ensure that only small Colonial boats could navigate the waters between southern Manhattan and Brooklyn Heights.[30]

On August 22, 1776, 15,000 British and Hessian troops crossed the Narrows from Staten Island and marched north toward Brooklyn. Five thousand more troops joined them several days later. The British encamped for a few days before advancing toward the defensive lines in Brooklyn, where after a six hour assault, they overwhelmed the Colonial forces. Facing entrapment, Washington ordered a covert retreat of 9,000 men, guns, horses, and equipment across the East River on the night of August 29. Almost all of the Colonials, including the troops stationed at Governors Island, had evacuated to Manhattan by the next day when

the British fired on the few retreating men. A Colonial officer wrote about the night of the retreat; "We have evacuated Governor's Island where we have lost some cannon. They fired smartly from Fort Stirling yesterday at our boats passing from Governor's Island."[31]

Though the retreat from the Battle of Long Island took the British by surprise and was considered organized and successful, a measure of disorder accompanied the hasty withdrawal. As reported by a New York resident: "The rebels in their hurry and consternation upon abandoning Long Island left the garrison upon Nutten Island (which they had strongly fortified) consisting of 2000 men, 40 pieces of heavy cannon, military stores and provisions in abundance without the least means of quitting the island."[32]

While the troops on Governors Island were evacuating with whatever provisions and guns they could transport, four British ships sailed into the harbor, about two miles south of Governors Island and began a bombardment on the retreating forces. In what appears to be a strategic error, the British ships were moored too far away from the island and their fire did little damage.[33] A Hessian officer described the retreat: "After having vacated everything except an island one English mile long, called Governor's Island, on which four hundred Pennsylvanians were encamped, have now embarked these men, too, in spite of a battle thrown up in front of us, and taken them to New York on small vessels under cover of a two-master frigate. We sank only two of these boats. They carried no more than about forty men, but these perished miserably."[34]

The Americans continued their retreat across Manhattan and into New Jersey in October 1776, after which New York City remained occupied by the British for the duration of the war. As indicated on period maps, Hessian troops encamped on Governors Island until the end of the conflict.

Fortuitously, a surviving piece of documentary evidence provides great insight to the character of Governors Island after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War in 1783. This correspondence from the vacating British officer, Captain Duncan, to the American Governor of New York, combined with a map created in 1782 help describe the changes made to the landscape during the British occupation. Duncan listed fifteen buildings and structures on the island for the purpose of surrendering the keys. Included in the inventory was a wharf, a twelve-foot deep well and associated pump, the Captain's kitchen, cellar and well, a cattle barn, a gardener's house, a hospital and its associated well, a guard house, two officers' barracks, a kitchen, and a summer house. Many of the structures are depicted on the 1782 map (Figure 2.13). Several are clustered inside the central fort, which appears as an irregular star shape. One building appears inside the battery northeast of the central fort and a geometric cluster of four buildings is located in an unfortified location east of the central fort.

One of the most prominent features highlighted on the map is manipulated topography. Mounded earth surrounding the central fort is clearly evident. A high, flat plateau extended east of the central fort with steep slopes to the north and east and more gradual slopes to the south. The island was surrounded by an extensive system of water batteries located near the high tide mark. Faint lines are visible on the map throughout the island, which may represent fence lines or narrow earthen walls. These may have been part of the defensive system or may have simply delineated animal enclosures, gardens, or other instances of domestic habitation.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION IN 1783

By the end of the Revolutionary War, Governors Island had served as a key military post in the fight for control of the busy port town of New York. First fortified by the Colonists under General George Washington and later occupied by British forces, Governors Island contained fifteen buildings and a central star shaped fort by 1783 (Figures 2.14 and 2.15). This fort was characterized by carefully designed topography including a high, flat plateau extending east from the central fort with steep slopes to the north and east with more gradual slopes to the south. Much of the island's forest had been cleared to provide building materials, firewood, and clear lines of sight. The perimeter hosted a natural sand and rock beach, backed by steep bluffs.

Other landscape features reflected the military purpose of the island and its recent role in the Revolutionary War. These included an extensive system of water batteries surrounding the island, and fences or narrow earthen walls that may have delineated part of a military defense system or addressed the domestic realities of island life, such as gardens or animal pens. Many of the existing features in 1783 were earthen or temporary in nature, constructed in haste and out of military necessity, not ready to stand the test of time without significant alteration.

ENDNOTES

[1] Louis Berger Group, "Archeological Assessment of the proposed guest house site, Third Coast Guard District, Governors Island, NY," 1986, 14.

[2] Jannelle Warren-Findley, "Governors Island, New York Harbor: A Historic Resource Survey from the Beginning to 1996," Final draft, 2007, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 2, citing Darby Moore-Doyle, "Transforming the Environment at Governors Island, New York: An Exploration of the Natural History and Cultural Landscape at Governors Island National Monument,"

[3] Edmund Banks Smith, *Governors Island, Its History Under Three Flags, 1637-1922* (New York: Valentine's Manual, Inc., 1923), 9, citing early documents of the Dutch East India Company.

[4] Correspondence with GOIS Supervisory Park Ranger, Michael B. Shaver, 9.16.2009.

[5] Warren-Findley, 3-4.

[6] Ibid., 5.

[7] Ibid., 6.

[8] The mill on the 1639 map is not accurately located. Recent archeological investigation has suggested its location on the northeast corner of the island, while the map locates the mill on the northwest corner, on the site of present day Castle Williams. It is also possible that more than one mill was present on the island. Holly Herbster and James C. Garman, Public Archeology Laboratory, "Phase 1B Archeological Survey of Governors Island National Historic Landmark District, 1997," 16; and James C. Garman and Paul A. Russo, "Phase II Evaluation of Six Archeological Sites in the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District, 1998," 62-63.

A debate has circulated for years about the possibility that Buttermilk Channel was at one point so narrow and shallow that it could be crossed on foot at low tide. Several historical accounts claim to corroborate this but recent examination of the issue suggests otherwise. Accounts from the late 1600s and early 1700s recall wading across the "creek" that was "sedge and meadow." However, by the American Revolution, the British documented that Buttermilk Channel was navigable and required safeguarding. It is unlikely that in fifty or one hundred years the channel increased dramatically in depth and width to become wide enough for war ships. See Smith, *Governors Island, Its History Under Three Flags,* pages 113-114, for a discussion of this issue.

GOIS Supervisory Park Ranger Michael B. Shaver suggests as a possibility for the confusion that the first-hand accounts were mistaken about the location of Governors Island. British military maps from the 1760s and 70s seem to show the Red Hook peninsula as being lower; between the west end of the hook and Brooklyn proper, which was a tidal marshland. The high ground of the Red Hook, with likely a few hardy or scrub hardwoods above the tide line, could have looked a lot like Governors Island.

[9] Van Zandt, *Chronicles of the Hudson, Three Centuries of Traveler's Accounts*, (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1971) 3-4.

[10] Correspondence with GOIS Supervisory Park Ranger, Michael B. Shaver, 9.16.2009.

[11] Smith, 29.

[12] Ibid., 32.

[13] Warren-Findley, 23.

[14] Smith, 33.

[15] Warren-Findley, 26-27, citing Jim Davis, "The Tentative Rebels: New York City during the First Year of the Revolution," http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/2003_summer_fall/NYC2.htm#_ftn58

[16] David McCullough, *1776* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2005), 117.

[17] McCullough, 119.

[18] Letter of February 19, 1776 from Charles Lee to George Washington; *Lee Papers*; p. 309, New York Historical Society, as appearing in Jim Davis, "The Tentative Rebels: New York City During the First Year of the Revolution," http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/2003_summer_fall/NYC2.htm#_ftn58

[19] McCullough, 126.

[20] Ibid., 127-128.

[21] Ibid., 128.

[22] Anastastio Carlos M. Azoy, "Three Centuries Under Three Flags: The Story of Governors Island from 1637 to 1951," New York: Headquarters, first Army, 1951, p. 22, original source not noted.

[23] Azoy, 22.

[24] Warren-Findley, 13.

[25] Azoy, 23.

[26] McCullough, 128.

[27] Azoy, 24.

[28] Smith, 41.

[29] Warren-Findley, 15.

[30] McCullough, 153.

[31] Letter from Colonel William Douglas to his wife, August 31, 1776, in Smith, 44.

[32] Report from New York resident Thomas Jones, in *History of New York During the Revolutionary War* (New York: The New York Times and Arno Press, 1968; orig. ed, 1879), 113.

[33] Ibid.

[34] Quoted in NYCLPC Report, Governors Island Historic District, 1996, 10, as cited in Warren-Findley, 33.

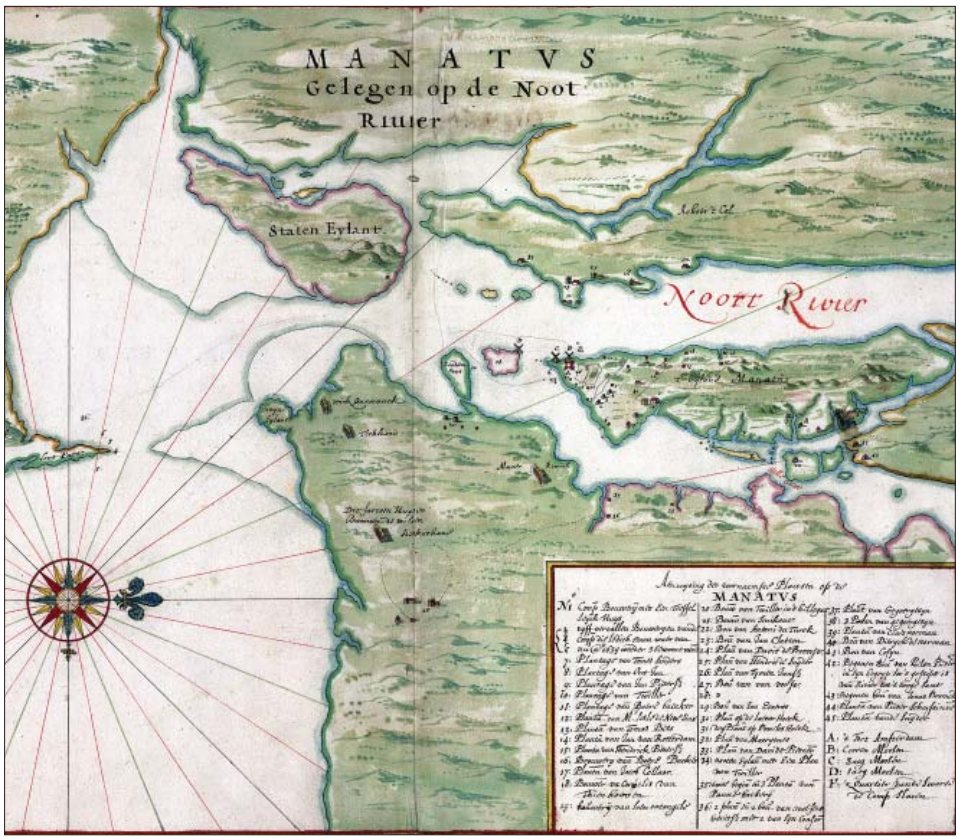


Figure 2.1. Manatus Map, 1639 (Library of Congress, "Manatus Gelegen op de Noot Rivier, Vinckenboons, Joan, 1639, #G3291.S12 collH3 vault: Harr vol 3, map 12).

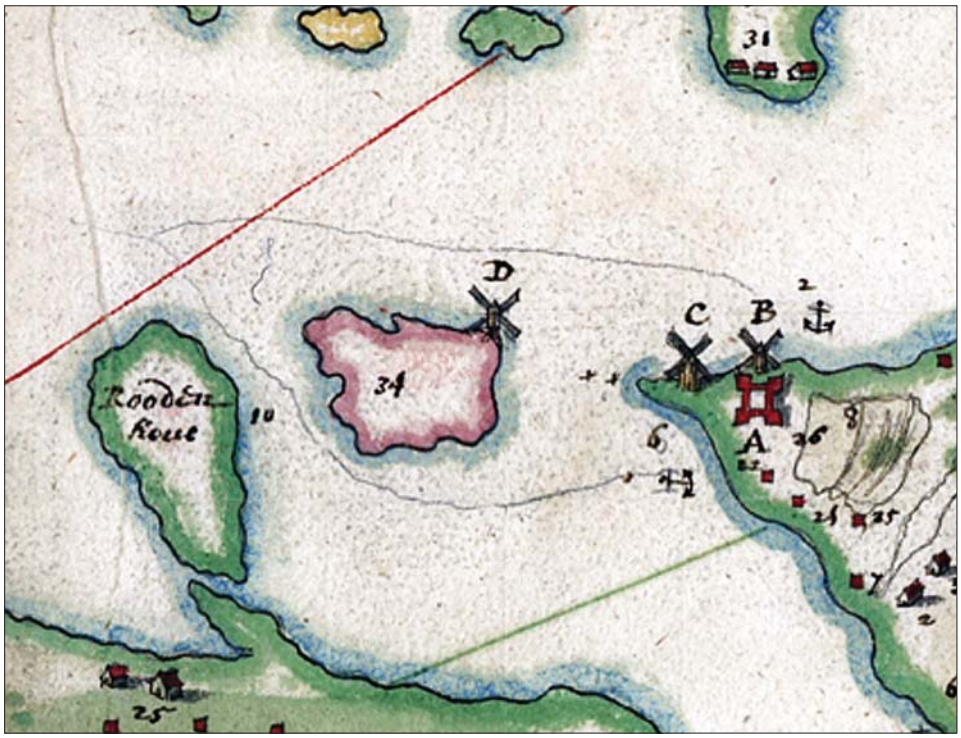


Figure 2.2. Manatus Map, 1639. The island labeled 34 in the center of the image is Governors Island. A windmill is the only improvement shown on the island, contrasting with the depiction of houses and barns in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the eastern New Jersey shore (Library of Congress, "Manatus Gelegen op de Noot Rivier, Vinckenboons, Joan, 1639, #G3291.S12 collH3 vault: Harr vol 3, map 12).



Figure 2.3. Enlargement of John Montresor's plan of Governors Island, 1766. A fort located on high ground is depicted in the center of the island, ringed on the west side by earthworks. The wharf area is also shown on this plan, located on the east side of the island (Library of Congress, "Plan of Governor's, Kennedy's, and Brown's Islands and Red Hook together with part of the Bay and Soundings, shewng the position they bear to each other and to New York," #G3804.N4P55 1766. M6 Faden 96).

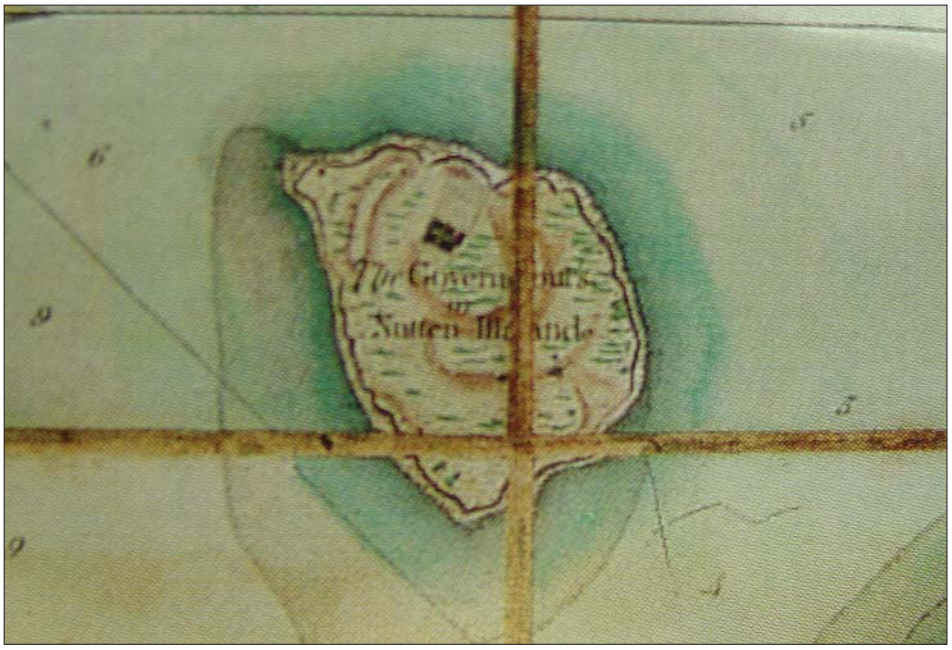


Figure 2.4. Governors Island, 1766-1767. The main fort in the center of the island is shown on this image, as well as raised earthworks northwest of the fort and what appear to be terraced earthworks leading down to the wharf area on the southeast side of the island (Library of Congress, Bernard Ratzer, Published by Faden and Jefferys, London, January 12, 1776, as in Yocum, Historic Structures Report for Fort Jay).



Figure 2.5. "A Southwest View of the City of New York taken from Governor's Island," 1766-1767 (Brooklyn Historical Society, From a plan of the City of New York 1766-1767 by Thomas Kitchen, Published by Jefferys and Faden, V1974.32.3666, Armbruster Collection).

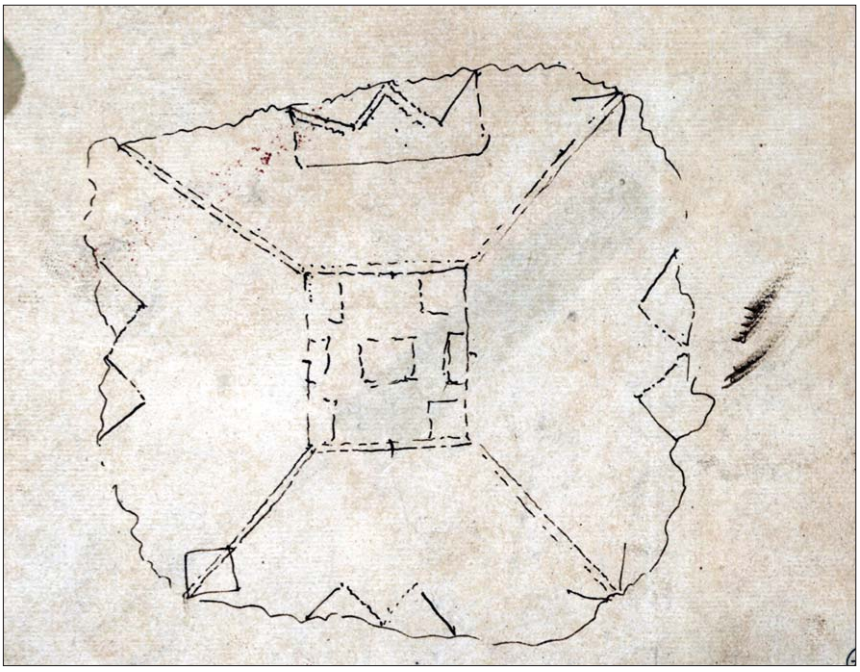


Figure 2.6. Design for Governors Island, 1766 (Library of Congress, John Montresor, #G3804.N4:2 G6 1766. M6 Vault).

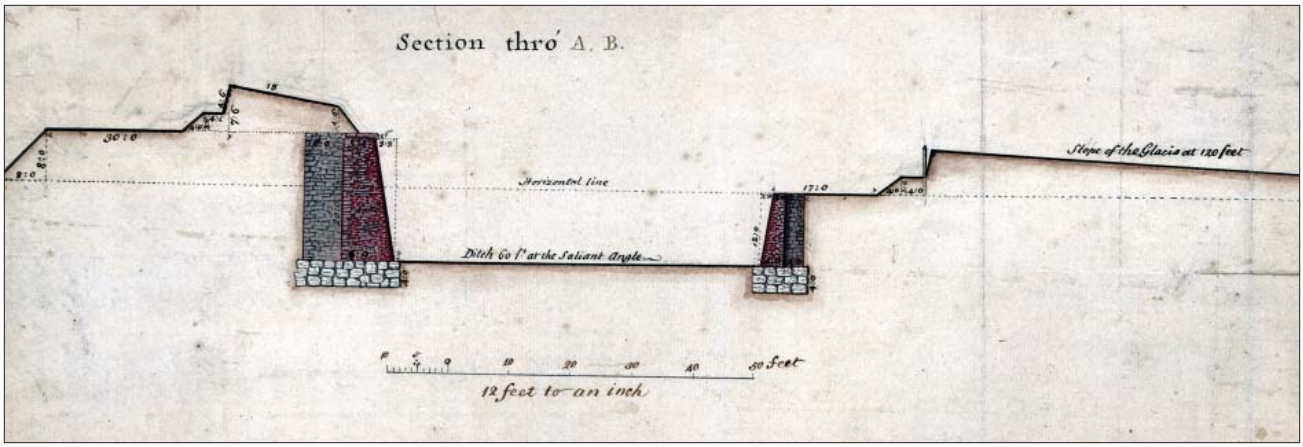


Figure 2.7. Cross section of proposed fortification walls on Governors Island, 1766 (Library of Congress, "Designs for fortifying Governors Island near New York," John Montresor, 1766, #G3804 N4:2G6 M61 Vault).



Figure 2.8. Map of New York Harbor, c 1776. Maps like these were produced to measure distances between landforms and fortifications, to aid battle planning (Library of Congress, "Sketch of New York, Narrows, and Part of Long Island with the Roads," 1776, #G3804.N4A1 1776. S5 Vault).



Figure 2.9. View of the Harbor, including Governors Island, 1776. This view, taken from Brooklyn depicts Continental troops drilling before the Battle of Long Island. Manhattan appears at image right and Governors Island is at image left (Library of Congress, "A View of New York, Governor's Island, the River from Long Island," Engraved by Pierre Charles Canot, 1776, # USZ62-45417).



Figure 2.10. Governors Island, 1776, after the battle of Long Island (New York Public Library, "An original sketch by an English officer of Adml. Howe's Fleet while at anchor in New York Harbor. Battle of Long Island," #420784).

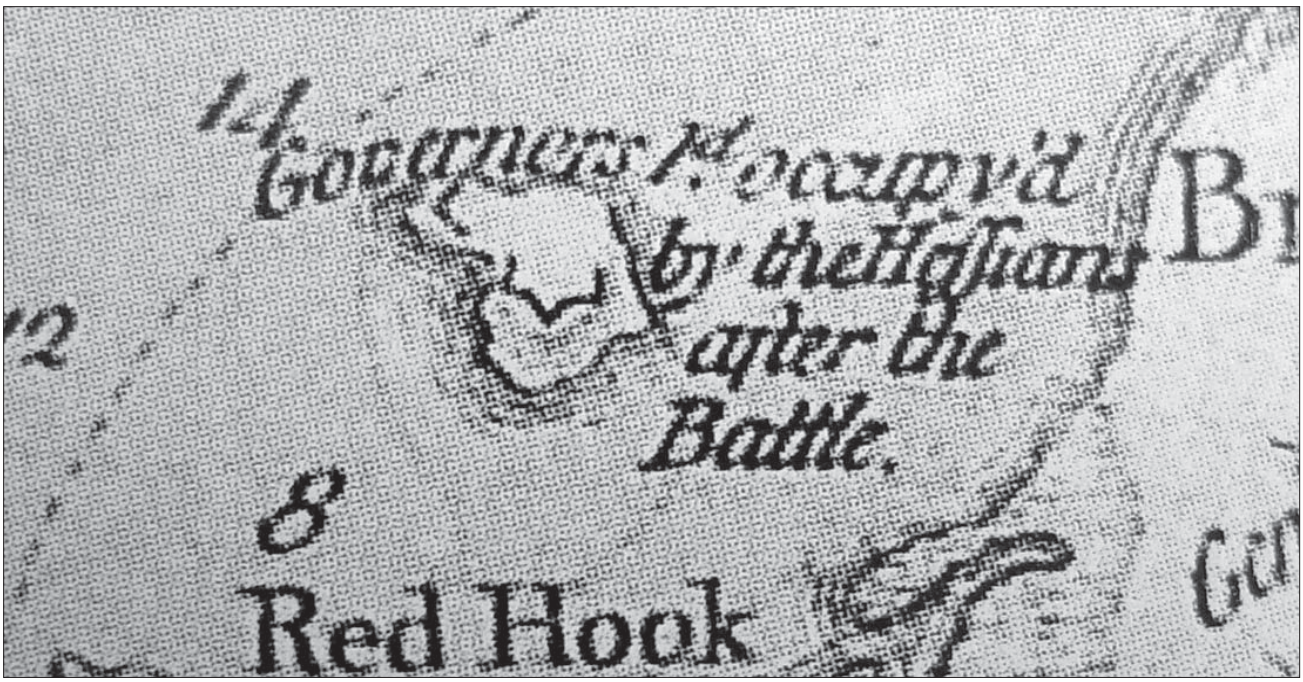


Figure 2.11. Governors Island after the battle of Long Island, 1776. Fortification walls are shown on the northwest and central areas of the island (Library of Congress, detail of "Plan of New York Island," William Faden, 1776, as in Yocum, "Historic Structures Report for Fort Jay, Governors Island National Monument").



Figure 2.12. Fortifications of Governors Island, c. 1776 (New York State Library, Detail of a map drawn by Samuel Holland, as in Yocum, "Historic Structures Report for Fort Jay, Governors Island National Monument").

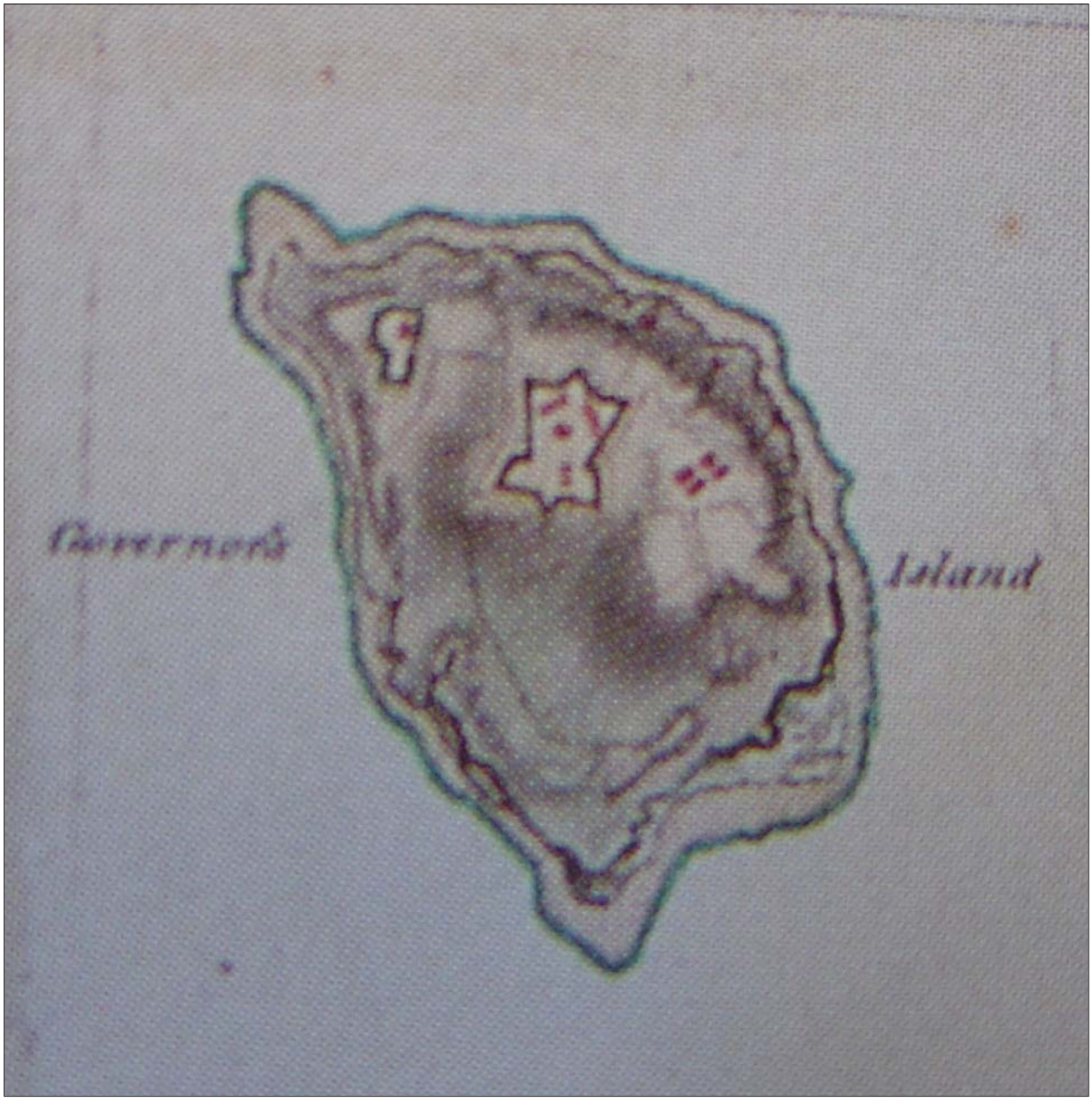
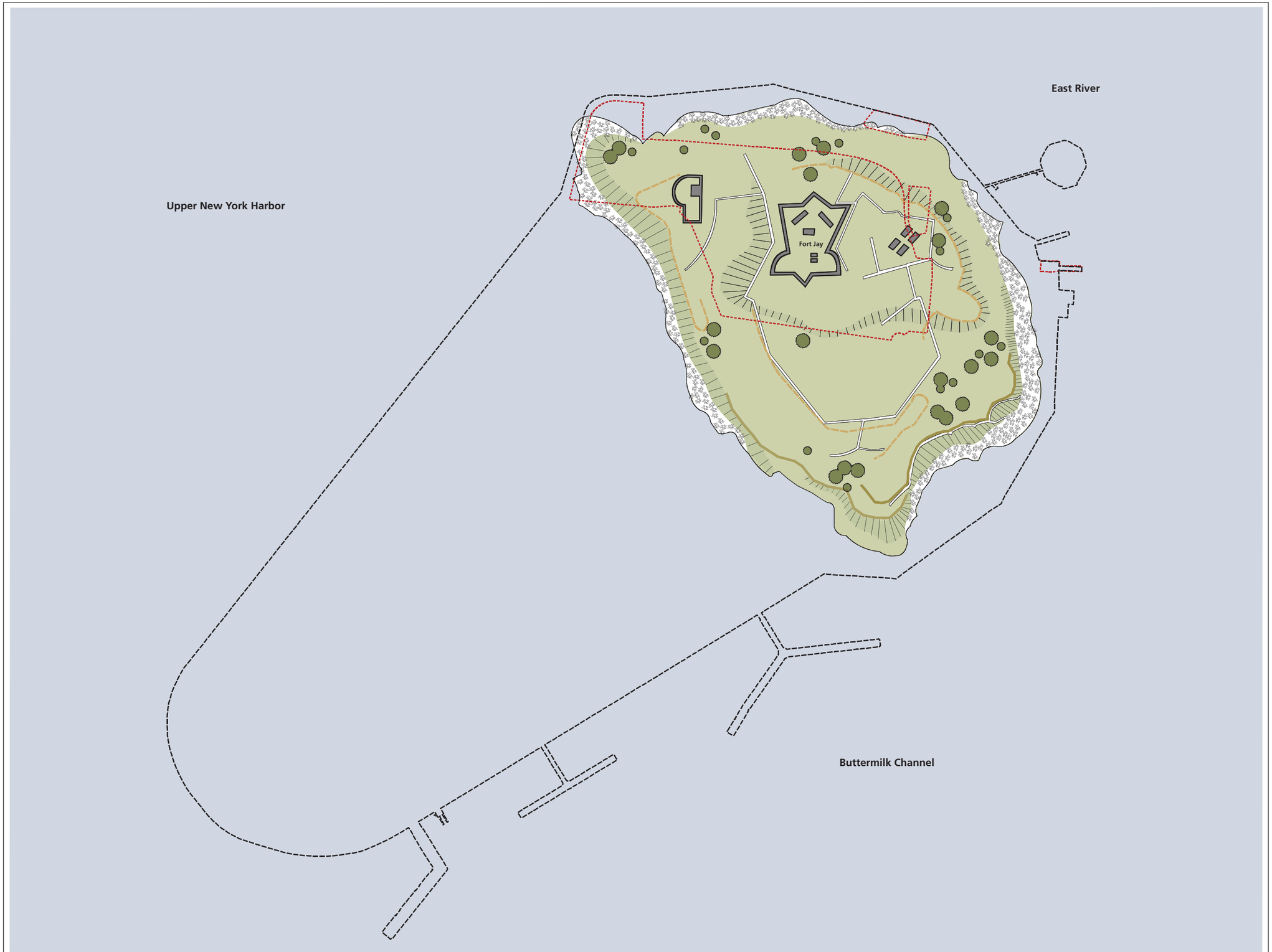


Figure 2.13. Untitled map, 1782. This map documents some of the features described by the British when they handed over control of the island to the Americans in 1783. The central fort, extensive water batteries near the water's edge, manipulated topography, and support structures are all visible (Governors Island, circa 1782, Public Records Office, London, as in Yocum, "Historic Structures Report, Fort Jay, Governors Island National Monument").



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1783

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Untitled Map, Governors Island, Public Records Office, London, 1782.
2. Untitled Map, Governors Island, Samuel Hollorid, London, 1776.

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008.

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 1783 Island Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Earthworks
- Turfgrass
- Beach
- Water
- Bluff
- Buildings and Structures
- Water Batteries
- Roads and Paths
- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 2.14

East River

Fort Jay

Buttermilk Channel

Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1783 Enlargement

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

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SOURCES

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- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 2.15

1784-1815

GOVERNORS ISLAND AND THE FIRST SYSTEM OF COASTAL DEFENSE

After the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, national attention focused on forming the necessities of a post-war nation in its infancy, including an elected system of government, a national currency, and judicial system. Many things were neglected in the post-war rebuilding period, including the Governors Island fortifications, where the earthen walls deteriorated without regular maintenance. Little is known about activities occurring on the island in the post-war years, besides accounts of unfulfilled proposals to subdivide the island or turn it over to Columbia College, known today as Columbia University.[1]

After a decade of scant federal attention devoted to the collective military preparedness of the nation's port cities, Congress appropriated funds for the First American System of Coastal Defenses in 1794. Political instability in France and a continued military threat from Great Britain prompted the effort. The First System was intended to encompass the entire eastern seaboard and create a system of defensive works to discourage and repel enemy naval attacks. The scope initially included sixteen sites, including New York City, where $12,500 was appropriated for fortifications on Governors Island, Manhattan, and Paulus Hook, near present day Jersey City.[2]

The chosen First System sites, located close to urban centers, responded to the military technology of the day. Naval artillery in the late 1700s required close range to be effective, necessitating that attacking ships sail into the upper harbor in order to strike targets in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Likewise, the land-based defensive fortifications needed close range to target enemy ships. Additionally, sites close to the city became favored locations for First System fortifications because of limited funding. Discussion about the need to fortify the outer harbor and the Narrows took place in the state legislature, but appropriations supporting such an effort did not materialize.[3]

A congressional report and map from 1794 illustrate the desired outcome for the First System of fortifications on Governors Island, including defensive works to support twenty-four guns, an ammunition magazine, and a blockhouse or barracks, for an estimated cost of $3,737.[4] Secretary of War Henry Knox specified building techniques for the works in New York, which included earthen parapets (mound of raised earth on top of the fort's walls) surfaced with knotgrass, wooden embrasures (openings for artillery), and well ventilated ammunition storage, among other directives.[5]

The 1794 map illustrates stark differences between the proposed improvements on Governors Island and what is known to have existed at the end of the Revolutionary War, notably the enlarged size and reconfiguration of the main work, or what would be known as Fort Jay (Figure 3.1). The 1794 plan depicted a multi-layered fortification at the high point of the island, connected by covered defiles to several smaller forts to the south, east, and west. The main fort's proposed exterior walls appear well defined and of uniform slope and thickness, contrasting with the hasty entrenchments from earlier decades. Numerous salient angles (angles pointing away from the main body of the fort) projected from the strong square shape of the fort's outer walls. No longer shown are the buildings inside and outside of the fort from the end of the Revolutionary War.

Despite thorough planning, New York state officials feared the federal response would be insufficient to properly defend New York Harbor and dedicated $30,000 of additional state funds in 1794.[6] Indeed, the works completed under the umbrella of the First System in New York Harbor were essentially designed, managed, and financed by the State of New York with some federal involvement. The state's effort was overseen by a Board of Commissioners of Fortifications, including New York's Governor George Clinton. Clinton enlisted the help of French engineer Charles Vincent, the same engineer employed by the federal government to design other First System fortifications, to locate defensive works in key areas not identified by the federal report.[7]

As early as May 1794, the Board recognized the funding shortfalls that would plague their effort, writing: "…but in consideration of the smallness of the means in the power of the Board… the Engineer be directed to confine his plan to the repair of the old works so as to render them safe against any sudden attempt from landing men on board of ships."[8]

Although the Board wanted to build new works, construction was limited to strengthening and modernizing the Revolutionary War era forts. Concessions continued to be made throughout the duration of the project in an attempt to stay within budget. For example, in 1795 the Board decided to reduce the number of the fortifications being faced with masonry in a cost saving measure.[9]

Of all the sites chosen for New York's First System fortifications, work began first on Governors Island. This was partly due to the fact that the property was owned by the State of New York rather than by private citizens, like Ellis Island or both banks of the Narrows.[10] Another reason for the rapid deployment of a workforce to Governors Island was the endorsement of engineer Vincent. He praised the location of Governors Island as the most advantageous place to create an intersecting field of fire with forts in Manhattan and the east shore of Long Island to deter ships from passing through the Narrows.[11]

Work on the Governors Island fortifications began in April 1794 using military labor. By late April, the Board approved the deployment of civilian work crews, including skilled masons, to supplement the labor force.[12] Payroll records from 1794 and 1795 documents a fluctuating work force, ranging between 115 and 250 laborers depending on the season and the task at hand.[13]

Massive amounts of earth moving and land manipulation took place between 1794 and 1796. Board meeting notes from 1795 document, "It being represented to the board that in order to erect a stone wall around the Bastion and Curtain of the Fortification on Governors Island, it will be necessary to take down between 10 and 20 feet of the earth."[14] Workers were authorized to remove "trees and all movables not necessary for military purposes."[15] This included existing structures that did not complement the new strategic plan.[16] Also, all livestock was removed from the island so as not to interfere with construction.[17]

By January 1796, the New York newspaper *Greenleaf's New Daily Advertiser* reported that "Governor's Island has been fortified with a fort made of earth, and two batteries under its protection, partly lined with brick masonry; two air furnaces, a large powder magazine, and a barracks for the garrison; the whole completed."[18] This represented the apex of First System planning. The next few years witnessed a respite in anxiety about attacks from abroad before fear of a British invasion began anew around 1798 and work resumed at Governors Island.

The work completed on Governors Island by the turn-of-the-century was substantial, yet fell short of the plan envisioned in 1794. A report dated February 15, 1802, written by Major D. Wadsworth to Major Jonathan Williams, Inspector of Fortifications for the United States Army, provides insight to the condition of Fort Jay at the time of inspection. Wadsworth prepared the report to provide Williams, the primary engineer of New York's defensive posts, with a status of the fort's existing condition and recommendations for updating the structure for battle readiness. He described a twelve-foot-thick timber parapet filled with earth, with fifty-one embrasures. The walls were strengthened with pointed sticks embedded in the ground to deter a ground assault. The fort was accessed by a main gate with a guardhouse as well as a "sally port," or a tunnel cut underneath the fort's walls. Barracks buildings and a timber blockhouse were documented inside the fort.[19] Though their exact locations are undocumented, the state paid for the construction of two arsenal buildings in 1798.[20]

Fort Jay was complemented by two detached batteries to the west and southwest (Figure 3.2). Views between the fortifications would have been unobstructed by vegetative growth, as the remaining native vegetation from the Revolutionary period had been removed in the construction effort. The state paid local farmers to cut hay and maintain the copious amounts of grass on the fort's glacis (an artificial slope built in front of fortification walls) and outlying area.[21] The

flagstaff at Fort Jay, erected in 1797, would have been visible from a great distance due to the fort's height and the denuded landscape.[22]

The wharf area was located east of Fort Jay, in line with the fort's main gate and sally port. The state paid to have the wharf built in 1797, possibly in the same location as earlier wharves or landing sites.[23] It is likely that several outbuildings were located near the wharf to provide support services to the troops stationed on the island, perhaps including stables, kitchens, outhouses, and blacksmith and carpentry sheds.

Along with Major Wadsworth's detailed description of Fort Jay's attributes in 1802, he offered his opinion that the fort was "Not capable of any defense in its present state."[24] He listed deficiencies in the fort's level of completeness but more importantly, described problems with the design and location of the fort that made it an undesirable defensive post. In his words, "I conceive the Plan of Fort Jay, in respect to the natural advantages and disadvantages of the ground to be nearly the worst which could have been adopted."[25]

This radical departure from the almost universally complimentary opinion of previous military planners may reflect the changing status of weaponry and military technology in the early 1800s. Wadsworth cited the island's low elevation compared to nearby landforms in Brooklyn as a deficiency, making the fort susceptible to capture if posts in Brooklyn fell into enemy hands. In this scenario, the guns at Fort Jay could then be turned against the city of New York. Additionally, Wadsworth argued that Governors Island was not a viable site from which to launch a major defensive strike because of its distance from the lower harbor, which was now being viewed as an essential target due to advances in naval artillery. Of the deficiencies that could be addressed, Wadsworth cited the need to finish gun platforms, the counterscarp (the angled, outer wall of the defensive ditch dug around the fortification), drawbridge, and the banquet of the parapet (a step built into the raised bed of the fort's walls from which soldiers can fire weapons).

Perhaps Wadsworth's criticism of the strategic value of Governors Island was ahead of its time. In spite of Wordsworth's concerns, the Secretary of War authorized Fort Jay to be strengthened with masonry materials in 1806.[26] It is likely Wadsworth's remarks went unheeded because of the increased tension with England and the inevitable military build-up that followed.

THE SECOND SYSTEM OF HARBOR DEFENSE

Major Jonathan Williams, Inspector of Fortifications, was charged with implementing a comprehensive plan for upgrading New York's harbor defenses in 1807 as part of a federal program to reexamine the coastal defenses of the

eastern seaboard. Known as the Second System, this ambitious effort sought to create a comprehensive system of harbor defenses, designed by American engineers, employing more standardized and advanced construction techniques and materials. Though the design of Second System forts varied, a typical characteristic was their all masonry construction, which afforded greater protection for soldiers and guns than earthen fortifications. Masonry construction also allowed for multiple floors of guns to be stacked on top of each other, mimicking the stacked armament of contemporary war ships, to provide greater firing range.[27]

Williams took detailed measurements of distances between existing defensive works and areas that had not yet been fortified throughout the harbor. Deficiencies in American Revolutionary-era defenses were examined, notably the undefended distance between fortifications on the east side of the upper harbor and the New Jersey shore that allowed the British to sail up the Hudson River undeterred, as well as the lack of defenses at the Narrows.[28] Williams' report resulted in the construction of numerous new forts and the modification of several existing ones in New York, including Fort Richmond and Fort Tompkins on the Staten Island side of the Narrows, Fort Hendricks on the Long Island side of the Narrows, Fort Wood on Beldoe's Island (now Liberty Island), Fort Gibson on Ellis Island, and Castle Clinton at the tip of Manhattan.[29]

Williams also spent time examining the strategic value of Governors Island, despite Wadsworth's unfavorable report of 1802. He measured distances from the island to several points in Brooklyn, the East River, and Manhattan, indicating that Governors Island provided strategic coverage of the east side of the upper harbor (Figure 3.3). At Williams' direction, modification of Fort Jay occurred to replace the "salt marsh sod" defensive walls with masonry and to add a ravelin (a work in the shape of an acute angle that projects from the main walls of a fort) on the north wall of the fort.[30] New barracks buildings and a new well were added to the interior of the fort, while several trees in the courtyard remained because they did not interfere with gun placement.[31] Secretary of War Dearborn described the changes in 1809: "Fort Jay… with the whole of its buildings, was demolished in 1806, except the walled counterscarp, the gate, sallyport, magazine, and two barracks; all the rest was removed as rubbish, to give place for a work composed of durable materials. On the site of the old fort, a new one has been erected, of the same shape…"[32]

It is likely that much of the earth, timber, and sod removed from the original fortification was spread across the surface of the island, perhaps leveling low spots and contributing to the uniform slope of the glacis. Williams wrote about the ongoing construction of the glasis in 1808. "The Glasis has not been sodded to its full extent owing to the want of sod, but it will be all found with grass seed before Spring, when it will probably appear like a luxuriant lawn.[33] He boasted

that the glacis: "…commanded the whole end of the East River…the opposite extreme at the SW entrance of the Buttermilk Channel…extends to the water's edge and forms a compleat [sic] command of this part of the Harbour, except only where it is interrupted by the circular Castle."[34]

The circular castle mentioned by Williams referred to a new fortification begun in 1807 to provide more effective coverage of the Narrows and the mouth of the Hudson River. The new fort, initially known as the stone tower, was designed to be a "circular casemated battery… to be located on the extreme westerly point commonly called Perkin's Point."[35] Perkin's Point was a small projection of land almost detached from Governors Island, bounded on three sides by the rugged natural shoreline. Williams described Perkins Point in a draft report to the Secretary of War in 1808: "At the Western extremity of Governors Island there is a Point of Rocks which runs to the edge of the Channel extending about eighty yards without the Beach, the space within being bare only [at] a very low Water. On this Base which was found to be a Bed of red Clay crowded with large & very hard Rocks & Stone the foundation of a circular Castle was begun."[36]

Williams designed a round structure, open on its southwest side facing Fort Jay, with smooth, red sandstone exterior walls. The fort was massively constructed with eight-foot-thick walls at the base. It reached a height of forty feet with four tiers of armament stacked in the three-story building. Semi-circular openings, or embrasures, in the fort walls provided space for cannon, which numbered more than 100.[37] Boulders piled against the base of the fort protected the sandstone walls from direct tidal action on the three sides that projected into the harbor. The only access to the fort was by foot through a gate on the southeast side. When complete, Castle Williams was widely considered the strongest and best-armed fortification in the harbor.[38]

In 1809, Williams directed the construction of a key feature to connect the two forts, a covert defile. He described creating the defile from the dismantled earthworks outside Fort Jay, which had been renamed Fort Columbus by this date:[39] "There are two Breastworks of Earth in Front of the old Fort, which have not been removed, it being thought unnecessary to destroy them till the Castle is finished, least the Earth of which they are composed should be wanted at that height for the proposed covered defile."[40]

The path's tall, mounded earth sidewalls allowed troops and equipment to travel safely between the forts while under fire. This was a necessary feature because there was no longer any vegetative cover between the two forts, only a purposefully open landscape.

A final defensive work, named South Battery, was added to the southeast side of the Governors Island landscape in 1812 to provide water-level coverage of

Buttermilk Channel. The arrow-shaped masonry structure provided a platform for thirteen guns along its one-story parapet.[41]

Although the glacis and areas around the forts were kept free of obstacles, some buildings, vegetation, and landscape features dotted the landscape by the time the forts were completed. The encampment of several hundred troops required support services and infrastructure, like hospitals, stables, wash houses, barracks, a blacksmith shop, and a carpenter shop, all of which are documented on an 1813 map of the island (Figure 3.4). Most structures were located southeast of the forts near the wharf on Buttermilk Channel for ease of loading and unloading supplies and equipment and to be outside of the most strategic lines of fire. All were on lower ground than Fort Columbus and located several hundred yards off of the glacis with the exception of the small "surgeon's house" near the northeast corner of the fort.

Although formal circulation systems are not depicted on the 1813 plan, several tree lines delineated commonly used paths and roads. Woodcut drawings of the island from the mid-nineteenth-century depict these tree lines as tall, columnar, and evenly spaced, without interlocking canopies. Lombardy Poplars planted in a formal row would create this character and are a good estimation of species type. The use of these trees in urban plantings became fashionable by the early nineteenth century, witnessed by their abundant placement throughout the island of Manhattan.[42]

The most striking of Governors Island's tree lines was an alleé lining the road between the wharf and Fort Columbus' main gate. Additionally, a single line of trees marked a route between Fort Columbus and the hospital located near South Battery. A third tree line traveled along the northern shoreline of the island between the wharf and Castle Clinton. The map and woodcut show the shoreline of the island as largely natural and unmanipulated with long expanses of sand and rock beaches, backed by steep bluffs (Figure 3.5).

Other notable landscape features on the island in 1813 included a large, geometric vegetable garden located midway between Fort Columbus and South Battery. The geometric space was subdivided into six, equally sized sub-plots with a central aisle running lengthwise. This extensive garden would have been large enough to supplement the diet of the resident officers and soldiers. An allée of trees lined a path connecting the garden to Fort Columbus' southeast counterscarp wall.

As depicted on the period map, two cemeteries were located in the vicinity of the garden, one adjacent to it on the east side and the other to the southwest, hugging the rocky shoreline. The features may have been in use for decades, even dating to the island's use as a quarantine station in the early eighteenth century. Little information is known about the cemeteries, and although the one on the

southwest shore appears on later maps of the island, the one east of the garden disappears from the historical record after 1813.

By 1812 the modified First System and Second System fortifications on Governors Island stood ready to defend New York in tandem with other forts around the harbor. Although tension with Great Britain escalated into open hostilities and the War of 1812, none of the New York forts fired against the British Navy. The British anchored in the lower harbor and blockaded the city for the conflict but never attempted to engage the Americans at New York City.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION IN 1815

Governors Island's primary use as a military post continued after the American Revolutionary War and through the War of 1812. By 1815, American military engineers had transformed the earthen, temporary defensive works left after the American Revolution into a more well-defined military landscape (Figures 3.6 and 3.7). Much of the old Fort Jay, now called Fort Columbus, was demolished and incorporated into the new earth and masonry star fort. It was complemented by the construction of a state-of-the-art circular masonry fort, Castle Williams. Together, these two forts provided strategic coverage of the upper New York Harbor.

The Governors Island landscape reflected the defensive nature of its use. Much of the island was kept cleared of large obstructing vegetation to provide open views and fields of fire from the forts. Formalized roads and walkways remained at a minimum due to the relatively small posting of military personnel on the island. However, reminders of the day-to-day life of the soldiers were etched in the land. Wash houses, stables, kitchens, two cemeteries, and a garden, located far enough away from the strategic fort landscapes, supported the post population. Orderly rows of Lombardy poplars were planted as decorative elements, marking the road between the main wharf and Fort Columbus' east gate and planted along the northern shoreline. The island's limited infrastructure after the War of 1812 provided the basic framework for the army's continued and increased presence at Governors Island in the coming decades.

ENDNOTES

[1] Jannelle Warren-Findley, "Governors Island, New York Harbor: A Historic Resource Survey from the Beginning to 1996," Final draft, 2007, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 17.

[2] Frederick Black, "A History of Fort Wadsworth, New York Harbor, Cultural Resources Management Study, no 7," CW Post Center, Long Island University, 1983, 27.

[3] Black, 31.

[4] ASP, 3rd Congress, 1st Session, Military Affairs, Vol. 1, pp. 61-62, LC, as cited in Barbara Yocum, "Fort Jay, Historic Structures Report, Governors Island National Monument, National Parks of New York Harbor, New York, New York," 2005, National Park Service, Historic Architecture Program, Northeast Region, 22.

[5] Letter from Henry Knox from "Special instructions to Charles Vincent, acting as a temporary Engineer in the service of the United States, April 1, 1794, ASP 3rd Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs, Vol 1, pp. 77-78, LC, as cited in Yocum, Fort Jay HSR, 25.

[6] Black, 28.

[7] Ibid.

[8] "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Fortifications for the City of New York and Its Vicinity, May 12 1794," NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[9] "As the decision of the board that the whole of the scarp of the main work on Governors Island should be faced with a stone wall from the bottom of the ditch to the berme but as the funds are inadequate for the whole that only the North East Bastion and the curtain at the entrance of the work for the present done in this way." "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Fortifications for the City of New York and Its Vicinity, May 8, 1795," NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[10] Black, 30

[11] Charles Vincent, quoted in Blanche Wilder Bellamy," Governor's Island" in *Historic New York: Being the First Series of the Halk Moon papers*, vol. 2, p. 174, as cited in Warren-Findley, 23.

[12] "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Fortifications for the City of New York and Its Vicinity, April 14 and April 21st, meeting of the Board," NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[13] NYS Comptroller Selected Audited Accounts of State Civil and Military Officers, 1780-1858, Vol. 3, Accounts of Ebenezer Stevens, Entry A0802, NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[14] "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Fortifications for the City of New York and Its Vicinity, June 5, 1795," NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[15] "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Fortifications for the City of New York and Its Vicinity, April 14, 1794," NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[16] "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Fortifications for the City of New York and Its Vicinity July 11, 1794," Vincent reported "that Mr. Price's buildings on Governor's Island are not useful for the fortifications there erecting." NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[17] "Proceedings of the Commissioners of Fortifications for the City of New York and Its Vicinity, April 13, 1795," NYS Archive, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[18] Sat., Jan. 30, 1796, *Argus*, or *Greenleaf's New Daily Advertiser*, NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[19] February 15, 1802, Report by Major D. Wadsworth, Reg. of Artill. & Eng., fort Jay, conveyed to Major Jonathan Williams, Inspector of Fortifications, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Barbara Yocum, "Historic Structures Report for Castle Williams, Governors Island National Monument, National Parks of New York Harbor, New York, New York," (hereafter Castle Williams HSR), 2005, National Park Service, Historic Architecture Program, Northeast Region, 35

[20] Contract with John Moore for building 2 arsenals (location unspecified), New York State Comptroller Selected Audited Accounts of State Civil and Military Officers, 1780-1858, Vol. 3 Accounts of Ebenezer Stevens, Entry A0802, NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

[21] 1797, June 20, John David paid "To 4 days work mowing and taking care of the Hay on the works on Governors Is." New York State Comptroller Selected Audited Accounts of State Civil and Military Officers, 1780-1858, Vols. 1 + 2 including Accounts of Commissioners to Procure Field Artillery, 1794-1800, under act passed March 22, 1794, Entry A0802, NYS Archives, collected by Larry Lowenthal.

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[25] Ibid.

[26] Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Williams to Richard Wiley, May 1806, Williams Papers, Indiana University, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University as cited in Warren-Findley, 34.

[27] Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (U.S. Naval Institute Press, 1993), 31.

[28] Jonathan Williams, "Journal of Proceedings &Survey made of the Harbor of New York, "October 2-November 15, 1805, Quoted by Williams on page 1, Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Warren-Findley, 32.

[29] Lewis, 26.

[30] Letter from Secretary of War Henry Dearborn to Lt. Colonel Williams on June 23, 1806, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Barbara Yocum, "Historic Structures Report for Fort Jay, Governors Island National Monument, National Parks of New York Harbor, New York, New York," (hereafter Fort Jay HSR) 2005, National Park Service, Historic Architecture Program, Northeast Region, 41.

[31] "Draft report to the Secretary of War Relative to the Progress and Present State of the Fortifications in the Harbour of New York," November 1808, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Yocum, "Fort Jay HSR," 48.

[32] Secretary of War Henry Dearborn, January 6, 1809, report submitted to President Jefferson, ASP, 10th Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs, Vol. 1, pp 236-237, Library of Congress, as cited in Yocum, "Historic Structures Report forFort Jay, Governors Island National Monument" (hereafter Fort Jay HSR), 50.

[33] "Draft report to the Secretary of War Relative to the Progress and Present State of the Fortifications in the Harbour of New York," November 1808, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Yocum, "Fort Jay HSR," 49.

[34] "Draft report to the Secretary of War Relative to the Progress and Present State of the Fortifications in the Harbour of New York," November 1808, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Yocum, "Fort Jay HSR," 49.

[35] "Outlines of a Plan of Defence for the City and Harbour of New York," by Secretary of War Henry Dearborn, July 21, 1807, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Yocum, "Castle Williams HSR," 5.

[36] November 1808, "Draft of a Report to the Secretary of War Relative to the Progress & Present State of the Fortifications in the Harbour of New York," Col. Jonathan Williams, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Yocum, "Castle Williams HSR," 9.

[37] Governors Island, National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form," 1985, Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

[38] Black, 40.

[39] Yocum, Historic Structures Report for Fort Jay, 38. Yocum explains that the name of the structure was changed in the period 1806-1809 but that the directive for the name change has not been found.

[40] "Draft report to the Secretary of War Relative to the Progress and Present State of the Fortifications in the Harbour of New York," November 1808, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, as cited in Yocum, "Fort Jay HSR," 49.

[41] NYCLPC Report, p. 13, as cited in Warren-Findley, 37.

[42] Wood, Christina D., "A Most Dangerous Tree:" The Lombardy Poplar in Landscape Gardening," *Arnoldia*, Vol 54, no 1 (Winter 1994).

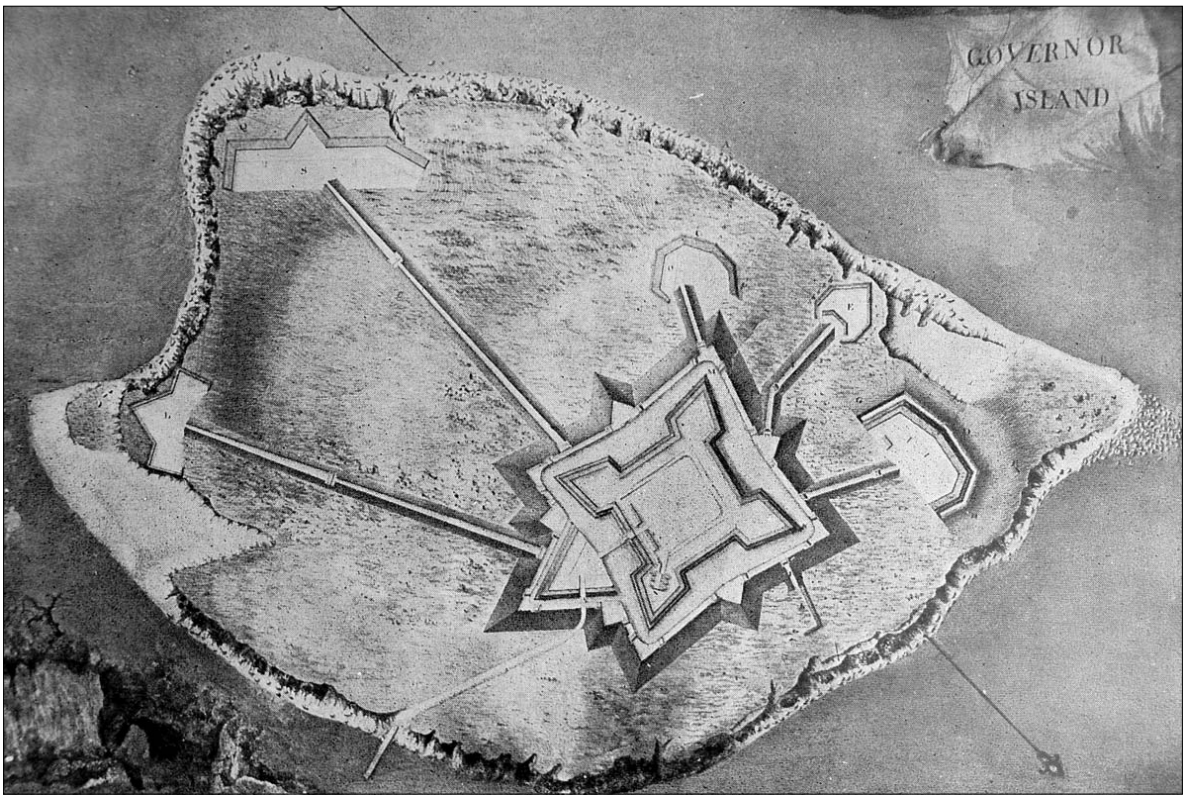


Figure 3.1. Plan of proposed fortifications on Governors Island, 1794 (as in *Governors Island, 1637-1937; Its History and Development,* 1937, original source not noted).

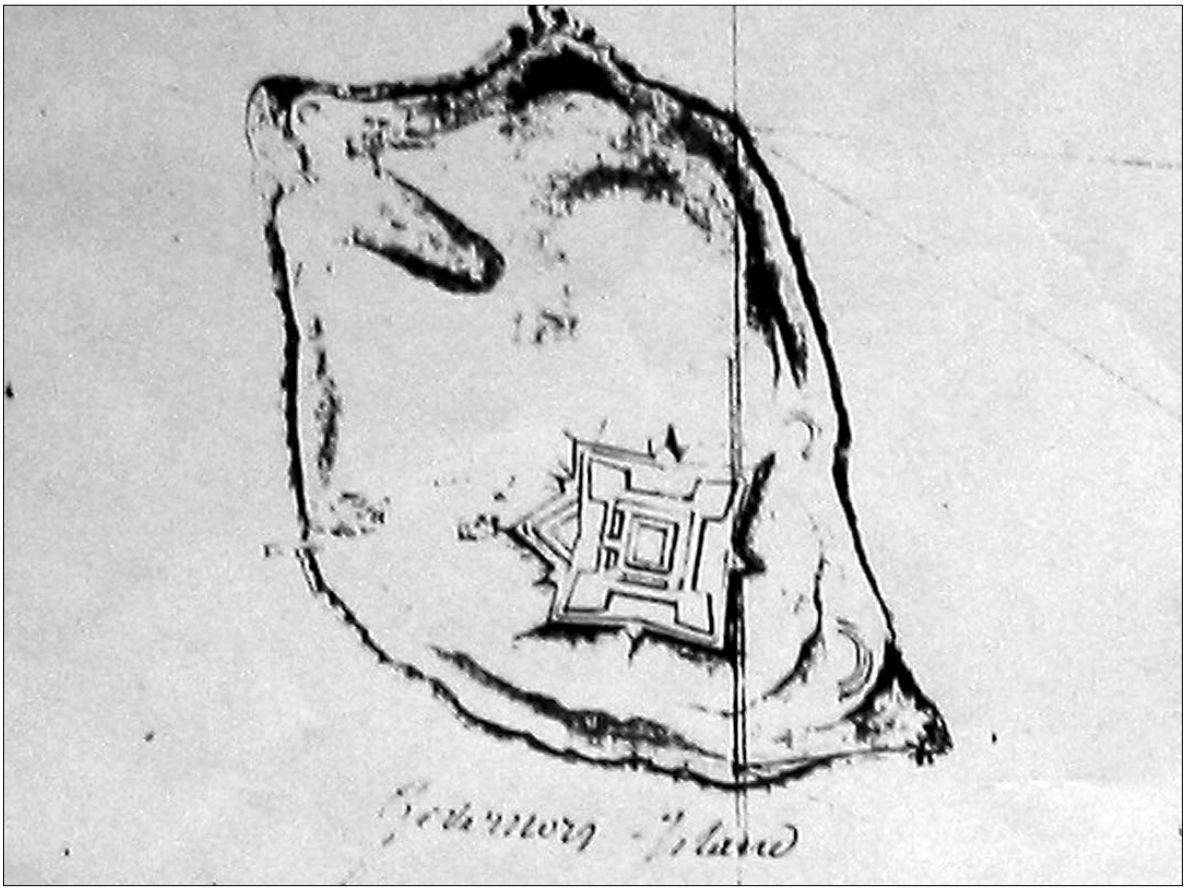


Figure 3.2. Governors Island, c. 1800 (National Archives II, detail of "Plan of Fortification, Governor's Island, Bedlow's Island, and Oyster Island," Record Group 77, drawer 142, sheet 90).

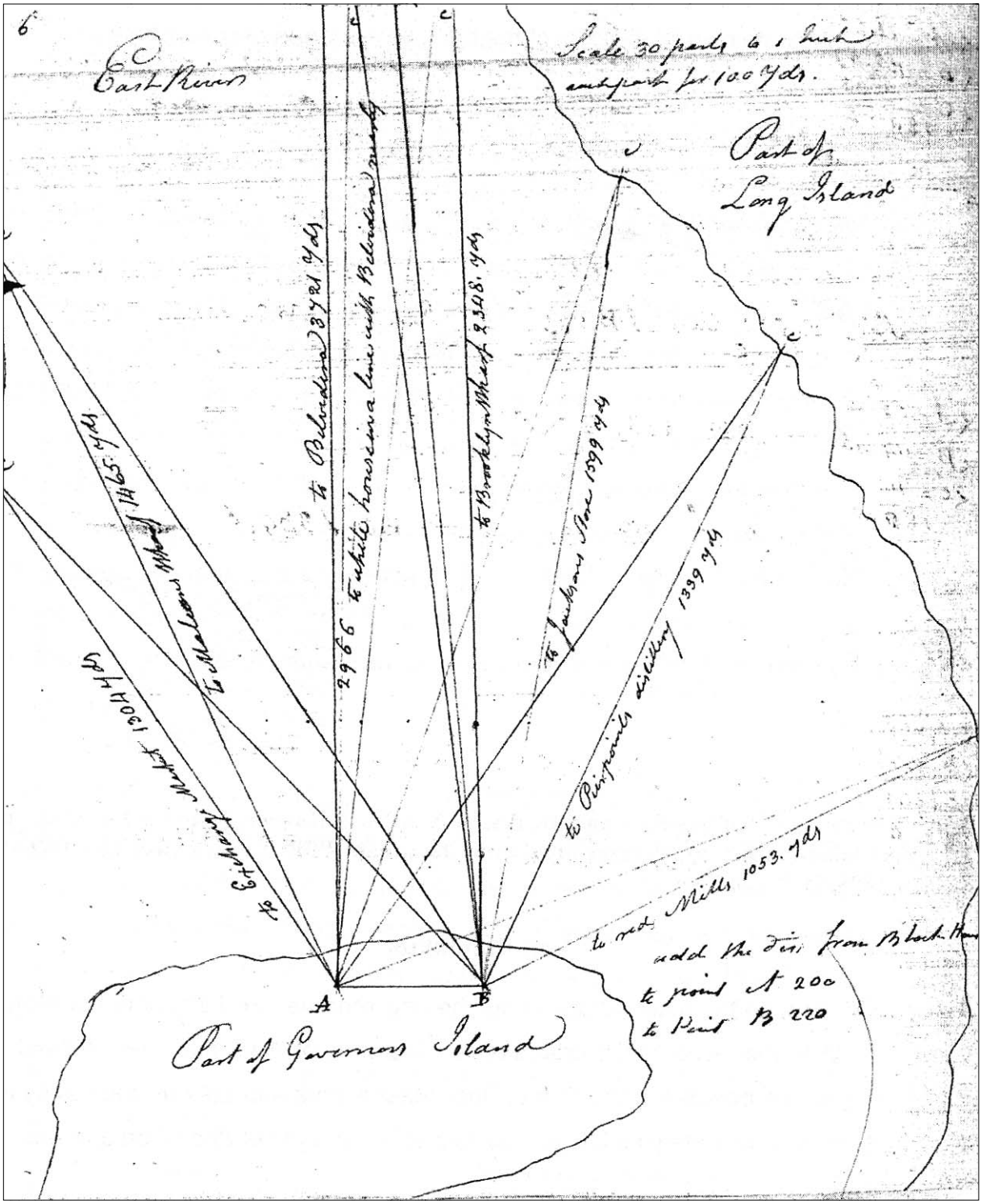


Figure 3.3. Sketch of Governors Island and harbor, 1805 (Jonathan Williams, "Journal of Proceedings and Survey made of the Harbour of New York," October 2-November 13, 1805, Jonathan Williams Papers, Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University).

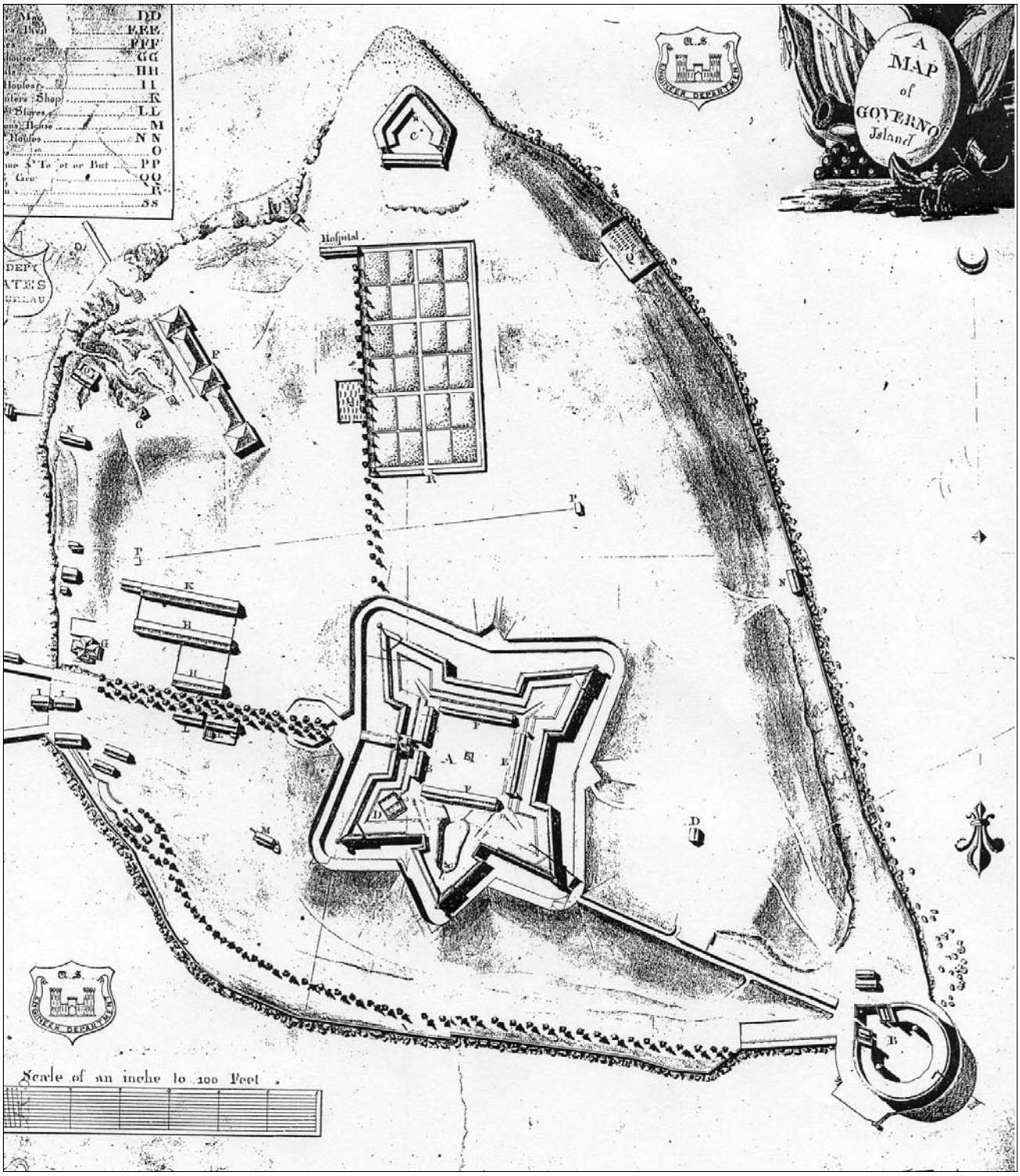


Figure 3.4. Governors Island Fortifications, circa 1813 (National Archives II, Architecture and Cartographic Branch, Fortifications files, Record Group 77, Drawer 37, Sheet 1.

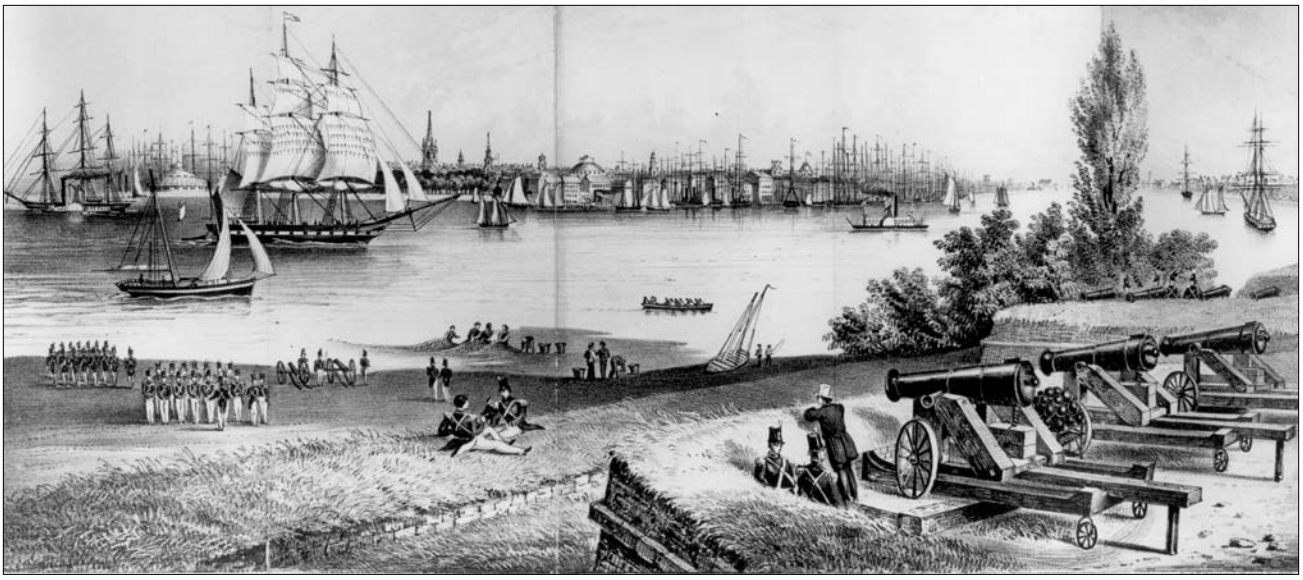
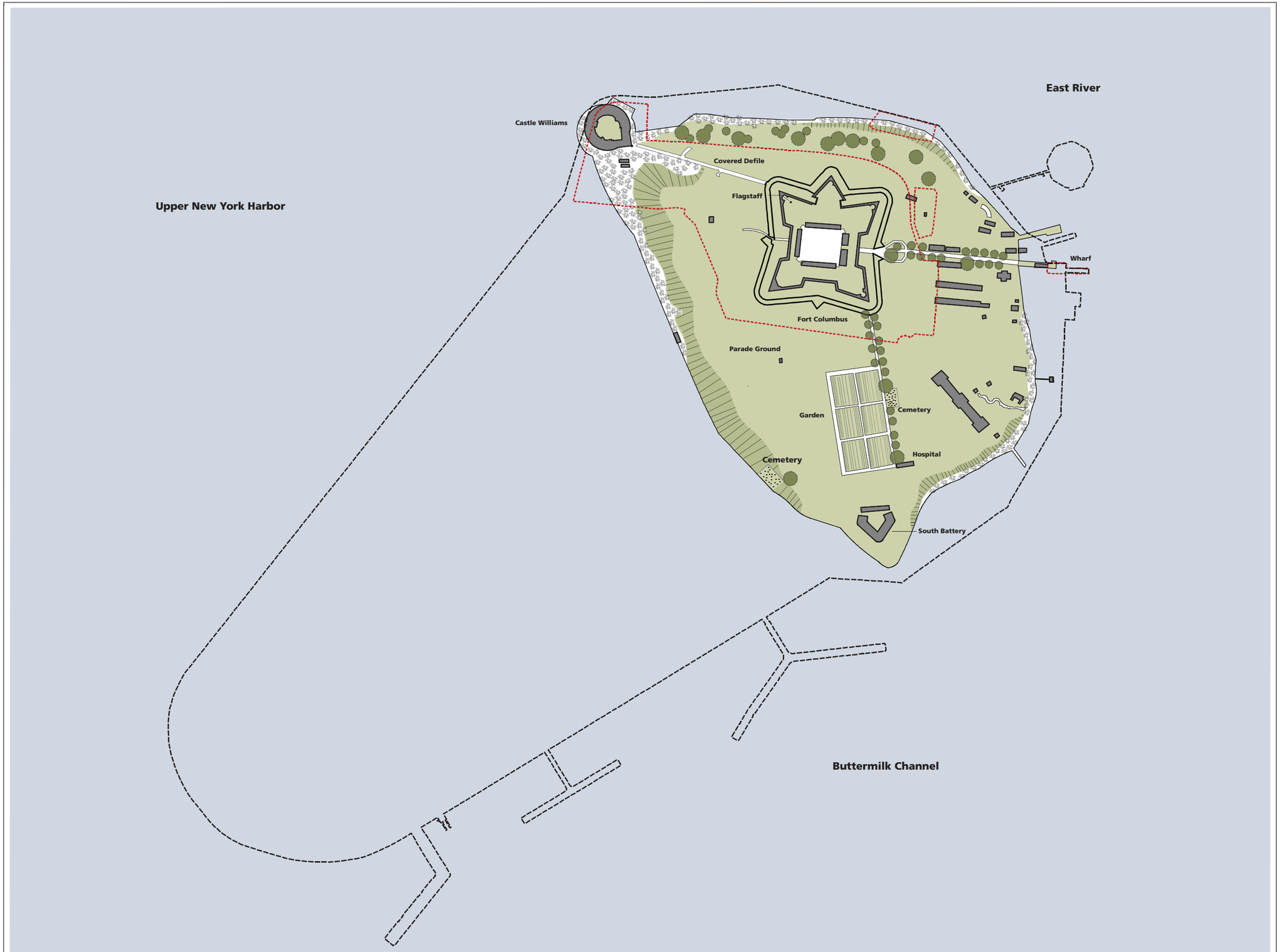


Figure 3.5. Governors Island, 1816. View looking north from Fort Columbus to Manhattan (Image courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York).



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1815

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Ortholmagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Plan of Governors Island, 1867, NARA, RG 77, Drawer 37, Sheet 55.

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 1815 Island Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Brooklyn
- Turfgrass
- Beach
- Water
- Bluff
- Buildings and Structures
- Sidewalks/Paths
- Roads and Parking Areas
- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 3.6



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1815 Enlargement

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Orthoimagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Plan of Governors Island, 1867, NARA, RG 77, Drawer 37, Sheet 55.

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 1815 Island Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Brooklyn
- Turfgrass
- Beach
- Water
- Bluff
- Buildings and Structures
- Sidewalks/Paths
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- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 3.7

1816-1865

GOVERNORS ISLAND AND THE THIRD SYSTEM OF COASTAL DEFENSE

Unlike First and Second Systems, the Third System of Coastal Defenses, initiated in 1817, was not spurred from a military threat, but was a peacetime effort to systematically update the nation's harbor defenses. The new system was overseen by the War Department and designed by professional engineers to create an integrated fortification system.[1]

Brigadier General Simon Bernard and a commission of military advisors prepared a series of reports beginning in 1816 on the state of the nation's coastal defenses and the state of military preparedness. Technological advances in artillery, ship building, and fortification design changed the strategic landscape, creating markedly different expectations for the Third System. Early planning efforts called for building hundreds of new fortifications along the eastern seaboard, yet the number of new forts actually constructed was small.[2]

Several Third System forts were constructed around the outer harbor of New York beginning in the 1830s including Fort Schuyler on Throgs Neck Long Island, Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, and Fort Hancock in Sandy Hook, New Jersey. These smaller fortifications located further from New York City were meant to combat the improved heavy armament aboard ships and destroy targets before enemy ships approached the city.[3]

The Third System all but ignored existing coastal defensive posts. Bernard authored reports in 1821 and 1826 that hardly addressed existing forts except to recognize their deficiencies; "Most of the existing forts only defend single points…. [and] satisfy only a few conditions; and they have not been planned with a view to the defense of the frontiers."[4] Governors Island fell into this category and was rendered increasingly strategically obsolete. However, this rebuke created new opportunities to adapt the island and its resources to the changing times.

GOVERNORS ISLAND AS A PERMANENT MILITARY INSTALLATION

After the War of 1812, Congress reorganized the military creating two central commands, one for the north and one for the south. Numerous districts fell under the two central commands, one of which, the US Third Military District, was located in New York. After being headquartered in Castle Clinton at the tip of Manhattan for several years, the command was moved to Governors Island. It

remained there for seven years before being moved back to New York after prolonged bureaucratic wrangling.[5]

Troops remained positioned on Governors Island after the War of 1812, although in typical post-war fashion, new development on the island was slow to come. Shown in a woodcut image of the island in 1825, the island was characterized by developments made prior to 1812 (Figure 4.1). Castle Williams, Fort Columbus, South Battery and a scattering of columnar trees predominated, along with a few other structures that appear similar in number and scale to those depicted on the 1813 map of the island. However, as the island's active defensive functions diminished in importance, support systems and related infrastructure were developed to support a permanent military base, administrative center, and an arsenal facility.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW YORK ARSENAL

The New York Arsenal was moved from Manhattan to Governors Island in 1832 where a new district of buildings was constructed to house, purchase, distribute, and develop arms. The arsenal functioned independently from Army activities on the island and was administered by a distinct military agency called the Ordnance Department. Through the decades of the arsenal's development, technology generated on the island played a major role in the evolution of new armament, although Sandy Hook Proving Ground in New Jersey, not Governors Island, was used as the field testing facility.[6] The Ordnance Department located arsenal structures near the wharf on the northeast side of the island, in a six-and-a-half-acre parcel just north of the main route between the wharf and Fort Columbus.

Construction of the arsenal buildings began in 1835 and continued slowly through the 1870s. In 1847, Captain Thorton of the arsenal prepared a comprehensive plan for the district (Figure 4.2). The defining feature of the small district included a triangular open space, or "gun yard," facing the East River surrounded by arsenal buildings. This well defined cluster fit neatly into the corner of land between the wharf and the shadow of Fort Columbus' northeast exterior walls.

As reflected sixty years after the designation of the Governors Island arsenal: "At no other place in the immediate vicinity of New York, can the Arsenal be as well guarded as at Governors Island. It has three quarters, store houses, shops, etc, already built at great expense. These buildings are especially adapted to the wants of an Arsenal…. The space…is so distributed in a narrow strip along the shore as not to interfere with the parade or drill grounds."[7]

By the time this report was made in the late 1800s, the arsenal included storehouses, workshops, officers' quarters, and office space. It operated independently from the Army functions on the rest of the island using day laborers who commuted by ferry.[8]

DEVELOPMENT OF ARMY FACILITIES

New physical improvements for the Army facilities began in the 1830s. Initial development addressed the need for housing on the island. Inside Fort Columbus, where barracks had been located since the Revolutionary War, four new buildings replaced older structures in 1834 to provide improved conditions and make better use of the open space inside the fort. The new barracks, used as officers' quarters, were arranged in a square, backing onto the ramparts to create a geometric inner courtyard (Figure 4.3).

Many enlisted men were housed in tents and some in barracks buildings inside Fort Columbus, and some possibly in the casemates of Castle Williams.[9] Conditions for enlisted men were crowded and uncomfortable, as recalled by a soldier who lived in a tent "furnished with two straw mattresses and two blankets which he shared with two others."[10] This stood in stark contrast to the gracious accommodation built for the Commanding Officer in 1843. This new structure was located near the wharf on the southeast side of the approach road to Fort Columbus. The Greek-revival building was the most ornately styled structure built on the island to date.

Several new structures provided support services to the growing military community by the 1840s. A new hospital was built in 1839 southeast of Fort Columbus, near the location of earlier hospitals (Figure 4.4).[11] It was separated from the growing cluster of buildings near the wharf, likely on purpose, to separate the sick from the well and inhibit the spread of disease. The Army built a wood frame chapel southeast of the hospital, adjacent to South Battery in the 1840s.[12] Also located near South Battery was the cemetery on the southwest shore and a garden to the east of the cemetery. The Army relocated the garden from its previous location further north on the Parade Ground.

Period imagery from the 1850s illustrates the status of the Army's development of Governors Island. The cluster of buildings at the wharf is clearly depicted along with associated groupings of formal and informally placed vegetation (Figures 4.5 and 4.6). The developed district contrasted with the open character of the landscape elsewhere on the island that was dominated by managed grassland and formal lines of columnar trees (Figure 4.7). Some small scale landscape features existed on the glacis, including the cemetery and a garden southeast of Fort Columbus.

The Army began a program of strengthening the island's shoreline in the mid-1800s, replacing the natural sand and rock beaches and bluffs with masonry walls. Encircling the entire island with engineered walls was probably not completed until the early 1900s due to repeated storm damage that obliterated segments of the Army's seawalls over several decades.[13] However, one of the early phases can be seen in images of Castle Williams from the middle of the nineteenth century (Figures 4.8 and 4.9). Army engineers built a raised masonry platform at the base of the fortification to protect the structure from the direct impact of the ocean.

The island's non-defensive functions increased in 1852 when it became home to a major Army recruiting and processing center for the northeast. Scores of "green" troops were brought to Governors Island in the 1850s to learn the basics of soldiering before being deployed to other garrisons. To house the growing number of officers, the Army added two field officer's quarters east of the Commanding Officer's quarters, overlooking Buttermilk Channel and Brooklyn in the 1850s. These buildings began infilling the open space between the Commanding Officer's quarters at the wharf and the hospital and chapel near South Battery, creating the shaded green space of Nolan Park. However, little construction occurred to provide permanent housing for the increased number of troops, who were mostly quartered in tents.

GOVERNORS ISLAND AND THE CIVIL WAR

Governors Island continued to function as a troop recruiting and processing center and a major arsenal during the Civil War. By 1861, thousands of new recruits and troops returning from battle spent time on the island, reportedly, as many as seven regiments at a time.[14] The island buzzed with activity, from the coming and going of troops, to the storage and stockpiling of equipment. As recorded in 1861: "The Ordnance Department on Governor's Island…continues extremely active. There seems to be a lack of space for the munitions of war constantly arriving there. Dalghrens, Columbiads, mortars, and guns of nearly all denominations, boxes of shot and shell, gun-carriages, &c., &c., crowd the wharves, and boats of one kind or another are constantly there, either delivering or receiving cargoes of warlike stores."[15]

The defensive importance of the island and its fortified posts, though downplayed in recent years, was not forgotten during this time of war. A letter from the Engineering Department to the Secretary of War in 1861 relayed that, "Fort Columbus, Castle William, South Battery, Fort Wood, and Fort Gibson…are in serviceable condition and entirely ready for the whole of their respective armaments."[16] Yet, despite battle-readiness, Governors Island's contribution to the war was entirely in a support capacity.

The north and northeastern portion of the island, centered around the wharf, arsenal, and Commanding Officer's quarters, hosted much of the war time activity in a busy district of housing, administrative activity, and equipment and armament storage (Figure 4.11). An allée planted decades earlier lined the main road between the wharf and Fort Columbus. Informally placed trees grew in the wharf vicinity to provide a shady district in the otherwise open landscape. Outside of the straight, formal road to Fort Columbus and the engineered arsenal streets, the few other roads of the wharf district were rustic, unpaved, and informally constructed.

It appears that few permanent infrastructural changes were made to accommodate Civil War activities. Although the military population soared during the war years, no new permanent buildings were erected due to the scarcity of funds for non-battle related expenses. Instead, the open landscape on the glacis of Fort Columbus was the location of temporary shelter and storage for the island's transient war-time population. The majority of enlisted men slept in tents on the perimeter of the island, as barrack space was at a premium and mostly given to officers and their families.[17]

Inside Fort Columbus, mature trees stood on the perimeter of the geometric courtyard lawn (Figure 4.12). The lawn was enclosed by an approximately eighteen inch high, white-painted, single rail, sawn wood fence and surrounded by a packed-earth path (Figure 4.13). Behind the barracks, armament sat on gun platforms around the perimeter of the unpaved ramparts, just a few yards from the rear doors of the barracks (Figure 4.14).

Several trees grew along the fort's exterior walls without interfering with the copious amounts of open lawn on the glacis that was used for drilling and entertainment, including nightly band performances from a music shed near the Commanding Officer's Quarters (Figure 4.15).[18]

The island was also used as a prison for Confederate soldiers. Officers were held in the north building inside Fort Columbus while enlisted men were kept in reportedly squalid conditions in the Castle Williams casemates.[19] The numbers of Confederate prisoners held on Governors Island fluctuated throughout the war, ranging from 630 to 1,100.[20]

The landscape surrounding Castle Williams was austere, mirroring the grim conditions inside the fort. Photographs taken by the famed Civil War photographer Matthew Brady depict a largely open and unprogrammed space at the fort (Figure 4.16). Views from the roof of Castle Williams show open land with narrow unpaved trails in the foreground with distant views of the Arsenal and Fort Columbus behind. Remnants of the continuous tree line between Castle Williams and the wharf, documented in 1813, remained, though many specimens had been lost (Figure 4.17). Except for the narrow circumference of seawall at the

base of Castle Williams, the shoreline was a mix of natural rock and sand (Figure 4.18). Gone were the steep bluffs that once characterized the edge of the island and in their place were smoother, gradual slopes up to Fort Columbus.

Other contemporary views of the island corroborate the presence of the tree line between Castle Williams and the Arsenal, which along with a few other small clusters of trees represented the only sizable vegetative features on the island. Most of the landscape was covered in hay or what one Confederate prisoner described as "a glacis beautifully turfed in bluegrass."[21] This was especially true on the northwest side of the island where a clear and unobstructed view was purposefully maintained between the forts. Most buildings, temporary or permanent, were located north, west, and south of Fort Columbus to preserve the viewshed.

SUMMARY LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION – 1865

In 1865, Governors Island contained many temporary elements erected during the Civil War that were interspersed into the Army's designed landscape (Figures 4.19 and 4.20). Since the end of the War of 1812, the Army's use of the island shifted from a primarily strategic role to encompass administrative and support functions. Consequently, the once expansively open viewshed that protected the forts' field of fire was encroached upon by new structures to support a larger permanent military population. The developed area at the wharf expanded to the south and north with the construction of the Arsenal district and numerous support structures. This expanded district was now planted with shade trees and crisscrossed by a network of pedestrian and vehicular routes.

The interior of Fort Columbus had changed markedly since 1816 and now included four rectangular barracks arranged in a square, backing onto the ramparts, and facing a more formalized center courtyard. Shade trees ringed the perimeter of the geometric courtyard that was divided into four quadrants by two bisecting walkways. The rampart level was kept free of woody vegetation and retained the full armament of cannon along the scarp walls. The covered defile remained in use, serving as a walkway between Fort Columbus and Castle Williams.

The landscape between the forts was largely cleared of trees and direct views between the two structures remained. Several service buildings were located near Castle Williams but the area had the rugged appearance of a working yard, unlike the more pleasing, shady district at the wharf and Nolan Park. Castle Williams' location at the extreme northwesterly corner of the island remained one of its defining features, although a seawall built in the 1850s increased the useable area

around the exterior of the fort and diminished the dramatic effect of waves crashing against the austere building.

The southwest side of Governors Island was largely undeveloped, aside from a cemetery and garden, and was kept free of woody vegetation. This area and the open space area south of Fort Columbus served as the site of temporary quarters for troops returning from war.

Much of the island's shoreline remained in its native state, evidenced by sand and rock beaches and steep bluffs. The Army had begun the process of streamlining the island's perimeter with short segments of seawall but the most striking manipulation of the island's landmass was yet to come. The next chapter of the island's history in the post-Civil War period and the turn-of-the-twentieth-century would bring unprecedented changes to the scale, density, and appearance of Governors Island.

ENDNOTES

[1] Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (U.S. Naval Institute Press, 1993), 37.

[2] Ibid., 39.

[3] Ibid., 50.

[4] Bernard Report of 1821, as cited in Frederick Black, "A History of Fort Wadsworth, New York Harbor, Cultural Resources Management Study, no 7," CW Post Center, Long Island University, 1983, 63.

[5] Jannelle Warren-Findley, "Governors Island, New York Harbor: A Historic Resource Survey from the Beginning to 1996," Final Draft, 2007, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 47.

[6] "Governors Island, National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form," 1985, Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

[7] The Ordnance Board, USA to the Chief of Ordnance, USA, July 12, 1895, RG 92 Entry 89, section 84234, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

[8] Warren-Findley, 52.

[9] Ibid., 57, and 59 citing Maud Wilder Goodwin, National Historic Context, p. 371.

[10] Ibid., 62, citing Coffman, *The Old Army*, 148-149.

[11] "Building and Property Summary Sheet, Governors Island Historic District," April 2000, Governors Island National Monument park files.

[12] Warren-Findley, 72-73.

[13] Review comment on a draft submission of the CLR from Ann L. Buttenwieser, Ph.D, August, 2009.

[14] Warren-Findley, 84, citing a *New York Times* article from November 20, 1860, p. 5.

[15] *New York Times*, September 11, 1861, *ProQuest*.

[16] 30 November 1861, letter from the Engineer Department, Washington, D.C., to the Secretary of War, reporting on the condition of the "several forts under construction, and the progress of work during the year, "The War of the Rebellion," Series 3, Vol.1, p. 687.

[17] *New York Times*, September 11, 1861, *ProQuest*.

[18] *New York Times*, September 10, 1861, *ProQuest*.

[19] Barbara Yocum, "Historic Structures Report for Castle Williams, Governors Island National Monument, National Parks of New York Harbor, New York, New York," 2005, National Park Service, Historic Architecture Program, Northeast Region, 49.

[20] Ibid., 46.

[21] Captain Thomas Sparrow, September 4, 1861, Thomas Sparrow Collection, # 1878 University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Southern Historical Collection, Folder 7, Volume 1, 1861, N. York, T. Sparrow, Captain W. Grays, Diary, Fort Columbus.

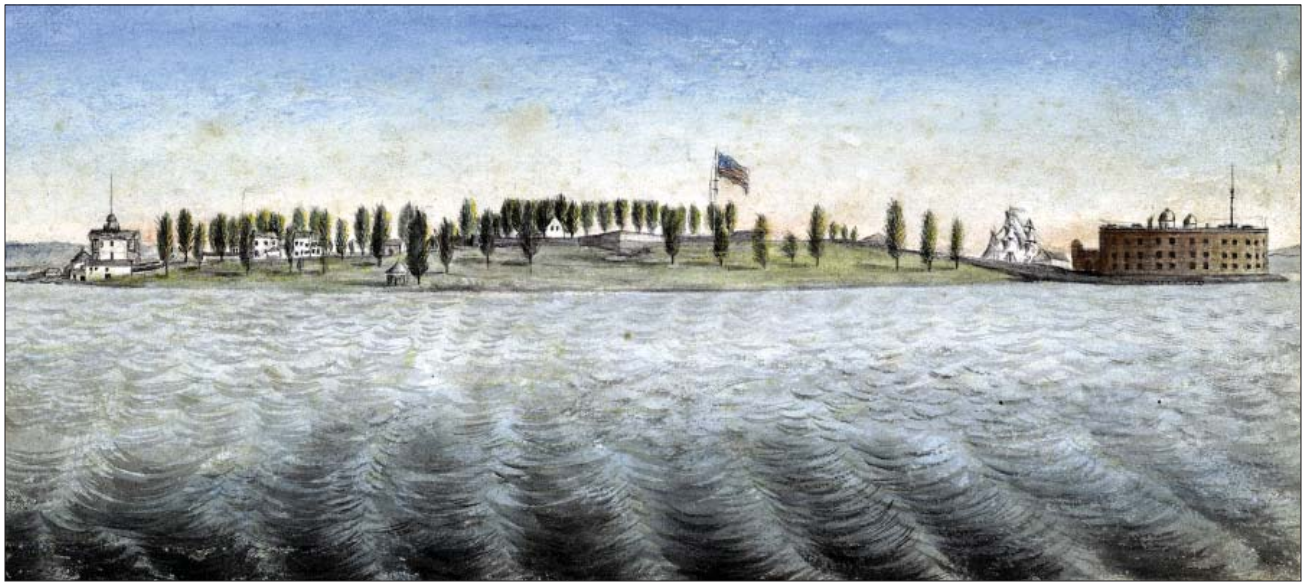


Figure 4.1. Governors Island from Manhattan, 1825. The three forts figure prominently in the landscape along with lines of columnar trees and managed lawn (Image Courtesy of the New York Public Library, 54551).

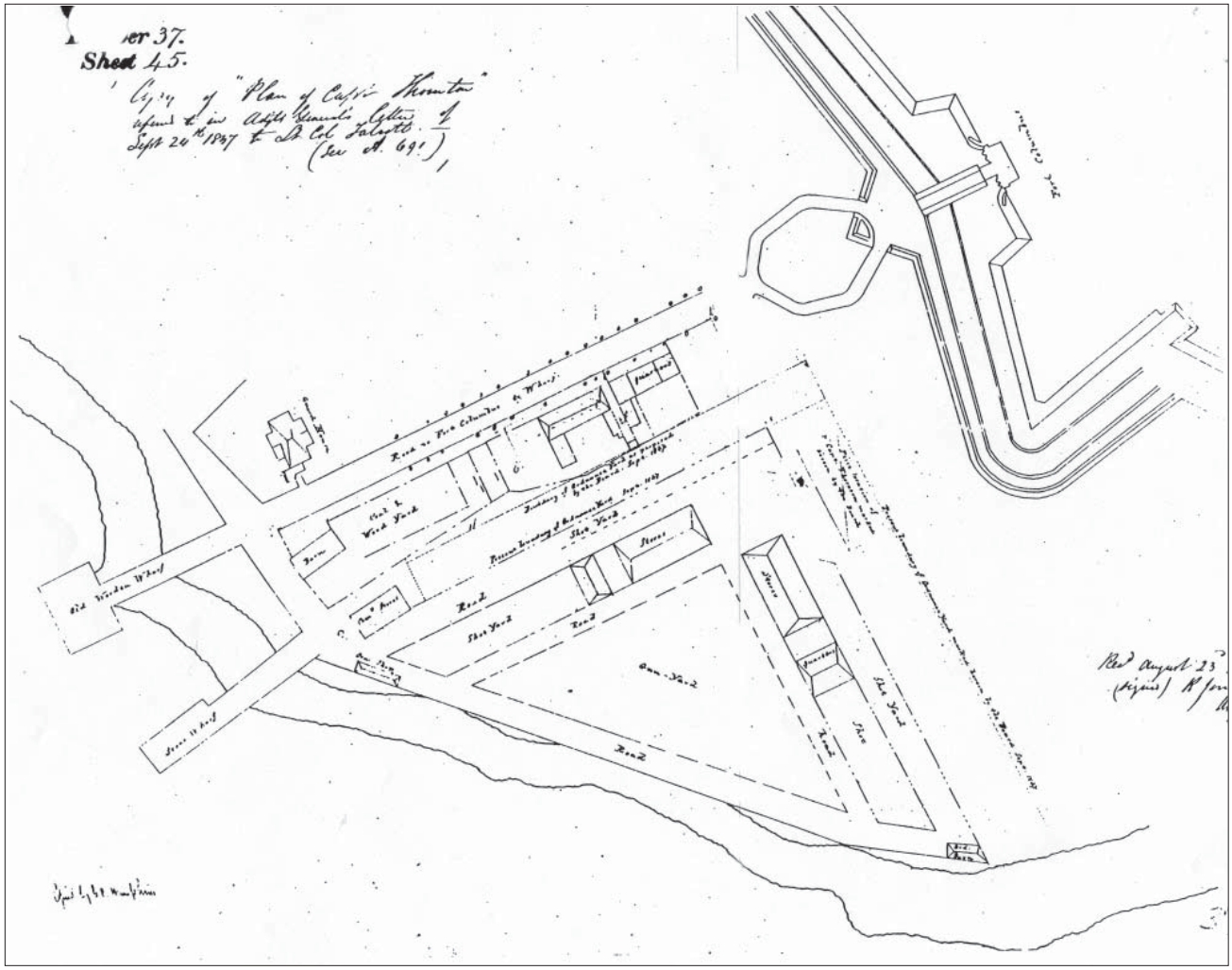


Figure 4.2. "Plan of Captain Thorton" for the New York Arsenal, 1847. Generated after development of the district had already begun, this plan articulated the spatial organization, roads, and open spaces of the Arsenal (National Archives II, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 37, Sheet 45).

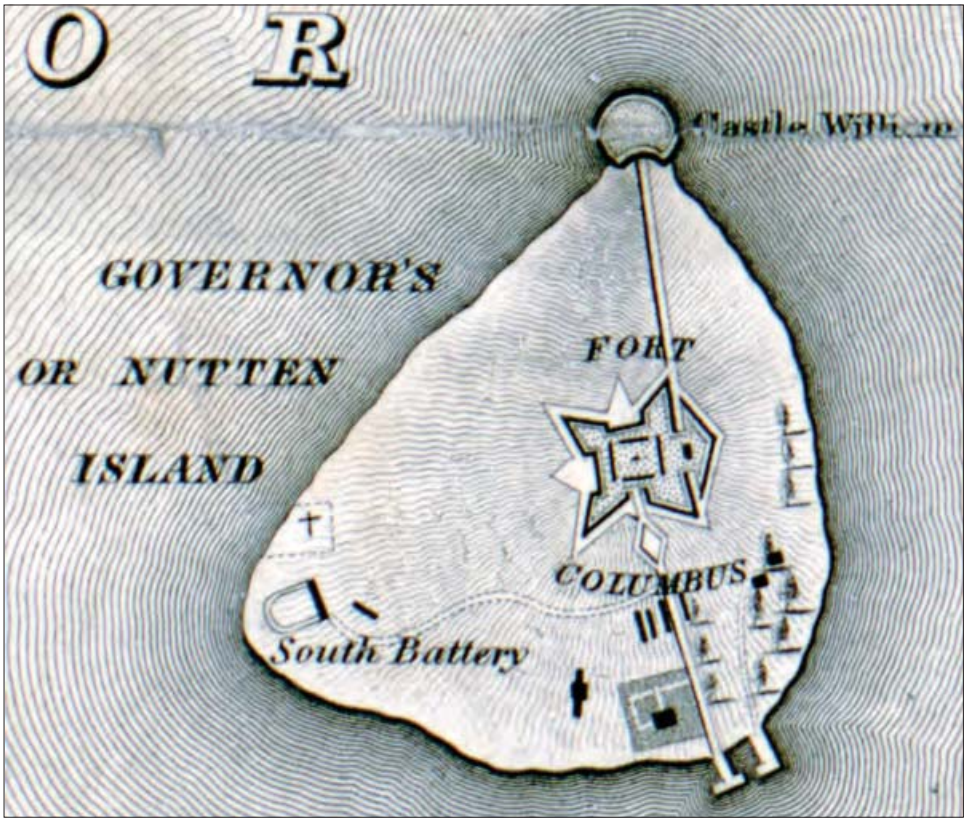


Figure 4.3. Governors Island, 1836. The newly completed Fort Columbus barracks created an inner courtyard. Arsenal developments, the Commanding Officer's quarters, and cemetery are all depicted on this plan (Library of Congress, enlargement of "Topographical map of the city and county of New York and the adjacent country," J.H. Colton and Co.., #G3804.N 1836.J2).

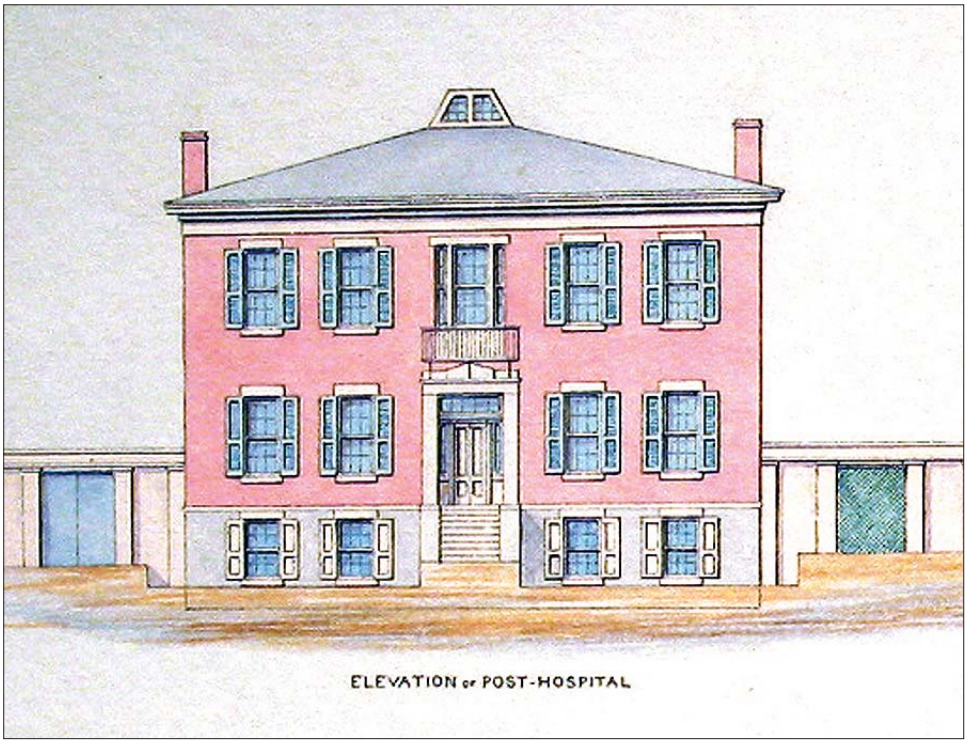


Figure 4.4. Post Hospital, 1863 (National Archives II, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Fortification File, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, #12).

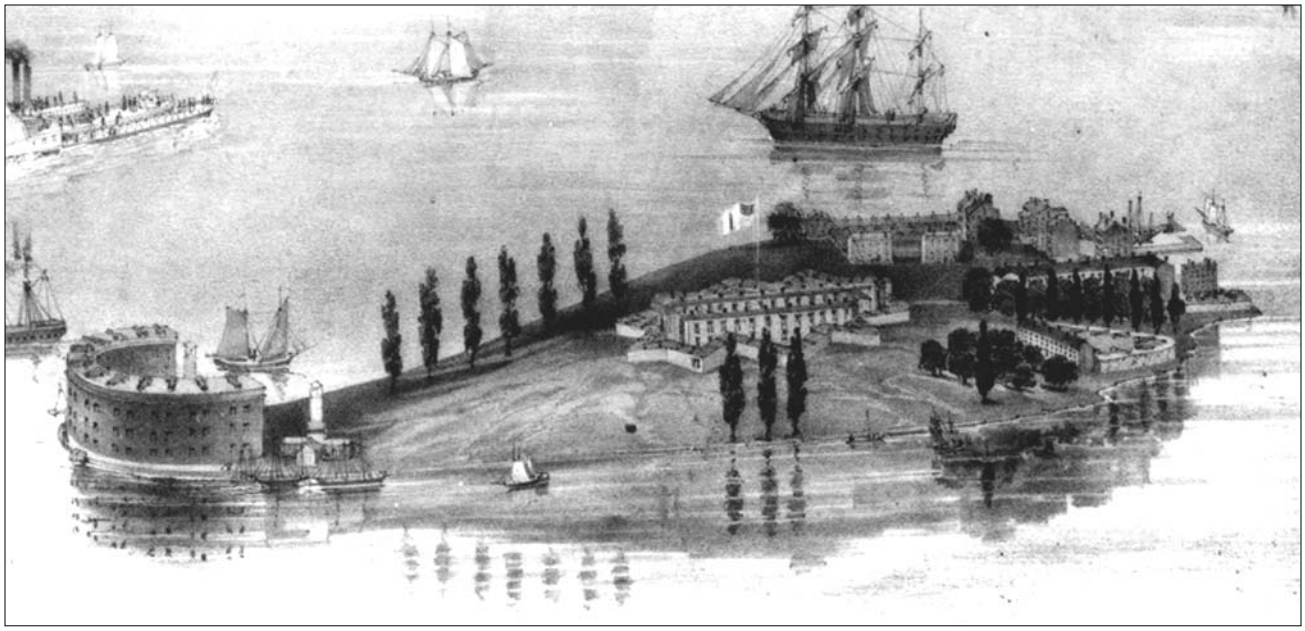


Figure 4.5. Bird's-Eye View of New York and Brooklyn, 1851 (Library of Congress, #PGA-Bachmann- Bird's-eye view of New York and Brooklyn (D size) {P&P}).



Figure 4.6. Wharf area of Governors Island, 1857 (National Archives II, "Map of a survey of the shore of Governors Island made under the direction of Major John G. Barnard, by A.R. Van Nostrand C.E., Record Group 77, drawer 37, sheet 42).

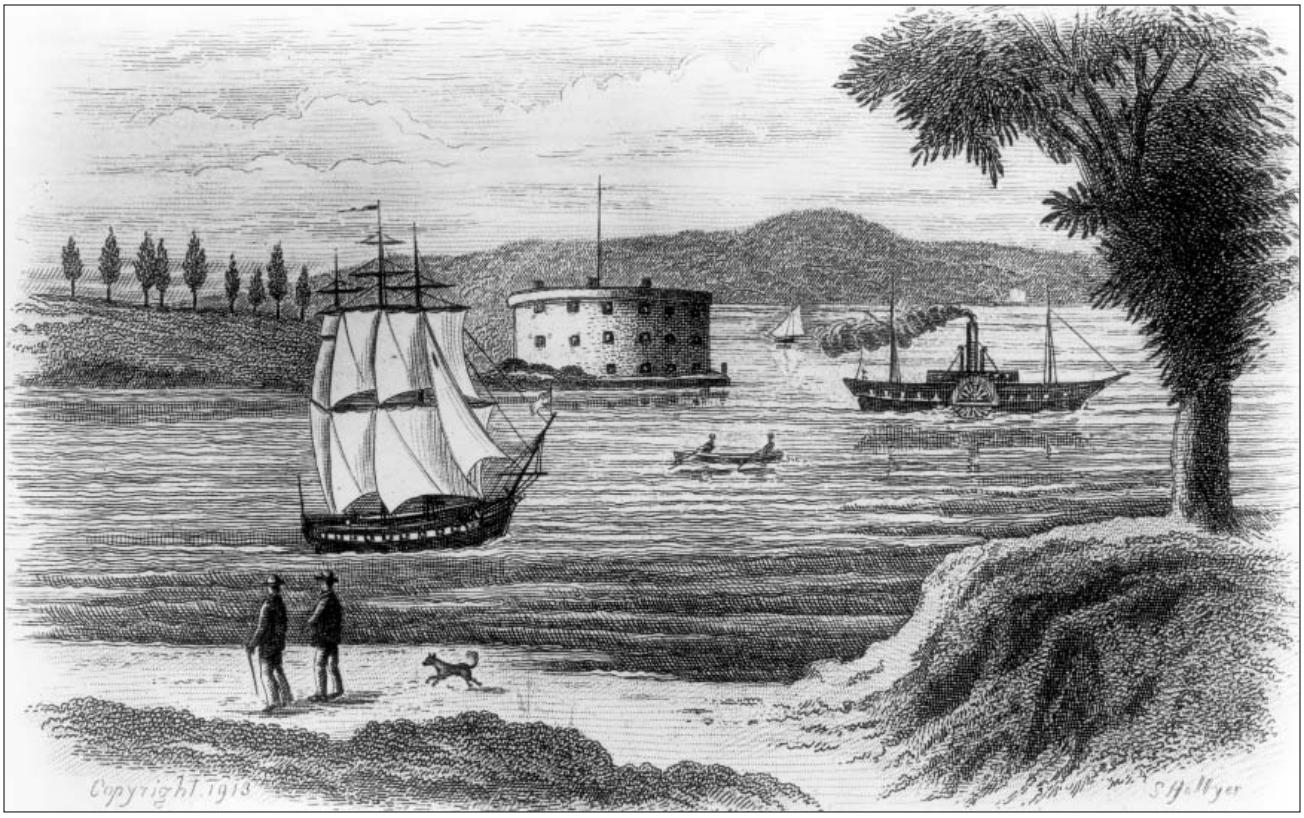


Figure 4.7. Governors Island, circa 1850. View looking south from Manhattan (Image courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York, S. Hollyer, Published by the Society of the Iconophiles, 1913).

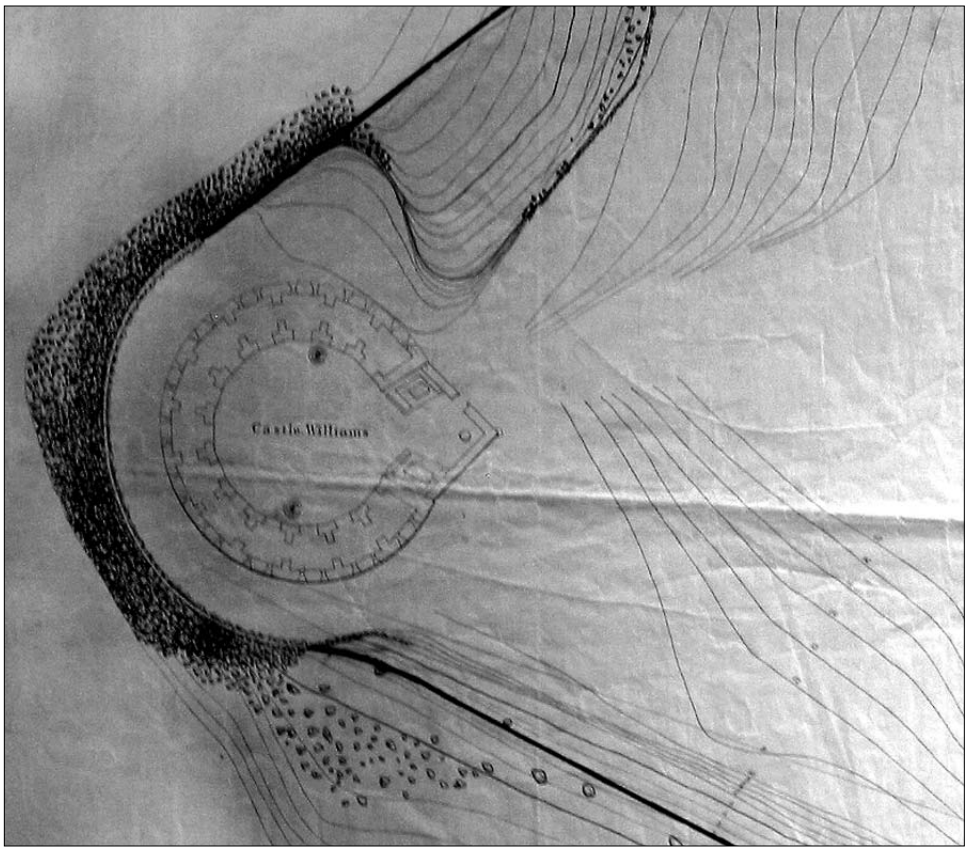


Figure 4.8. Castle Williams, 1857 (National Archives II, "Map of a survey of the shore of Governors Island made under the direction of Major John G. Barnard, by A.R. Van Nostrand C.E., Record Group 77, drawer 37, sheet 42).

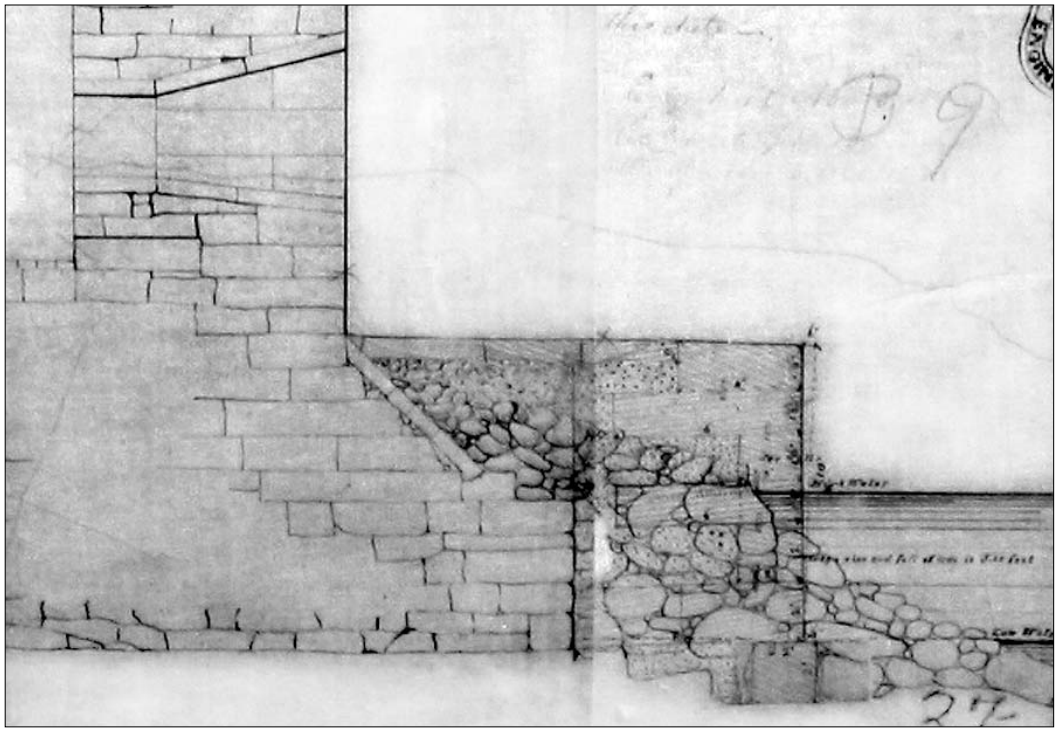


Figure 4.9. Castle Williams, 1841. This image shows the old rubble wall that abutted the fort and the proposed new seawall (National Archives II, "Section of Castle Williams, New York Harbor," Record Group 77, Drawer 37, Sheet 25).



Figure 4.10. South side of Governors Island, showing the cemetery, garden and South Battery, 1857 (National Archives II, "Map of a survey of the shore of Governors Island made under the direction of Major John G. Barnard, by A.R. Van Nostrand C.E., Record Group 77, drawer 37, sheet 42).

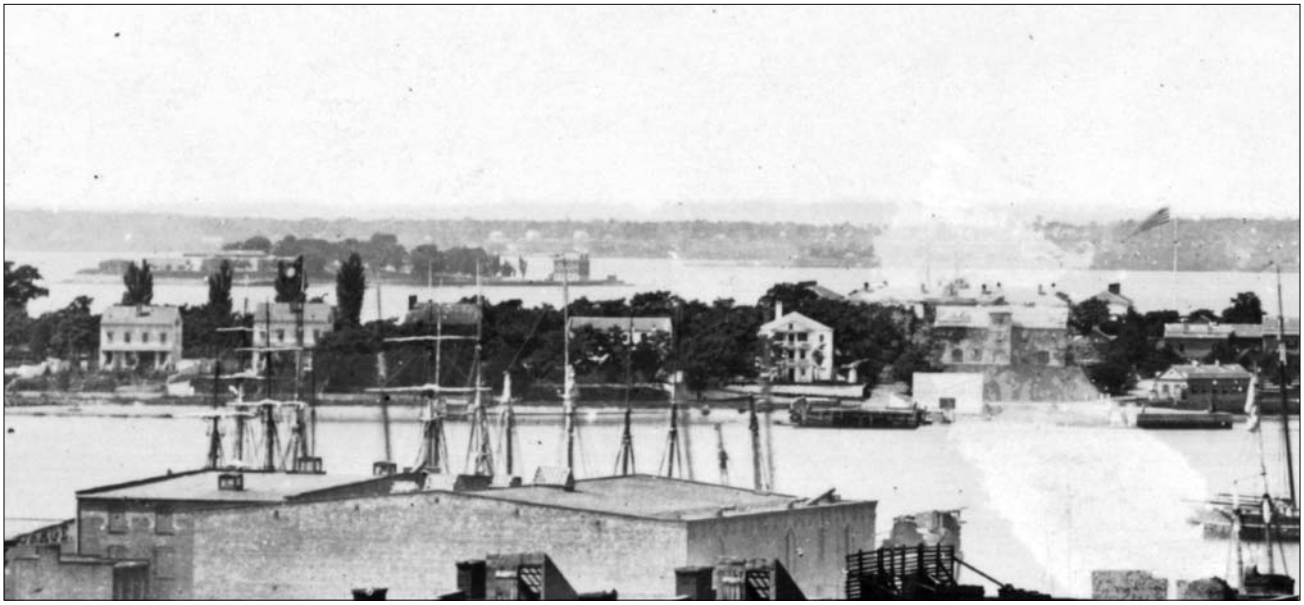


Figure 4.11. Governors Island, 1860. This photographic enlargement portrays the structures and vegetation of the wharf district (New York Public Library, 732034 F).

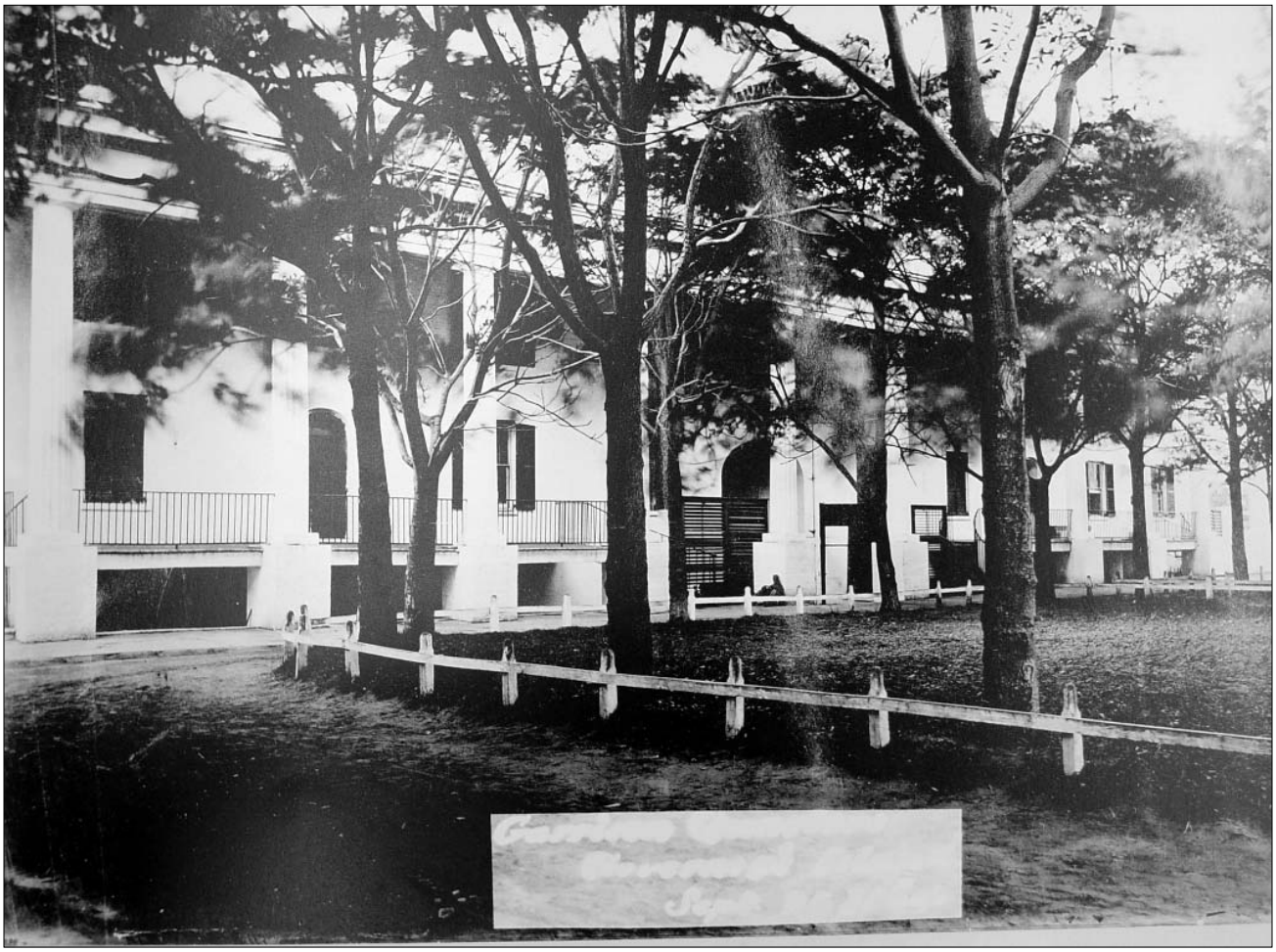


Figure 4.12. Fort Columbus courtyard, 1864 (National Archives II, U.S. Quartermaster's Department, September 28, 1864, #165-1094A;SPB/NACP).

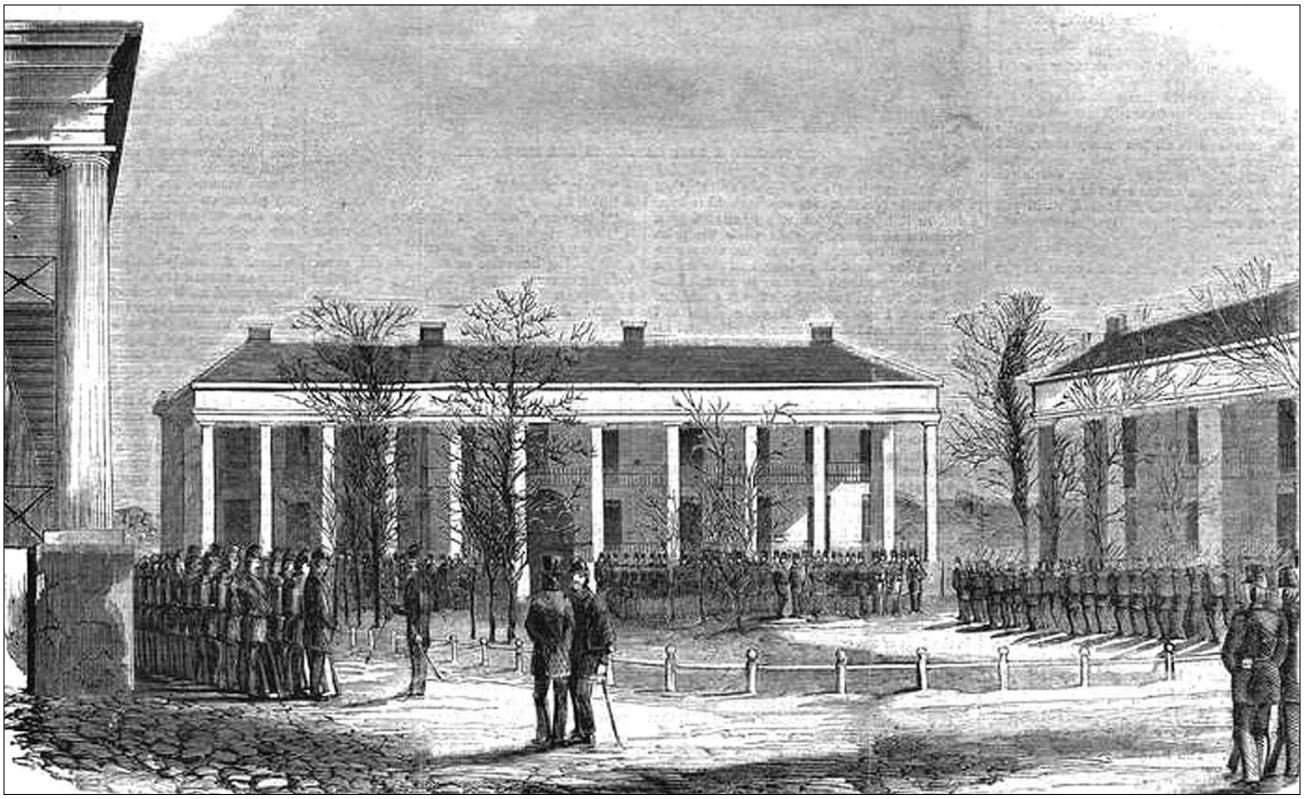


Figure 4.13. Drilling in the Fort Columbus courtyard, 1861 ("Recruits Drilling in Squads on Governor's Island, New York," Published in *Harper's Weekly*, May 4, 1861, Image courtesy of Harpersweekly.com).



Figure 4.14. Ramparts and rear elevation of Fort Columbus barracks, 1864 (National Archives II, U.S. Quartermaster's Department, #165-C-1089; SPB/NACP).

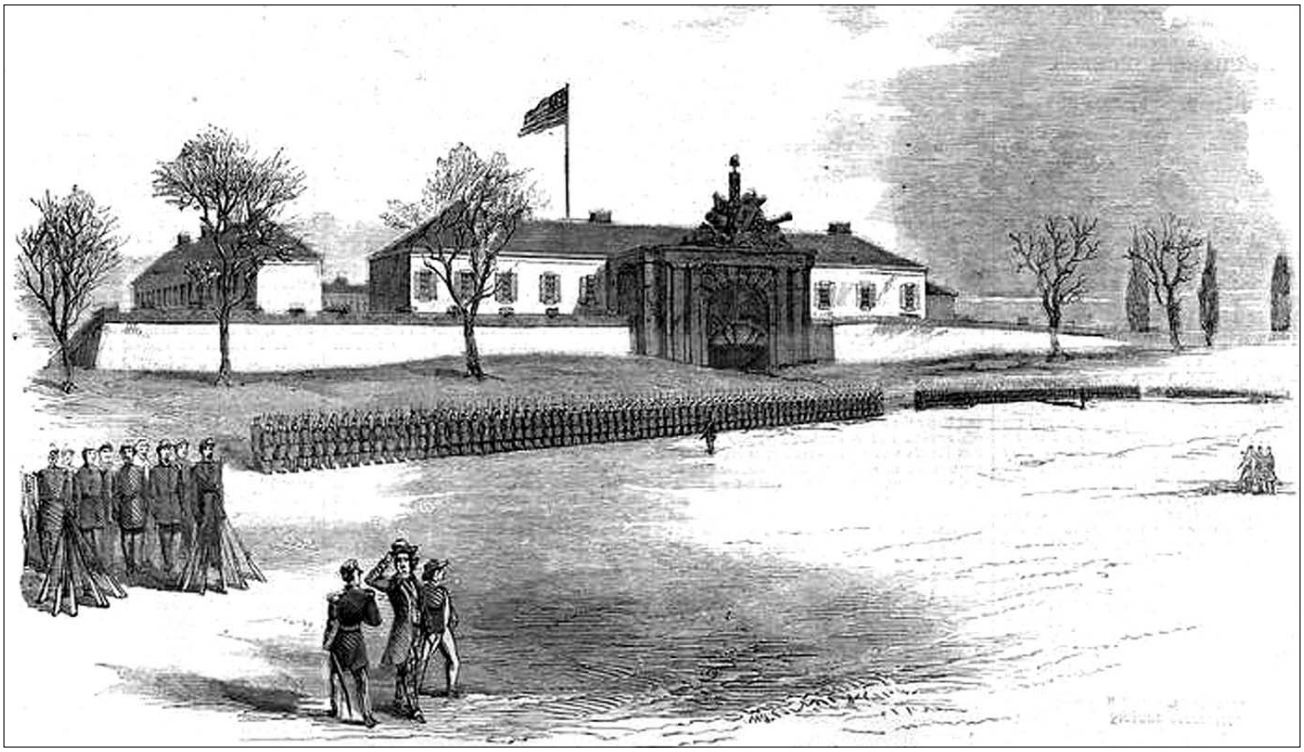


Figure 4.15. Drilling outside Fort Columbus, 1861 ("Parade of United States Troops on Governor's Island before Embarkation," Published in *Harper's Weekly*, May 4, 1861, Image courtesy of Harpersweekly.com).



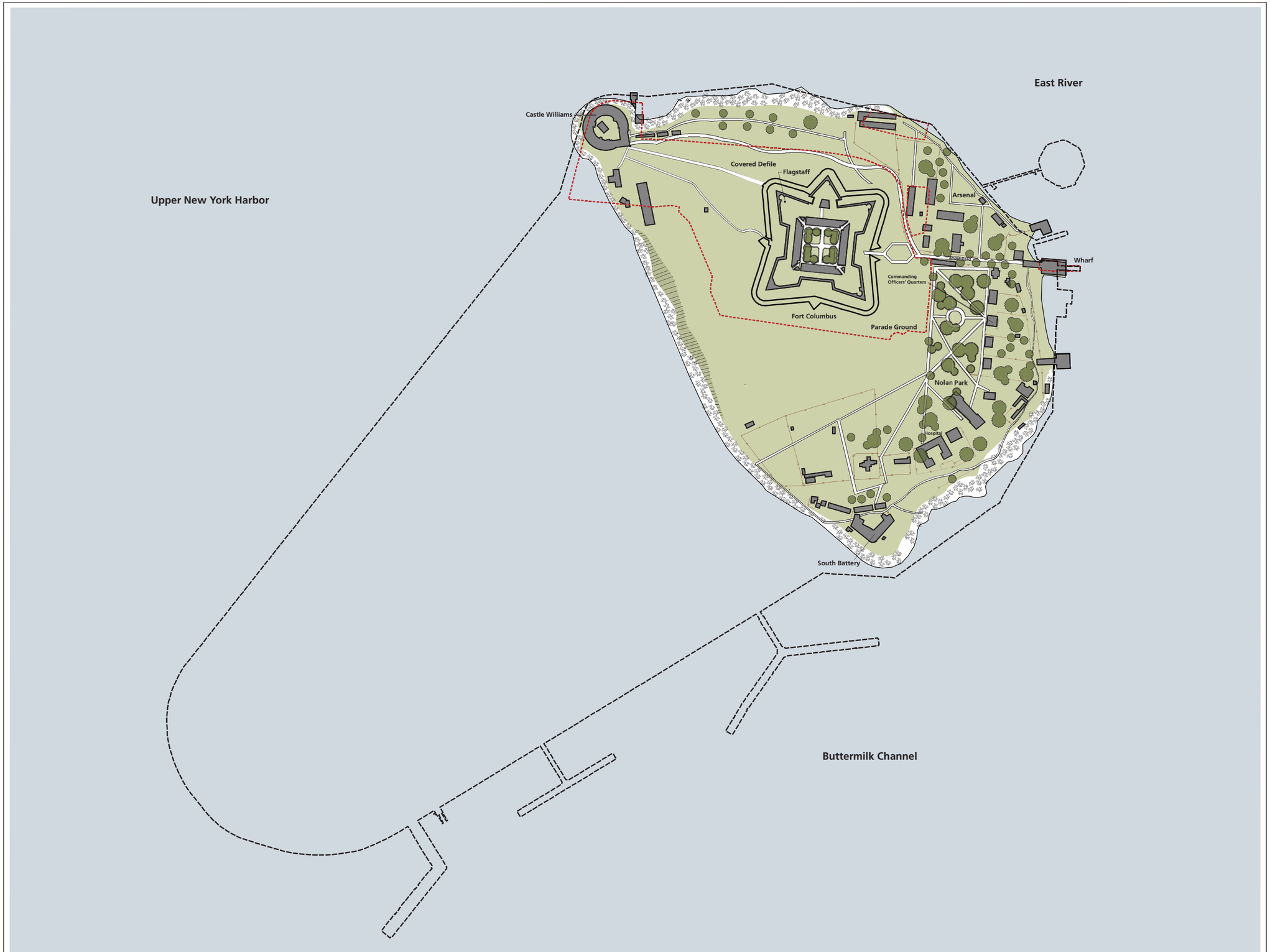
Figure 4.16. View looking northeast from the top of Castle Williams, 1862 (National Archives II, Still Pictures, B 4804 Brady Collection, "Fort on Governors Island, New York Harbor, NY").



Figure 4.17. View looking east from Castle Williams, looking to Brooklyn, 1862 (National Archives II, Still Images, B 3480 Brady Collection).



Figure 4.18. Castle Williams, 1862 (National Archives, Still Images, B 4041 Brady Collection).



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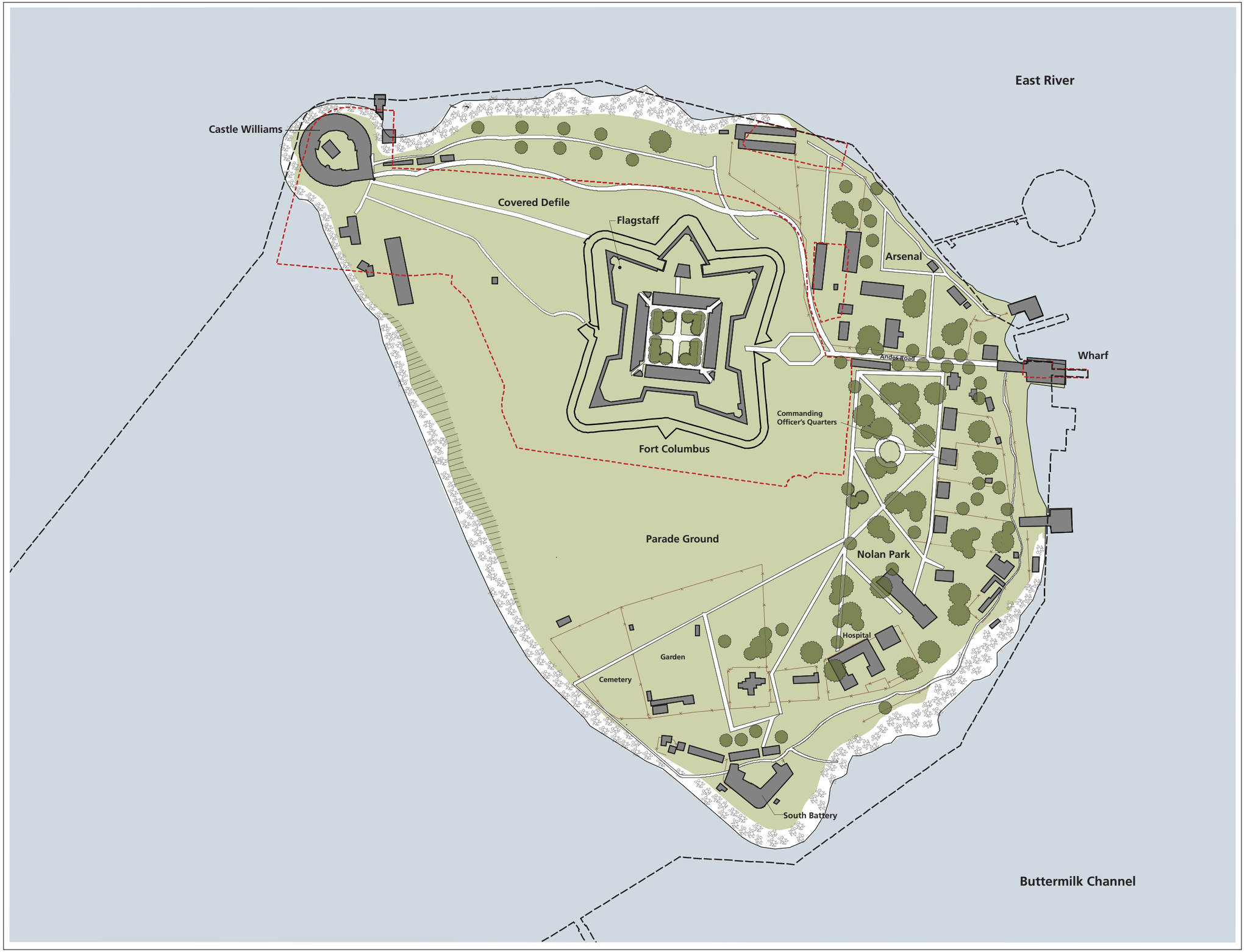
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Drawing 4.19



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Drawing 4.20

1866-1918

GOVERNORS ISLAND AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

After serving as a bustling administrative post, prison, recruiting center, and garrison throughout the Civil War, activity on Governors Island slowed with the conclusion of hostilities in 1865. Few significant physical improvements took place during the post-war years following the immense expenditure of human and economic capital in the war effort. However, Governors Island's function as a permanent military base remained unquestioned and investment to improve the installation began anew shortly after the conclusion of the war.

Limited improvement efforts took place in the late 1860s, including the repair of existing buildings and walks and the demolition of deteriorated buildings. This was followed by more substantial infrastructural investment in ensuing decades.[1] Much of the post-war activity occurred at the arsenal. Surplus munitions arrived at the island for storage and processing, however there were few facilities available to accommodate the materials. A visitor to the island in 1872 recalled that "Cannon of all shapes, sizes and caliber are lying about. . ..Huge pyramids of shot and shell are piled around, from the enormous fifteen inch shell, weighing 320 pounds, to the diminutive one-pound ball."[2] In response to the need for additional storage, a new warehouse, known today as Building 110, was built northeast of Fort Columbus in 1875.[3]

Post-war improvements to the island's physical resources, maintained with military fastidiousness and readily available labor, resulted in a pleasantly landscaped environment suited to both military preparedness and domesticity. An account of the island in 1872 described the "beautiful green island in the entrance of the channel," and admired "the brilliant verdure of its trees, its neat, trim walks, the handsome buildings nestle in the deep foliage of its timber, and the well-kept gardens arranged in terraces extending from the landing pier to the extreme easterly point of the island."[4] Street trees planted in the arsenal and wharf district decades earlier matured to shade the area, notably along the canopied approach road to Fort Columbus.[5] Engravings from the late nineteenth century display the abundant tree coverage in this region, extending from the arsenal, through Nolan Park, to the cemetery's weeping willows (Figure 5.1).[6]

At Fort Columbus, a roughly circular raised earth barbican remained directly in front of the bridge to prevent a clear sight-line from the wharf to the fort's main entry (Figure 5.2). The interior of the fort was primarily used for housing, with the geometry of the central open space unaltered from previous decades. An 1872 visitor noted that the fort's interior "is a nice shady spot, where the hot rays of the noonday sun cannot penetrate the thick foliage of the trees with which it is

surrounded."[7] The ramparts behind the barracks were kept free of woody vegetation, and cannon placed at regular intervals along the fort's walls retained its functional military preparedness.

The verdant appearance of the eastern portion of the island stood in contrast with the sparsely vegetated areas east and south of Fort Columbus. Only a few Lombardy poplars along the northwest shore stood near Castle Williams (Figure 5.3, see Figure 4.16). This relatively undeveloped portion of the island was dominated by low grass coverage. The Army retained the historically open, grass-covered glacis to facilitate troop drilling and military parades (Figure 5.4).

Castle Williams remained an imposing and relatively solitary presence on the northwest corner of the island for the purposes of keeping views of the harbor and views toward the structure open. Several unornamented and utilitarian engineering buildings were located near the structure (Figure 5.5). Period imagery depicts a route extending from Castle Williams' entry to two points along Fort Columbus' west walls. One fork of the path incorporated the covered defile. The other led past a powder magazine to a break in the rampart south of the covered defile.

The Army built a row of new wood-frame barracks, observed as "pretty frame cottages," near South Battery, adjacent to the post cemetery and vegetable garden in 1872 (Figure 5.6).[8] These structures reportedly replaced older barracks buildings that had earned the unflattering nickname "rotten row."[9]

Construction of living quarters continued in the late-1870s when several additional wood-frame duplexes completed the Nolan Park district, east of Fort Columbus.[10] A row of uniformly styled officers' quarters were built along a line southwest of the Commanding Officer's quarters prior to the Civil War. These buildings, which spanned the area between the wharf district and the hospital and chapel, faced onto a rectilinear green space with brick walking paths, shade trees, and a managed lawn (Figure 5.7). When the new Nolan Park residences were built on the west side of the green, they mirrored the design, scale, and massing of the pre-Civil War residences and further defined the district by partially enclosing the open side of the green that previously led to the open expanse of the parade ground (Figure 5.8). Although the structures strongly resembled one another, each was personalized by its occupants. Contemporary reports document that the quarters contained vegetable and flower gardens, trellises, and climbing vines.[11]

Development on the north and east shores previously left open to provide a clear field of fire was a sign of the island's increasing defensive obsolescence. However, strategic planning for the island continued in the latter part of the nineteenth century. As shown on an 1871 sketch of the island, Army engineers designed a long, linear barbette battery (a single-story, raised earth, open platform),

spanning most of the distance between Castle Williams and South Battery on the island's southwest shore (Figure 5.9). If built as designed, thirty-six guns were to be mounted on the open deck to provide additional coverage of the upper harbor. It is documented that work commenced on the fort by 1872 but later accounts and analysis of late nineteenth and early twentieth century maps show that it was never completed.[12]

SEAWALL EXPANSION

Governors Island's location in the harbor made it susceptible to the damaging forces of wind and tidal action. The earliest documented seawalls on the island were built in the 1840s to protect the base of Castle Williams from direct contact with the sea. The Army expanded its use of seawalls in 1866, completing a masonry wall on the west side of the island from Castle Williams to South Battery.[13] This action appears to have made the existing shoreline higher and more linear. A more ambitious project was planned for the eastern shore of the island in the 1880s. Army engineers extended the 1866 seawall northeast of South Battery, filling a sizable portion of the low tidal areas (Figure 5.10). By 1884, a masonry seawall extended from South Battery to the main wharf (Figure 5.11). In an effort to complete a perimeter seawall around the entire island, the Army accepted bids in 1889 to build 1,100 feet of seawall on the north shore, from Castle Williams to the arsenal.[14] The proposed wall, that created 65,000 square feet of new buildable land, was intended to be a continuation of existing walls and portions were planned to replace sections that had washed away.[15] As documented in an 1894 photograph depicting the north side of the island as seen from Manhattan, the length of shoreline between Castle Williams and the wharf district appeared as a continuous and uniform hard edge (Figure 5.12).

GOVERNORS ISLAND AT THE TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY

At the end of the nineteenth century Governors Island was a well-established Army base with numerous facilities able to accommodate a sizeable population. Although the island was valued as a permanent military post, recruitment center, and military prison, the island's strategic value had been overshadowed by newer fortifications located in the outer harbor. Naval armament of the era had advanced to make the eighteenth and nineteenth century forts on Governors Island obsolete. Despite the evolution of the island's historic function, the landscape retained elements of its defensive past along side features introduced to accommodate new uses.

The utilitarian character of the island was most visible at Castle Williams. Numerous unadorned structures, such as magazines and warehouses surrounded the fort in a sparsely vegetated and austere setting (Figure 5.13). The Army kept

the landscape outside of Castle Williams free of obstructions to allow sentries a clear line of sight around the prison.

Conversely, domestic and recreational uses in other parts of the island offered a much more welcoming appearance. A contemporary newspaper article documented the recreational activities of the soldiers and their families. It described frequent entertaining at the South Battery Officers Club that was often decorated with flowers from a near-by greenhouse.[16] Promenading and bicycling along a path on the perimeter of the island, a former horse track, was a popular fair weather diversion.[17] "The grounds reserved for the parade are directly in the centre of the island, and are used for golf links. Just beyond is a tennis court, beautifully laid out and the pride of the young people."[18] The tennis courts sat on the boundary between the heavily shaded, residential Nolan Park, and the open parade ground of Fort Columbus. Both areas were used for entertaining, as seen in period photographs of pageants and military parades (Figure 5.14). The parade ground was also occasionally used for other purposes, including ballooning. Hot air balloon enthusiast, Nicholas Helmer, obtained permission from Lieutenant Colonel Whipple to launch his manned balloon from Governors Island south of the music stand in 1885. Helmer stretched the 162-foot-long balloon on the grass lawn to inflate it with the help of some off duty soldiers. Unfortunately for Helmer, the balloon only partially inflated before being swept into the air and across the harbor by a strong breeze.[19]

One area of the island that combined the character of the working military landscape and the domestic functions of the post was Fort Columbus. The structures in the interior of the fort served as barracks space, and although the geometric courtyard was planted with shade trees, the Army used the space for drilling (Figure 5.15). The fort's exterior landscape remained largely the same as in previous decades. The glacis remained clear of woody vegetation for drilling and parades. At the fort's main entrance, street trees planted in the 1850s lined the approach road, terminating at the barbican that blocked direct views of the bridge and main entry (See Figure 5.2). The Army maintained the dry moat as closely cut lawn and used the sheltered expanse for target practice.[20]

The status of facility development at the turn of the century is well documented in a blueprint of Governors Island from 1902 (Figure 5.16). The handsome map shows the dense clusters of buildings at Nolan Park, the Arsenal, and the first four dwellings to be built along Colonels' Row on the south side of the island. The residential districts contrasted with the larger and more widely dispersed support buildings near Castle Williams and the island's north shore. Circulation, drinking water, fire suppression, and sewer systems were established throughout the island. The 1902 map depicts a new large dock along the north shore, opposite a large storehouse building and separated from the traditional wharf area, illustrating the Army's need to accommodate larger vessels.

EXPANSION OF GOVERNORS ISLAND

In response to the overcrowded conditions of lower Manhattan in the late 1800s from the explosive growth of immigrant communities, members of the public advocated to turn Governors Island into a public park. The public park movement in New York had begun in the 1850s with the construction of Central Park, built in the 1850s and 1860s, and Prospect Park in Brooklyn, constructed after the end of the Civil War. Yet, neither of these large open spaces were readily available to the residents of lower Manhattan, who were out of walking distance and an expensive trolley or ferry ride away. Representatives from lower Manhattan introduced a bill to devote Governors Island to public open space in 1888 but no was action taken.[21] Proponents tabled the idea briefly but discussion began again in the 1890s when new legislation was again introduced to change the use of Governors Island for public enjoyment. The Army countered, citing the island's defensive value in a somewhat tenuous argument: "The island is of great national importance, and should under no consideration be abandoned as a military station. At the present time, when swift ships of war and torpedo boats may be able under cover of fogs or smoke to pass the lower forts, it is of vital importance that governors island be held and armed with rapid fire guns and with mortars to destroy any such as may succeed in eluding the vigilance of the forts below."[22]

In spite of the public debate about the future of Governors Island, Secretary of War, Elihu Root commissioned a study to examine the possibility of expanding the island's land mass to create the necessary space to house a full battalion.[23] Part of his reasoning for investigating such a large infrastructural expansion may have been to increase the Army's presence on Governors Island and secure the island for exclusive military use.

Early planning for the island's expansion included surveys of three shoals off the southeastern coast of the island.[24] Planners from the Army Corps of Engineers estimated adding approximately 110 acres to the island's land mass.[25] Some fill material was planned to come from the dredging of Buttermilk Channel.[26] As a major shipping route that no longer accommodated the large freighters or battleships of the era, the call for dredging was made by the military and the business community of New York.[27] Using fill from Buttermilk Channel and from the tunneling of the New York subway, Secretary Root estimated the cost for enlarging the island at 1,140,000 dollars.[28]

In the end, the War Department's grand plan for Governors Island prevailed over the desires of public park proponents. The New York State Legislature cleared the way for the island expansion by passing a bill ceding the project area's underwater acreage to the Federal Government in February 1901.[29]

Secretary Root envisioned more than a simple expansion of Governors Island's acreage. To realize the goal of completely modernizing the post, he appointed a board of military planners to study the issue. Civilian architects were added to the planning effort in 1901, including Charles McKim of the renowned New York City architecture firm of McKim, Mead, and White. Root retained McKim's services for several years during which time his firm completed a series of plans to transform the island by removing all of the existing buildings and site improvements except Fort Columbus, Castle Williams, and South Battery. Reportedly, Root took McKim to the White House on at least one occasion to share details of the plan with a receptive President Theodore Roosevelt.[30]

An article in the *New York Times* from April 1902 with the title "Sweeping Changes at Governors Island, Practically Every Building There to be Replaced," described the thinking behind the proposed drastic alteration of the island. Colonel Kimball, one of the Army planners, reported: "It seemed to us that the best plan was to conceive of a cyclone having laid the island completely to waste, and that we should then undertake to establish an Army post upon the most modern plans."[31] The article claimed: "Some of the buildings now standing on Governors Island are fully a hundred years old. They were put up without any regard for a general harmonious scheme, and as a result the existing arrangement is considered by Army experts to be a general hodge-podge, entirely inferior to Army posts costing the Government much less money to maintain…"[32]

McKim based his design on Beaux Arts and City Beautiful principles that incorporated formal, Neoclassical architecture and site planning. These design styles dominated American civic architecture and city planning in the late 1800s and early 1900s, notably after the resounding success of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Beaux Arts architecture was often built on a large scale, using Greek, Roman, and Renaissance features such as columns, grand arched entryways, and classical sculpture. City Beautiful planning sought to organize the urban environment and add European-styled order to many of America's rapidly growing and organically evolving cities. The style used formal clusters of buildings arranged along long view corridors and incorporated repetition of scale, setback, and material.

An early version of the Governors Island redevelopment plan, dated 1902, depicts the complete transformation that Root and McKim envisioned (Figure 5.17). According to the proposed plan, the historic forts would be the only existing buildings to remain and a long, open corridor was planned along the island's length. The design was not strictly axial and geometric but utilized these concepts in its arrangement of structures, roads, and open space. Much of the new acreage on the southeast side of the island was left as open space, with buildings lining the perimeter. At the terminus of the new acreage, a central building sat on axis with Fort Columbus with a series of roads arrayed around it.

Castle Williams became part of a small side cluster of buildings arranged around an almost rectangular shape. The only landscape feature that McKim planned to retain was the main entrance to Fort Columbus and its straight path to the docks, although he proposed removing the historic barbican at the fort's east gate.

Later iterations of the plan emerged, like one from 1907 where McKim altered several aspects of the plan to make the design even more symmetrical than prior versions. He now envisioned an almost uniform procession of modestly sized dwellings ringing the exterior of the island. McKim located a district of large warehouses and docks northwest of Castle Williams. The periodical *Scientific American* printed a rendering of the plan where the symmetry is reinforced by continuous lines of street trees. The streets, buildings, and trees arranged around the perimeter of the island reinforced the overall outline of the space, in which the conically shaped new acreage in the southeast resembled the cone of an ice cream cone and the rounded land to the northwest, the original landmass, the ice cream.

Despite the time and money spent redesigning Governors Island, none of McKim's plans came to fruition. Work did progress on the island expansion, first by building seawalls around the shoals, then by pumping the water out and lastly by filling the void (Figure 5.18). The project was largely complete by 1909 (Figure 5.19).

Flat and featureless, the new land was quickly recognized as a good landing field by early aviators. Wilbur Wright took off and landed from Governors Island in 1909, flying up the Hudson River to Grant's Tomb and back to the island.[33] He was followed by other experimental flyers, such as Glen Curtiss who landed on the island after flying from Albany, NY.[34]

Little development occurred on the island's new land following the completion of the expansion project. As seen in a 1911 photograph of the island, a small cluster of unidentified structures stood on the far end but the rest of the terrain remained devoid of defining features (Figure 5.20). This stood in stark contrast to the original portion of the island, with its well established street trees, green lawns, work yards, and domestic and utilitarian buildings (Figures 5.21 and 5.22).

WORLD WAR I AT GOVERNORS ISLAND

Complicated tensions and a tangled web of alliances between European powers came to a head in 1914 when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in response to the assassination of their heir to the throne. Shortly after, numerous European countries joined the conflict, including Russia, France, England, and Germany. The war quickly spread beyond European boundaries because of the wide-reaching influence of these nations' colonial influence. The United States

pledged to remain neutral but German submarine warfare in the Atlantic tested this policy of neutrality. United States President Woodrow Wilson remained committed to staying out of the conflict even after German U-Boats sunk the luxury liner, the *Lusitania,* in 1915, amidst mounting domestic pressure to enter the war. German attacks on American vessels in the Atlantic continued in subsequent years, forcing the United States to change policy. Congress declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

Governors Island, strategically located at the mouth of the Atlantic Ocean and near a major shipping and population center, was positioned to serve as a supply depot for materials and soldiers heading to the war in Europe. Indecision about how to develop the new acreage was set aside and dozens of identical, massive storehouses were constructed on the southeast side of the island (Figure 5.23). The Army moved material between buildings and a dock at the southeast corner of the island using a railroad (Figure 5.24). The southeast side of the island also hosted numerous other support structures, including machine shops, railroad repair shops, fuel storage facilities, barracks, and mess halls (Figure 5.25).

World War I development was not confined to the previously empty portions of the island. The Army erected temporary offices, barracks, and tents throughout the original section of the island. The structures were mostly one-story, wood frame, rectangular buildings located with no over-arching organizational pattern. Contemporary photographs and plans show the presence of five long, thin, rectangular structures oriented north-south along the northwest side of Fort Columbus', now re-named Fort Jay, exterior wall. These and other buildings, including the 'H' shaped hospital, stood between Castle Williams and Fort Jay, obliterating most of the remnants of the covered defile that once connected the forts.

The Army even located structures in the Fort Jay courtyard. Contemporary photographs show a long, rectangular clapboard structure on the edge of the grassy courtyard, directly abutting one of the area's mature shade trees. Several similar structures were erected to the west of Fort Jay's barbican (Figure 5.26). Elsewhere on the parade ground, the integrity of the open space was retained. The long expanse south of Fort Jay where polo matches and drilling took place remained free of structures.

The war concluded in November 1918 when France, England, and the United States signed an armistice with Germany and the frenzied pace of activity slowed at Governors Island.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION IN 1918

By 1918, the Governors Island landscape had been drastically altered from its historic appearance (Figure 5.27). The island's landmass more than doubled in size after fill from Buttermilk Channel dredging and construction of the New York City subway was added to shallow shoals south of the island. This filled area was used extensively in World War I to house scores of warehouses, barracks, docks, and support structures. The south side was dominated by lines of identically sized and spaced temporary warehouses that were connected by a series of rail lines.

On the original part of the island numerous changes reflected war-time necessity as well as the Army's commitment to establishing a permanent base. Nolan Park and Colonels' Row were expanded to provide more residential housing and retained distinct park-like characters. Shade trees lined many of the island's streets. Several areas of the historic glacis were now home to new structures but open lawn still surrounded Fort Jay's (formerly Fort Columbus) outer walls and extended several hundred yards south of the fort (Figure 5.28).

The covered defile between Fort Jay and Castle Williams had been largely obliterated by the construction of several buildings. World War I temporary buildings stood just yards from Fort Jay's west outer walls. Castle Williams, the military prison facility, was surrounded by war-era service-oriented buildings, rough grass and packed earth, and minimal landscape plantings, contrasting with the more bucolic areas of the island at Colonels' Row, Nolan Park, and the Wharf district.

ENDNOTES

[1] Jannelle Warren-Findley, "Governors Island, New York Harbor: A Historic Resource Survey from the Beginning to 1996," Final Draft, 2007, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 114.

[2] *New York Times*, September 21, 1872, *ProQuest*.

[3] "Governors Island, National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form," 1985, Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

[4] *New York Times*, September 21, 1872, *ProQuest*.

[5] *New York Times*, September 21, 1872, *ProQuest*: "A well-kept walk overshadowed and canopied by trees leads to the principal work on the island, Fort Columbus."

[6] *New York Times*, September 21, 1872, *ProQuest*: "On the east point of the island is the cemetery, with its drooping willows and white headstones…"

[7] *New York Times*, September 21, 1872, *ProQuest*.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] "Governors Island, National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form," 1985, National Park Service.

[11] *New York Times*, September 21, 1872, *ProQuest*.

[12] An article from the *New York Times*, September 21, 1872 describes the battery in construction: "Along the southern shore, from Castle William to South Fort, a powerful battery is in course of erection… It will be armed with thirty-six fifteen inch guns and will completely sweep the upper bay." Edmund Banks Smith, in his book *Governors Island: Its Military History Under Three Flags, 1637-1913,* claims the battery was dismantled in 1893, citing the Adjunct General's notes. Smith also reported that remains of the barbette battery were unearthed in 1910 when "salt water mains" were installed throughout the island, reference appearing on page 107.

[13] As noted on "Chart of the East Shore of Governors Island, 1884," National Archives II, RG 77, Drawer 37, Sheet 63, NARA cartographic.

[14] *New York Times*, March 12, 1889, *ProQuest.*

[15] Ibid.

[16] *New York Times*, May 9, 1887, *ProQuest.*

[17] Ibid.

[18] Ibid.

[19] *New York Times*, July 9, 1885, *ProQuest.*

[20] *New York Times*, July 26, 1897, *ProQuest*. The article reported that a private bled profusely after being stung in the neck by a mosquito while taking target practice in the moat.

[21] *New York Times*, July 30, 1888, *ProQuest*.

[22] General Miles report to Congress opposing the bill to transfer the island to the city as a public park, New York Times, January 29, 1895, *ProQuest*.

[23] Warren-Findley, 220, citing correspondence from National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 37078 #9.

[24] *New York Times*, September 6, 1900, *ProQuest.*

[25] Ibid.

[26] Ibid.

[27] *New York Times*, February 4, 1901, *ProQuest*.

[28] Ibid.

[29] *New York Times*, February 8, 1901, *ProQuest*.

[30] *New York Times*, April 16, 1902, *ProQuest.*

[31] *New York Times*, April 18, 1902, *ProQuest.*

[32] Ibid.

[33] Warren-Findley, 170, citing Sanford, "The First Aerial Canoe".

[34] Warren-Findley, 170, citing William Wraga, "The Hudson River Flight," The Curtiss-Wright Corporation History, http://www.curtisswright.com/history/1910.

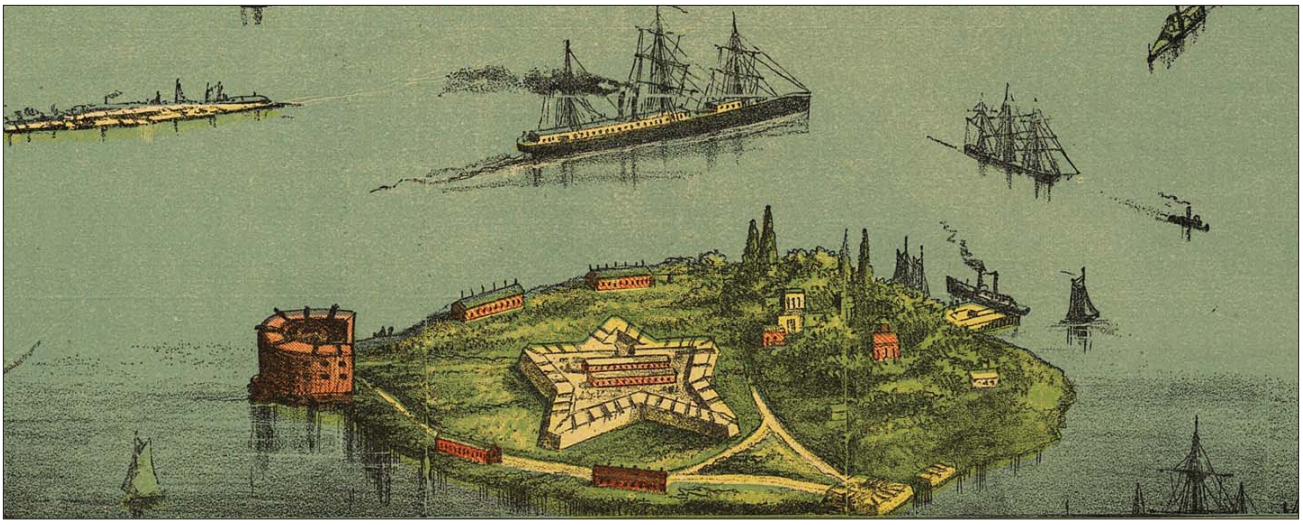


Figure 5.1. View of Governors Island, looking north, 1879. The verdant wharf district on the right side of the island contrasts with the sparsely vegetated areas surrounding the forts on the left side of the island (Rogers, Peet, and Co., 1879, Library of Congress, G3804. N4A3 1879 N4 TIL).

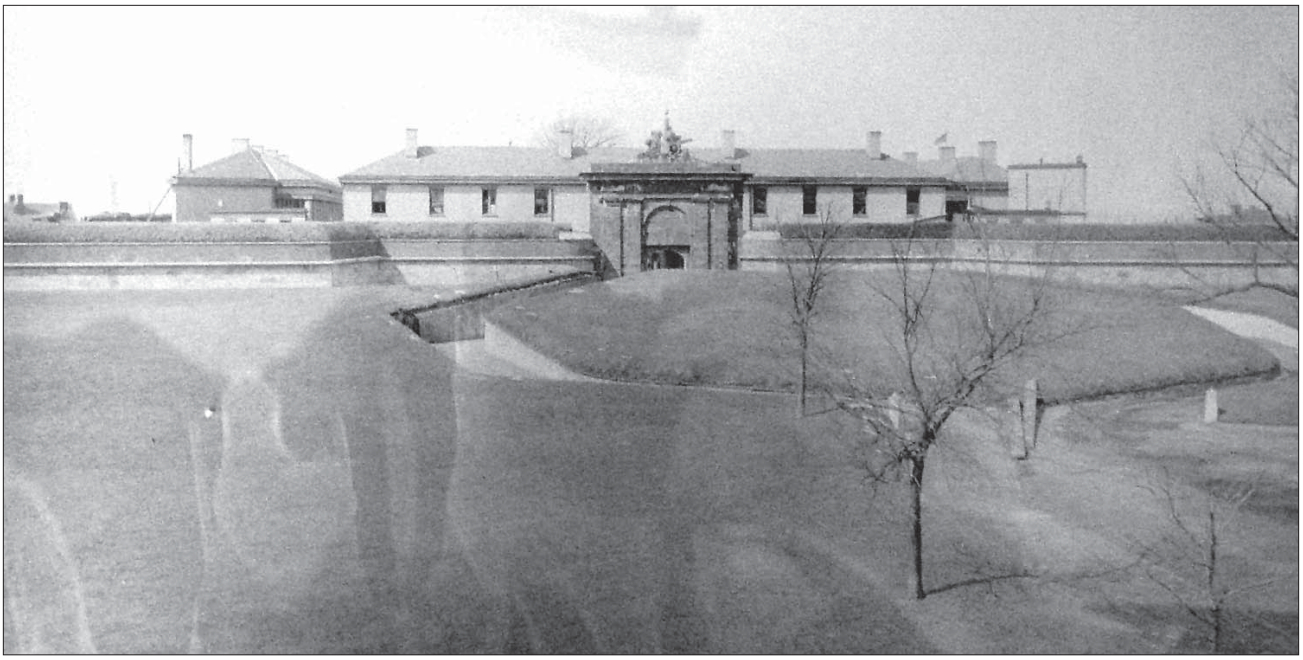


Figure 5.2. Looking west to Fort Columbus's entrance,1898. This image illustrates the layout of the barbican blocking direct views to the Fort's gate. The street trees that lined the road between the fort and the main wharf are visible at image right (National Archives II, "Entrance to Regular Fort" at Fort Columbus circa 1898. "U.S. Military Posts of the Late 19th Century, Fort Columbus, NY," Records of the Quartermaster General, Catalogue #92-F-15-6, SPB/NACP).

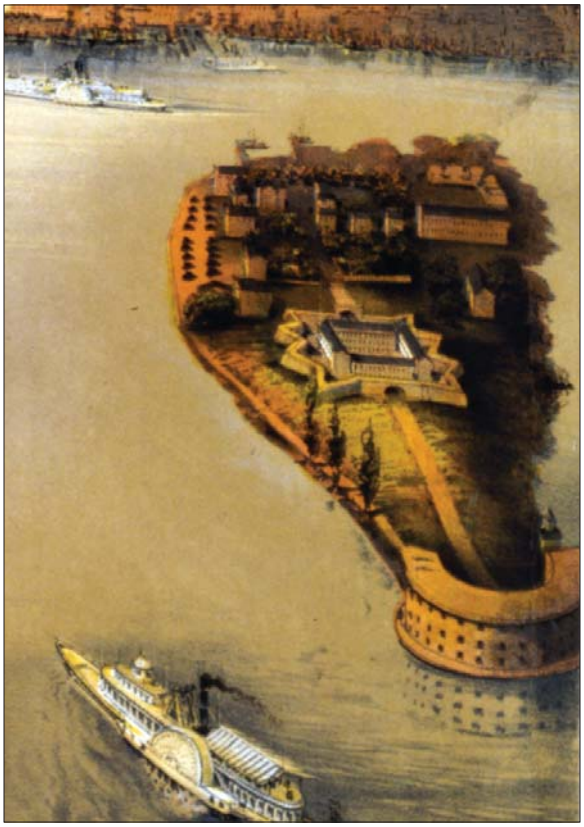


Figure 5.3. View of Governors Island, looking east, 1874. This engraving depicts the tall Lombardy poplars along the north shore of the island near Castle Williams that were also captured in the Civil War-era Matthew Brady photographs (see Figures 4.16 and 4.17) (Library of Congress, New York/ Print by G. Shlegel, Published by Tamsen and Dethlefs, c. 1874, #PGA-Schlegel-New York, 3G07337u)

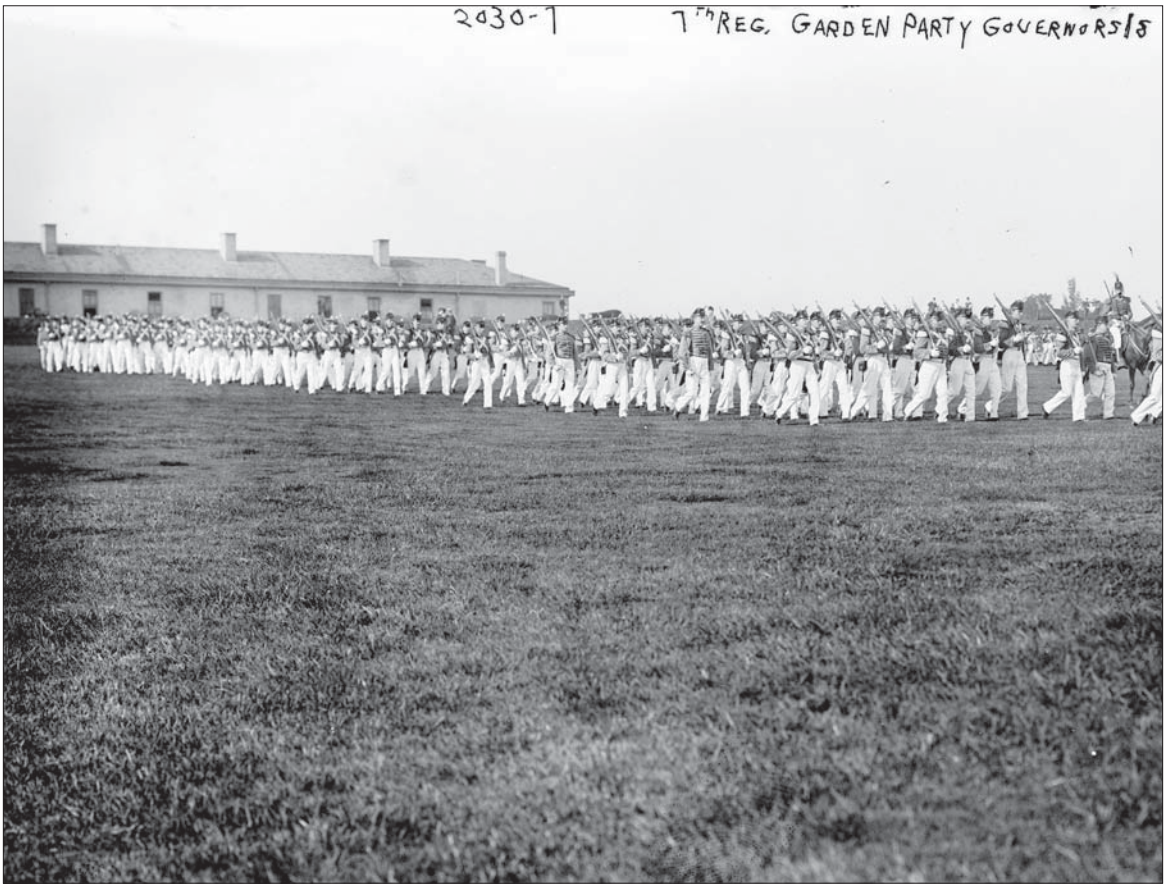


Figure 5.4. Dress parade of the 7th Regiment, circa 1890. The Parade Ground is devoid of plantings and other obstacles (Library of Congress, LC-B2-2030-7).

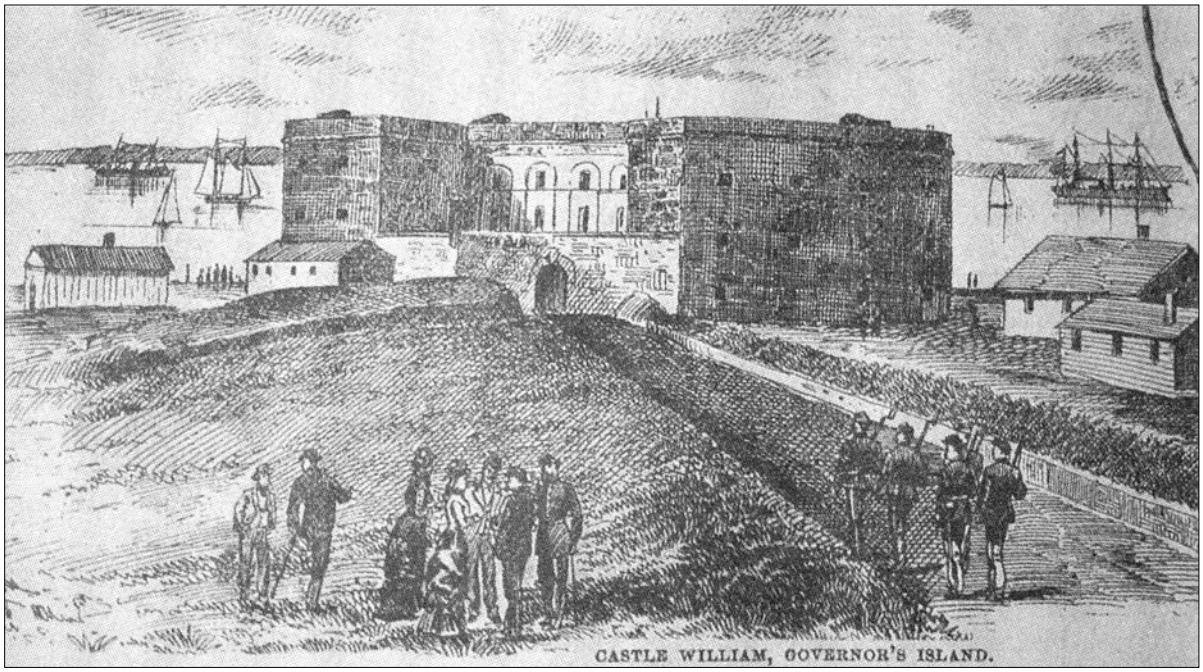


Figure 5.5. View of Castle Williams and the covered defile between the forts, 1886. Two recessed paths can be seen radiating from Castle Williams' gate. Several modest support buildings surround the fort (The Daily Graphic, "Seacoast Defenses: Our Great Cities at the Mercy of Any Hostile Fleet - Lieutenant Griffin's Report," February 13, 1886, Statue of Liberty National Monument files).

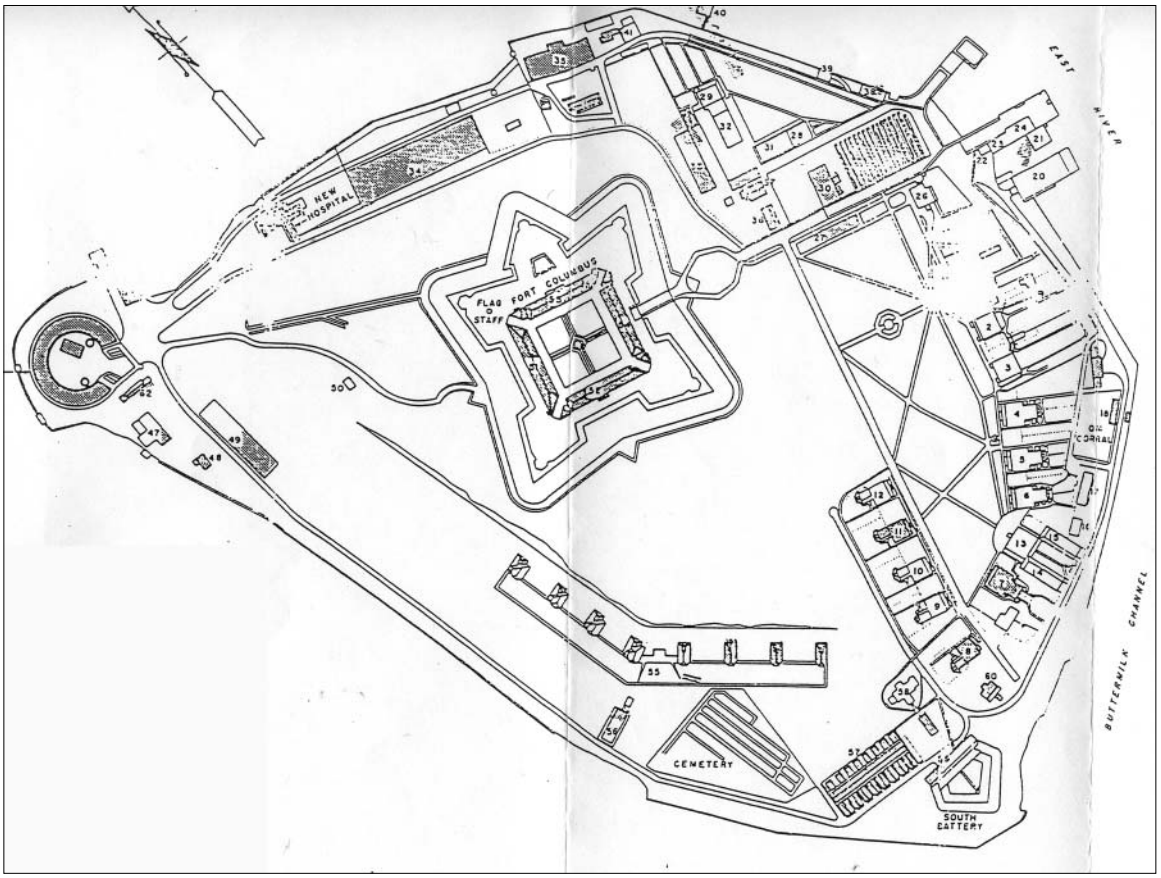


Figure 5.6. Plan of Governors Island, 1879. The deficient housing called "rotten row" was replaced with new wood frame cottages, depicted on the map between South Battery and the cemetery ("First U.S. Army Engineers Map of Governors Island - 1878, from a survey by 1st Lt. E. Griffin, CE and F. N. Owen, Asst. Engr." Redrawn in January 1962, Appearing in "Ordance and Explosives Archives Search Report, Findings," U.S. Coast Guard Support Center, Governors Island, 1997, Governors Island National Monument collection).

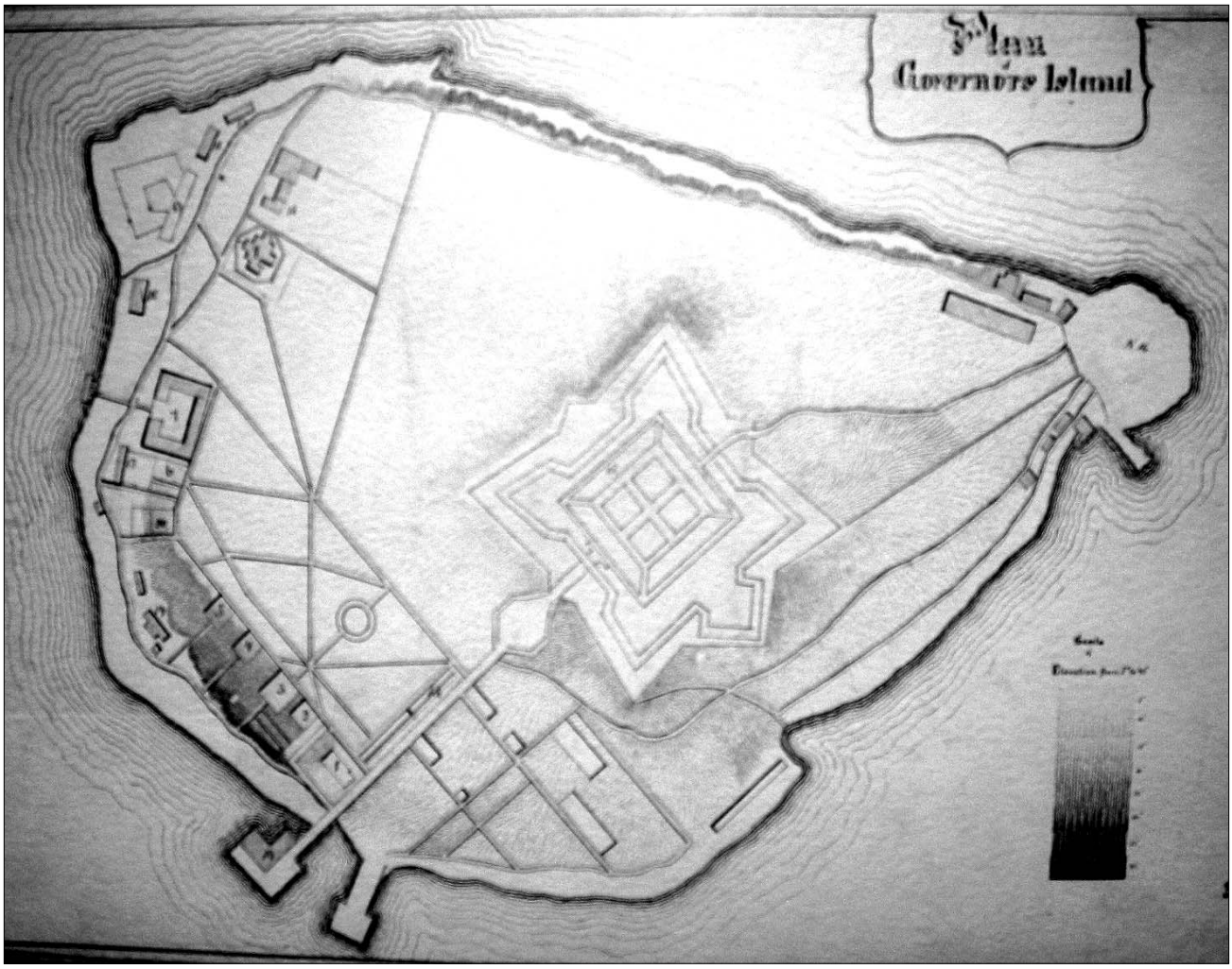


Figure 5.7. Plan of Governors Island, 1871. This plan clearly depicts the buildings and circulation systems of Governors Island. Nolan Park, the new park-like district of officers' quarters, is pictured at image left. As of 1871, only a few of the Nolan Park residences were completed and the district, characterized by the complex system of pedestrian paths, opened onto the Parade Ground (National Archives II, RG 77 Miscellaneous Fortification File, #33, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers).

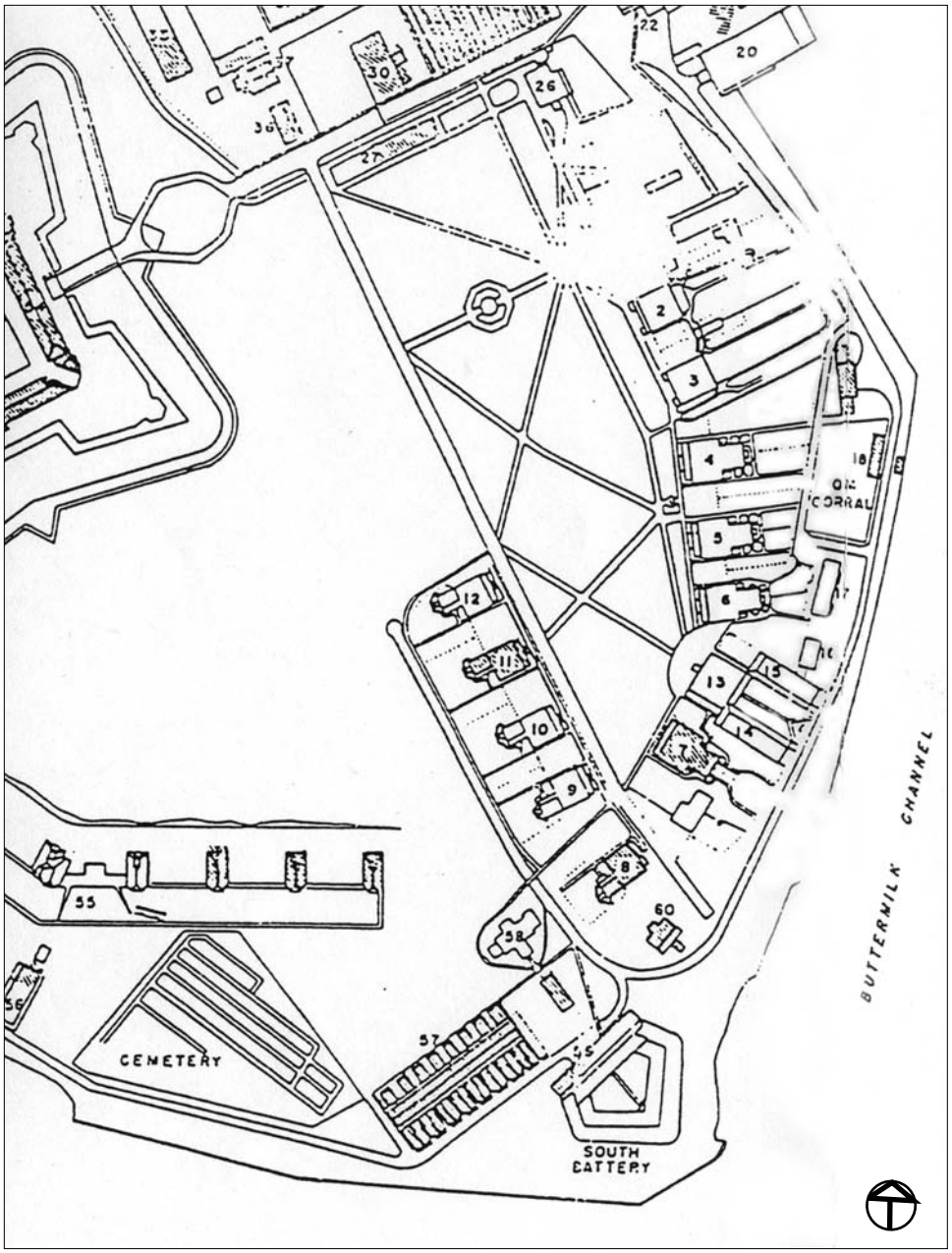


Figure 5.8. Governors Island, 1879. This enlargement highlights the new dwellings (buildings 8-12 on the plan) built on the southeast side Nolan Park, partially enclosing the park that formerly overlooked the open parade ground ("Map of Governors Island, 1879, First Army Engineers, redrawn in January 1962, appearing in "Ordnance and Explosive Archive Search Report," U.S. Coast Guard, Governors Island National Monument files).

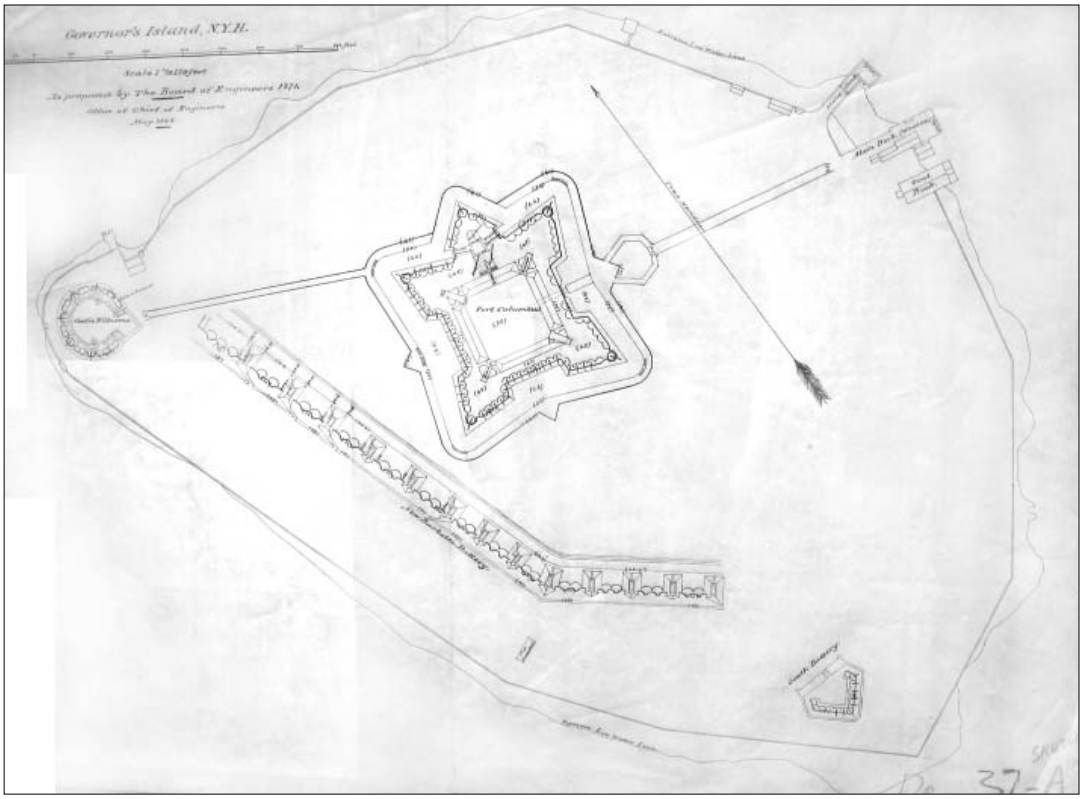


Figure 5.9. Sketch of proposed barbette battery at Governors Island, 1871. Military engineers designed a long open platform battery spanning the south side of the island to provide coverage of the harbor (National Archives II, RG 77, Drawer 37, Sketch A "Governors Island, NY, as proposed by the board of engineers, 1871," NARA cartographic).

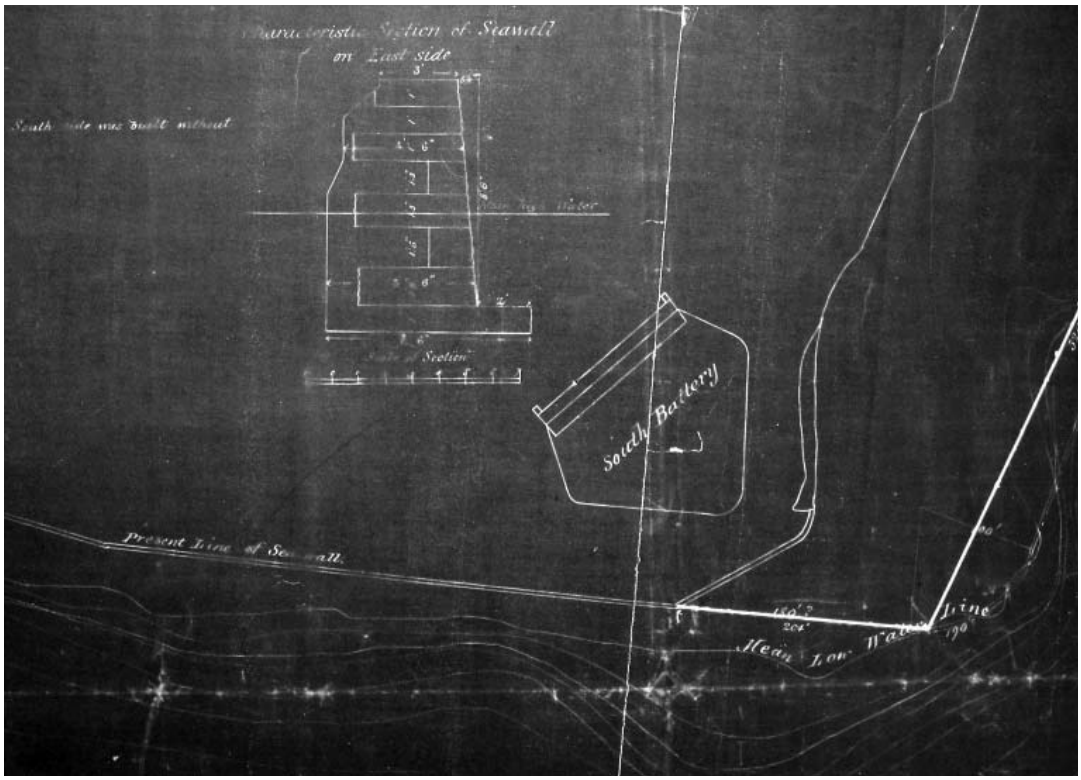


Figure 5.10. Plan of Governors Island showing the seawall (dark white line) built around South Battery, 1880. The seawall was extended along the east side of the island (on the right side of the image) to strengthen the shoreline and add usable land (National Archives II, RG 77 Drawer 37, Sheet 71, "Map of Governors Island with Water Contours to the Twelve Foot Curve," NARA cartographic).

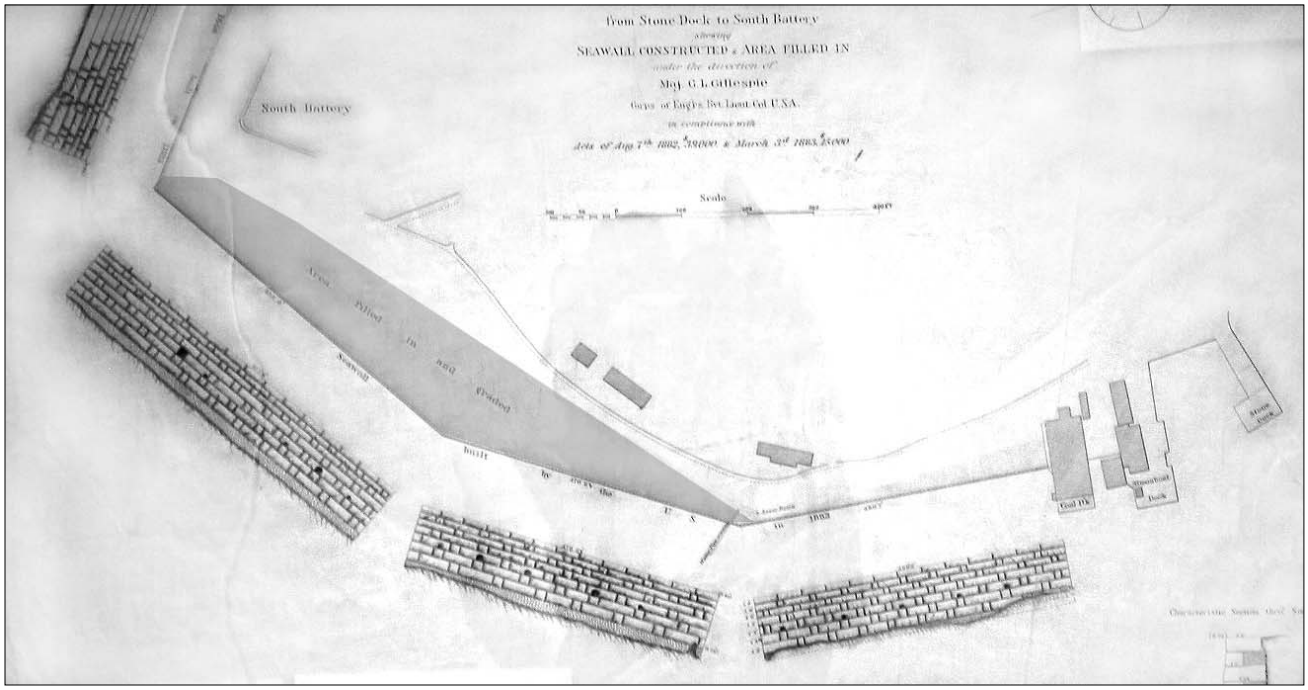


Figure 5.11. Plan of the extended seawall on the east side of the island, 1884. Note South Battery on image left. This plan highlights the amount of fill used to complete the eastern seawall (National Archives II, RG 77, Drawer 37, Sheet 63, "Chart of the East Shore of Governors Island, 1884," NARA cartographic).



Figure 5.12. Governors Island as seen from Manhattan, 1894. Near the turn-of-the-century, the northern shoreline of Governors Island had been engineered through the construction of perimeter seawalls (Library of Congress, image # 3614809).

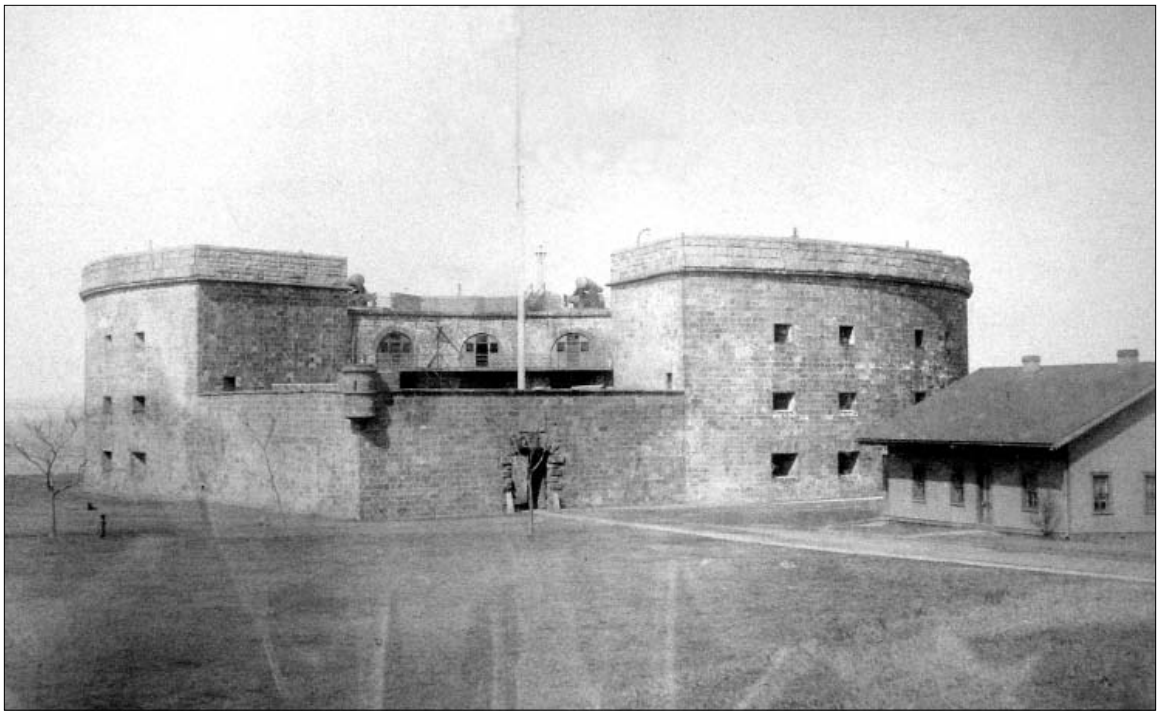


Figure 5.13. View of Castle Williams, looking northwest, 1898. This view illustrates the stark landscape surrounding the castle (National Archives II, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General: U.S. Military Posts of the Late 19th Century, Folder 15, Fort Columbus (N.Y.), #92-F-15-3 SPB/NACP).



Figure 5.14. Garden party, circa 1900. Nolan Park was used as the setting for parties and pageants (Library of Congress, LC-B2-2202-14 [P&P]).



Figure 5.15. Fort Columbus interior view, 1898. The courtyard was still used for military drilling. Notice the trees of varied ages. Walkways surrounded the perimeter of the space as well as cutting through the center, dividing the courtyard into four quadrants (National Archives II, U.S. Quartermasters Department, "U.S. Military Posts of the Late 19th Century, Fort Columbus, NY," Records of the Quartermaster General, Catalog # 92-F-15-6 SPB/NACP).

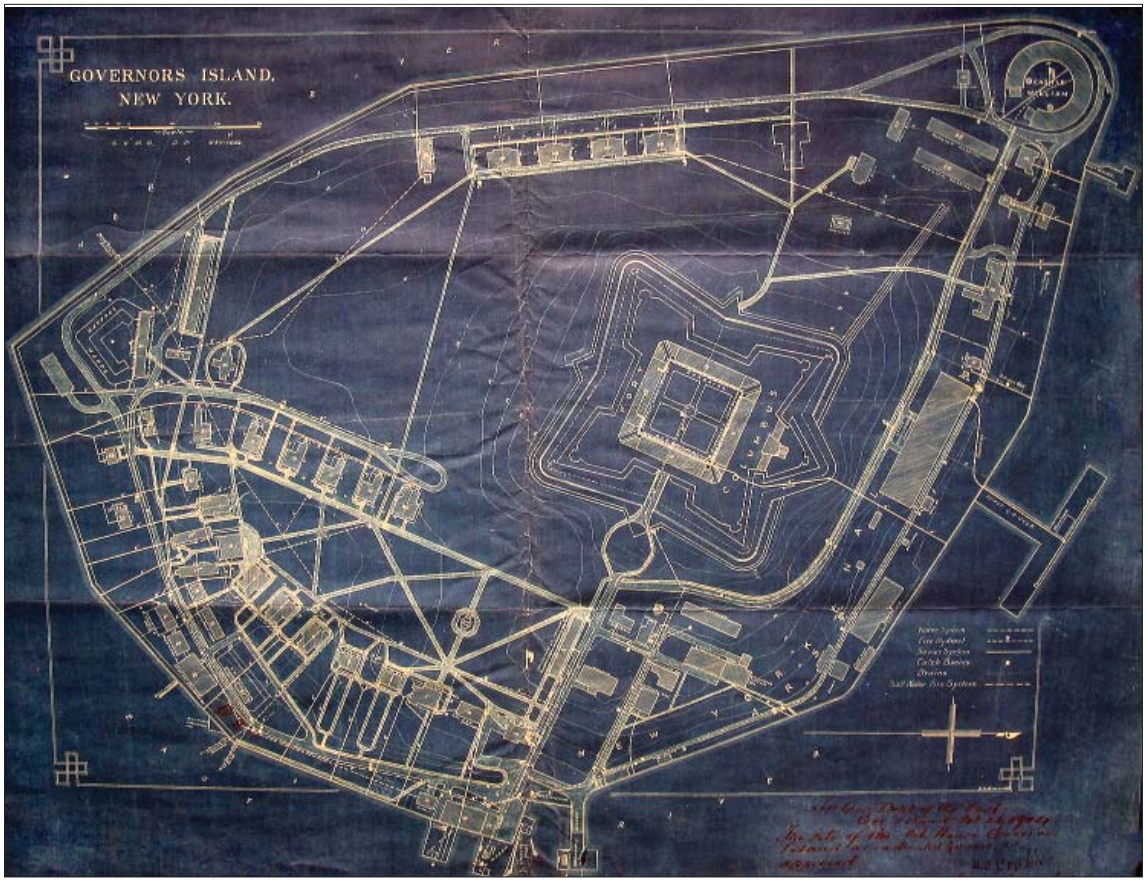


Figure 5.16. Governors Island plan, 1902. This blueprint depicts conditions of the island at the turn-of-the-century, illustrating the existing buildings, wharves, and circulation systems (National Archives II, RG 92, Blueprint File, Governors Island, NY, #5).

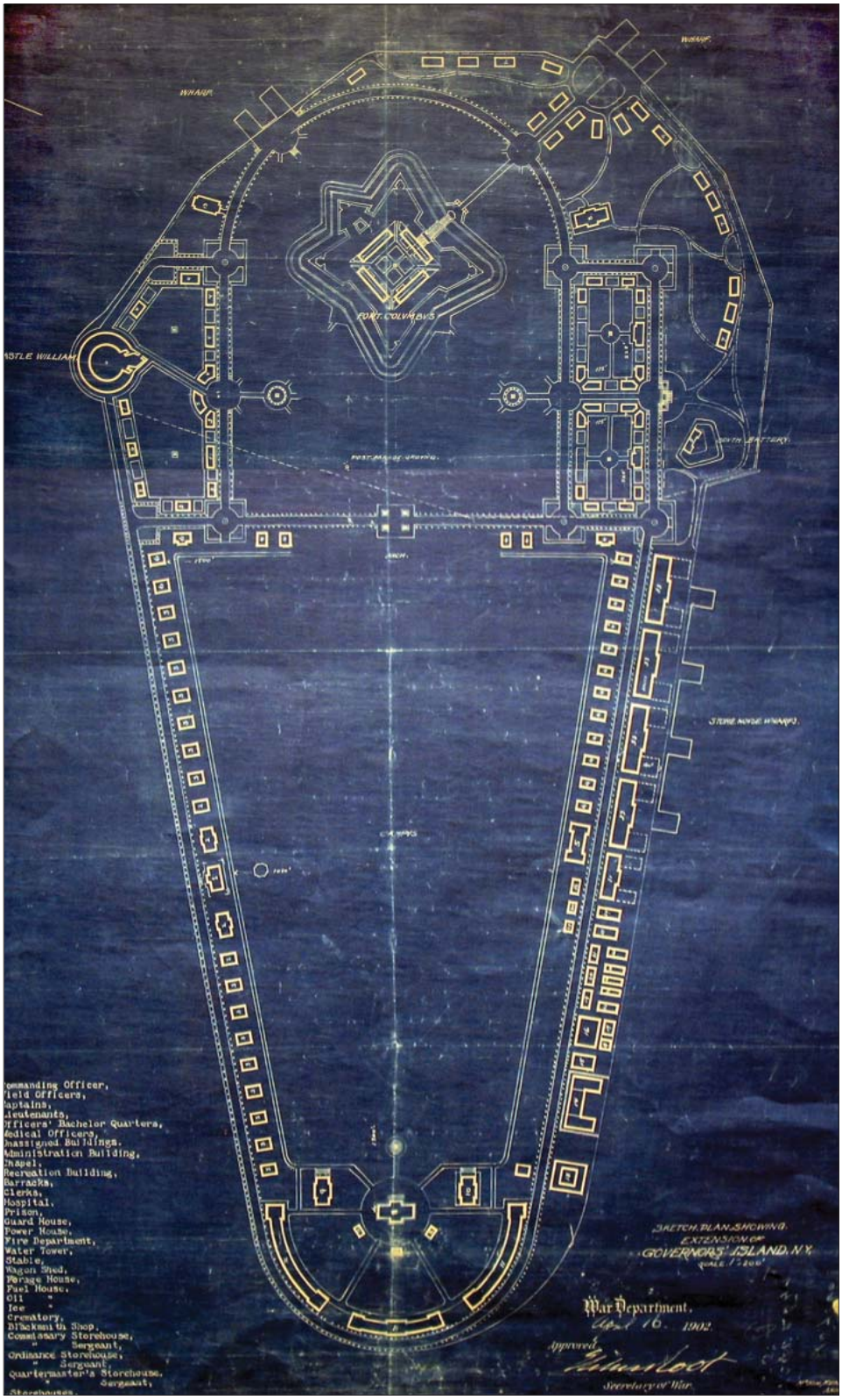


Figure 5.17: Proposed plan of the redesign of Governors Island, prepared by McKim, Mead, and White, 1902. Anticipating the expansion of the island, the War Department contracted with architects to generate a new vision for Governors Island. This plan called for the removal of all of the island's existing infrastructure, with the exception of Fort Columbus, Castle Williams, and South Battery (National Archives II, RG 92, Blueprint file, Governors Island, NY, #2, "Sketch Plan Showing Extension of Governors Island," April 16, 1902, NARA cartographic).

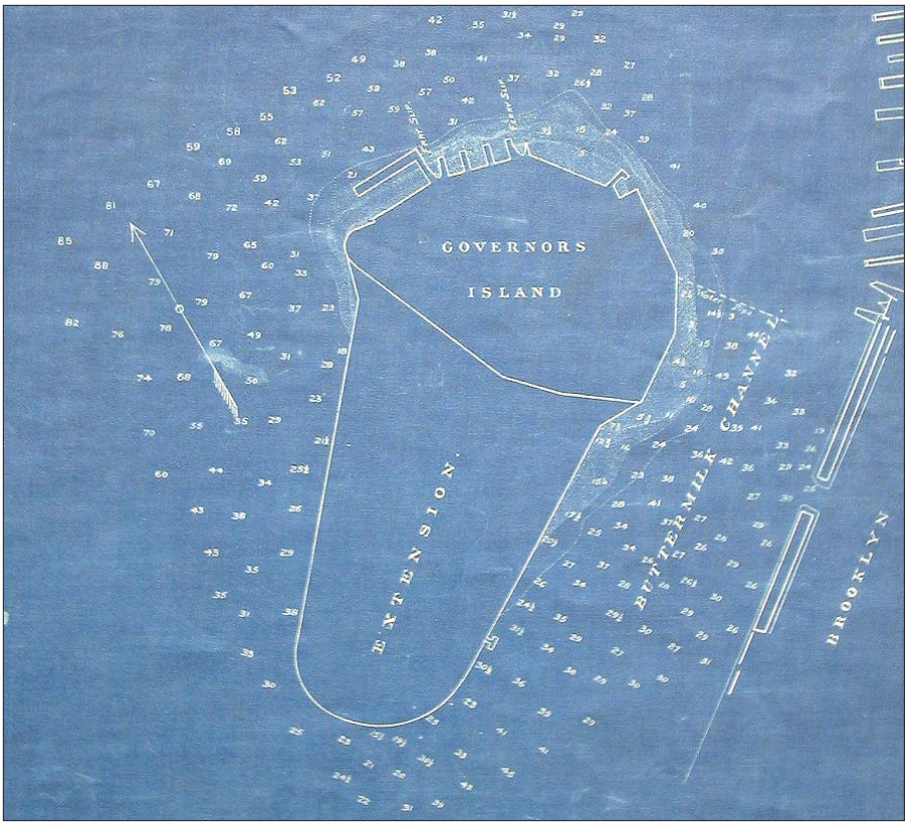


Figure 5.18: Plan showing the extension of Governors Island, proposed piers, ferry slips, and depth chart, 1907 (National Archives II, RG 92, Blueprint file, Governors Island, NY, #9, "Governors Island, Plan Showing Proposed Piers and Ferry Slips," May 1907, NARA cartographic).

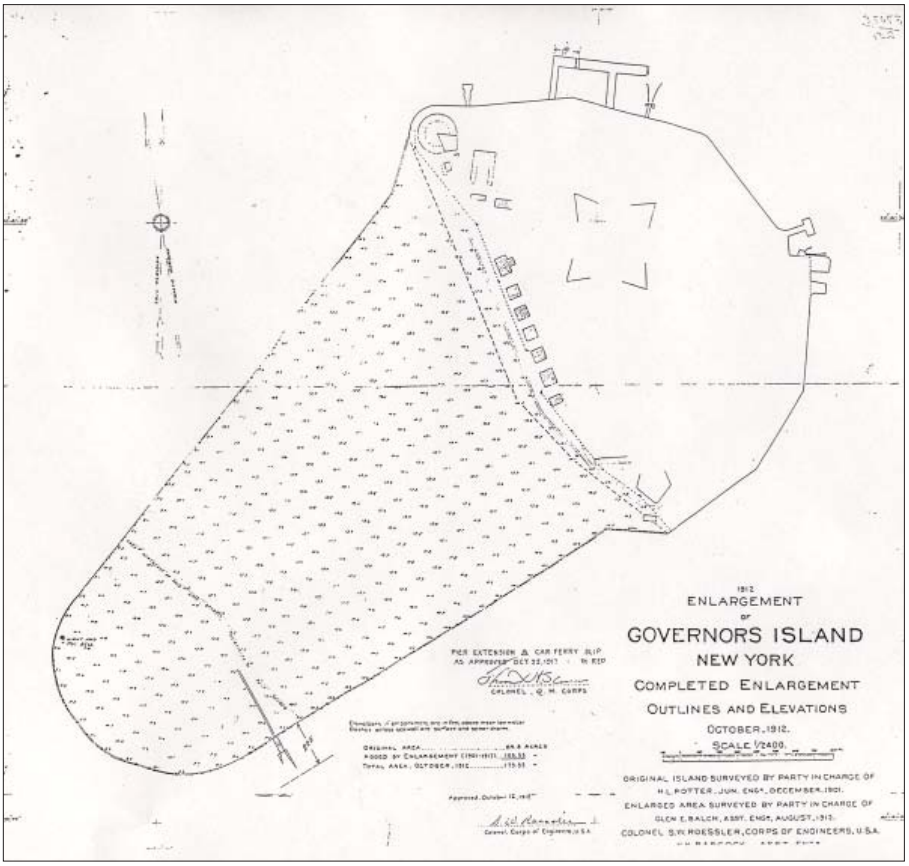


Figure 5.19. As-built drawing of the enlargement of Governors Island, 1912. The new land mass was surveyed. The only feature recorded was a light and fog tower on the southwest side of the island ("1912 Enlargement of Governors Island, New York, Completed Enlargement, Outlines and Elevations, October 1912," National Archives-Northeast Region, New York, NY, RG 77, entry 802, Box 25: New York City, Governors Island; File: 5 Docks).



Figure 5.20. Governors Island, 1911. This photograph was taken shortly after the island's expansion. With the exception of a few small structures on the far tip of the newly filled land, the south portion of the island was devoid of development (Library of Congress, LOT 12482 [P&P]).



Figure 5.21. Governors Island, looking southwest, 1909. Spectators watch exercises on the flying field from the shade of Colonels' Row. Notice the allees of street trees and the neat, edged, herringbone brick paths (Library of Congress, Bain Collection, 21793).



Figure 5.22. Ruth Law and her airplane at Governors Island, circa 1912. The cleared land of the flying field contrasted with the heavily planted, village like setting of Colonels' Row, visible in the background (Library of Congress, Bain Collection, 23239 v).

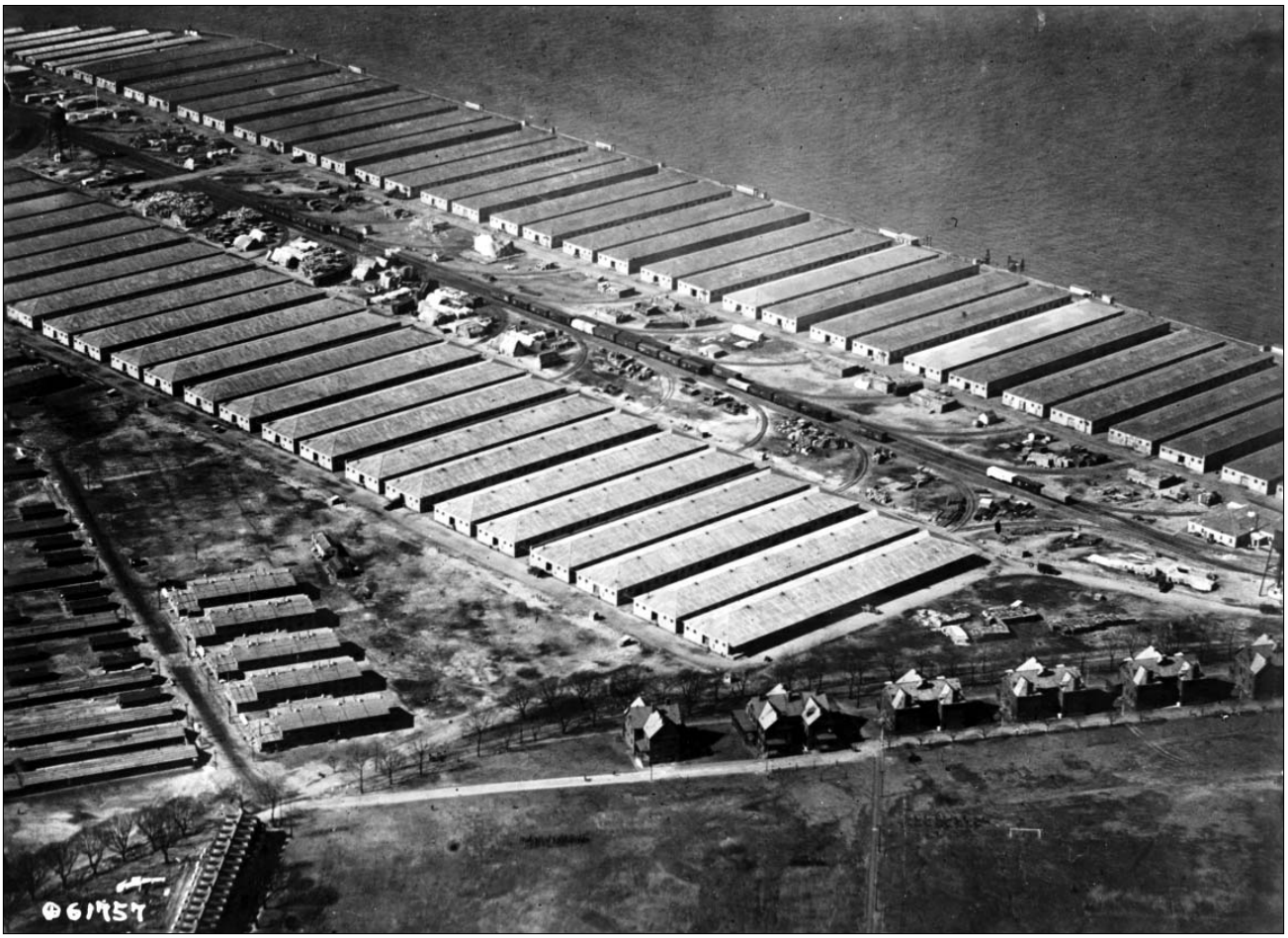


Figure 5.23: World War I warehouses on Governors Island, 1918. This image illustrates the scores of temporary storehouses, barracks, and supply buildings erected on the south side of the island to meet war-time demands (New York Public Library, image 115879).

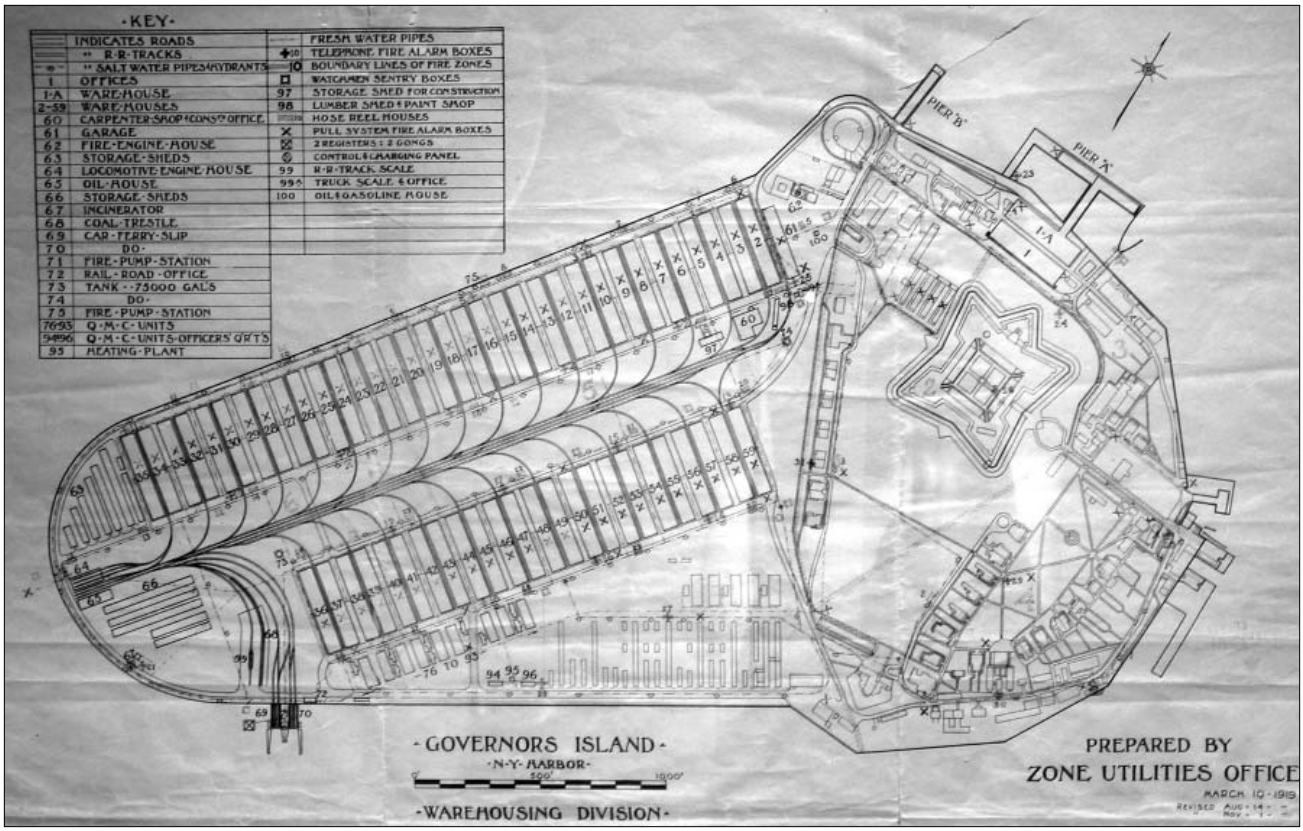


Figure 5.24. Plan of Governors Island, 1919. This image, prepared by the warehousing division, depicts the conditions of the island after World War I. The south side of the island, image left, is covered by temporary warehouses and support structures, and the Governors Island railroad. The map also depicts several temporary structures located around Fort Jay and Castle Williams (National Archives II, RG 92, Railroad Blueprint folder, #10-5 "Governors Island").

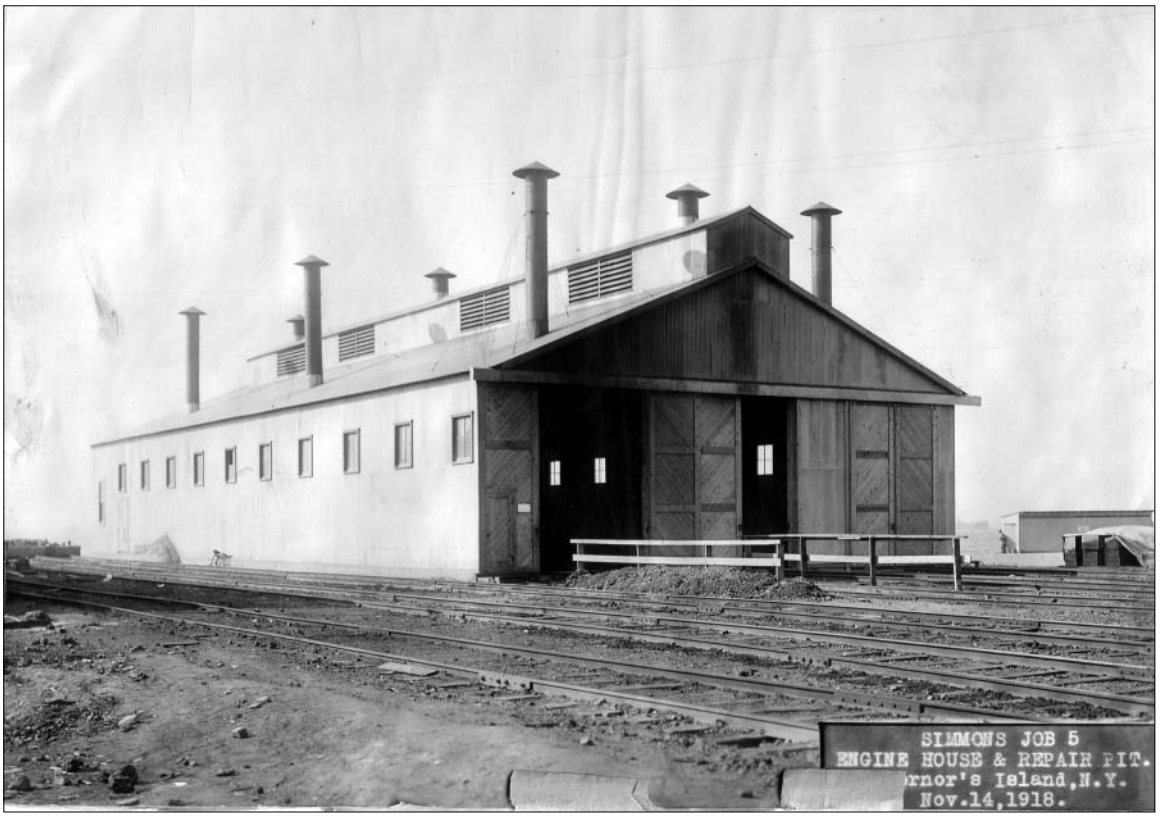
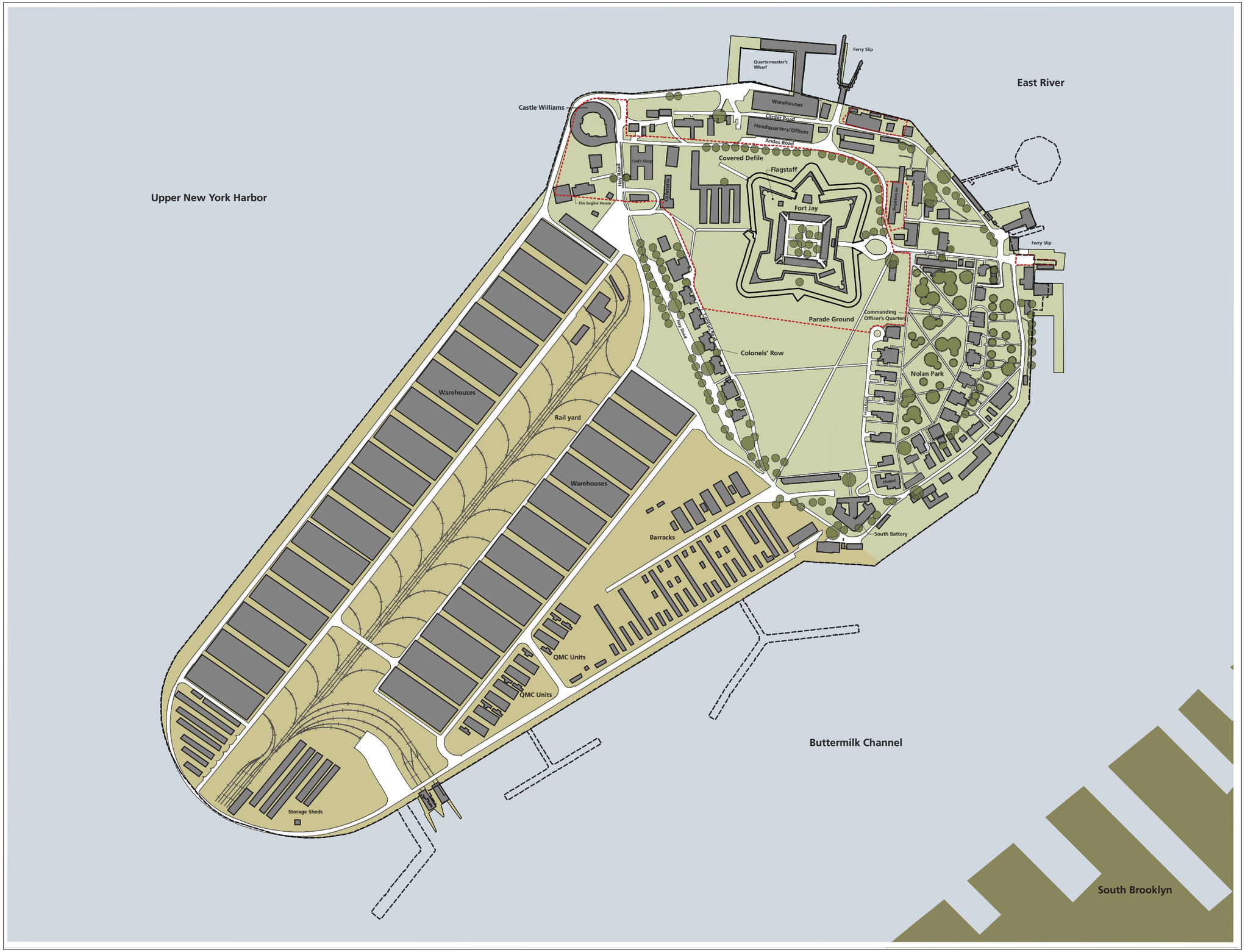


Figure 5.25. Railroad Repair Shop, 1918. This building was located on the southern tip of the island, part of the support system that transported freight between the World War I warehouses and the docks at the southern extents of the island (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 140).



Figure 5.26. Temporary office building, 1918. This one-story, wood frame building was typical of the design of many World War I temporary buildings on the island. It was located east of the Fort Jay main gate (visible at image left), along the approach road to the historic wharf district (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 140).



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1918

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Orthoimagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Governors Island CAD Drawing, 2004
3. Governors Island 1919, NARA, Railroad Blueprint Folder #10-5

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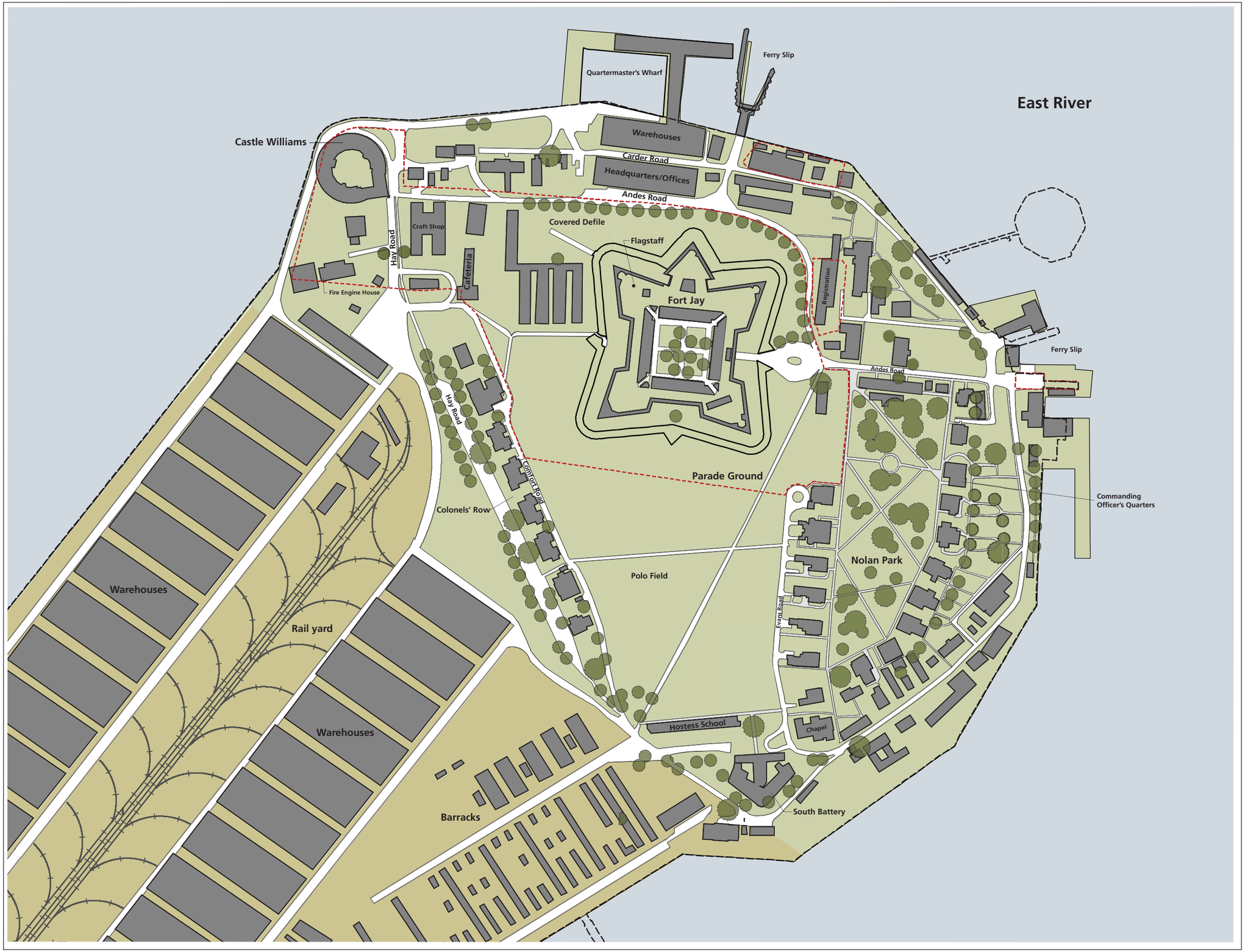
National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 1918 Island Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Brooklyn
- Turfgrass
- Unmanicured Turf/Packed Earth
- Railroad
- Water
- Buildings and Structures
- Sidewalks/Paths
- Roads and Parking Areas
- Vegetation

90 45 0 90

Drawing 5.27



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1918 Enlargement

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. OrthoImagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Governors Island CAD Drawing, 2004
3. Governors Island 1919, NARA, Railroad Blueprint Folder #10-5

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
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90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 5.28

1919-1966

GOVERNORS ISLAND AFTER WORLD WAR I

After the conclusion of World War I in 1918, Governors Island's use as a major supply base ceased. However, the island continued to serve important military functions in ensuing decades, including hosting the command of the First Army, remaining home to a large number of troops, and functioning as a military prison. Governors Island's war-time functions were clearly evident in the post-war landscape. Uniform warehouse buildings lined the south side of the island, connected to docks at the southern extents by a system of rail tracks. The historically open connection between Fort Jay and Castle Williams, which had been compromised years earlier after the defensive value of the island decreased, was further cluttered by the addition of World War I temporary buildings. Linear wood frame structures stood east of Fort Jay, inside the courtyard, on the southwest side of the barbican, and to the south and west of Castle Williams. The fate of these structures was varied. As seen in period mapping, some, like the temporary office building southwest of Fort Jay's main gate, were removed shortly after the war but others remained in use for decades (Figure 6.1).

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS OF THE 1920S

The intense activity associated with World War I subsided after 1918 with the exception of the island's role as a military prison. To accommodate the increase in prisoners after the war, the Army housed some of them in "buildings not heretofore used as prisoners' barracks, which in order make suitable for the purpose, had to be enclosed by a stockade."[1] Several structures southwest of Castle Williams, including a wood shed, and two shop buildings, were incorporated into the prison complex and enclosed inside a guarded yard by eight foot tall wooden fencing topped with barbed wire (Figure 6.2).[2] Raised guardhouses provided sentries with a view of the prison yard. Just prior to these modifications, photographic documentation depicts the area as a utilitarian, unkempt, work yard (Figure 6.3). The number of inmates must have soon decreased, as photographs from the mid-and late-1920s show the area south of Castle Williams transformed into a manicured grass lawn, with orderly displays of militaria, curbed streets, and uniform street lighting surrounding the Castle's main gate (Figures 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6).

The effort to clean up the scruffy war-time conditions extended to other areas of the island as well. The Army paid attention to site-wide amenities, caring for hedges, replanting street trees, and installing new street lighting (Figure 6.7). Photographic evidence shows that pre-war structures and landscapes such as those in Nolan Park, Colonels' Row, and the civilian employees' quarters on the

south side of the Parade Ground were well maintained (Figure 6.8). The Army removed the temporary building from the Fort Jay courtyard and planted shrubs in the four-square grassy interior (Figure 6.9).

This program of careful maintenance was not universally applied across the island's infrastructure. Many aging World War I -era barracks remained in use to house troops. The Army built the structures to be temporary and the hastily constructed wooden buildings deteriorated rapidly. In 1927, a Congressional delegation visited Governors Island and made note of the substandard housing. Congressman Kreiss declared: "I should like to see Governors Island made one of the approach spots to New York City, a place of attractiveness instead of a dump. From what one sees from the water side, it is a dump. The military position here is a permanent one and has been since the first days of the island. The buildings, therefore, should be permanent stone structures instead of wooden shacks."[3]

Congressman Kreiss's plea for improved housing on Governors Island supported the Army's desire to move forward with the McKim, Mead, and White master plans for the island generated years earlier. In 1928, funding materialized to undertake the first large scale facility development since World War I, and construction of a large barracks building named Liggett Hall (now commonly known as Building 400) began. Staff from McKim, Mead, and White designed and oversaw construction of the building. The neo-Georgian brick structure, built on the new fill, spanned almost the entire width of the island south of Colonels' Row and was by far, the largest building on Governors Island (Figure 6.10). The linear brick building featured two wings that projected south. A grand portal cut through the building near its midpoint, framing views between the old and new parts of the island.

To prepare for construction of Liggett Hall, several World War I-era buildings flanking the proposed building site were removed (Figures 6.11 and 6.12). These temporary work buildings were the only obstructions on the otherwise barren ground plane, as some of the World War I warehouses on the south side of the island had already been removed by this date. The line of World War I warehouses on the east side of the rail tracks were the first to be demolished and were followed by the piecemeal removal of selected buildings west of the track (Figure 6.13). Portions of the railroad were removed by this time as well, although some segments remained for the delivery of coal.[4] Photographic evidence shows that the remaining portions were removed by the early 1930s (Figure 6.14).

RECREATION ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

The shift from using horses and mules to motorized transport was largely complete by the end of World War I. The Army made incremental changes to the infrastructure of Governors Island to reflect the shift, notably converting animal

barns to vehicular garages. However, as a holdover from the days of mounted cavalry, the game of polo remained a popular pastime for Army officers. Major General Robert L. Bullard discussed his support of the game as a training exercise for soldiers as late as 1923. "[Polo] brings into play every quality that contributes to make a good soldier…. Polo is equally valuable the mounted and the dismounted man, the artilleryman, the infantryman, as well as the cavalryman."[5] In approximately 1920, the Governors Island polo field was established on a segment of the Parade Ground located between Nolan Park and Colonels' Row.

Beginning in 1925, the polo players shared the Parade Ground with golfers. A *New York Times* article described the course as a nine hole, par thirty course of 1,878 yards. The first hole teed off from the lawn near the Commanding Officer's house to a green inside Fort Jay's dry moat. The second and third holes were played along Colonels' Row. As described in the article: "You are "teeing up" on the fourth, when your attention is distracted by the passing of a squad of eight or ten men who walk in perfect cadence. "Who are they?" you ask, lifting your eyes from the ball you were addressing. "Prisoners!" replies your host and golfing companion…"[6]

The fourth hole was an unorthodox one, played over the roof of the World War I buildings west of Fort Jay.

> [Your partner] tees up a hundred feet away from the front of one of five bungalows, which are introduced to the visitor as "canteens." "Do you shoot over that building?" the visitor asks. "Yes," replies my host. "That strip on the roof is the direction mark. Follow that – this is a 'blind hole.'" There are many reasons why emotion enters the heart and soul of the stranger. Men and women are entering and leaving the canteen. Other men are passing to and fro in a subterranean passageway leading from Fort Jay… A lot of cannons rest on top of the fort and all seem trained upon today's golfers."[7]

Luckily, a wire screen protected pedestrians from errant golf shots.

The limited space of the Parade Ground made for more unusual holes along the golf course. The article's author described playing the fifth hole by ricocheting the ball off the walls of Fort Jay to make it onto the green inside the moat, an apparently common technique for that hole.[8]

Golf course maintenance activities and equipment storage took place in a caddy house located near the southeast corner of the Parade Ground next to the tennis courts (Figure 6.15). The small wood frame building sat in a cluster of vegetation on the perimeter of the starkly open Parade Ground.

After the completion of Liggett Hall in 1930, the polo field was moved the open space south of the new barracks, possibly to address the conflict between golfers and polo players on the Parade Ground. The abundant open space of the south

region allowed room for the construction of permanent bleachers and wooden field markers (Figure 6.16).

GOVERNORS ISLAND IN THE 1930S

The completion of Liggett Hall initiated a new phase of construction to modernize the post's facilities. The Army contracted with McKim, Mead, and White again in 1931 for the design of two additional barracks (Buildings 550 and 333), flanking the northwest and southeast sides of Liggett Hall.[9] The lengths of the neo-Georgian brick buildings matched the length of Liggett Hall's south wings and were similar in scale, materials, and design, which fostered visual continuity within the new barracks district in the center of the island.

Built in the same architectural style as the other 1920s and early 1930s buildings, McKim, Mead, and White designed a new hospital to replace the 'H' shaped former post hospital that was created by expanding a pre-World War I building southeast of Castle Williams. The building, whose construction began circa 1932, was located south of Castle Williams next to the post bakery (Figures 6.17, 6.18, and 6.19). Three more brick buildings, two officers' quarters and a nurses' quarters, replaced numerous small wood frame buildings east of Castle Williams in 1934, bringing a more uniform character to the streetscape.

Maintenance of existing features continued with labor provided by the Army and the new Works Progress Administration (WPA), established in 1935 to provide jobs to the nation's vast numbers of unemployed. The *New York Times* reported that Governors Island was to be renovated using one million dollars of WPA appropriations, employing five thousand workers.[10] Numerous tasks were performed during the program, but one specifically mentioned in newspaper coverage was the renovation of dilapidated wooden officers' quarters (Figure 6.20). Despite the building campaign of the early and mid-1930s, many non-commissioned officers and enlisted men were still quartered in aging wooden barracks dating or pre-dating World War I (Figures 6.21 and 6.22).

Various site improvements were undertaken by Army labor troops including planting trees and shrubs around the island, notably surrounding the newly constructed buildings (Figure 6.23). The Army replaced segments of the privet hedge along Andes Road as needed and maintained the mature portions carefully (Figure 6.24). Street trees also appear to have been managed and replaced as needed. In 1938, the Army and WPA teamed up to maintain the island's trees, evidenced by documentation of a Japanese beetle eradication campaign. According the *New York Times*, the WPA sprayed for the insects after the Army tried unsuccessfully for two years to control the pests, in which time the beetles

"have ruined the golf course and lawn and have defoliated some of the island's elm and linden trees."[11]

The post continued to serve as a home for soldiers and their families in the 1930s. As seen in period photography and maps, Fort Jay retained obsolete defensive features like cannon and scattered cannon balls, but was clearly a domestic space by this time (Figures 6.25, 6.26, and 6.27). The terreplein behind the barracks became places for children to play and spaces to park automobiles (Figure 6.28). The ground plane was maintained as roughly mowed lawn and kept free of other vegetation (Figure 6.29). Cannon balls were used as decorative elements around the perimeter of the interior courtyard (Figure 6.30). This edge treatment echoed earlier efforts to define the courtyard, like the low painted, wood fence that lined the courtyard in the 1860s (See Figures 4.12 and 4.13). Mature trees, placed without a strict pattern or geometry, and a scattering of deciduous shrubs softened the formality of the well-defined, rectilinear space.

A series of photographs from 1940 depicts life for residents of Governors Island and illustrates the condition of numerous recreational features. Residents were able to swim, watch polo, and play tennis and golf on the island (Figure 6.31 and 6.32). [12] Recreational features were located near living areas that were organized by the military hierarchy. For example, the officers' tennis courts and golf course were located on the historic Parade Ground, between officers' housing in Colonels' Row and Nolan Park, while enlisted men's tennis courts were located south of Liggett Hall, next to the open expanse of the polo field and undeveloped land on the south side of the island (Figures 6.33, 6.34, and 6.35).

WORLD WAR II

Germany's invasion of Poland in September 1939 led Great Britain and France to declare war, beginning World War II. The number of countries involved in the war increased rapidly, and soon all of Europe was embroiled in the conflict. Although the United States initially did not enter the war, by 1940 a military build-up was in place to supply the allied powers with war munitions and to increase the size of the U.S. Army. As a result, additional personnel and new infrastructure were added to Governors Island.

As part of the national effort to increase recruitment, 165 new soldiers were inducted into the 16th infantry at Governors Island in June 1940.[13] The system was formalized with the establishment of the Fort Jay Induction Unit in 1941.[14] Also beginning in 1941, the Army built seventy-two temporary buildings to accommodate approximately 2,000 additional troops on the island.[15] Several temporary buildings were located around Castle Williams, not unlike conditions

during World War I. The Army built additional nurses' quarters, a cafeteria, and hospital annex buildings (Figures 6.36, 6.37, and 6.38).

The United States entered World War II on December 8, 1941, a day after the catastrophic bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. By this time, the Fort Jay Induction Unit was processing six hundred inductees a day.[16] This frenzied pace of recruitment continued in the months after Congress declared war and by January 1942, the island's induction unit performed over one thousand medical examinations in a single day.[17] The crush of recruit processing highlighted the island's shortcomings, notably the lack of quarters and inadequate transportation. In response, the Army transferred their main processing facility to Grand Central Station in September 1942.[18]

Instead of serving as a port or supply facility for the storage and movement of goods and troops as in World War I, Governors Island functioned as an administrative center during World War II. The Army designated the island as the headquarters for the Eastern Theater of Operations, charged with protecting the home front, including the numerous manufacturing facilities along the eastern seaboard.[19] Governors Island was also home to a second administrative unit during the war, the Second Service Command that oversaw training, transportation, and functions of the inductee processing centers.[20] When the First Army was deployed to Europe, further space was made available on the island and several lesser administrative and command activities relocated to Governors Island including the Exclusion Hearing Board, Reclassification Board, and the Women's Army Corps.[21]

The Army made use of the south side of the island for temporary war-time structures, as they had during World War I, and built several warehouses and barracks (Figure 6.39). As lamented by the *New York Times* in 1941, … "new barracks have usurped the polo field."[22] The compromised polo field also served as the stage for large-scale training exercises and ceremonies (Figure 6.40).

To meet the enormous need for raw materials for military equipment manufacturing, the war department acquisitioned scrap metal from across the country, including historic armament from historic sites and military bases. Governors Island retained scores of obsolete cannon and cannon balls at Fort Jay and Castle Williams that were deemed necessary for the war effort. In 1942, the Army dismantled a majority of the island's guns and sent them to be melted down (Figures 6.41 and 6.42).

War-time use of Fort Jay continued to be predominantly residential, although the Army continued to use the protected area inside the dry moat for target practice (Figure 6.43). Period photographs show that subtle changes had occurred in Fort Jay's inner courtyard since the 1930s. The Army removed the cannon balls lining the perimeter of the grass area and replaced this edge treatment with curbing.

Shrubs had been removed from the interior green space, leaving only scattered shade trees and lawn inside the courtyard (Figure 6.44).

Castle Williams continued to serve as a military prison throughout World War II. As it was historically, the only door faced east, looking down Andes Road (Figure 6.45). The ivy-covered building was surrounded on the east, south, and west by wood frame temporary buildings. The streetscape outside the fort had been altered by the new buildings but familiar elements like mature street trees and brick and concrete sidewalks remained from earlier decades. The Army used several fencing styles to keep pedestrians off grass areas, including low, post and wire fencing and low, pipe-rail fencing (Figure 6.46 and see Figure 6.36). See Figures 6.47 and 6.48 for period mapping of Governors Island during World War II.

GOVERNORS ISLAND AFTER WORLD WAR II

World War II ended in the fall of 1945. Despite the wide-spread downsizing of national military functions after 1945, Governors Island remained an important Army post until 1966 while it served as the headquarters of the First Army. Between 1945 and 1966, the Army made few large-scale changes to the island. Most of the structures built during the war remained in place throughout the Army's tenure, notably the nurses' quarters and hospital annex buildings surrounding Castle Williams (Figure 6.49). Even the majority of the war-era structures erected on the south side of the island remained in place with the exception of a few in the southwest area that were replaced by three multistory barracks towers in the mid-1950s (Figure 6.50). The location and character of the island's large open spaces, the golf course/Parade Ground and the polo field south of Liggett Hall, remained constant as did the cluster arrangement of buildings and circulation patterns established by the early 1940s.

Changes to the landscape occurred to address the need for increased parking, including the removal of a large administration building north of Building 110. Likewise, the barbican east of Fort's Jay's main gate was modified in the 1960s to accommodate parking. The outline of the feature remained the same but the large raised-earth inner circle that once blocked clear views into the sallyport was removed and replaced by a small brick-edged raised planter. The reduction of the size of the center circle to allowed room for cars to park along the perimeter of the space (Figure 6.51). It was also during this period that the Army placed a tall chain link fence along the edge of Andes Road, between the privet hedge and the street trees, to protect pedestrians from errant golf balls (Figure 6.52).

The Army consolidated command of the First Army in 1966, transferring its Governors Island operations to Fort Meade, Maryland, ending over 170 years of Army occupation.[23]

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION IN 1966

Since the end of World War I, the facilities of Governors Island evolved to meet the needs of the Army during World War II and beyond. Most of the significant alteration to the island occurred before, during, and after the times of conflict with more subtle changes undertaken on an as-needed basis in times of peace. By 1966, most of the island's landmass was developed. Division Road, south of Liggett Hall, formed a clear boundary between the original part of the island and the area filled at the turn-of-the-century (Figures 6.53 and 6.54).

Minimal vegetation, post-World War II architecture, and wide open views characterized the landscape south of Division Road. World War II and post-war buildings dominated the perimeter of the space, leaving the center of the island a wide open slate for sporting activities, a landing field, and military exercises.

North of Liggett Hall, much of the island was still characterized by patterns established by the 1930s, including the historic forts, the domestic spaces of Nolan Park and Colonels' Row, the open space of the Parade Ground that was routinely enjoyed for its recreational opportunities, and mature street and shade trees. Examples of World War II development prevailed as well, notably around Castle Williams. Numerous temporary wood frame buildings provided services for the post including administrative, hospital, and food service functions, contrasting in their design, scale, and massing from the masonry historic buildings they were adjacent to.

Fort Jay's main approach was modified to include vehicular parking but the interior courtyard remained largely unchanged in character from previous generations. Mature trees and mowed lawn in a modified four-square pattern were bounded by a square-shaped perimeter road of asphalt. The terreplein had been altered by the removal of most of the numerous guns that once radiated from the top of the fort's grass covered walls. Vegetation in the area was limited to mowed grass.

The golf course was now bounded on its north side by a chain link fence as it followed Andes Road and its imperfectly spaced line of street trees. A clipped privet hedge ran along the curb and low retaining wall that formed the border of the south side of the road.

The area between the forts, once kept cleared of obstructions for defensive lines of sight, was crowded with buildings, roads, and parking, making this one of the

busier areas of the island. But behind this twentieth-century service district stood Castle Williams, covered in verdant ivy, anchoring the northwest corner of the island to New York Harbor and the mouth of the Hudson River.

ENDNOTES

[1] Construction Completion Report, 1918, "Fort Jay 1," National Archives II, RG 77, Box 140, Entry 393.

[2] Ibid.

[3] *New York Times*, March 6, 1927, p 22, *ProQuest.*

[4] Jannelle Warren-Findley, "Governors Island, New York Harbor: A Historic Resource Survey from the Beginning to 1996," Final Draft, 2007, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 199.

[5] *New York Times*, April 29, 1923, *ProQuest.*

[6] *New York Times*, July 5, 1925, *ProQuest.*.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Warren-Findley, 204.

[10] *New York Times*, January 11, 1936, 32, *ProQuest.*

[11] *New York Times*, May 1, 1938, "WPA Assists Army in War on Beetles," 45, *ProQuest*.

[12] The golf course was outfitted with an irrigation system in 1940. Warren-Findley, 147.

[13] *New York Times*, June 21, 1940, 3, *ProQuest.*

[14] *New York Times*, June 2, 1941, 10, *ProQuest.*

[15] Warren-Findley, 212.

[16] *New York Times*, December 7, 1941, 60, *ProQuest*.

[17] *New York Times*, January 4, 1942, 41, *ProQuest.*

[18] *New York Times*, September 18, 1942, 23, *ProQuest*.

[19] Warren-Findley, 215-216.

[20] Ibid.

[21] Ibid., 217-218.

[22] *New York Times*, April 20, 1941, *ProQuest.*

[23] Ibid., 219.

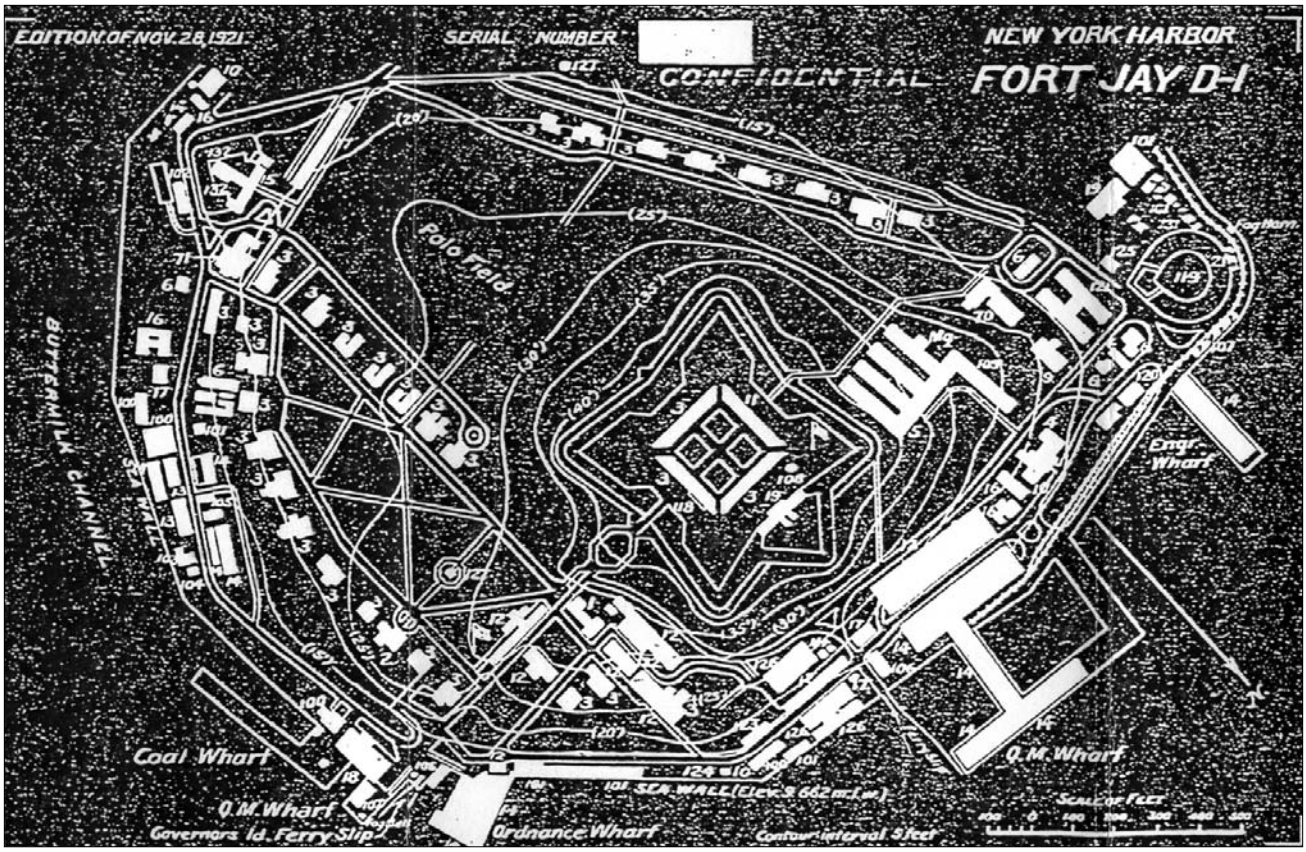


Figure 6.1. 1921 Map of Governors Island. The World War I temporary building near Fort Jay's main gate had been removed by 1921 but the cluster of buildings northwest of the fort's outer walls remained. Notice the annotation of the polo field on the parade ground (National Archives I, Washington DC, GR 77, Entry 1007, box 84, file 660 (NY Harbor, Defenses of)).

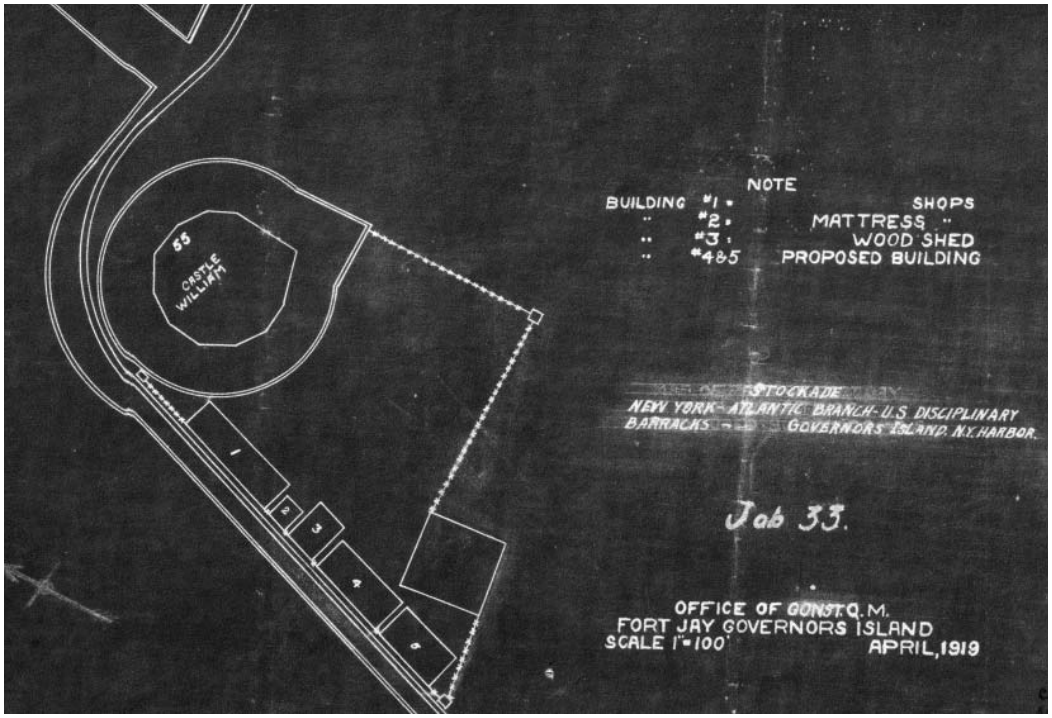


Figure 6.2. Castle Williams prison yard, 1919. Several buildings south of Castle Williams were converted into prison barracks and enclosed with barbed wire to increase the capacity of the military prison after World War I (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 140, Construction Completion Report, 1918, "Fort Jay 1").



Figure 6.3. Castle Williams and the northwest side of the island, circa 1917. The area surrounding Castle Williams was a utilitarian work-yard. The World War I expanded hospital is visible behind the smoke stack (Library of Congress, "Governors Island, Castle Williams, from hydro-aeroplane," Call number U.S. GEOG-FILE-New York, New York City - Governors Island).

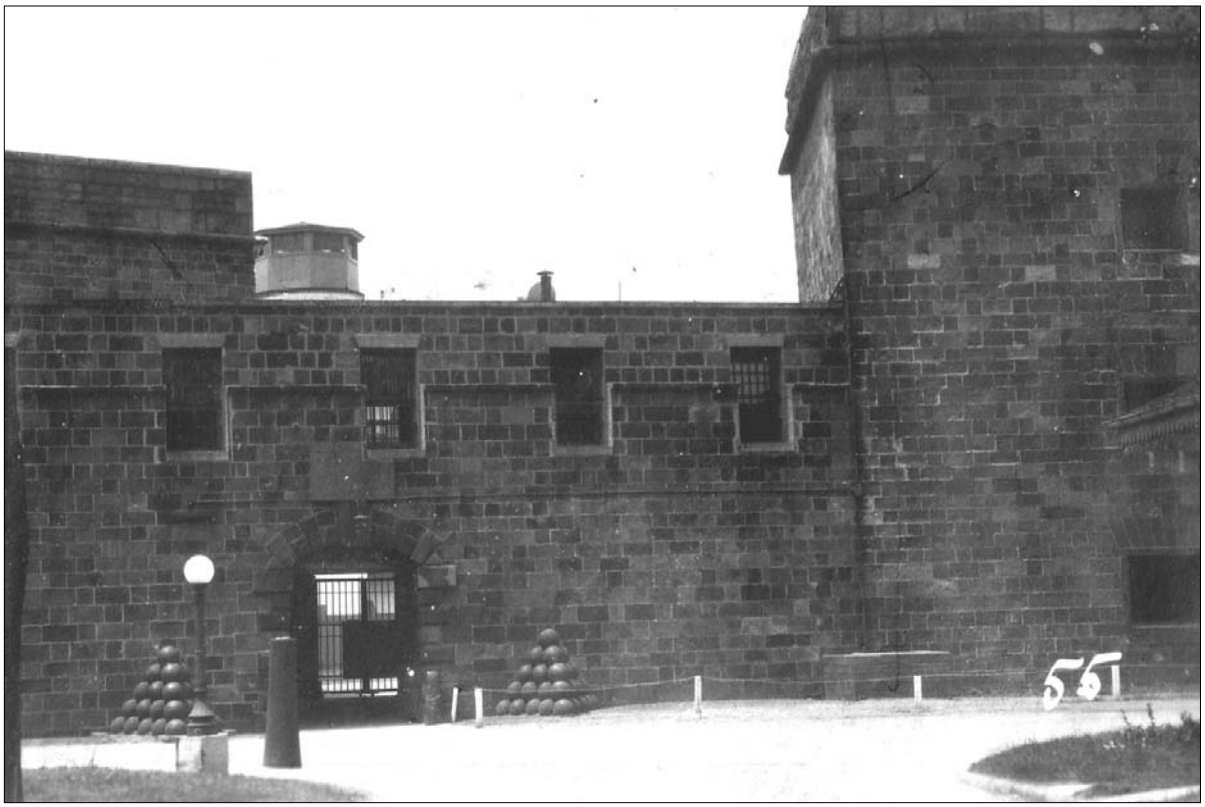


Figure 6.4. Castle Williams, 1924. By the early 1920s, the appearance of the Castle's entry had been cleaned up with the addition of street lighting, curbing, and ornamental stacks of cannon balls (NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.5. Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters, Governors Island, 1924. This wood frame structure stood east of Castle Williams and illustrates the improved streetscape that included sidewalks, street lighting, and curbed streets (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.6. Governors Island, as seen from the northwest, 1928. This bird's eye aerial photograph shows the character of the area surrounding Castle Williams that had changed significantly from the World War I-era. The temporary prison buildings and work shops south (right) of Castle Williams had been removed and replaced by lawn. Careful examination shows a view of golfers on the golf course of Fort Jay (National Archives II, RG 18 LMU 0-31-870-N, Still Pictures, Box 3, Folder 5).



Figure 6.7. Tinsmith Shop, Governors Island, 1922. This view of the tinsmith shop along the north shore of the island shows the privet hedge and newly planted street trees along Andes Road (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.8. Civilian employees' quarters, Governors Island, 1921. This line of well-maintained and ornamented wood frame row houses stood on the southeast side of the parade ground (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).

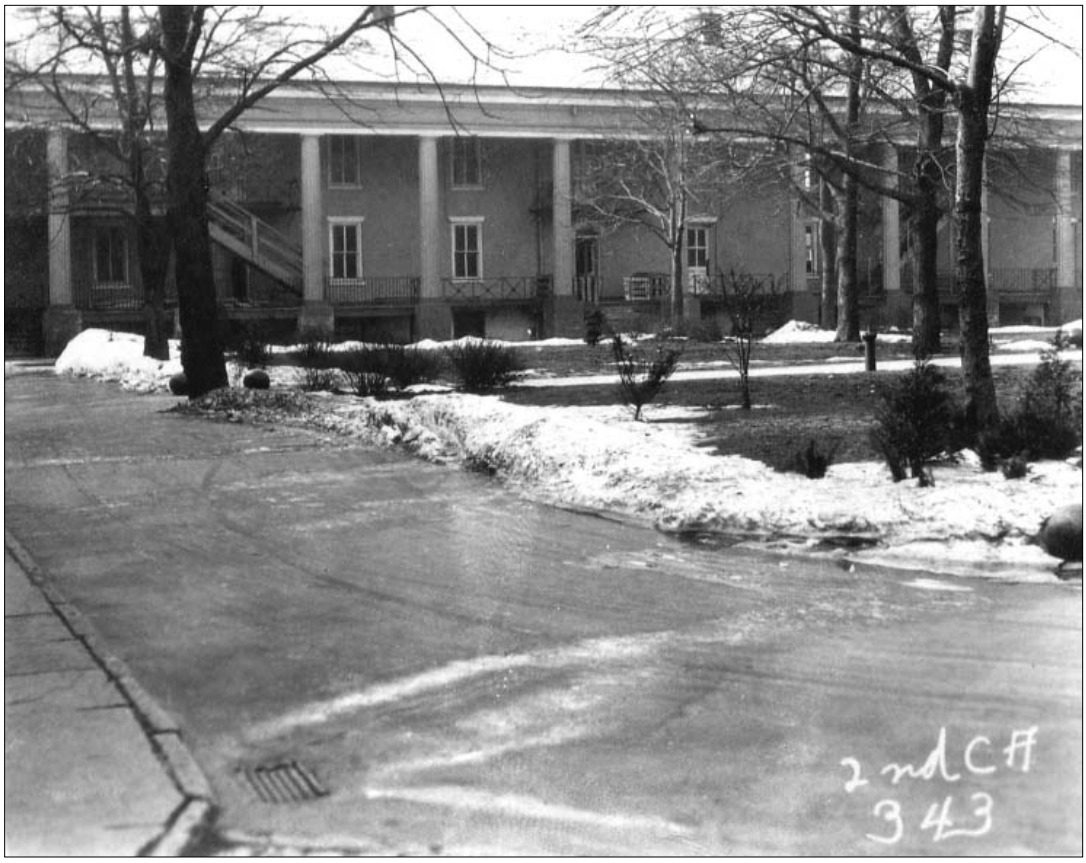


Figure 6.9. Fort Jay courtyard, 1922. The temporary World War I building had been removed by this date. Notice the scattering of shrubs and random placement of shade trees (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.10. Liggett Hall, 1938. Liggett Hall became the largest building on the island, marking the boundary of the new and original landmass (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.11. 1928 oblique aerial photograph of Governors Island. This view shows the progress of demolition of World War I structures. The line of buildings on the southwest side (center left of image) of the island remained in 1928, as did those northwest of Fort Jay. Many World War I warehouses east of the ones pictured at the center left of the image had been removed by 1928 (National Archives II, RG 77, entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.12. "Mule being cleaned by electric vacuum cleaner, 1924." "Toughy" the mule was cleaned outside the temporary work buildings southwest of Colonels' Row (pictured at image left). These buildings were removed to make way for the construction of Liggett Hall (Image courtesy of Bettman/Corbis, U241021INP RM).

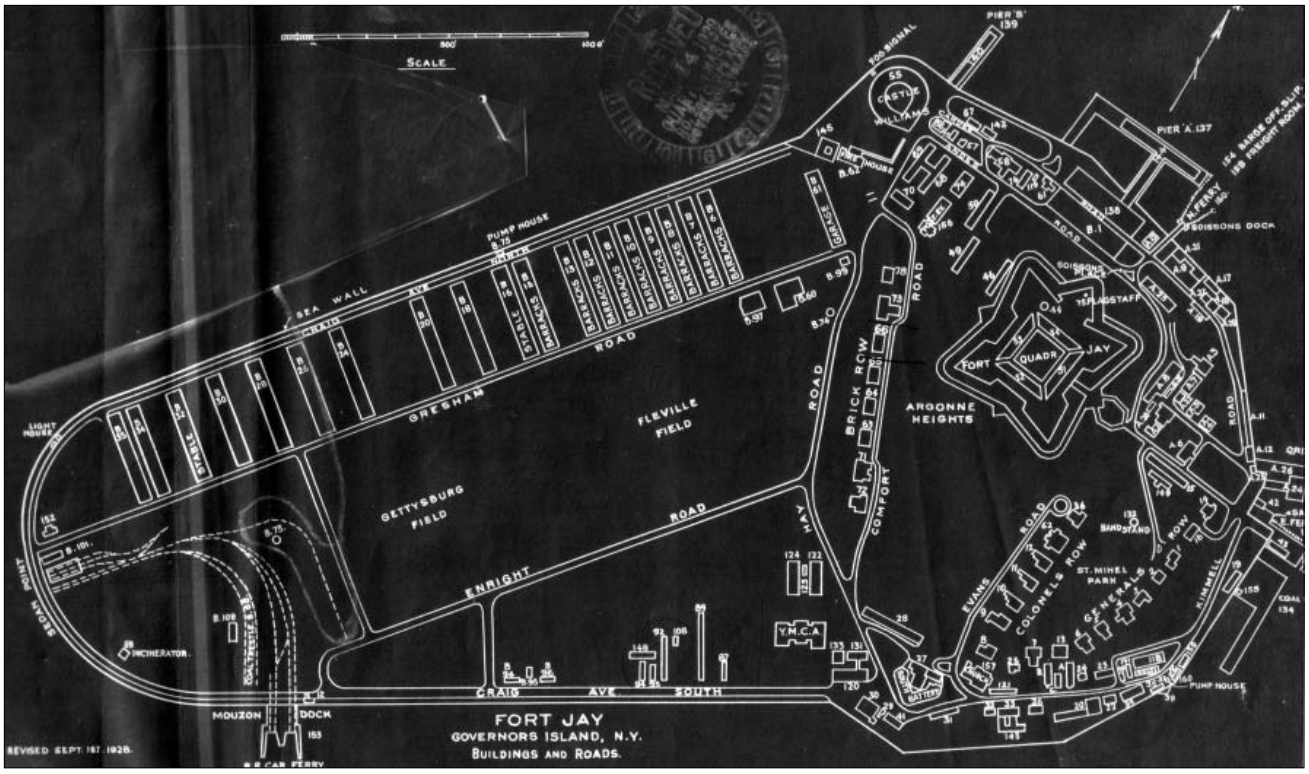


Figure 6.13. Plan of Governors Island, 1928. This plan shows clearly the island's infrastructure after World War I. This plan depicts condition prior to the construction of Liggett Hall but after many of the temporary buildings on the south side of the island had already been demolished (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.14. Railroad wrecking gang, 1931. Workmen dismantle the railroad tracks on the south side of the island (New York Public Library, 732039F, US Army, Signal Corps Photo).

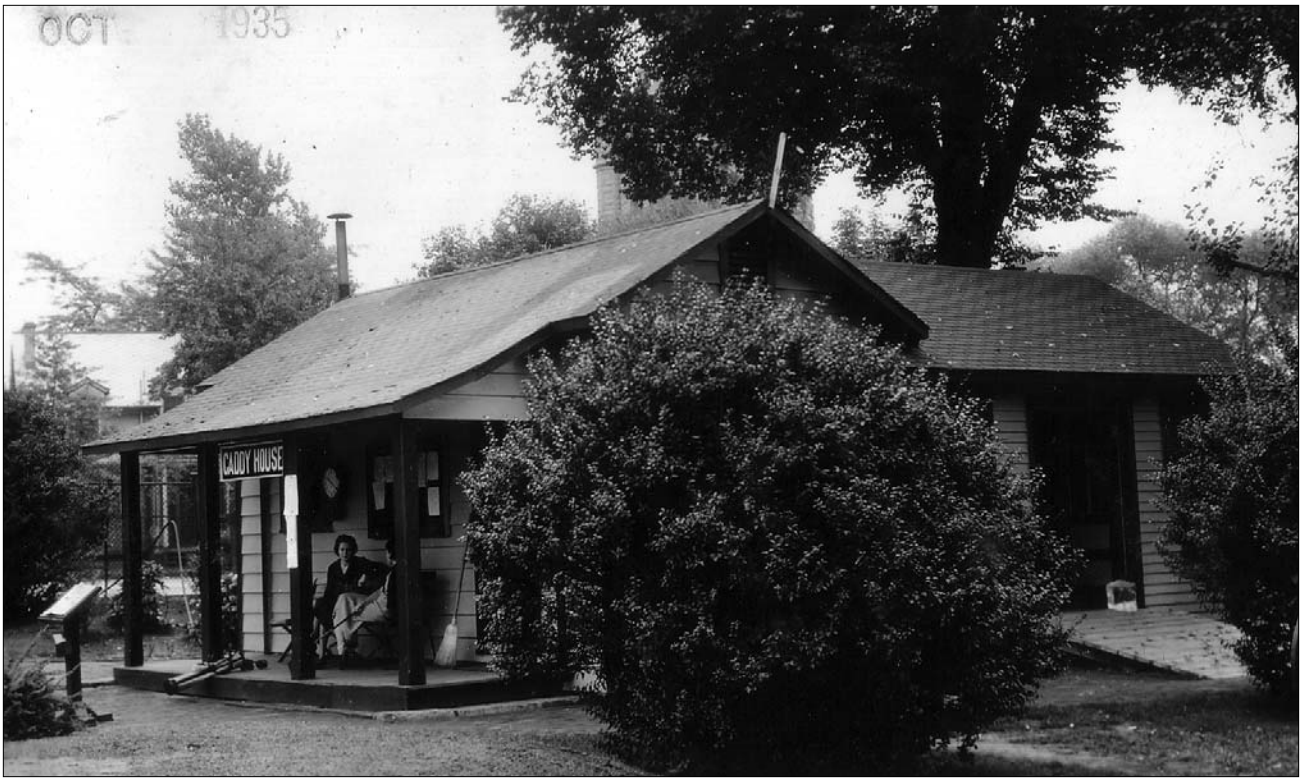


Figure 6.15. Caddy House, Governors Island, 1935. The golf course caddy house was tucked in the southeast corner of the parade ground, abutting the tennis courts, near Nolan Park (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).

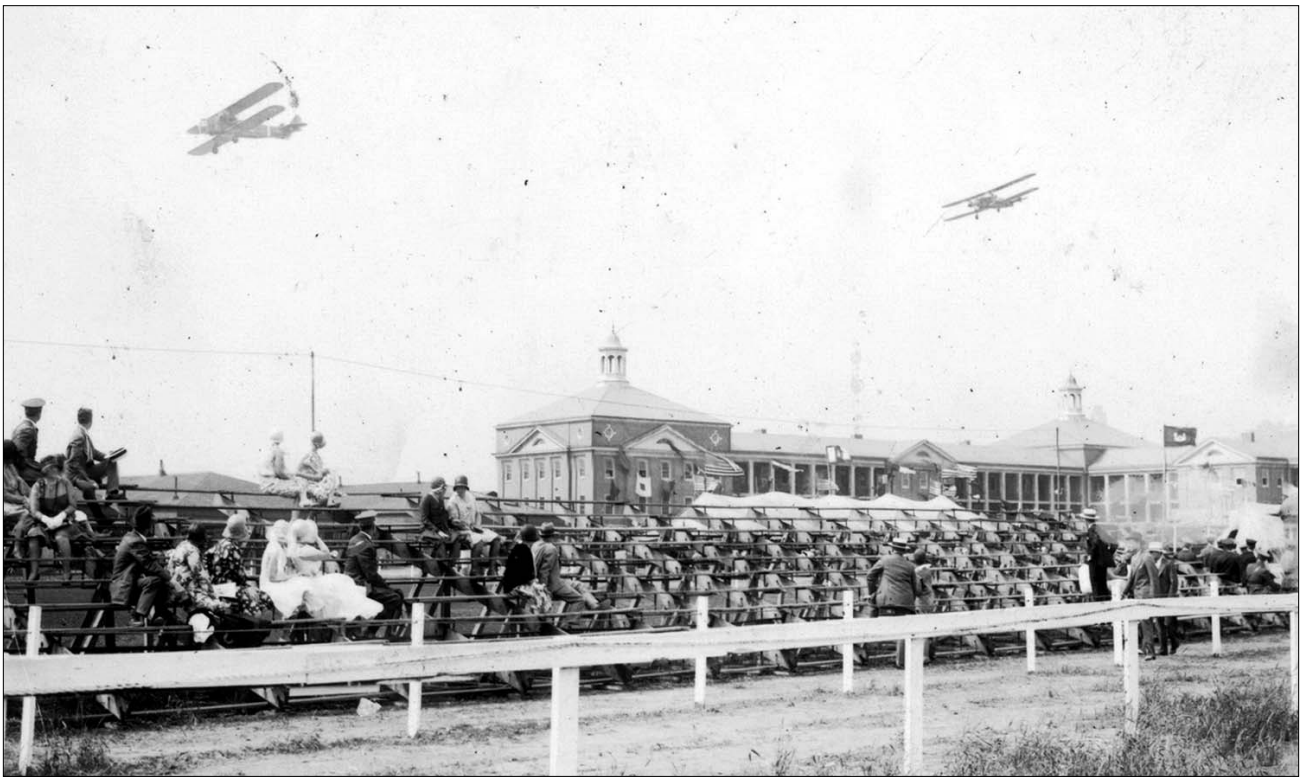


Figure 6.16. Polo Field, Governors Island, 1930. The spectators are sitting along side the new polo field south of Liggett Hall. The wide open space was also used for military demonstrations and air shows, as pictured above (New York Public Library 732073F, Photographic Views of New York City, 1870s-1970s, Governors Island).



Figure 6.17. Aerial photograph, Governors Island, 1932. The new hospital building is shown under construction in the lower center of the image, to the south of Castle Williams. This image also illustrates the remnants of the covered defile between the forts and paths scored into the surface of the parade ground from the golf course (National Archives II, Still Pictures, RG 18 LMU V6-870-N, Box 3, Folder 15, Governors Island).



Figure 6.18. The new hospital, designed by McKim, Mead, and White, 1934 (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.19. The post fire station, 1939. The fire station stood adjacent to the new hospital (out of frame at image left) and near Castle Williams (at image right) (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.20. Non-commissioned officers' quarters, 1939. Old wood frame quarters like these were renovated by the Works Progress Administration (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.21. Barracks buildings, 1938. Some soldiers were still being housed in World War I-era wooden barracks despite the substantial building campaign of the early 1930s (National Archives II, RG77, Entry 393, Box 102).

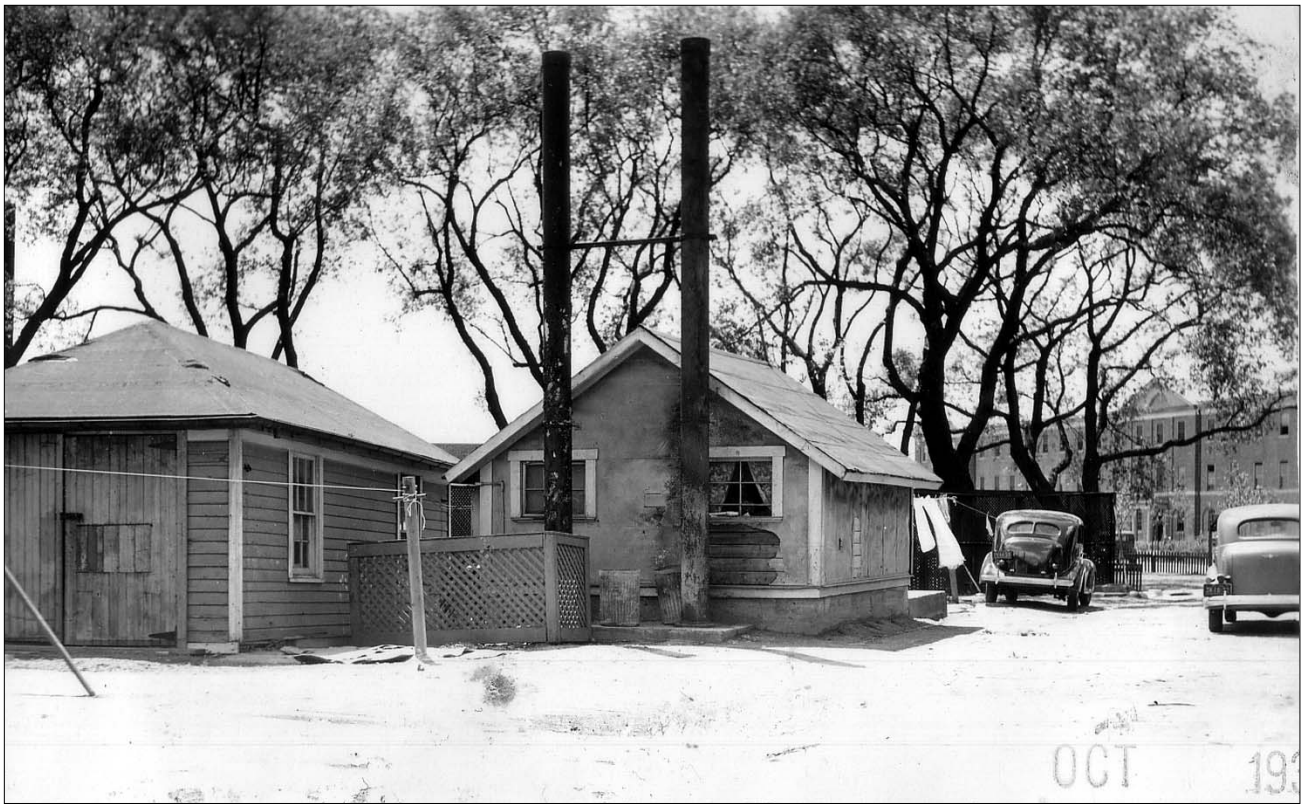


Figure 6.22. Boiler room, 1938. These small buildings served as a boiler room and living quarters (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.23. Army labor troops planting trees at Governors Island, 1938 (Center for Military History, RG 317S.458, McCoy Collection).



Figure 6.24. Library, 1933. This image of the library shows the newly replanted privet hedge along Andes Road. Notice the golf tee at image left (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.25. Terreplein of Fort Jay looking north toward Manhattan, 1935. Armament remained on the terreplein of Fort Jay through the 1930s. The Army maintained the surface as roughly cut grass (New York Public Library 732061F, Photo by Sperr, Percy Loomis).

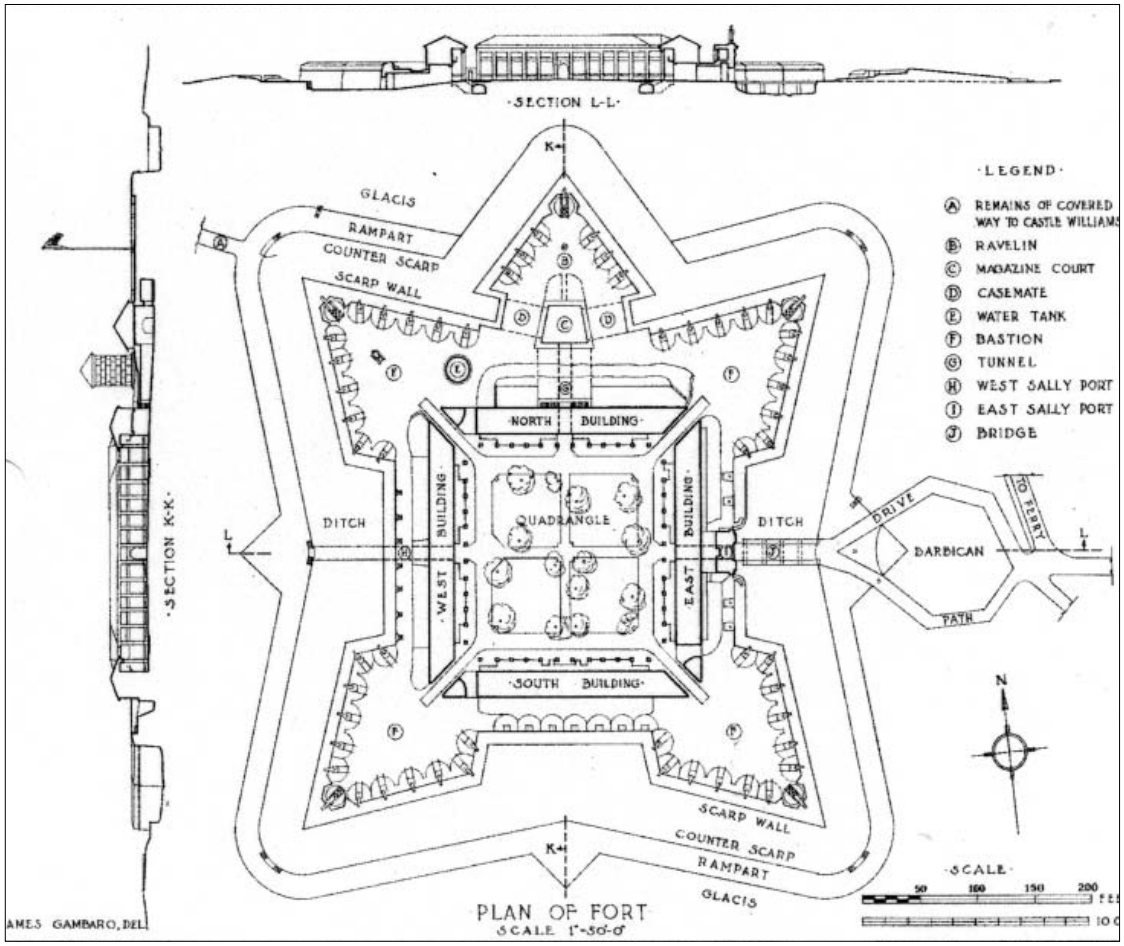


Figure 6.26. 1934 Historic American Building Survey drawing of Fort Jay, Governors Island. This drawing depicts the scores of cannon still arrayed around the scarp wall of the fort. Also notable about this drawing is the vegetation in the quadrangle. Numerous mid-sized trees are located in a random pattern (Library of Congress, Historic American Building Survey, Governors Island, New York Harbor, New York, 1934).



Figure 6.27. Janita and James carving a pumpkin at Fort Jay, 1930. The children are sitting on the terreplein walls of Fort Jay with the Manhattan skyline visible in the background. This photograph depicts the domestic use of Fort Jay, which was occupied by soldiers and their families (Image courtesy of Underwood and Underwood/Corbis, VV9600RM).



Figure 6.28. Fort Jay garages, 1939. The Army built automobile garages In the corners of the terreplein, behind the Fort Jay barracks, in the 1930s (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.29. Fort Jay, 1935. This image of the back side of one of the Fort Jay barracks shows the landscape treatment of the terreplein, with its rough cut grass and no woody growth. On image left, a view of the courtyard is available, showing children at play, the decorative cannon ball edging, shade trees, and street lights (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).

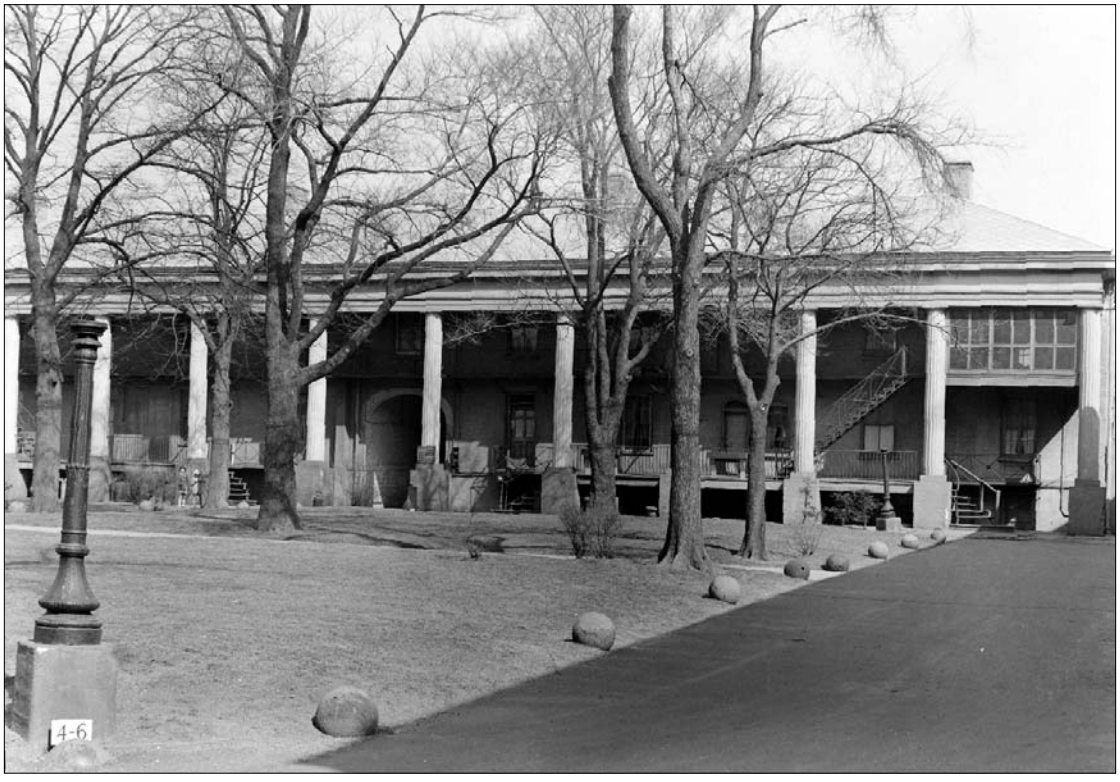


Figure 6.30. Fort Jay courtyard, 1934. This Historic American Building Survey photograph documents the site conditions of the courtyard in the 1930s. Cannon balls marked the edge between the asphalt perimeter driveway and the grass inner courtyard space. Randomly spaced shade trees and shrubs are located on the interior of the space. Notice the street light on image left with the missing globe (Library of Congress, Historic American Building Survey, photograph by E.P. McFarland, March 15, 1934, East Building (west elevation), HABS NY, 31-GOVI, 1-7).



Figure 6.31. Golf at Governors Island, 1944. These officers enjoy a round of golf on the parade ground of Governors Island. Colonels' Row is pictured in the background (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 42).



Figure 6.32. Officers' tennis court, 1940. These courts, south of Nolan Park, had been in existence since at least 1928 (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.33. Enlisted men's tennis courts, 1940. These courts, located on the south side of the island, were added in the 1930s to provide recreational opportunities for the soldiers housed in the newly completed Liggett Hall (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.34. New polo grounds south of Liggett Hall, 1940. The open expanse of the south side of the island was ideal for polo matches, military parades, and drilling (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.35. Polo match, Governors Island, 1940. This photograph was taken on the new polo field south of Liggett Hall. Notice the wide open character and the line of young street trees planted along the shoreline (New York Public Library 732074F, "Photographic views of New York City, 1870s-1970s, Governors Island").



Figure 6.36. Nurses' quarters, 1942. This World War II-era building was located on the north side of the island, adjacent to Castle Williams (seen at image left). Pedestrians were kept off grass areas during this time by pipe rail fencing (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.37. Hospital Mess, 1942. This World War II-era structure was built on the rear side (west) of the post hospital (image right) and south of Castle Williams (image left). This building added to the haphazard collection of temporary structures associated with the hospital. Cannon balls lined the grass area at image left. These were collected for scrap shortly after the photograph was taken (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).

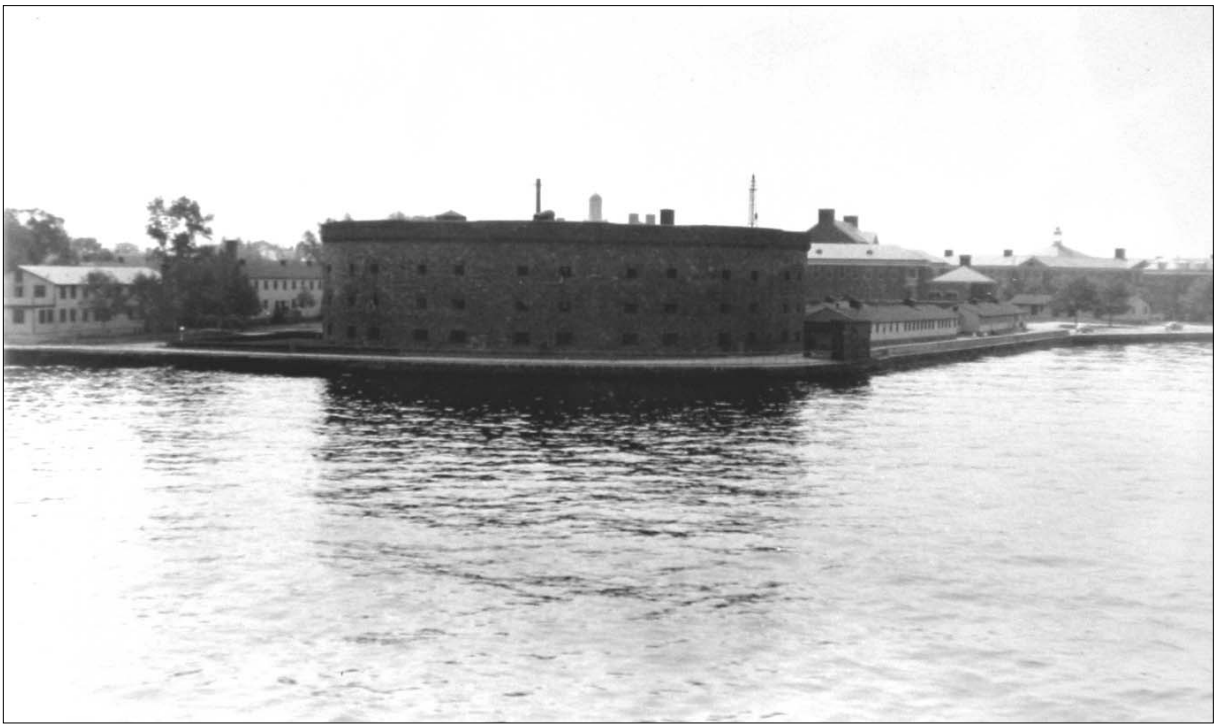


Figure 6.38. Castle Williams, as seen from the north, circa 1942. This image displays the numerous temporary buildings erected near the castle. Notice the nurses' quarters to the left of the castle and the hospital mess hall to the right (Center for Military History, RG 762 S, Richard S. Allen Collection, Box 1).

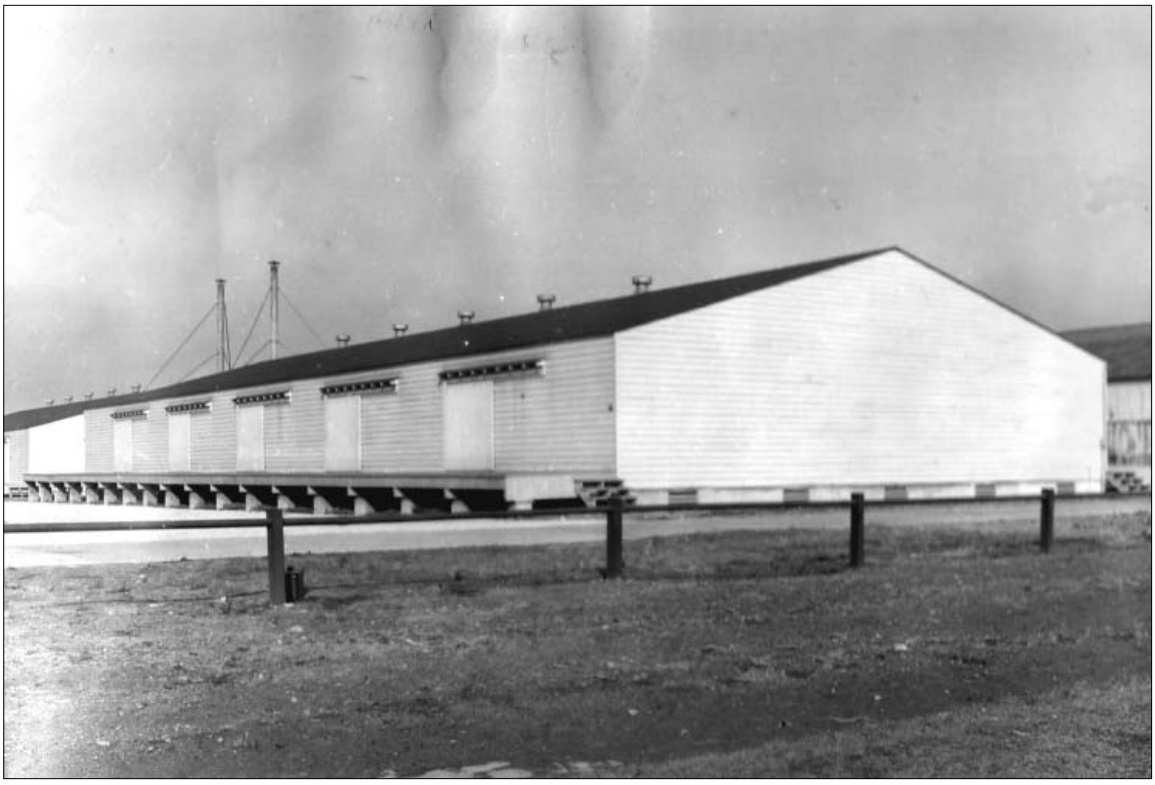


Figure 6.39. Warehouse, Governors Island, 1942. Several World War II-era warehouses were built on the south side of the island, although far fewer than during World War I (National Archives II, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 102).



Figure 6.40. Ceremony on the polo field, 1944. This photograph documents a military parade on the polo field south of Liggett Hall, looking east. Numerous small temporary structures appear in the background as well as materials storage piles (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 10).



Figure 6.41. Cannon being removed from Fort Jay, 1942. This photograph, looking north, shows workmen removing cannons from their mounts along the scarp wall of Fort Jay (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 43 (1)).

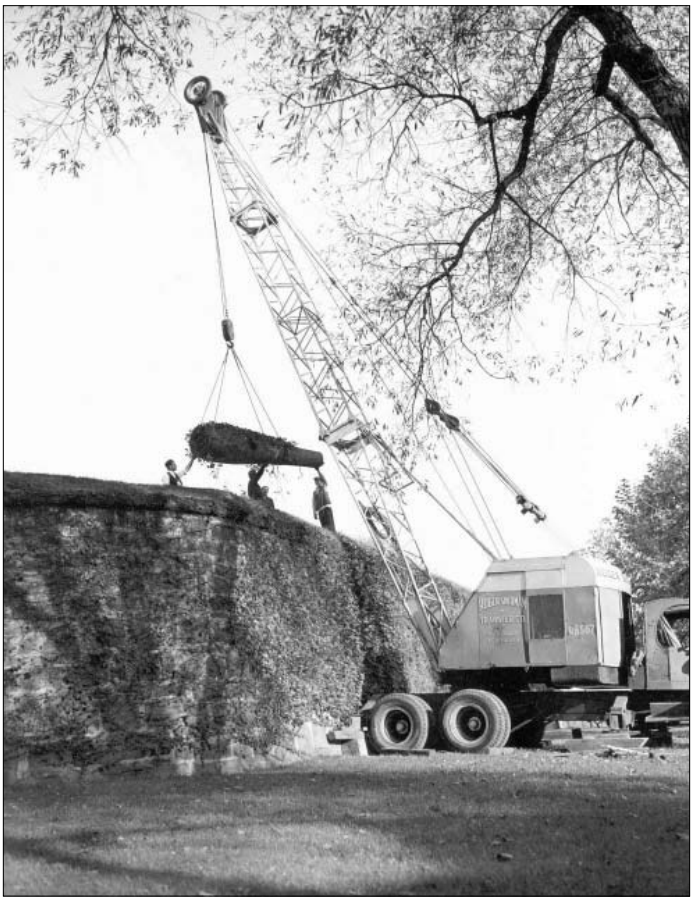


Figure 6.42. Cannon being removed from South Battery, 1942. A crane was used to lift the heavy cannon from the walls of Fort Jay. Notice the vines still clinging to the surface of the historic gun (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 43 (2)).

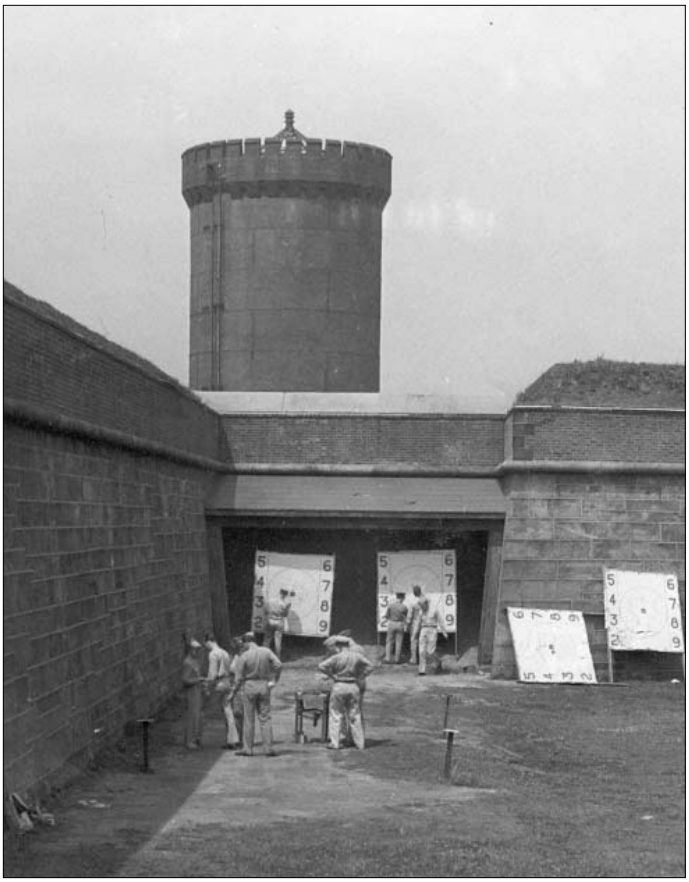


Figure 6.43. Target practice in the Fort Jay moat, 1944 (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 37 (1)).

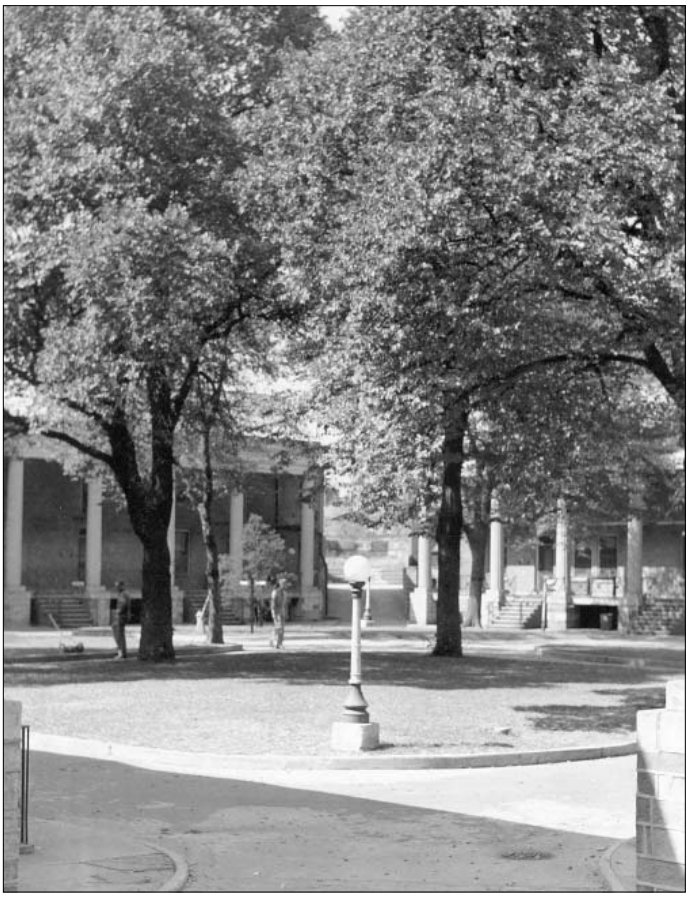


Figure 6.44. Fort Jay courtyard, 1944. Some changes since the 1930s are visible in this image. The decorative cannon balls had been removed, likely collected for scrap, curbing was added, and the understory shrubs had been removed (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 37 (2)).

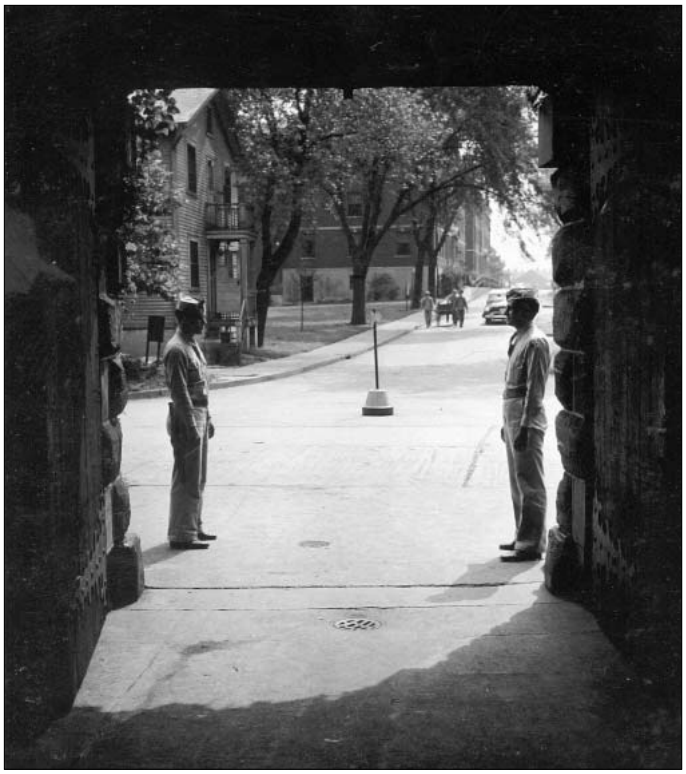
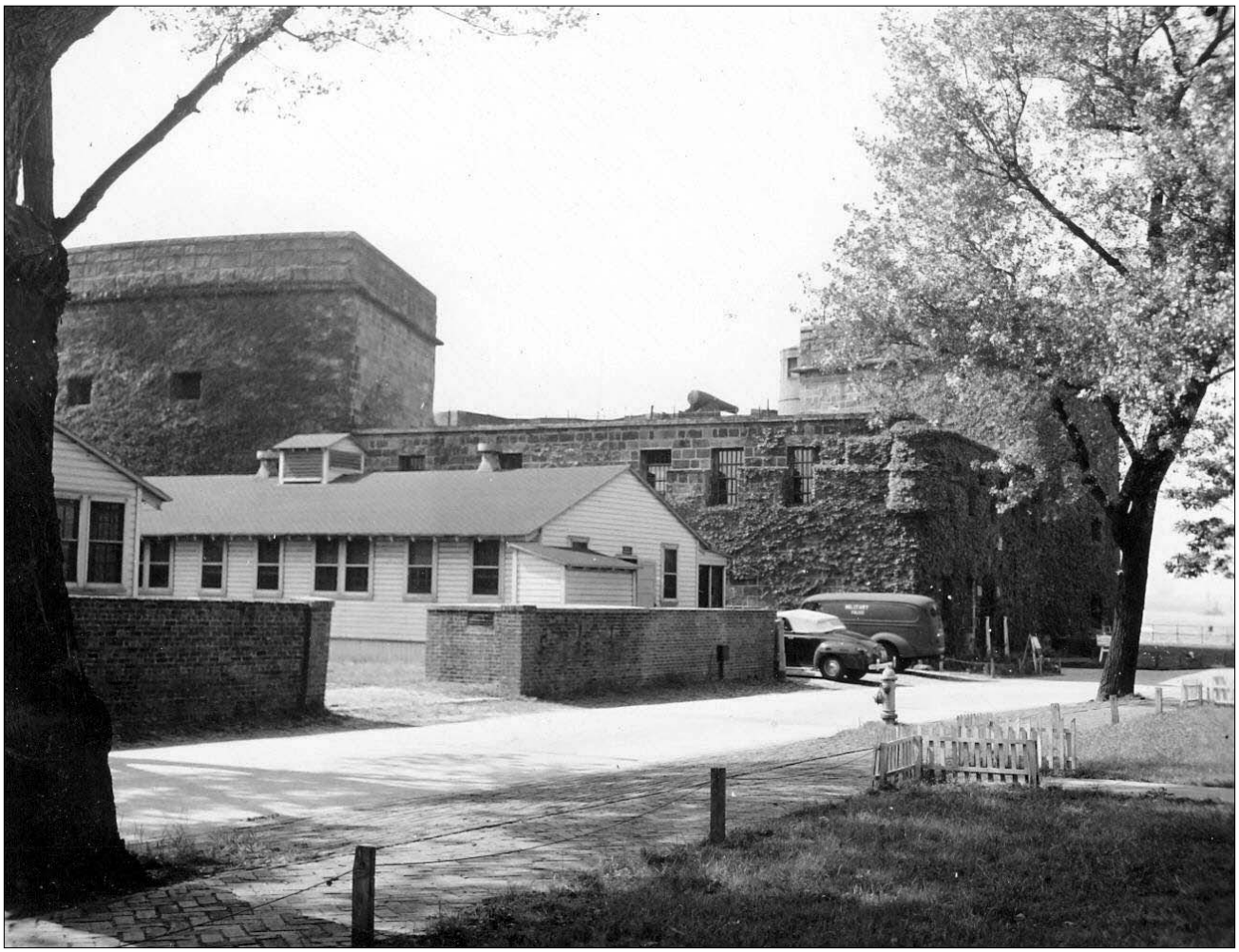


Figure 6.45. Left. The entryway of Castle Williams, 1944. This view looking east from Castle Williams provides a clear view along the north side of Andes Road. The World War II-era nurses' quarters and the brick officers' quarters that date to the 1930s are visible on the left side of the road (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 34 (1)).

Figure 6.46. Below. Castle Williams from the south, 1944. This war-time photograph documents the temporary hospital annex buildings adjacent to Castle Williams. Also, streetscape elements like street trees, brick sidewalks, and low fencing along grass areas are visible (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 34 (3)).





Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1945

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Ortholmagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Governors Island CAD Drawing, 2004
3. Governors Island, 1948, GOIS Park Files

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 1945 Island Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Brooklyn
- Turfgrass
- Water
- Buildings and Structures
- Sidewalks/Paths
- Roads and Parking Areas
- Vegetation

90 45 0 90

Drawing 6.47



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1945 Enlargement

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Ortholmagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Governors Island CAD Drawing, 2004
3. Governors Island, 1948, GOIS Park Files

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- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 6.48



Figure 6.49. Oblique aerial photograph of Governors Island, 1966. This view displays the numerous World War II-era structures surrounding Castle Williams that remained in use through the end of the Army's time at Governors Island (Center for Military History, RG 239 S, Grunert Collection, P. 34 (3)).



Figure 6.50. Governors Island, looking north, 1966. This oblique aerial view shows the numerous World War II buildings that remained on the south side of the island. The Army added three multi-story barracks buildings on the west side of the island (image left) in the 1950s (Center for Military History, RG 97 S, Forts Misc Collection, Fort Jay).



Figure 6.51. Fort Jay, 1966. The Army redesigned the interior of the barbican at Fort Jay's main gate. The large center island was replaced with a small raised planter and the amount of asphalt was increased to provide vehicular parking (Center for Military History, RG 97 S, Forts Misc Collection, Fort Jay).



Figure 6.52. Soissons Dock, 1966. Fort Jay is visible in the background, as is the tall chain link fence erected to keep golf balls in the golf course (Center for Military History, RG 97 S, Forts Misc Collection, Fort Jay).



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1966

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Ortholmagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Master Plan, General Tree-Cover and Recreation Map, GOIS Park Files, 1962.

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 1966 Island Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Brooklyn
- Turfgrass
- Ocean
- Buildings and Structures
- Sidewalks/Paths
- Roads and Parking Areas
- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 6.53



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Period Plan 1966 Enlargement

National Park Service

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Orthoimagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Master Plan, General Tree-Cover and Recreation Map, GOIS Park Files, 1962.

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 1966 Island Boundary
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- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 6.54

1967-2010

THE COAST GUARD AT GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Army left Governors Island in 1966, transferring the island to the U.S. Coast Guard on June 30, 1966. According to spectators, they left with great fanfare, albeit unintentional, when the ceremonial firing of a Rodman gun at Fort Jay broke most of the windows in the fort and the hot gun wadding lit the moat's grass on fire.[1] The Coast Guard consolidated all of its operations for the New York metro area at Governors Island, creating the largest U.S. Coast Guard base in the country.[2]

The Coast Guard inherited resources on Governors Island that represented almost two hundred years of physical change. The island's original landmass held a collection of buildings and landscape features dating from the American Revolution through World War II. It was home to park-like housing districts, tree-lined avenues, a golf course, and the imposing historic Fort Jay and Castle Williams (Figure 7.1). South of Liggett Hall, Governors Island took on a vastly different character. Wide open, flat terrain afforded views across the space and post-1940 architecture, both temporary and permanent in design and intent, ringed the perimeter of the district.

Prepared four years before the transfer to the Coast Guard, a 1962 map of the island displays the vegetative cover, layout of buildings and roads, and location of recreational facilities (Figure 7.2). At Fort Jay, several trees had been allowed to grow along the terreplein, where for over one hundred years the area had been cleared of woody growth and maintained as cut grass. The same irregular spacing of shade trees persisted inside the courtyard. An imperfectly spaced ring of trees was located along the exterior of the recently redesigned barbican at the fort's main gate. Street trees lined the south and west side of Andes Road as it wrapped around the north side of the golf course, passing the main dock, Soissons Dock. Temporary buildings remained around Castle Williams, evoking World War II-conditions. Two structures lined the northwest border of the parade ground next to a line of London plane trees. The 'H' shaped former hospital, two-story nurses' quarters, and numerous hospital annex buildings remained to the south and east of the castle. The Army had created numerous recreational opportunities throughout the island including the golf course, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, a swimming pool, and children's play areas.

Photographs document changes made by the Coast Guard to meet their mission requirements and the needs of their personnel. By the late 1970s they had removed most of the World War II-era temporary buildings, with a few notable exceptions (Figure 7.3). As seen in a 1977 image, a parking lot replaced the 'H'

shaped former hospital east of Castle Williams but the nurses' quarters and library building remained. The Coast Guard built three new multi-story brick barracks buildings adjacent to the south side of Castle Williams.

At Fort Jay, the Coast Guard allowed existing trees to grow on the terreplein and families used the grass areas under the scarp walls for gardening, hanging laundry, and entertaining, evidenced by the presence of clothes lines, domestic plantings, and a stone barbeque (Figure 7.4). Play equipment was added to the interior courtyard green space to accommodate service members' children (Figure 7.5). The Governors Island golf course remained a popular feature and was supplemented with the planting of several tree lines to direct play and shield structures from errant golf balls. Three lines of trees are visible in birds-eye photographs from the late 1970s and early 1980s, one along the north side of Colonels' Row, another in the northwest corner of the golf course near the library, and the last along the northern edge of the golf course, facing Soissons Dock (Figures 7.6 and 7.7).

More noticeably, the Coast Guard embarked on a massive building campaign on the south side of the island where numerous small World-War II-era buildings on the east and west shores were replaced with modern barracks and family housing. Amidst this redevelopment, the Coast Guard retained the spatial integrity of the central open space, the former polo field, and landing strip. The Coast Guard added two large docks on the southeast side of the island to accommodate their numerous vessels.

The Coast Guard continued the Army's high level of maintenance. Photographs show the lawn area neatly cut, hedges trimmed, and street trees pruned and replaced when necessary.

One hundred and twenty-one acres of the northern side of Governors Island were designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1985. The district encompassed the island's original landmass and a sliver of the land filled at the turn-of-the-twentieth century including Liggett Hall. Division Road on the south side of Liggett Hall formed the southern boundary of the district. The NHL documentation listed the period of significance as 1794-Present, including the island's history as a defensive post and Army administrative center.

The New York City Landmark Preservation Commission designated the land north of Division Road as the Governors Island Historic District, a New York City Historic District, on June 18, 1996. The boundary mirrored that of the National Historic Landmark District.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNORS ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT

To reduce costs, the Coast Guard announced plans to abandon Governors Island as their base of operations in New York in 1995. In response, the Coast Guard, General Services Administration, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the New York State Historic Preservation, the City of New York, and the National Trust, entered into a Programmatic Agreement to study the future of Governors Island and to make allowances for the maintenance and management of the island's resources.[3]

Ownership of the island remained with the federal government but Congress required that the island be sold at fair market value by 2002.[4] Although the City and State of New York were offered the first opportunity to purchase the island, the 300 million dollar price tag deterred the parties from taking action.[5] President Clinton agreed to give the island to the City and State for one dollar if they could generate an appropriate plan for redevelopment, something the two groups proved unable to successfully do.[6]

After the unsuccessful introduction of legislation to establish a National Monument at Fort Jay and Castle Williams and transfer the rest of the island to the City and State of New York, President Clinton created the Governors Island National Monument by Presidential Proclamation on his last days in office in 2001.[7] The National Monument boundary included the historic forts, the northern portion of the parade ground, and a building for administrative purposes. The fate of the remainder of the island remained in flux until April 2002 when President George Bush acted on the prior recommendation to give the island to the State and City of New York for one dollar.[8] President Bush also issued a proclamation on February 7, 2003 that enlarged the National Monument boundary to 22.78 acres.[9]

The island stood nearly vacant between 1996 and 2003. During this time, the Coast Guard and the General Services Administration shared maintenance duties to minimally maintain the island's resources, yet the sheer size of the island, the amount of building square footage, and age of the resources proved prohibitive and substantial deterioration occurred.

Beginning in 2003, The National Park Service and their partner group, Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation, or GIPEC, took over the management of the island. According to their website, GIPEC, a subsidiary of Empire State Development: "[I]s responsible for the planning, redevelopment and ongoing operations for 150 acres of Governors Island. A partnership of New York City and New York State, GIPEC seeks to bring Governors Island back to life, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with great

public open space, as well as future education, not for profit and commercial facilities."[10]

GIPEC was reorganized and renamed the Trust for Governors Island in 2010 after the island was transferred to the sole ownership of New York City. Currently, the National Monument and the Trust for Governors Island manage the island under a cooperative management agreement. Where it is mutually beneficial, the Trust for Governors Island and the National Monument combine service providers and contracting. The National Monument uses the Trust for Governors Island's contractors for ferry service, garbage removal, utilities management, pest control, and turf maintenance. The two groups meet regularly to discuss preservation, stabilization, and alteration of shared resources like seawalls and utilities.

An Archeological Overview and Assessment was completed in 2003 that catalogued thirty-nine sites on National Monument land. These sites date to the Native American, Pre-contact period (pre-1500 AD), the Revolutionary period (1700-1783), the War of 1812 (1783-1815), the nineteenth century and Civil War (1815-1900), and the early twentieth century (1900-1966).[11] Additionally, according to the Archeological Overview and Assessment, "It was found that virtually all of GOIS possesses high sensitivity to contain additional unrecorded Native American and historic archeological sites."[12]

In 2008, a team completed a study of the covered defile to determine the extent of damage to the resource inflicted during a 2006 golf course re-contouring project. Numerous impacts to the feature were noted, but many seemed to pre-date 2006. The subsequent report recommended not attempting to repair impacts from the 2006 project and trying to protect the feature from further ground disturbance.[13]

The National Park Service has completed renovation projects on the historic forts including rebuilding the Fort Jay moat bridge, rehabilitating the Fort Jay Barracks, replacing sandstone lintels at Castle Williams, and replacing the central staircase at Castle Williams.[14] Some remnant golf course features were removed from the parade ground, including a perimeter chain link fence, a row of blue spruce trees near the library, and a set of wooden stairs. The park also undertook hazard tree removal and pruning around Fort Jay to address health and safety concerns.

The Trust for Governors Island has also begun rehabilitating the buildings and landscapes in their care. They demolished the Super 8 Motel and tennis courts at the southern extent of the Parade Ground, the former public school, bachelors' quarters south of Division Road, and the buildings of Liberty Village at the southern end of the Island. The Trust for Governors Island has made improvements to the exterior of the Nolan Park residences, performed ongoing work on the seawall, rehabilitated Yankee and Soisson Docks, and repaired slate

roofs, masonry and woodwork throughout the district. Infrastructure improvements have been completed including upgrading the underground water storage tanks on the Parade Ground and repairing and replacing water mains.

The National Monument's general management plan was completed in 2009. This document provides direction on numerous interpretive and facility management goals for the future. One such approved action that will have a significant impact on the cultural landscape is the removal of Building 251 (Library) and Buildings 513 A, B, and C (Coast Guard housing). The park awaits funding to carry out these demolition projects that will restore the historic connection between Fort Jay and Castle Williams.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION IN 2010

Governors Island is characterized by two distinct districts defined by the pre and post-1909 land masses (Figures 7.8 and 7.9). The post-1909 land mass, or south side of the island is dominated by flat topography, post-World War II architecture and sparse vegetation. It contrasts with the north side of the island that holds the varied historic resources of Governors Island National Monument and the Governors Island National Historic Landmark district. Most of the landscape patterns and structures in this area pre-date 1930 and represent a rich history of the military on Governors Island. The historic district is centered around the open space of the Parade Ground. The park-like former residential districts of Nolan Park and Colonels' Row back onto the Parade Ground. Castle Williams and Fort Jay represent the oldest structures on site, and although they have been modified throughout the island's history, they retain a high degree of integrity to their historic design intent. Fort Jay stands prominently near the center of the historic district and is clearly visible from many angles due to the surrounding Parade Ground. Castle Williams anchors the northwest side of the island and still commands sweeping views of Manhattan, New Jersey, and the lower New York Harbor from its upper deck.

ENDNOTES

[1] Jannelle Warren-Findley, "Governors Island, New York Harbor: A Historic Resource Survey from the Beginning to 1996," Final Draft, 2007, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 220-221.

[2] Ibid., 220.

[3] "Governors Island National Monument Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement," Summer 2007, 106.

[4] Ibid., 108.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid., 109.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid., 110.

[10] GIPEC website- http://www.govisland.com/About_GIPEC/default.asp

[11] Shannon Wright and Timothy Binzen, "Archeological Overview and Assessment of Governors Island National Monument, New York, New York," the Environmental Institute, University of Massachusetts, 2003, chapter 5.

[12] Ibid., vii.

[13] "Final Archeological Resources Protection Act Site Damage Assessment Report, Governors Island National Monument," Tetra Tech Inc., 2008, prepared for Dr. William Griswold, Ph.D., NPS, Northeast Region Archeology Program, 19.

[14] Email correspondence with GOIS facility manager Ed Lorenizini, 9/11/2008.

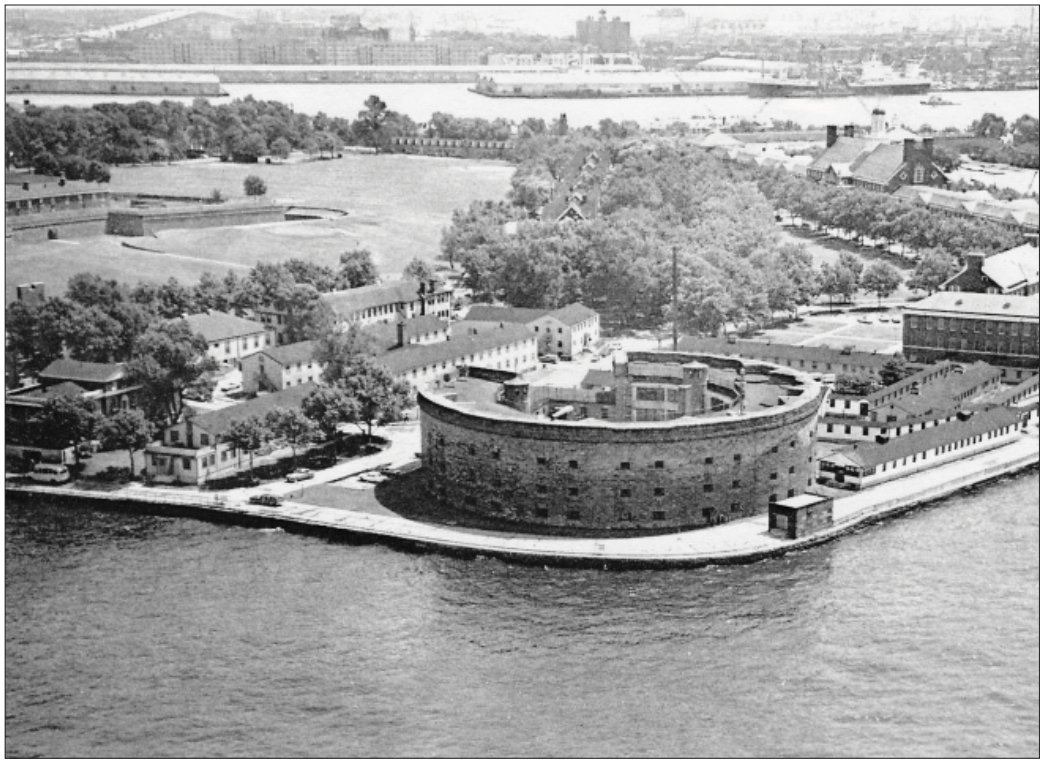


Figure 7.1. Castle Williams from the north, 1968. This view of the island, taken shortly after the Coast Guard took over the island, shows the presence of numerous World War II-era buildings in the vicinity of Castle Williams (USCG Orientation Guide, Governors Island National Monument image collection).

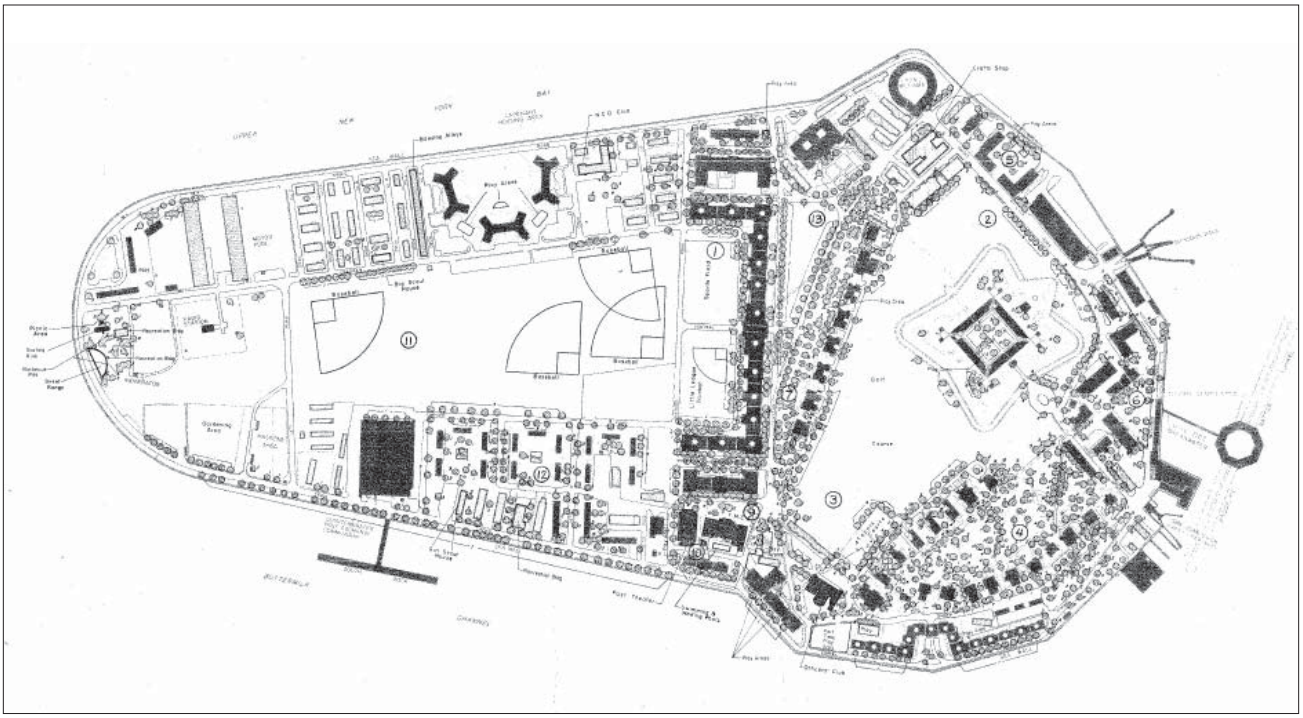


Figure 7.2. "General Tree-Cover and Recreation Map, Fort Jay, 1962." This plan illustrates changes made to the island near the end of the Army's tenure on the island. It depicts extensive tree planting north of Liggett Hall and the numerous recreational facilities throughout the island (Governors Island National Monument image collection).



Figure 7.3. Barracks, Governors Island, c. 1975. The Coast Guard removed most of the World War II-era buildings left by the Army, including the ones pictured above (Steve Decarteret photograph, Governors Island National Monument image collection).



Figure 7.4. "Fort Columbus Building No 202, east side, looking southwest, 1983." This Historic American Building Survey photograph captured the alterations people made to the fort landscape to make it comfortable domestic space. Notice the wooden deck and planter boxes, and the small garden in the gun mount that is enclosed with a hairpin-style wire border (Library of Congress, Historic American Building Survey, NY, 31-GOVI, 1A-4).



Figure 7.5. "Governors Island, Fort Columbus, Building 202, west front, 1983." This Historic American Building Survey photograph shows the Fort Jay courtyard in the 1980s, capturing the curbed green space, shade trees, and children's play equipment (Library of Congress, Historic American Building Survey, NY, 31-GOVI, 1A-3,).



Figure 7.6. Fort Jay oblique aerial, looking north, 1977. This image captures golf course elements on the parade ground. Greens, bunkers, and tree lines are located throughout the space. Notice the scattered tree growth on the walls of Fort Jay. The new barracks built on the south side of Castle Williams can be seen at image left (Frank Bennett photograph, Governors Island National Monument image collection).



Figure 7.7. "Governors Island, Fort Columbus, aerial views, looking northwest, 1983." Tree lines added to the golf course in the late-1970s and early 1980s are visible at image left, image right, and above Fort Jay (Library of Congress, Historic American Building Survey, NY, 31-GOVI, 1-11).



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Existing Conditions 2010

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Orthoimagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Governors Island CAD Drawing, 2004

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Brooklyn
- Turfgrass
- Water
- Buildings and Structures
- Sidewalks/Paths
- Roads and Parking Areas
- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 7.8



Cultural Landscape Report

Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island, NY

Existing Conditions 2010 Enlargement

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

SOURCES

1. Ortholmagery New York City, USGS, 2006.
2. Governors Island CAD Drawing, 2004

DRAWN BY

National Park Service-Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/ Rumika Chaudhry and Michael Commisso
Using ArcMap GIS 9.2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2, 2008

LEGEND

- National Monument Boundary
- 2008 Island Boundary
- Brooklyn
- Turfgrass
- Ocean
- Buildings and Structures
- Sidewalks/Paths
- Roads and Parking Areas
- Vegetation

90 45 0 90 ft.

Drawing 7.9

EXISTING CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

Governors Island is a 172-acre island located in the upper New York Harbor, one-half of a mile south of Manhattan. The island's shape resembles an ice cream cone, with the south side of the island the cone, and the north, the ice cream. The south side was created from fill in the early 1900s and is dominated by sparse vegetation, flat terrain, and post-World War II architecture. This contrasts with the north side, or National Historic Landmark District, which is characterized by pre-1930s Classical Revival architecture, mature trees, managed turf, and gently sloping topography. The 22.78-acre Governors Island National Monument resides within the National Historic Landmark District and contains the historic forts of Castle Williams and Fort Jay, several acres at the northern end of the Parade Ground, and the land between the two forts.

The following existing conditions chapter documents the resources within the Governors Island National Monument. Along with the main parcel containing the forts and the land surrounding them, three non-contiguous parcels are included in the National Monument boundary: Building 140, Dock 102, and Building 107 (See Figure 7.9). Building 140 is located immediately east of Soissons Dock, the main ferry slip. It serves as the visitor contact station. Dock 102 is located east of Fort Jay, in the historic wharf district. Building 107 is the park's administration building and is located northeast of Fort Jay on the east side of Andes Road. The following narrative is organized spatially, as if a visitor enters the site from the Soissons Dock and walks through the site, using the sub-spaces described above to organize the discussion.

BUILDING 140

Visitors arrive at Governors Island via ferry boat at Soissons Dock on the north side of the island. After exiting the boat, the first building encountered on the left is Building 140, structure owned by the Trust for Governors Island but which houses a 1,000 square foot National Park Service easement. The National Monument's bookstore and visitor contact services are located within the easement (Figures 8.1 and 8.2).

The structure was built between 1857 and 1867 as a storehouse for the Arsenal. This utilitarian brick building with arched windows includes elements associated with the Romanesque Revival style. The entrances to the rectangular, one-story brick structure are located on the east and west gable ends. Two *trophée d'armes* emblems adorn the west façade, flanking the large double doors. The building is accessed on the west via a wide concrete ramp. The adjacent asphalt street to the

south, Carder Road, meets the building's foundation edge, leaving no room for a sidewalk or vegetation.

Following Carder Road east along Building 140, a small parking lot is located behind the building (on the east side). A yew hedge lines the south boundary of the lot. At the northeast corner, a screen of eight shrubs has been planted in a U shape. Beside it to the northwest is a three-foot high, Coast Guard memorial plaque on a brick and granite base. To the west of the memorial is a condenser unit encircled by a chain link fence. One shrub stands near each back corner of Building 140.

DOCK 102

Dock 102 stands southeast of Building 140, at the intersection of Carder and Andes roads (Figures 8.3 and 8.4). Located on Buttermilk Channel, the .14 acre concrete dock is segregated from its asphalt parking lot by a chain link, gated fence. Five light poles line the dock– two on the north side and three on the south. Another light pole is located just outside the gate at the northeast corner of the parking lot. These modern light fixtures are square, flat and provide direct down-lighting to the surface below. A barge has been installed at Dock 102 to serve as a permanent dock for National Monument non-vehicular ferries. A newly constructed landside shelter that accommodates benches for seventy-five people is located in the asphalt parking area. It is a glass enclosed structure, vented at the top, with mounted panels for displaying interpretive information and island updates. This dock is owned and managed by the National Monument to provide ferry service to staff and visitors in the event that Soissons Dock is non-operational.

BUILDING 107

Building 107 is located northwest of Dock 102, uphill from the dock along Andes Road (Figures 8.5 and 8.6). The one-story brick building was constructed in the 1850s as an Arsenal storehouse and today serves as the park headquarters. It shares design similarities with Building 140, including red brick, one-story construction with elements associated with the Romanesque Revival style. The rectangular brick building stretches north-south on a .44-acre site and is surrounded with a narrow grass lawn that hosts a few ornamental trees and shrubs. Two street lights are located in this green strip as well. These black metal, post-mounted light fixtures are cylindrical with four clear glass panels and a rounded, solid black cap. Unless otherwise noted, this is the lamp post style of most street lights on the National Monument property.

Across Andes Road from Building 107, a three-foot tall privet hedge lines the south side of the road, next to a brick sidewalk with concrete bullnose curbing. An approximately evenly spaced line of mature horse chestnut and London plane trees is located on the lawn side of the hedge, part of the tree line that runs along the south and east side of Andes Road (Figure 8.7). A few of street tree specimens have been recently removed and not replaced. An approximately ten-foot gap in the privet hedge is located across the street from Building 107.

FORT JAY

Fort Jay is located on a direct east-west axis with Dock 102, up the hill along Andes Road (Figure 8.8). However, the topography of the area prevents a clear view of the fort from the dock until one reaches the top of the hill at the circular entry drive to Fort Jay (Figure 8.9). Remnants of the outer walls of the former barbican are preserved in the brick exterior retaining walls of the entry circle (Figure 8.10). Atop the retaining wall to the north, hydrangeas and trees – both evergreen and deciduous – sporadically encircle the asphalt drive. At the driveway's center is a large, oval, raised bed of turf contained by its own eighteen-inch-high brick wall; inside the oval at its midpoint stands a triangular formation of four large cannon balls on a concrete pad. On the north side of the drive's entrance, there is a clear glass bus shelter and a newly planted disease-resistant American chestnut tree. On the south, a border of herbaceous perennials and a few rose bushes bloom in summer.

On the southwest side of the circular drive, a set of wooden steps (two tiers of railroad ties) transitions the steep topography from the top of the retaining wall, down to the level of the entry drive. From here it is a short walk to the fort's bridge across turf ground. Two evergreens flank the top of the stairs on either side. A deciduous tree stands to the northeast of the top tier of steps, and two deciduous trees stand to the southwest of the second tier of steps.

A concrete bridge spans the dry moat and leads through the fort's main gate tunnel into the courtyard (Figure 8.11). The bridge rests atop three brick piers and has a two-tier metal handrail on either side. On its north side, it has a single lamp post with a unique dual fixture at the top. Above the main gate on the outside of the fort is an elaborate sandstone *trophée d'armes* sculpture featuring symbols of the republic and equipment of war.

The Fort Jay Courtyard

A heavy wooden gate stands in the tunnel under one of the Fort Jay barracks, Building 202, leading to an interior quadrangle (Figure 8.12). The square courtyard is defined by four nearly identical, two-story, brick barracks that are

visually dominated by two-story front porches and heavy columns associated with the Greek Revival style.

Asphalt paths surround the exterior of the courtyard. Two additional asphalt paths divide the courtyard into four roughly equal quadrants. A scattering of trees are randomly spaced in the four quadrants, at roughly two or three trees per quadrant. Three of the trees are newly planted disease resistant American chestnuts. A few street lights, some functional, others not, are located throughout the interior courtyard. The northwest quadrant has been reduced in size by nearly a fourth, differing from the spatial characteristics as the other three quadrants. This missing sliver along the interior (east side) of the quadrant creates a twenty-one-foot-wide section of path instead of the nine- and ten-foot paths that otherwise comprise the interior cross-paths of the quadrangle.

Tunnels extend from the courtyard under three of the four barracks (Building 210, 214, and 202, but not Building 206). Sallyports are only located at the tunnels for Buildings 202 and 210 (Figure 8.13). Cobblestone alleys connect the courtyard to the terreplein level behind the barracks at the four corners of the space (Figure 8.14).

The Bastions

The northeast bastion offers interesting evidence of the evolution of the fort. A cannon rests on one of the twelve gun mounts, while a clothes line post still stands near the center of the bastion (Figure 8.15). A pole with mounted loud speakers is located near the corner of the bastion. Two, single stall garages flank opposite sides of the cobblestone open space that connects to the alley. The bastion has one tree in its lower interior west corner and one hydrangea in its interior north corner, just beside the chain link gate that leads to the ravelin.

The southeast bastion provides evidence of the fort's changing historic uses. Thirteen gun mounts encircle the space, with a cannon occupying the second mount on the north. Three trees still grow here, including a honey locust and a crabapple tree. This bastion holds the most evidence of residential gardens with the remnants of perennial gardens encircling some part or all of eight gun mounts (Figure 8.16). Two single stall brick garages flank opposite sides of the cobblestone open space that connects with the alley. Just beyond the central gun mount on the top of the pointed scarp wall is a pole with loud speakers.

Barbed wire brackets remain atop the scarp wall surrounding the eleven gun mounts on the southwest bastion. A maple tree, a juniper and an American elm are located in the space along with a stone barbeque grill at the west wall (Figure 8.17). Two, one-story brick garages flank opposite sides of the cobblestone open space that connects to the alley. Because of the topography, one garage has steps

adjacent to it on the north side, and the other has steps about six feet away to the northeast, leading down to the cobblestone landing.

The northwest bastion has few landscape elements but includes a single maple tree and twelve empty gun mounts. It has a stretch of twelve-foot high chain link fence on its southwest corner, a circular concrete slab for a water tank on its northeast corner, a concrete transformer pad on its north side, and a pole with loud speakers toward the bastion's tip to northwest. Two, one-story brick garages flank opposite sides of a cobblestone open space that connects with the alley.

The Ravelin

The ravelin of Fort Jay faces north and is separated from the rest of the fort with a six-foot chain link fence and gate. The fence is covered in vines on the west end, volunteer growth in the middle, and grape vines to the west. Building 215, a low, flat roofed, brick structure, stands inside in the ravelin adjacent to the fence. Two vent pipes are located west of the building. Six gun mounts remain in the ravelin; three on the east side have been replaced – two by concrete slabs and one by turf. Three cannons remain, one on the main gun mount pointing north, and the ones on either side of it pointing northeast and northwest (Figure 8.18). Four apple trees are planted intermittently among the three gun mounts on the west side. A concrete terrace is located in the center of the ravelin, just north of Building 215. It has four paths leading to the north, south, east and west, with a tall flagpole at its center (Figure 8.19). Two uplights are ground-mounted and illuminate the flags above. Barbed wire brackets remain atop the scarp wall on the west side. Four vent pipes and a honey locust tree are located outside the chain link fence, on the terreplein behind Building 215.

THE OUTER FORTIFICATION ELEMENTS OF FORT JAY

The exterior of Fort Jay is comprised of a series of masonry walls and grass spaces. The outer wall system creates concentric rings of identically shaped defensive walls around the main fort. Viewing the fort from the outside, the tall fortification walls on which the cannon are mounted are called scarp walls. These walls are offset approximately forty feet by another ring of masonry walls, called counterscarp walls (Figure 8.20). Between the two features is a dry moat that sits approximately fifteen feet below the grade of the Parade Ground. Four sets of masonry stairs are built into the counterscarp walls, providing access between the dry moat and the intermediate level of the outer walls (Figure 8.21). Two sets of wooden stairs are also located in the outer wall system to provide additional access between the multi-leveled landscape. The outer walls of the dry moat, or counterscarp walls, are ringed by an additional almost continuous masonry wall, approximately four feet tall, on top of which lies the Parade Ground. Between

these two wall systems is an approximately eighteen-foot wide sloping grass plane. Both this area and the dry moat are maintained as mowed turf and are, with few exceptions, kept clear of woody growth.

It is on the upper level of the outer wall system where the covered way, or covert defile, is located. The covert defile once connected Fort Jay to Castle Williams, providing a sub-grade passage to protect soldiers from enemy fire. Egress to the covert defile at Fort Jay was located at the northwest corner of the counterscarp wall. Evidence of the historic feature is marked by a break in the outer wall and brick retaining walls that extended into the covert defile (Figure 8.22).

THE PARADE GROUND

The Parade Ground of Governors Island is partially included in the National Monument boundary. Beginning at the Fort Jay entry circle, the portion included in the study area is bounded by Andes road on the north and east, the Library property to the west, Comfort Road to the southwest, a straight line cutting across the open Parade Ground to Evans Road on the south, and north to the Fort Jay entry circle along Nolan Park's northwest brick walkway.

The Parade Ground's terrain slopes gently away from the fort but manipulation of its topography on a micro level has taken place. Golf course bunkers, elevated tee boxes, and flat greens remain scattered throughout the space (Figure 8.23).

A cluster of vegetation comprised mostly of evergreen trees surrounds the southeast corner of the National Monument's Parade Ground property, at the edge of Nolan Park's Building 20. A few scattered deciduous trees and a clump of woody volunteer growth, likely left over from the golf course, are located along the southern counterscarp wall of Fort Jay.

Only one formalized pedestrian path exists on the Parade Ground. The brick and flagstone path connects a set of stairs west of Fort Jay's sallyport to the brick walkway running along the east side of the Library parcel (Figure 8.24). Two round concrete pads, flush with the grade, are located in the grass south of Fort Jay's counterscarp walls, across from the southwest and southeast bastions.

THE LIBRARY (BUILDING 251)

The Library area of the National Monument site lies west of Fort Jay at a higher elevation than its neighboring Castle Williams. The Library is a single-story wood-frame building with a front entrance on the north side, a back entrance on the south, a side entrance on the west, and a bulkhead on the east. Because of the grade changes, all entrances have stairs.

The east side of the Library is bounded by a brick and flagstone path lined with mature London plane trees on the east, dividing the area from the Parade Ground (Figure 8.25). A set of stairs is located near the path's midpoint, made from flagstone treads and a concrete sidewall. This path connects Andes Road to the rear side of Colonels' Row, along Comfort Road. An ivy-covered post-and-rail fence runs along the west side of the stairs atop a concrete retaining wall. The fence turns ninety-degrees to the west as it nears the southeast corner of the building. Also near this corner of the building are the bulkhead door and a concrete pad. A Siberian Elm stands near the southwestern corner of the Library lot.

The front of the building faces north onto Andes Road (Figure 8.26). A flight of twelve concrete steps, with metal handrails on either side and along the middle, leads to the front door that is flanked by sheared yews and viburnum foundation plantings. To address the sloping front grade, a concrete retaining wall runs west from the front steps to the northwest corner of the property, rising in height as it travels away from the door. At the intersection of Tampa Road and Andes Road, the wall turns south on the west boundary of the Library.

On the west side of the Library, the high retaining wall meets a staircase connecting the west side of the Library to the adjacent parking lot. The retaining wall continues along the length of the Library parcel along Tampa Road. Another set of six concrete steps accommodate additional grade change at the southern end of the space.

A small open space sits south of the Library, measuring approximately 175 feet by 37 feet, and is bounded on the west by Tampa Road (Figure 8.27). A maple tree and an electrical vault are located in the southwest quadrant of the turf rectangle.

A rectangular parking lot, measuring seventy-five feet by ninety-two feet, is located west of the Library (Figure 8.28). Its three access points are on the west side along Hay Road. Three empty, raised concrete planters – two on the west side and one near the northwest corner – are located at the perimeter of the parking lot. Seven street lights – of the same style as seen throughout the National Monument site – are located in the parking lot.

An additional small green space with sparse vegetation, including a few young specimen trees and shrubs, is located south of the parking lot. The grass area is encircled by a brick sidewalk.

CASTLE WILLIAMS

The area to the west of Hay Road, the parking lot, and the Library is composed of a series of spaces that for our purposes will be grouped and called the Castle

Williams area. Castle Williams is the dominant feature of the area but three 1970s-era, three-story brick barracks, known as Buildings 513A, B, and C, are located in the south shadow of the historic fort (Figure 8.29). The three modern buildings are oriented at right angles to one another to create two small courtyard spaces that are sparsely planted with evergreen specimen trees. However, the Building 513 courtyard spaces are largely characterized by mowed turf up to the building foundations. Several concrete walkways connect the various doors of the barracks to each other and to adjacent circulation systems.

Castle Williams is abutted by mowed turf on its south and northeast sides (Figure 8.30). Carder Road, the island's perimeter thoroughfare, passes directly adjacent to the northwest and north sides of Castle Williams, leaving only a thin strip of grass, including a random patch of daylilies, between the street's curbing and the masonry walls (Figure 8.31). Cobra-style street lights are used along Carder Road, differing from the smaller-scale historic lights located elsewhere in the National Monument (Figure 8.32). The fort's main door faces east, looking down Andes Road (Figures 8.33 and 8.34). Movable interpretive signage stands at the asphalt-surfaced entryway.

Continuing east down Andes Road from Castle Williams, the privet hedge and line of street trees on the south side of Andes Road begins east of the Library. This segment of trees is comprised predominantly of oaks until the area near Siossons Dock, where the tree line switches to a mixture of horse chestnut and London plane trees before terminating at the Fort Jay entry circle. The Andes Road tree line is a largely continuous feature of mixed-age trees. The Andes Road hedge also lines the road in a fairly continuous fashion, with the exception of an approximately 120-foot gap in the segment near Soissons Dock.

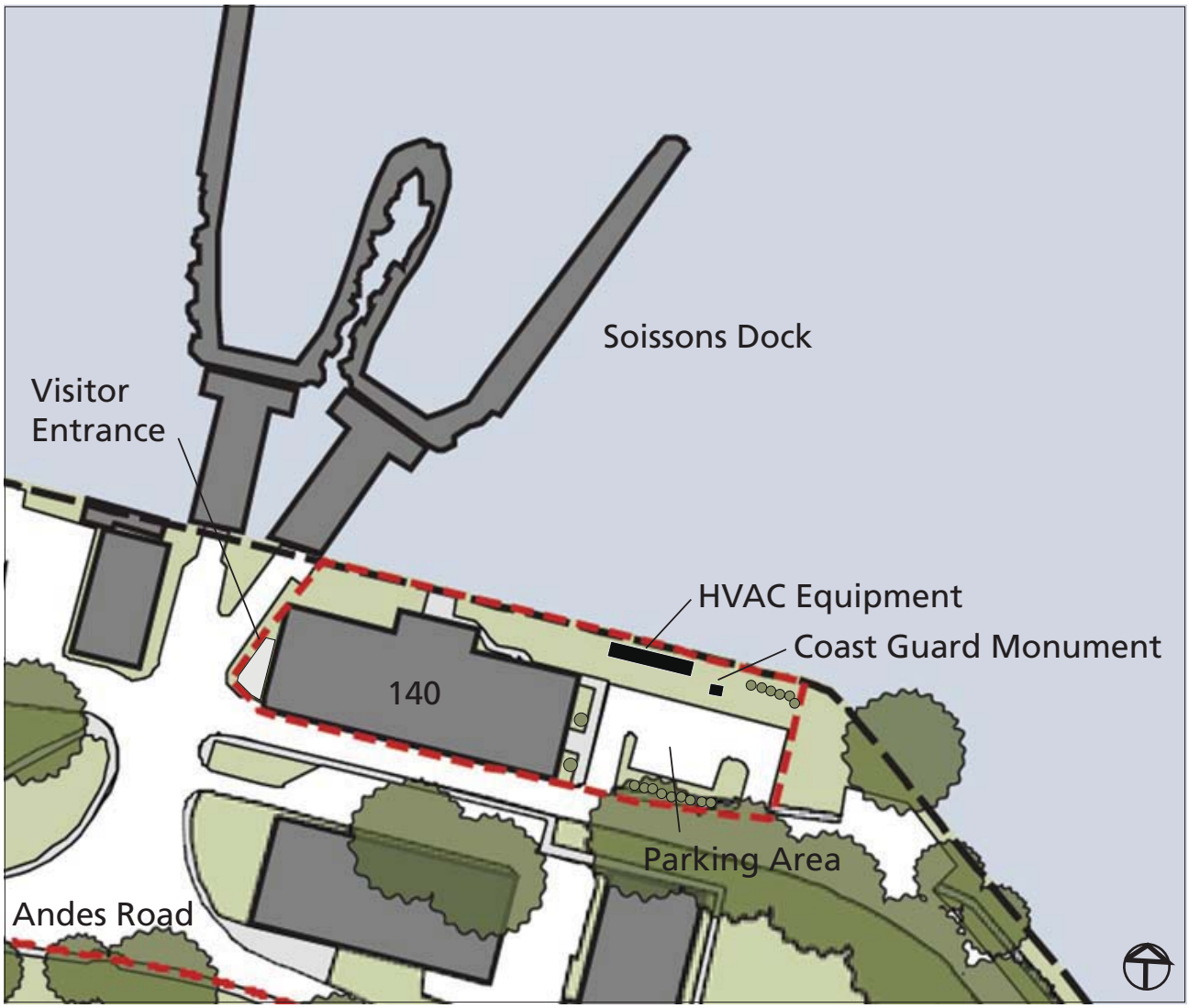


Figure 8.1. Building 140 and environs. The building falls within the boundary of the National Monument but the National Monument does not own the building. However, they do own a 1,000 square foot easement in the building. Visitors exit the ferry at Soissons Dock and receive orientation information at Building 140. The National Monument boundary is outlined in a dashed red line. Not to scale (OCLP, 2009).



Figure 8.2. Building 140 is located adjacent to the main dock, Soissons Dock. Space within the building serves as a visitor contact station (OCLP, 2008).

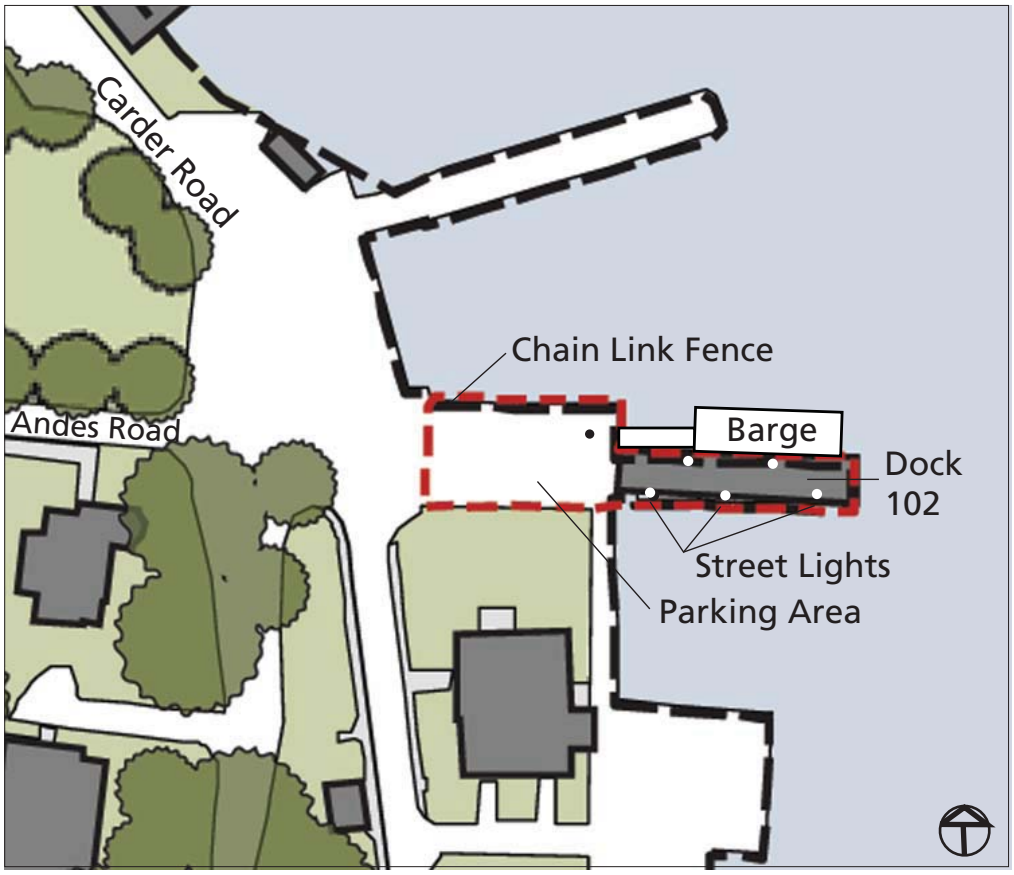


Figure 8.3. Dock 102 and environs. The dock is currently being modified to function as a secondary NPS dock. The National Monument boundary is outlined in a dashed red line. Not to scale (OCLP, 2009).

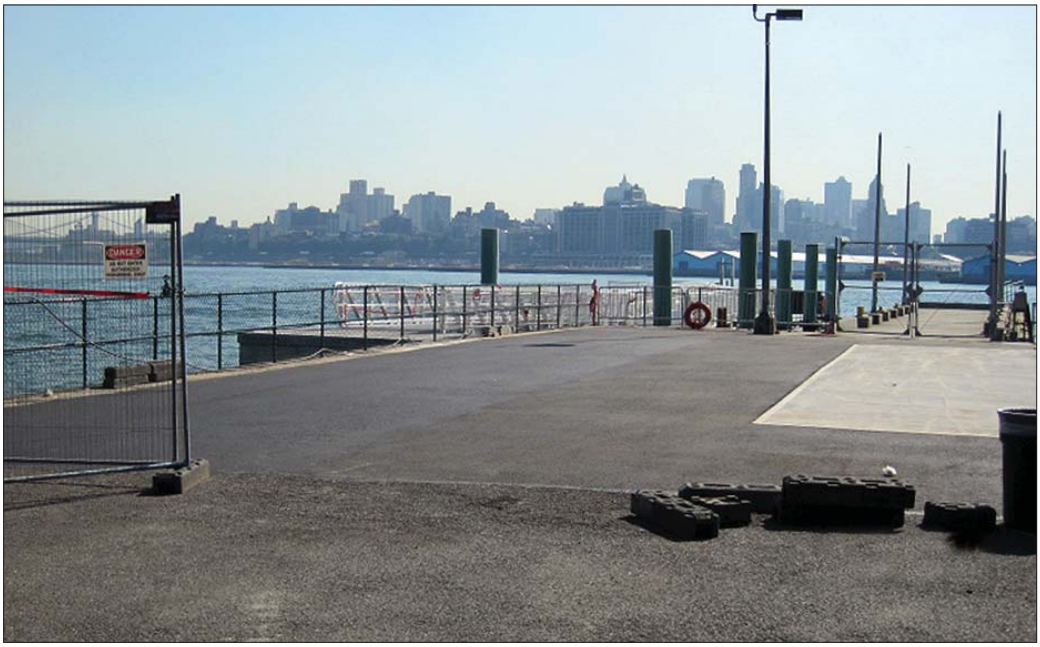


Figure 8.4. Dock 102, located east of Fort Jay, faces east toward Brooklyn. A barge, whose light, aluminum railing can be seen in the center of the image, is attached to the pier to serve as a ferry landing for the secondary National Monument dock (Governors Island National Monument image, 2010).

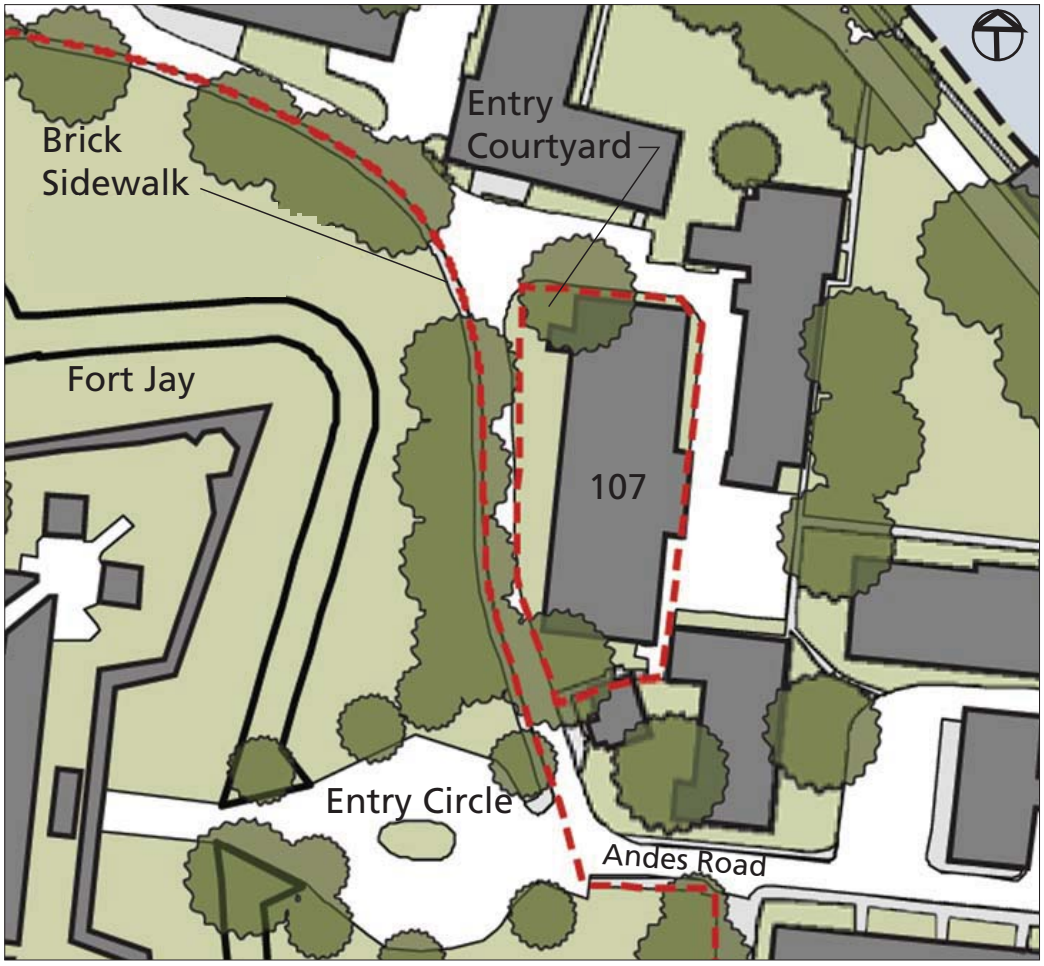


Figure 8.5. Building107, the National Monument's administration facility. The National Monument boundary is outlined in a dashed red line. Not to scale (OCLP, 2009).



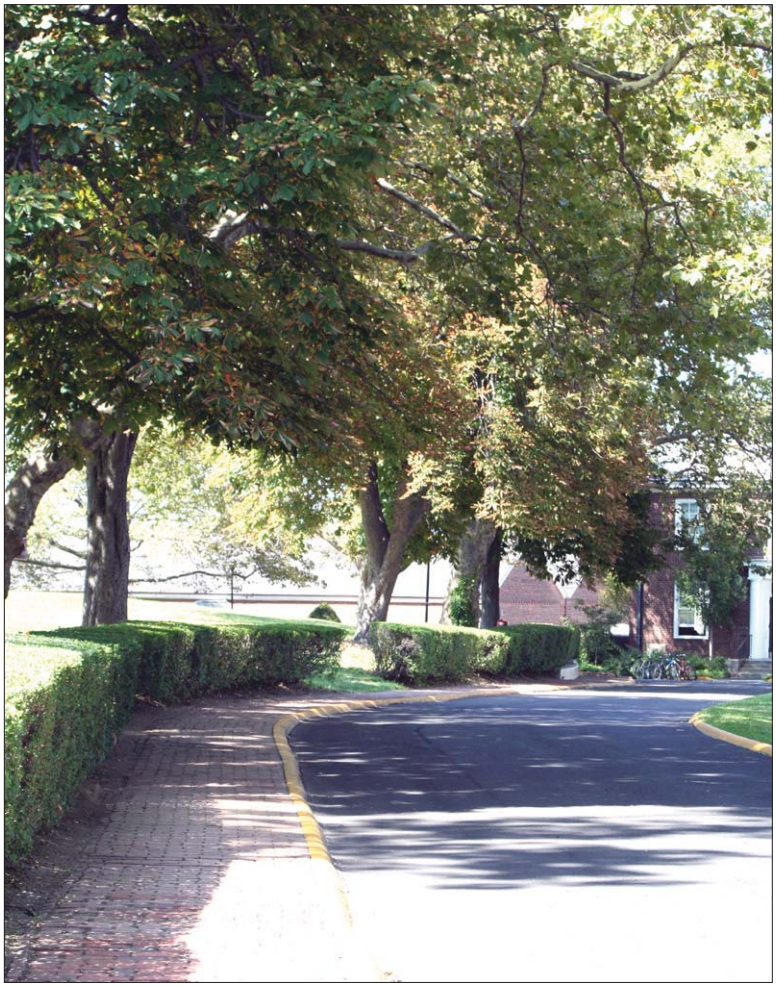


Figure 8.6. Above. Building 107 houses the National Monument's administrative functions. The Parade Ground is just out of the image frame to the right (OCLP, 2008).

Figure 8.7. Left. Andes Road tree and hedge line. Building 107 is out of image frame to the right and the Parade Ground can be seen to the left of the tree line (OCLP, 2008).

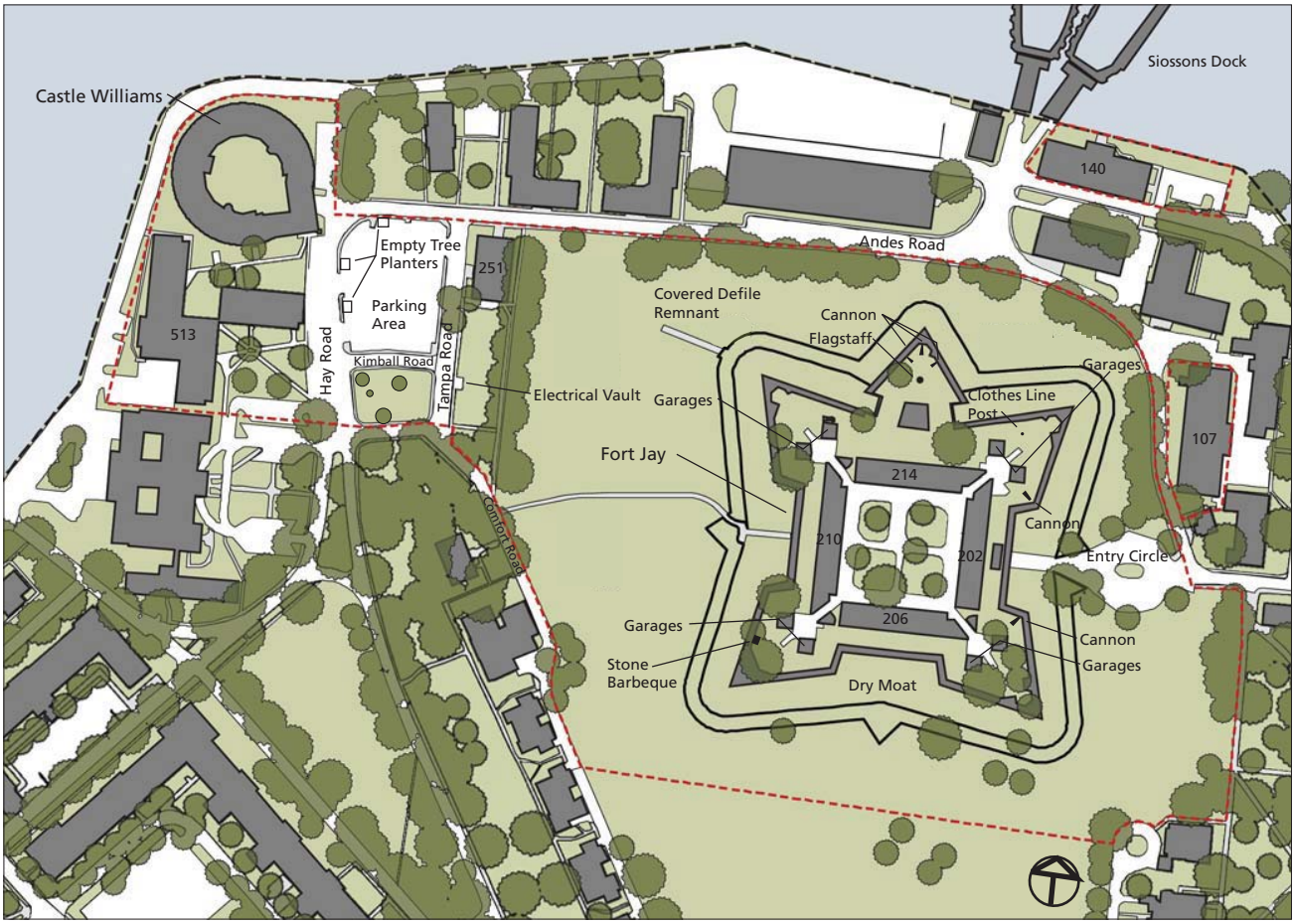


Figure 8.8. The Fort Jay and Castle Williams areas of the National Monument. The National Monument boundary is outlined in a dashed red line. Not to scale (OCLP, 2009).



Figure 8.9. View from Dock 102, up Andes Road, to Fort Jay's main gate. The topography obscures clear views between the features but Fort Jay can been seen through the trees in the background (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.10. Circular entry drive at Fort Jay's main gate. The outer walls retain the configuration of the historic barbican feature, while the inner circle was reduced in size to allow for vehicular parking in the space. The fort's main gate is out of the image frame to the left (OCLP, 2008).

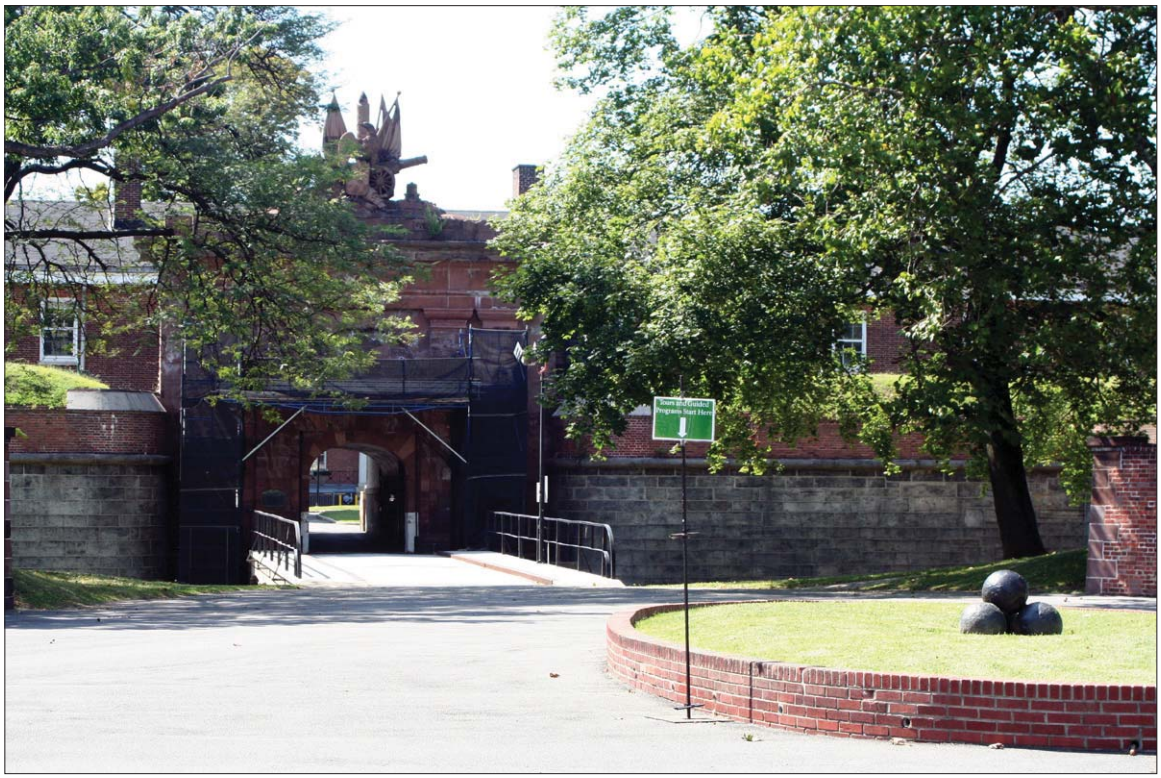


Figure 8.11. The Fort Jay main gate, bridge, and east sallyport (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.12. The Fort Jay courtyard, as seen from the porch of one of the barracks. Four nearly identical buildings frame the central quadrangle (OCLP, 2008).

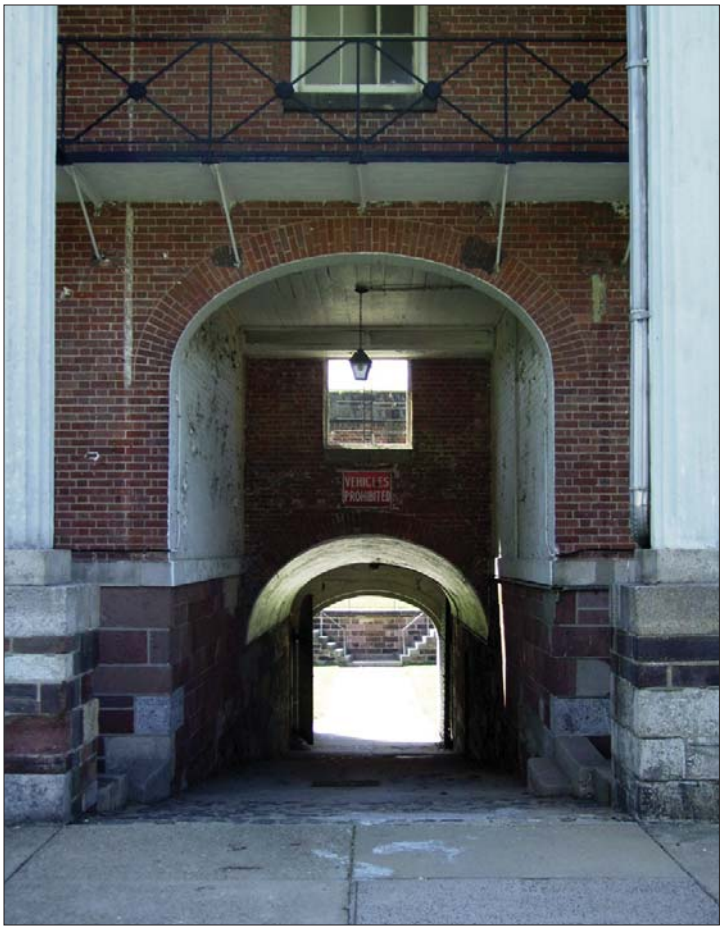


Figure 8.13. The Fort Jay west sallyport, leading to the dry moat. A set of double masonry stairs is visible through the tunnel, leading up onto the fort's outer walls and onto the Parade Ground (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.14. Stone-paved alleys lead to the terreplein behind the barracks at each corner of the Fort Jay inner courtyard (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.15. A clothes line support post remains behind the Fort Jay barracks as a reminder of the fort's domestic use (OCLP, 2008).

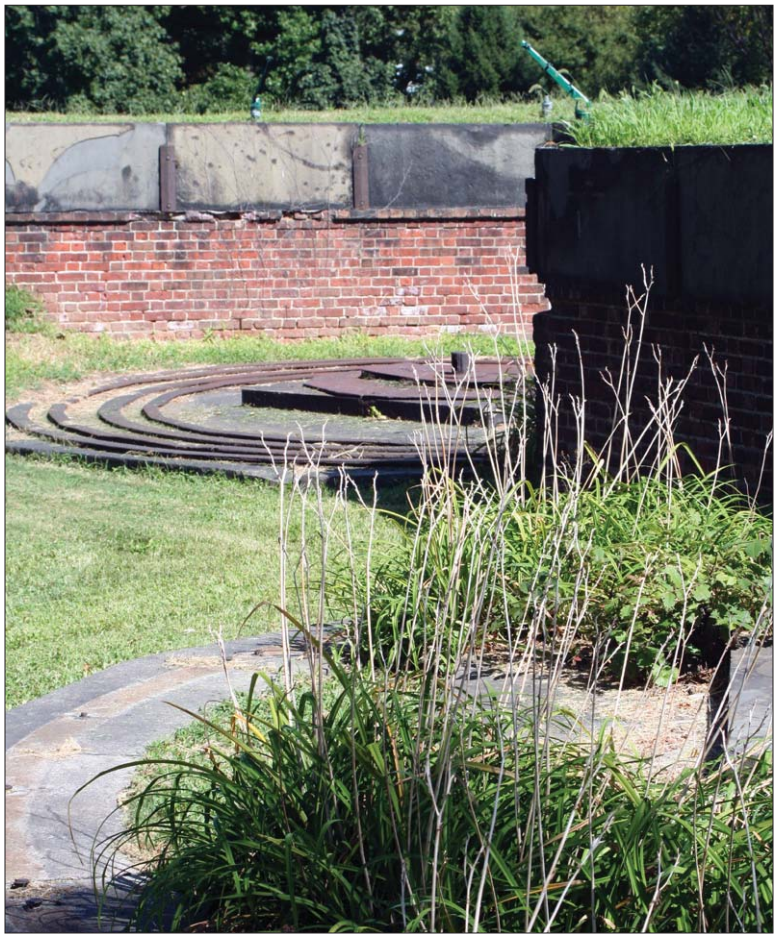


Figure 8.16. Domestic plantings, like these daylilies, surround some of the gun mounts on Fort Jay's terreplein (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.17. Stone barbeque built amidst the gun mounts on the terreplein of Fort Jay (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.18. Cannon facing north in the Fort Jay ravelin. The framework of a temporary art installation can be seen in the background (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.19. Left. The flagstaff is located in the Fort Jay ravelin. Transformer boxes are one of the few features standing on the terreplein level (OCLP, 2008).

Figure 8.20. Below. Fort Jay's dry moat rests between the scarp walls (left) and counterscarp walls (center and right). The moat is maintained as mowed turf (OCLP, 2008).





Figure 8.21. The west sallyport of Fort Jay, looking toward the stairs that lead to the covered defile and Parade Ground (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.22. Remains of the covered defile exist at the northwest corner of Fort Jay's outer walls. The feature once connected Fort Jay and Castle Williams but now meets existing grade a few yards northwest of Fort Jay (OCLP, 2008).





Figure 8.23. Bunkers and berms from the golf course remain on the Parade Ground (OCLP, 2008).

Figure 8.24. A flagstone path crosses the Parade Ground, connecting the west sallyport of Fort Jay to Comfort Road (OCLP, 2008).

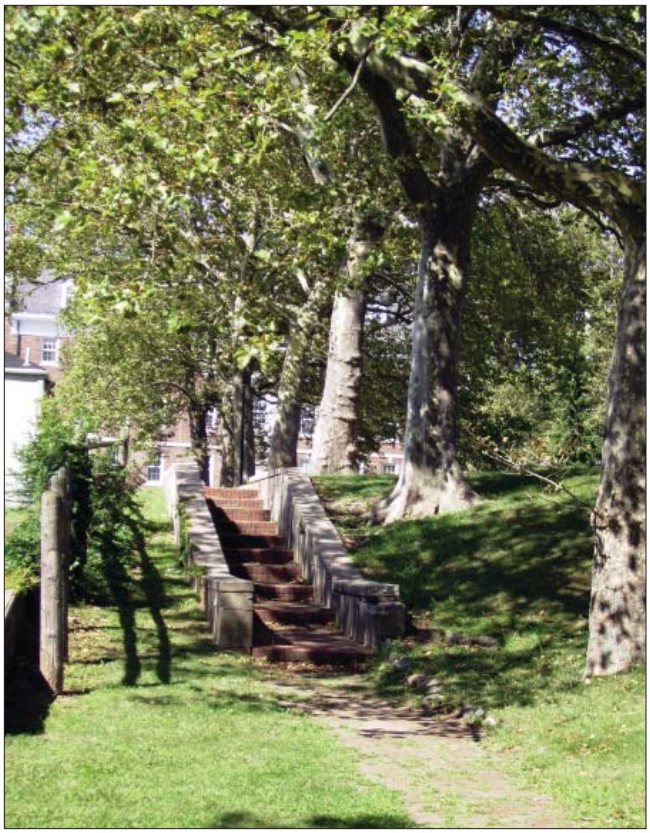


Figure 8.25. London plane trees line the east side of the path that runs east of the Library, connecting Comfort and Andes Roads (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.26. The main door of the Library faces north towards Andes Road (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.27: A grassy rectangle of lawn sits south of the Library, separated by a concrete retaining wall. The concrete block structure at image left is an electrical vault (OCLP photograph, 2008).



Figure 8.28: A parking lot is located between Castle Williams (out of frame at image right) and the Library (out of frame at image left). Street lights similar to ones located throughout the National Monument are located in the parking lot along with three empty concrete tree planters. Colonels' Row is pictured under the heavy tree canopy in the background (OCLP photograph, 2008).



Figure 8.29. Buildings 513 A, B, and C are located just south of Castle Williams (out of frame at image right) (OCLP, 2008).



Figure 8.30. Castle Williams and Building 513, looking north. The courtyards of 513 are mowed grass, as is the landscape surrounding Castle Williams (OCLP, 2008).





Figure 8.31. Above. Castle Williams and Carder Road, looking north towards Manhattan (OCLP, 2008).

Figure 8.32. Left. Cobra-style street lights are located along Carder Road and Castle Williams' north side (OCLP, 2008).

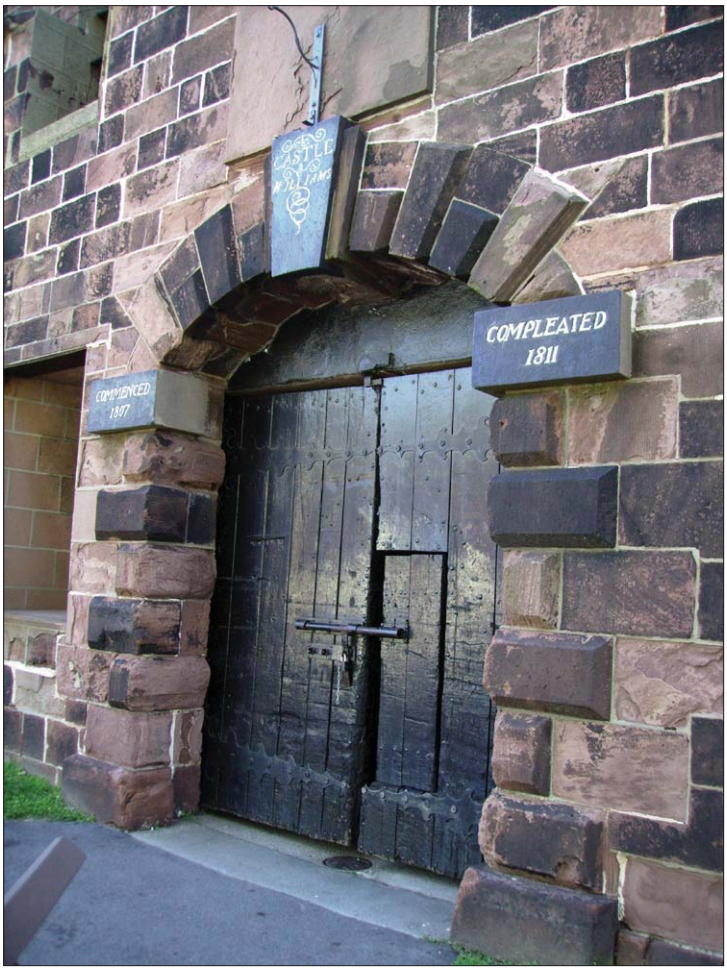


Figure 8.33. Left. Castle Williams' main door that faces east down Andes Road (OCLP, 2008).

Figure 8.34. Below. The east side of Castle Williams, looking north. The fort's main gate faces image right (OCLP, 2008).



ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

This chapter provides an analysis of the Governors Island National Monument landscape and an evaluation of its historic character based on the findings of the site history and existing conditions components of this report. The evaluation is based on the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places program and on the National Park Service's *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Content, Process, and Techniques*.

This chapter is organized into two sections. The first is a discussion of the site's historical significance, which examines important historic themes and contexts associated with the landscape of Governors Island placed in the framework of the National Register criteria. This section also contains an evaluation of historic integrity.

The second component of this chapter evaluates the characteristics and features of the Governors Island National Monument landscape to determine whether they contribute to the character of the cultural landscape. The determination of contributing status is reached by comparing historic conditions to existing conditions. Contributing features date to the period of significance and retain historic integrity, while those that do not contribute post-date the period of significance or are historic and have lost integrity to the point that their historic intent is no longer discernable.

REVIEW OF EXISTING NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTATION

Castle Williams was individually listed on the National Register on July 31, 1972 under Criterion A for its association with the military and under Criterion C for its architectural and engineering merits. The period of significance rests within the period 1800-1824, relating to the structure's initial construction during the Second System of harbor defense. Fort Jay was individually listed shortly after, on March 27, 1974, under Criterion A for its association with the military. The nomination cites 1750-1824 as the structure's period of significance, representing its initial construction during the First System of harbor defense and its subsequent redesign in the early 1800s during the Second System of harbor defense.

The landmass north of Division Road, 121 acres encompassing all of the pre-1911 acreage and a sliver of post-1911 land where Liggett Hall is located, was designated a National Historic Landmark District on February 4, 1985. The documentation cites the district's significance under Criterion A, associated with the military, and Criterion C for Greek Revival Architecture. The documentation

presents several periods of significance: 1794-Present (1985) for the association with military posts: 1794-1825 for New York Harbor fortifications: and 1933-1943 for the time when the island served as the headquarters for the First U.S. Army. Although the wider period of significance is 1794-1985, the supporting text in the documentation implies an end date of 1966, the end of Army occupation.[1]

National Register documentation for the National Monument has not been prepared. It is recommended that this be forthcoming to better document the National Monument's resources and to clarify the period of significance.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Governors Island National Monument is nationally significant for its role as an influential and continuously occupied Army post between 1794 and 1966 and for its association with the development of a comprehensive system of New York Harbor defenses between 1794 and 1811. This report recommends adopting one continuous period of significance incorporating both themes, 1794-1966.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION A:

Military: Army Habitation, 1794-1966

The Army stationed troops on Governors Island on a full-time basis during the First System period, circa 1794, and continued to do so until 1966. Initially, the island served as a defensive post. Soldiers were garrisoned on the island to man the fortifications of Fort Jay, Castle Williams, and South Battery (outside the study area), which were constructed between 1794 and 1811. These three forts worked in conjunction with the defensive works of Fort Richmond and Fort Tompkins on the Staten Island side of the Narrows, Fort Hendricks on the Long Island side of the Narrows, Fort Wood on Beldoe's Island (now Liberty Island), Fort Gibson on Ellis Island, and Castle Clinton at the tip of Manhattan to protect New York Harbor. Fort Jay was built during the First System as a modified star fort surrounded by acres of cleared, sloped land, or the glacis, to provide a 360 degree range of fire. The largely earthen fortification was modified during the Second System and accompanied by the construction of South Battery and Castle Williams, all-masonry forts designed to defend Buttermilk Channel and the mouth of the Hudson River.

As early as the 1830s, the Army built support structures on the formerly open glacis, indicating the decreased defensive necessity of some of the island's acreage. By this time, military engineering had progressed to render the value of fortifications located so close to New York City questionable; advanced naval armament moved the threat from invading vessels much farther down the harbor from Governors Island. New forts were being constructed as part of the Third

System of harbor defense, including Fort Schuyler on Throgs Neck Long Island, Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, and Fort Hancock in Sandy Hook New Jersey.

Governors Island remained an active Army base despite these changes in regional military strategy. The island was designated a recruitment center from 1852-1878 and briefly as the district command center of the Army's northern operations. The island's infrastructure increased through the mid-and late-1800 with the addition of structures relating to the independently administered New York Arsenal and support facilities for the Army garrison, including barracks inside Fort Jay, officers' housing, a hospital, and a church. Additionally, Castle Williams continued to serve as a military prison, notably during the Civil War when the numbers of prisoners swelled.

The Army restructured its command many times between the late-nineteenth century and the mid-twentieth century, yet, Governors Island remained a constant location for the upper echelon of the military establishment. From 1878 to 1966 the island served, sequentially, as the command center of the Military Division of the Atlantic, the Department of the East, the Atlantic Division, the Eastern Division, the Eastern Department, and the First U.S. Army.

The presence of such decorated commanders and their staff created the need for substantial facility development. Attractive districts of officers' housing, such as Colonels' Row and Nolan Park, developed in the late 1800s. Numerous Georgian revival buildings were constructed in the late 1920s and 1930s, including the enormous enlisted men's barracks, Liggett Hall, more officers' housing, nurses' quarters, and a new post hospital. Recreational opportunities for officers, their families, and enlisted men abounded, including a polo field, golf course, tennis courts, and swimming pools. Street trees and brick sidewalks linked the areas of the island to create an attractive, village-like setting by the end of the 1930s.

Governors Island also served as an important post during the World Wars of the twentieth century. During World War I, the Army utilized the island as a major supply and troop processing depot, building scores of temporary warehouses and support structures throughout the island. This differed from the island's use during World War II, when Governors Island served mainly as the headquarters for several major command functions, including the Eastern Theater of Operations, the Second Service Command, the Exclusion Hearing Board, the Reclassification Board, and the Women's Army Corps.

After World War II, the First Army headquarters returned to Governors Island and remained there until a 1966 restructuring that relocated the command to Fort Meade, Maryland.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION C:

Architecture and Engineering: New York Harbor Defense, 1794-1811

Governors Island National Monument contains nationally significant resources that represent late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century American harbor fortifications. Military planners recognized the island's strategic value, situated at the foot of Manhattan in the upper harbor, early in the European settlement period. As early as the American Revolution, Governors Island served as part of a system of rudimentary fortifications located throughout New York Harbor. Forts erected on Manhattan, Ellis, and Liberty Islands accompanied the earthen fortification on Governors Island in hopes of providing sweeping defensive coverage of the harbor. While the island's fortifications did not prove strong enough to repel the British, later improvements strengthened them and established Governors Island as a state-of-the-art military installation.

The newly established American government initiated a program of fortification building in 1794 to address the defense of key ports. Not surprisingly, New York City was identified as an important recipient of the federal construction program, called the First American System of harbor defense. On Governors Island - the first New York site to be fortified during the First System - the early defensive works built by the Colonials and the British during the Revolutionary War were demolished and a new fort was rebuilt in the same location. The fort was named Fort Jay in honor of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, John Jay.[2] Fort Jay was typical of First System forts in its design and construction, being designed by French military engineers and built largely out of earth due to inadequate funding for more permanent materials. French engineer Charles Vincent designed a four-bastioned structure with several support buildings inside, including a shot furnace and powder magazine. Depressed walkways radiated from the central fort to smaller batteries around the water's edge.

Congress established an additional fortification building program in the years leading up to the War of 1812, known as the Second System, to incorporate the latest advances in military engineering and to create a more comprehensive system of defenses along the eastern seaboard. One of the most influential engineers of the Second System was Major Jonathan Williams. Between 1807 and 1812 Williams designed and adapted numerous forts around New York harbor into a comprehensive system of defensive coverage. He incorporated older First System forts with newly constructed forts in the upper and lower harbor to account for advances in naval armament. Williams designed forts on Staten Island, Long Island, Bedloes Island, Ellis Island, Manhattan, and Governors Island.[3]

At Governors Island, Williams rebuilt Fort Jay in 1806 with masonry materials and added a north-facing ravelin. Earth removed from the older walls was likely incorporated into the sloped glacis surrounding the fort that was designed to deflect incoming artillery away from the structure. Additionally, Williams constructed a state-of-the-art circular, three-tiered, casemated fort on the northwest promontory of Governors Island, which came to bear his name. This all-masonry fort represented a major advancement in fortification design with the stacking of several levels of armament inside a protected space. The formidable structure presided over the upper harbor with clear lines of fire to the north, west, and southwest. Fort Jay and Castle Williams were physically linked by a covered defile, along a route that connected a break in the northwest corner of Fort Jay's outer walls and Castle Williams' main gate. It was during this period when documentation about the glacis, or sloped area surrounding Fort Jay and extending to Castle Williams, was recorded. Engineers described sodding the glacis, describing the open nature of the feature that provided a comprehensive and unobstructed field of fire.

By 1811, the redesign and construction of Fort Jay and Castle Williams were complete. Although later alteration to the structure and use of both forts occurred, notably the construction of barracks within Fort Jay and the modification of Castle Williams into a military prison, the existing significant elements of the forts established during the Second System remain to this day to serve as defining examples of American military engineering. Their current condition is notable for its high degree of historic integrity, as documented by the National Historic Landmark nomination, which states that "they are among the country's best preserved fortifications from an important and innovative period of American military construction."[4]

EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic identity. At Governors Island, this means the extent to which the landscape conveys conditions present between 1794 and 1966. The evaluation of integrity is based on an understanding of the physical resources and how they relate to the property's significance. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Not all aspects must be present for the site to have integrity, although several must exist to convey the significance of the property.

This section only evaluates the overall integrity of the landscape in the 22.78-acre National Monument boundary, not those of the National Historic Landmark District or larger island. However, this section does take into consideration certain historic characteristics and features that extend beyond the National

Monument boundary. For example, the National Monument boundary divides the Parade Ground into two arbitrary segments without consideration for the historic or existing limits of the feature. In order to assess integrity, the feature is examined in its entirety. Other landscape elements included in this integrity evaluation that extend beyond the National Monument boundary are views from the project area to other areas of the island and the setting created by the collection of features that spill over legal boundaries, like tree canopy coverage and the impact of adjacent buildings.

LOCATION

Location is defined as the place where the historic property was constructed, or the historic place occurred. Governors Island is the site of Fort Jay and Castle Williams and the location of a major Army administrative headquarters from 1794-1966. Its location in New York Harbor remains unchanged. Governors Island National Monument retains integrity of location.

DESIGN

Design refers to the qualities of the place, including form, space, structure, and style, that help define the cultural landscape. The overall design of the Governors Island National Monument landscape changed significantly over the period of significance. In the early years, the island was dominated by the structures of Fort Jay and Castle Williams with other landscape elements kept to a minimum as to not interfere with views and fields of fire. Fort Jay, a modified star fort surrounded by a dry moat was located in the center of the island at its highest point to provide an elevation advantage for its guns. Engineer Jonathan Williams located the round, casemated Castle Williams on a spit of land projecting into the harbor at the island's northwest tip to command control over the western approach to the upper harbor. The two were connected via a depressed walkway, known as a covered defile, between Fort Jay's northwest counterscarp wall and the east-facing main gate of Castle Williams.

As the nineteenth century progressed, the strategic importance of the forts diminished and other administrative functions gained importance, fostering a change in the design of the landscape. Army planners built barracks inside of Fort Jay, altering the interior space and reinforcing the rectilinear shape of the quadrangle. Structures were built along the perimeter of the once-open glacis and to the south and east of Fort Jay. This shift to creating permanent housing, supply, and administrative space continued into the twentieth century with the addition of turn-of-the-century Library building between the forts and barracks buildings south of Castle Williams as late as the 1970s.

Most of the design elements at Governors Island National Monument, including circulation patterns, architectural styles, and plantings, reflect changes made during the period of significance, so the site retains integrity of design.

SETTING

Setting is the physical environment of a property and the general character of the place. The setting of Governors Island and the National Monument within it has changed markedly over the long period of significance due to rapid development of the larger island and the New York City metro area. In 1794, views to Brooklyn and New Jersey revealed much more of the native environment than was visible by 1966. Likewise, there were few dominant features on the island besides Castle Williams and Fort Jay at the turn-of-the nineteenth century. The Army changed the landscape by adding buildings, roads, and street trees to the once open landscape beginning in the early 1800s, resulting in a heavily developed campus-like setting by the end of the period of significance.

Another significant alteration of the island's setting occurred in the early 1900s when the large amounts of fill were added to the shallow shoals south of the island, which more than doubled the original landmass. This led the way for an expanded building campaign that added post-World War II architecture and infrastructure to the south side of the island.

By the end of the period of significance, the landscape contained in the present day National Monument boundary contained several acres of the historic Parade Ground, Fort Jay and Castle Williams, and many features designed and built by the Army to serve the needs of a permanent military population. The area was visually tied to the character of the larger island through its mature street trees, historic architecture and defensive works, and the seamless connection of the Parade Ground golf course. Conditions today closely reflect those of 1966 and consequently, the property retains integrity of setting.

MATERIALS

Materials are the physical elements that give form to the property in a particular pattern or configuration. Many historic materials survive at the National Monument, including the stonework of Fort Jay and Castle Williams, brick sidewalks, and street trees that represent the earlier period of significance, as well as materials that date to later in the period of significance like the asphalt road surface of the Fort Jay inner courtyard and the brick planter in the center of the Fort Jay entry circle. The National Monument retains integrity of materials.

WORKMANSHIP

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the period of significance. Historic workmanship is evident at the

National Monument due to the excellent condition of the fortifications. Fort Jay's masonry scarp and counterscarp walls exist nearly as they did after their final modification during the Second System. Although the glacis, or Parade Ground, has been modified from its condition during the island's active defense period, the changes made relating to the development of the golf course date to the period of significance. Evidence of historic workmanship can also be seen in the Castle Williams architecture. Brick retaining walls, brick walkways, stone walkways, and concrete stairs throughout the National Monument have been altered little since the end of the period of significance. The National Monument's landscape retains integrity of workmanship.

FEELING

Feeling is the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time resulting from the presence of physical features that, when taken together, convey a property's historic character. The dominant features of Fort Jay and Castle Williams evoke the period in which they were constructed and convey the important technological and engineering advances of the Second System. To a lesser extent, the domestic history of the island is evident. Golf course remnants are still visible on the Parade Ground to show the transformation of a defensive feature into a recreational one, but some features, like the playground equipment inside the Fort Jay courtyard have been removed, to obscure the feeling that the space was once populated by military families. Overall, the integrity of feeling remains and evokes the character of a former military base due to the institutional appearance of the buildings and the scale of the site's dominant features, Fort Jay, the Parade Ground, and Castle Williams.

ASSOCIATION

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Governors Island National Monument's historic association with the Army no longer remains, but the extant physical features continue to reflect that relationship. The National Monument remains associated with the Second System of harbor defense and the Army administrative headquarters period through the remaining architecture, cannons at Fort Jay and Castle Williams, golf course remnants, circulation systems, and topographic landforms. Although the National Monument is now associated with public and recreational uses, the visible reminders of its historic association with the military is intact to convey integrity of association.

SUMMARY EVALUATION OF INTEGRITY

Governors Island retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling to strongly reflect the historic military and engineering themes during the period of significance.

EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

The following section evaluates the historic character of the Governors Island National Monument landscape by analyzing large-scale patterns in the landscape, known as landscape characteristics, and associated individual site features. Historic conditions have been compared to existing conditions to evaluate whether features are contributing or non-contributing to the character of the cultural landscape. This evaluation section has been structured using eight landscape characteristics: spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, small scale features, views and vistas, and archeological features.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

In the early nineteenth century, few features besides the defensive fortifications of Fort Jay and Castle Williams existed on Governors Island in order to provide clear sight lines and fields of fire. These key features dominated the landscape and dictated the spatial patterning of the larger island. Later, as the purpose of the island shifted to encompass more administrative activities, residential buildings, an armory, and a church encroached on the formerly open expanse surrounding Fort Jay. Other alterations included the addition of service-oriented buildings around the landscape of Castle Williams. Subsequent improvements included clusters of similarly-styled residences in park-like settings, the construction of large, institutional buildings, and the addition of approximately 100 acres on the south side of the original land mass.

These nineteenth and twentieth-century changes radically altered the spatial organization created during the Second System. The visual connection between Fort Jay and Castle Williams was lost and the primacy of the forts and their associated landforms was reduced.

Today, Governors Island National Monument is created by an artificial boundary drawn to include Fort Jay and Castle Williams. Within the National Monument, Fort Jay, the Parade Ground, and Castle Williams are dominant features. Structures within the National Historic Landmark District surround the National Monument, framing the open space of the Parade Ground. The post-historic Coast Guard-era buildings of 513 A-C have altered the landscape on the south side of Castle Williams but overwhelmingly, the spatial organization of the National Monument landscape reflects conditions at the end of the period of significance.

Fort Jay Courtyard

Historic Condition: The Fort Jay courtyard was created by the construction of the barracks buildings in the 1830s. The four rectangular buildings mirrored the four-bastioned shape of the fort's scarp walls and reinforced the strict geometry of the space. Evidence of improvements to the interior of the fort can be seen by the 1860s. Photographs from the Civil War show a perimeter road and two cross streets bisecting the courtyard into four equal sized quadrants. This four square pattern persisted through the end of the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to the Fort Jay courtyard after the period of significance. The space currently reflects historic conditions in its geometric organization. The barracks create a square frame for the courtyard which is divided into four almost equally sized quadrants. A slight modification to the width of the cross road in the northwest quadrant made late in the period of significance resulted in a slightly smaller green space in that corner of the courtyard. Shade trees of varied species and ages are dispersed throughout the courtyard, softening the strict rectilinear quality of the space.

Evaluation: Contributing

Fort Jay Moat

Historic Condition: The Fort Jay moat dates to the modification of the fort during the Second System, circa 1811. The spatial qualities of the moat are distinctive, owing to the high scarp walls of the main fort and the stepped counterscarp walls on the exterior. The Army maintained the area as cut grass, keeping it free from visual obstructions. The moat extended all the way around the fort but sight lines were kept to a minimum because of the many acute angles of the scarp walls. During the 1920s, portions of the moat were used as part of the Governors Island golf course, but it is unknown how long this practice continued or what impact it had on the resource. Additionally, the Army took advantage of the enclosed space for target practice.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to the Fort Jay moat after the period of significance. The moat is approximately forty feet wide, flat, and covered in turf grass. The absence of site features inside the moat and the tall side walls give it a stark and unique visual appearance that emphasizes both vertical and horizontal planes.

Evaluation: Contributing

Parade Ground

Historic Condition: The Parade Ground evolved from a key defensive feature of the early fortification period, the glacis. Even the earliest renditions of Fort Jay incorporated a wide open expanse of land surrounding the fortification walls,

sloped at an angle to deflect incoming artillery. After Fort Jay and Castle Williams were redesigned during the Second System, the glacis was formally designed, graded, and covered in turf grasses. It stretched from all sides of Fort Jay, providing direct views to Castle Williams and the harbor. By the mid-1800s, the strategic importance of the Governors Island fortification had been eclipsed by newer forts in the outer harbor and the Army began building structures on the perimeter of the glacis. It is likely during this time that the name changed from glacis to Parade Ground to reflect new uses of the space; it served as a prime location for military drilling and parading. New buildings continued to infringe on the space into the twentieth century but a core area of open space immediately adjacent to Fort Jay and extending southeast of the fort remained. This may be due to the fact that the Army used the acreage for recreational activities including a polo field and a golf course.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: A few documented changes occurred to the Parade Ground after the period of significance. The Coast Guard manipulated the topography and planted several clusters of trees to enhance the golf course. Today, the National Monument contains the portion of the Parade Ground surrounding Fort Jay and extending towards Castle Williams. The balance of the open space is owned and managed by the other on-site property manager, the Trust for Governors Island. The Parade Ground is still a distinctive spatial area of the National Monument due to the contrast between its open expanse and the density of development on its perimeter. The NPS maintains the surface as regularly mowed turf grass.

Evaluation: Contributing

LAND USE

Historic Condition: In 1637, the Native Americans of the Manhattan area sold Governors Island that they used primarily as a seasonal fishing camp to the Dutch governor for his private use. The land was only in private ownership for a short period before becoming property of the state. Dutch and, later, British governors and their families used the island as an informal country retreat.

The Dutch and the British did not capitalize on the island's strategic value until the mid-1700s when the British were in the midst of a decade-long struggle with the French. The British military used the island as an encampment in 1755. However, it was not until 1776 that the island served as a fortified site. American soldiers erected rudimentary defensive works at the onset of the Revolutionary War, beginning the island's almost uninterrupted history as an American military base.

By the late 1800s, use of the island shifted from an active defensive fortification to an administrative center. When the Army administration split into three divisions

in 1878, the island became the headquarters for the Atlantic Division's east unit. Many physical changes accompanied the land shift, including the construction of new buildings, recreational facilities, and the addition of approximately 100 acres of new land on the south side of the island. Military administrative activities continued through the period of significance and until 1996 when the Coast Guard vacated the island.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Today, Governors Island National Monument is a unit of the National Park Service and is open to the public on a limited basis. The island's historic uses no longer continue but the physical features remain to illustrate previous land uses.

Evaluation: Contributing

CIRCULATION

Circulation patterns on Governors Island evolved over the period of significance, changing with shifts in land use. In the early 1800s, few roads or pedestrian paths were formalized due to the limited resources on site. Early circulation routes were limited to connecting the forts to each other and the main wharf. Later as structures began to line the northeastern shore and encroached on the Parade Ground, the number of circulation routes increased to connect the new structures. By the end of the period of significance, the military's long standing use of the island as an administrative center necessitated the creation of an extensive hierarchy of vehicular and pedestrian routes to connect the island's resources.

Today, Governors Island National Monument contains vehicular roads and pedestrian paths with varied surfaces. Some, like Andes Road and Comfort Road travel through the National Monument boundary, while connecting areas in the larger island landscape. Others are self-contained sidewalks located within the National Monument boundary.

Hay Road

Historic Condition: Hay Road likely dates to approximately 1812 when South Battery and Castle Williams were constructed. A faint, informal path can be seen on an 1813 map of the island, running along the south shoreline of the island connecting the two batteries. Structures were added to the south shore of the island in the late 1800s and early 1900s, notably the residences of Colonels' Row, which were serviced by the formalized Hay Road. The approximate path of the road also marked the extents of the original land mass after the expansion of 1911. The configuration of the southwest side of Hay Road was altered after World War I and was pulled further south west from the front doors of the Colonels' Row residences to create a larger front lawn area for the residences.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to Hay Road after the period of significance. Structures were added and removed from the landscape near Castle Williams in the twentieth century but the configuration of Hay Road remained in its historic location. Today, Hay Road, as it nears Buildings 513 A, B, and C and Castle Williams, is included in the National Monument Boundary. It is surfaced in asphalt with an adjacent concrete sidewalk that. In the National Monument boundary, the road widens from its typical two-lane width to accommodate parking near Buildings 513 A, B, and C.

Evaluation: Contributing

Kimball Road

Historic Condition: Kimball Road was built circa 1940 to provide vehicular access between the the old hospital, located southeast of Castle Williams on Hay Road, and Liggett Hall, enclosing the triangular green at Colonels' Row.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to Kimball Road after the period of significance despite the fact that both the old hospital and the building to the south were removed circa 1970. The old hospital was replaced by Parking Area 504 and the lot to its south was converted to a lawn area. Kimball Road is currently a short, infrequently used, two-lane vehicular road.

Evaluation: Contributing

Tampa Road

Historic Condition: Tampa Road was constructed between 1928 and1937 along the north side of the library. It took the place of a pedestrian path that ran between the library and the old hospital, connecting Andes Road to Comfort Road.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to Tampa Road after the period of significance despite the fact that both the old hospital and the building to the south were removed circa 1970. It is a short road segment, two-lanes in width.

Evaluation: Contributing

Walkway between Fort Jay and Comfort Road

Historic Condition: Pedestrian access from the west sallyport of Fort Jay was created during the modification of the fort during the Second System. A set of masonry stairs was built into the counterscarp wall on the west side of the fort and led across the glacis to Castle Williams, south of the covered defile. This path remained in use throughout the period of significance with several modifications.

By the turn-of-the-century, structures had been added to the space between Fort Jay and Castle Williams, blocking direct access, and the new residences of Colonels' Row stood west of Fort Jay, along the west shore of the island. The walkway from the west sallyport was modified along its west side and split into three different paths leading to Colonels' Row and two points along Comfort Road. During World War I, the Army built temporary buildings on the Parade Ground west of Fort Jay and the path was modified again into to hug the south sides of these new buildings. Upon their removal in the 1920s, the path took on the configuration we see today.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to the path between Fort Jay and Comfort Road after the period of significance. It currently is a narrow, flagstone pedestrian path that departs Fort Jay at the west sallyport, travels up a double set of stairs that traverse the grade change from the dry moat to the Parade Ground, travels through a short segment with brick retaining walls, crosses the Parade Ground west of the fort, goes down a short flight of masonry stairs and meets Comfort Road at the northern extent of Colonels' Row.

Evaluation: Contributing

Walkway and staircase southwest of the Library

Historic Condition: The walkway and staircase southwest of the Library was built between 1928 and 1937 with the construction of Tampa Road. Prior to these improvements, the north side of the Library was a grassy slope leading down to the level of the first floor of the old hospital. When the Army replaced the pedestrian path between the buildings with Tampa Road, they cut the earth north of the Library and built a retaining wall. The stairs became necessary to traverse the grade change between the Library and Tampa Road below.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to the walkway and staircase southwest of the Library after the period of significance. It is currently a concrete sidewalk that departs from the north door of the Library, traveling down two flights of stairs to meet the sidewalk along the south side of Tampa Road.

Evaluation: Contributing

Fort Jay courtyard roads

Historic Condition: The Fort Jay courtyard was created in the 1830s when the Army built the Fort Jay barracks buildings. The four, nearly identical rectangular buildings created a central quadrangle space. It is not known if formal roads and paths were established immediately after the construction of the buildings, but as seen in photographic documentation, a perimeter road and two cross paths

encircled and divided the courtyard into four quadrants by the Civil War. Four short road segments led from the corners of the courtyard, between the buildings, to the terreplein level behind the barracks. The courtyard roads began as packed earth but were later paved with asphalt and curbing was added. The edge treatment between the road and the interior grass spaces varied during the period of significance from a low, white painted, rail fence, to equally spaced cannon balls set into the ground, to simple curbing and grass. The basic road configuration persisted through the period of significance with one slight modification.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The cross path that separated the northern quadrants of the courtyard was widened circa 1976, reducing the size of the northwest quadrant lawn. As was the case historically, the courtyard is ringed with a perimeter asphalt road and two short road segments bisect the center space to create four quadrants. The grass quadrants are equal in size with the exception of the one in the northwest that is slightly smaller due to a wider road segment.

Evaluation: Contributing

Fort Jay entry circle

Historic Condition: After Fort Jay was redesigned under the Second System, the main gate was built facing east, facing the wharf. To prevent a clear line of fire between the wharf and the main gate, the Army built a sloped mound of earth in front of the main gate called a barbican. A path circled around the barbican to provide access to the fort. This defensive feature remained in place until circa 1955 when the barbican was replaced with a smaller, low, circular planter and the outer paths were widened to allow for vehicular parking.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to the Fort Jay entry circle after the period of significance. The space is roughly circular in shape with brick retaining wall sides that become taller as they approach Fort Jay. A low, brick, circular planter sits in the center of the space. It is surfaced in mowed grass and has four stacked cannon balls in the middle. Vehicular parking is no longer allowed in the space. Movable signage indicates that guided tours of Fort Jay begin in the entry circle.

Evaluation: Contributing

Covered defile

Historic Condition: The covered defile connecting Fort Jay to Castle Williams was a key defensive feature designed during the Second System. It was a depressed walkway with mounded sides that provided cover for people passing between Castle Williams' main gate and the northern corner of Fort Jay's counterscarp

wall. The path traveled in a straight line across the glacis between the forts. The covered defile remained in use as a pedestrian route until approximately 1900 when the Army built a structure southeast of the Fort Williams gate, over top of the feature. The placement of this building eliminated the once essential direct visual and physical connection between the forts. Additional buildings were added to the landscape between the forts during World War I and the covered defile was disturbed again. Modification of the feature continued after the war-time buildings were removed, when the Army manipulated the surface of the Parade Ground to create a golf course.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard continued to modify the golf course in the years after 1966, which left very little visual evidence of the covered defile. Currently, remnants of the feature can be seen at Fort Jay. A break in the northwest corner of the counterscarp wall and a corresponding depression of earth extending into the Parade Ground are all that remain of the historic feature above ground. The brick counterscarp walls curve into the path remnant as retaining walls for a few yards before disappearing into the lawn of the Parade Ground.

Evaluation: Contributing

Walkways in Complex 513

Historic Condition: Not present.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard constructed three connected three-story brick barracks south of Castle Williams in the 1970s where World War II temporary buildings previously stood. Concrete sidewalks ran through the complex, connecting the doors of the buildings to each other, Hay Road, Carder Road, and to Castle Williams. The sidewalks exist in good condition today.

Evaluation: Non-contributing

VEGETATION

Historically, Governors Island was a forested landscape with a natural sand and rock beach. European reports from the mid-1600s describe the island's large population of nut trees, illustrating the likelihood that the Manhattan Native Americans did not significantly exploit the forests for timber. This changed under Dutch control, as records show the establishment of a mill on the island. The deforestation continued at a rapid rate under English and Colonial control during the American Revolution. Governors Island was used as a key defensive site in the battle of Long Island and many trees were cleared for fire wood and to provide clear lines of sight from the fortifications. This defensive role continued into the mid-1800s when shifts in military technology made the fortifications of

Governors Island less essential to the defense of New York and the Army began using the space for administrative functions. New supply, residential, and office structures accompanied this shift and trees were planted around the island to provide shade and enhance the visual appearance of the new resources.

Today, several distinct vegetative features exist on the island. One is the turf grass of the Parade Ground, one of the National Monument's key spatial features. Approximately twenty-acres surrounding Fort Jay are largely cleared of trees and covered in mowed turf. Many street trees exist throughout the island, some inside the National Monument boundary, most notably along Andes Road and the east side of the Library. These include mixed age specimens of London Plane trees, oaks, and horse chestnuts. Additionally, the Fort Jay courtyard, terreplein level, and main gate entry circle host a scattering of mixed-species shade trees.

Fort Jay courtyard perimeter trees

Historic Condition: The Fort Jay courtyard was defined by the construction of the barracks buildings in the 1830s. It is probable that trees were planted inside the courtyard shortly after, due to photographic evidence that depicts mid-sized trees by the 1860s. In 1864, deciduous trees lined the perimeter of the interior quadrants. The same pattern is shown at the end of the nineteenth century, although most of the trees are small replacements of the originals, resulting in a mixed-age, and mixed deciduous-species grouping. In the twentieth century, the geometric planting of trees became less rigidly formal due to the failure to replace dead specimens. The remaining trees matured into large shade trees.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: After the period of significance, several new trees were planted in the courtyard. In a departure from historic practice, at least one conifer and a few deciduous specimens were planted in the interior of the quadrants. The park recently added three Japanese-American chestnut hybrids to the perimeter of the quadrants and removed the deteriorated mature conifer. Today, a handful of mature deciduous trees remain in the courtyard along with the newly planted trees to create a sparse mixed-age planting of trees.

Evaluation: Non-Contributing. While some pre-1966 specimens exist in the grouping, the integrity of the Fort Jay courtyard perimeter trees is diminished to the point that they no longer reflect the long-standing tradition of having shade trees along the perimeter of Fort Jay's quadrants.

Trees on Fort Jay terreplein

Historic Condition: Up until the end of the period of significance, the Army maintained the terreplein level of Fort Jay as mowed grass with no woody vegetation present. By the early 1960s, the maintenance practices had been relaxed and a few small trees began to grow along the terreplein level. By the end

of the period of significance several of the trees had matured into mid-sized specimens.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: More vegetation was allowed to grow on the terreplein after 1966. Several trees, including a line of apple trees in the north ravelin, a honey locust in the southeast bastion, and a few volunteer sumac trees and Norway maples, matured and still exist today.

Evaluation: Contributing. Although the existing trees on the terreplein of Fort Jay is not characteristic of conditions present during the majority of the period of significance, many of the specimens pre-date 1966 and should be considered contributing. However, the existence and management of said vegetation should be open to discussion after a determination of a treatment date is made.

Domestic plantings on Fort Jay terreplein

Historic Condition: Unknown.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Some residents of the Fort Jay barracks planted small ornamental gardens on the terreplein level near their units. It is not known whether the small, informal domestic gardens pre-dated or post-dated the transfer of the island from the Army to the Coast Guard. Currently a few iris and day lilies remain in the gun mounts on the southeast bastion.

Evaluation: Undetermined.

Shade trees at Fort Jay entry circle

Historic Condition: Photographic evidence shows that earlier in the period of significance, no shade trees surrounded the Fort Jay barbican at its main gate. The presence of trees around the perimeter of the space appear in photographs from the 1930s. The trees remained after the redesign of the feature in the 1950s that modified the interior of the barbican to accommodate vehicular parking.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Approximately eight shade trees, mostly London plane trees and some maples, ring the perimeter of the Fort Jay entry circle. Several at the east side of the circle have been removed in recent years, leaving the balance of trees clustered nearer to Fort Jay and flanking the bridge and dry moat.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Shrubs, annuals, and perennials at Fort Jay entry circle

Historic Condition: There is no evidence that ornamental plantings stood at the Fort Jay entry circle during the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Several hydrangeas, rose bushes, and annual and perennial flower beds are located around the entry circle, notably at the east side, or opening to Andes Road. These elements are post-1966 introductions.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Parade Ground turf

Historic Condition: Documentary evidence shows that the glacis, later known as the Parade Ground, was seeded with turf grass as early as 1808. The Army managed the open expanse to provide clear views in all directions. They controlled the growth of woody vegetation and regularly mowed the turf to make use of the space for drilling and dress parades. The size and configuration of the Parade Ground changed in the mid and late-nineteenth century when the island's land use shifted from defensive to administrative, but the remaining Parade Ground continued to be surfaced in cut lawn. Beginning in the 1920s, the Army built and maintained a golf course on the Parade Ground and made changes to the feature to accommodate tee boxes, putting greens, and bunkers.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard continued to use the Parade Ground as a golf course after 1966 and made slight modifications, but the majority of the space remained as cut grass. The Parade Ground turf is a character-defining feature that helps accentuate the open appearance of the formerly defensive landscape. Areas of the turf have been manipulated to serve as bunkers and sand traps. A population of Canada geese often gathers on the turf east of the Library.

Evaluation: Contributing.

London Plane tree line east of Library

Historic Condition: The Library and its east walkway date to approximately 1900 but the line of London Plane trees between the Parade Ground and the walkway was not planted until circa 1940. Prior to this, the area east of the Library was in flux, when it was used for temporary World War I buildings and golf course holes. In the build-up to World War II, an additional structure was built south of the Library and the tree line was planted to separate the buildings from the golf course.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: No documented changes occurred to the tree line after 1966. Currently, nine mature London Plane trees with interlocking canopies remain in the tree line. One of the trees near Comfort Road is no longer extant.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Buildings 513 A, B, and C vegetation

Historic Condition: Buildings 513 A, B, and C post-date the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard constructed Buildings 513 A, B, and C south of Castle Williams in the 1970s to serve as family housing. Several trees were added to the courtyard between the buildings after construction. Today, the courtyard facing Hay Road hosts several large evergreen trees.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Andes Road street trees

Historic Condition: Photographic evidence shows that the Andes Road street trees date to approximately 1910. It is possible that they were added during a larger streetscape improvement effort in which sidewalks, curbing, and paving were added to Andes Road. In a tree survey from the early 1960s, the feature was shown to contain clusters of maples, horse chestnuts, and London Plane trees. Significant gaps in the tree line had opened by the end of the period of significance and individual specimens were replaced, notably toward the west end of Andes Road.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Andes Road tree line remained in place after the period of significance. Individual trees have been replaced since the historic period. Today, the tree line consists of mostly oaks west of Soissons Dock and a mixture of London Plane trees and horse chestnuts east of Soissons Dock. Some of the London Plane and horse chestnuts at the east end of Andes Road are mature and may well be the original specimens planted in the 1920s, while others are more recent replacements. Salt-spray from a tall, waterfall-style art installation damaged four trees in the tree line near Soissons Dock in 2008. These trees are slated for replacement. Overall, the tree line is fairly continuous and conveys its historic character.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Andes Road hedge

Historic Condition: The privet hedge along Andes Road dates to approximately 1930. Early photographs show the Andes Road street trees in place several years prior to the existence of a hedge. The hedge stood between the sidewalk and the tree line. It was shown sheered to a height of approximately three-and-a-half feet during the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Andes Road privet hedge remained standing after the historic period. Today it is a fairly continuous feature running along the south side of Andes Road between the Library and Fort Jay's entry

circle. The hedge is interrupted across from Soissons Dock where an approximately 200 foot long gap exists. It is unknown when this portion of the hedge was removed. Another gap exists across from Building 107. This one, approximately ten feet wide, may have been opened purposefully to allow service vehicles to access the lawn area. The hedge is maintained at approximately three-and-a-half feet high.

Evaluation: Contributing.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The British fortification of Governors Island during the French and Indian War in the mid-1700s represented the first substantial building campaign on the island. The cursory efforts to fortify the island with earthen defensive works were repeated during the American Revolution when Colonial troops erected a series of earthen batteries to deter a British attack on New York City. Their efforts were futile and the city and Governors Island were occupied by the British for the remainder of the conflict. After the war, the new American government built a defensive work in the center of the island under the auspices of the First System of harbor defense. This impermanent structure deteriorated rapidly but was replaced by two new masonry forts in the early 1800s under the Second System of harbor defense. Fort Jay and Castle Williams were state-of-the-art fortifications that presided over the upper New York Harbor.

Advances in military engineering led to the weakening of the importance of the Governors Island fortifications by the mid-1800s. In response, the Army adapted their use of the island into an administrative command center, a function that continued until the end of the period of significance in 1966. The Army built scores of buildings to meet the needs of the military base, including office space, barracks, storerooms, and recreational facilities. In the twentieth century, temporary buildings were added to the landscape to meet the war-time needs of the Army during World Wars I and II.

Much of the infrastructure seen today on the island was in place before the end of the period of significance, although the coast guard did make some changes to upgrade aging facilities. They built a new complex of family housing south of Castle Williams and removed several remaining World War II-era buildings.

Fort Jay

Historic Condition: Fort Jay was first constructed in 1794 during the First System. The four-bastioned earthen fort was rebuilt in masonry during the Second System beginning in 1806 during which time a north facing ravelin was added to the structure's geometry. The modified star fort consisted of tall masonry scarp walls on which numerous cannon stood, pointing out in all directions over a

cleared, sloped earth glacis, to the harbor. An approximately forty-foot dry moat surrounded the scarp walls, bounded by a series of two-stepped counterscarp walls. The fort was accessed via two sallyports, facing east and west. The east sallyport was considered the main gate, and was ornamented with an elaborate sandstone sculpture of an eagle, flags, and armament. A bridge traversed the dry moat at the east sallyport, leading to a raised barbican erected to deter a clear line of fire into the main gate. The interior of the fort was modified in the 1830s with the addition of four rectangular barracks buildings.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Outside of routine maintenance and alterations made to the barracks to accommodate modern living, Fort Jay today resembles its appearance during the Second System. The large sandstone fort is surrounded by a remnant of the open glacis, which accentuates the imposing scale of the feature.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Fort Jay Barracks (Buildings 202, 206, 210, and 214)

Historic Condition: Four rectilinear barracks buildings were constructed in the interior of Fort Jay between 1834 and 1836, replacing older, dilapidated barracks in similar locations. The rear of the structures abutted the terreplein level of the fort and their uniformly styled and scaled front facades created the Fort Jay courtyard. Each Greek Revival-inspired brick building was two-stories, with a hipped roof, and a Doric-columned, two-tiered piazza running the length of the façade. The buildings were repaired and remodeled throughout the period of significance to accommodate changes in living standards.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Fort Jay barracks continued to serve as housing after the period of significance, until 1996 when the Coast Guard vacated the island. They were remodeled and repaired during this time but the character of the historic structures remained. The buildings are currently unoccupied but rehabilitation is underway to return them to useable condition.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Fort Jay Garages

Historic Condition: The Works Progress Administration designed and built eight brick garages at the corners of the Fort Jay barracks buildings in the 1930s. Two of the small, square, sloped roof buildings stand at the corner of each bastion, up a cobblestone driveway from the courtyard.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The garages remained in use during the Coast Guard period and received routine maintenance. Today the structures are in fair condition and reflect their historic character.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Castle Williams

Historic Condition: Castle Williams is a circular, three-story, casemated, sandstone and granite block fortification built between 1807 and 1811, during the Second System. It is approximately forty feet high with four levels of gun emplacements, including on the roof. The main gate faces east and was once connected to Fort Jay by a covered defile. The exterior of the fort remained relatively unchanged during the period of significance but the interior was substantially altered to be used as a military prison.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard used Castle Williams as a community center through the 1970s, after which it was used for storage, workshops, and offices. The building is currently vacant and in need of substantial interior stabilization.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Building 107

Historic Condition: Building 107 was constructed as part of the Arsenal in circa 1850 to serve as a storehouse. The single story brick building with Romanesque Revival elements was enlarged with an addition on the east and southwest sides in the early-twentieth century.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Building 107 was used by the Coast Guard for administrative offices after the period of significance. It was updated in the late-1990s by GSA and currently serves as the National Monument administrative headquarters.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Library (Building 251)

Historic Condition: The Library, or Building 251, was built in circa 1908. The one-story, rectangular, wood frame building was originally sided in wood clapboards and used as the post exchange. Later modifications took place to the exterior and the function of the building.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard used the building as a library, naming it "Tampa Memorial Library." The building was re-sided with asbestos shingles at an unknown date. It is currently unused and slated for demolition.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Buildings 513 A, B, and C

Historic Condition: Buildings 513 A, B, and C post-date the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard removed several World War II-era structures south of Castle Williams and replaced them with three interconnected, three-story brick barracks buildings in the 1970s. The buildings were located at right angles to one another to create two courtyard spaces. The vacant buildings are slated for demolition.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Dock 102 Barge

Historic Condition: The barge at Dock 102 was installed after the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The National Park Service installed a barge at Dock 102 in 2010 to accommodate non-vehicular ferry boats, to serve as a secondary access point in the event that Soissons Dock is non-operational.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

SMALL SCALE FEATURES

During Governors Island's defensive period, few small scale features existed in the landscape so as to not interfere with outward views and lines of fire. This changed in the mid-1800s when the island's function shifted to encompass a greater administrative role. New infrastructure was added to accommodate a full time population. Additions included streetlights, fencing, fire suppression systems, street signage, electrical equipment, and military-themed landscape ornamentation. Many of these features changed over the period of significance as features fell into disrepair and were upgraded. The Coast Guard continued to modify the island's small scale features after the period of significance, adding more nautical-themed elements and upgrading aging infrastructure. Today, combinations of historic and non-historic features dot the landscape, speaking to the long history of military habitation on Governors Island.

Fort Jay and Castle Williams cannon

Historic Condition: Both Castle Williams and Fort Jay were heavily armed with cannon during the island's defensive period. Cannon ringed the scarp walls of Fort Jay, pointing in all directions to cover the harbor. Castle Williams had three levels of stacked armament inside and on top of the casemated round fort. During the Civil War, the Army converted the structure to a military prison and removed the guns from the casemates, leaving the roof top cannon. Fort Jay's cannon remained in place longer, standing along the terreplein until World War

II when most of the guns were removed and melted down for scrap. The last documented time a cannon was fired at Governors Island was in 1966 when the Army transferred ownership to the Coast Guard. A cannon at Fort Jay was fired during the transfer ceremony, reportedly breaking the glass in many of the Fort Jay barracks windows.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: It is unknown if any changes to the cannon at Governors Island occurred after the period of significance. Currently, there is one cannon each in the northeast and southeast bastion and three in the ravelin of Fort Jay. Several more guns exist on the roof of Castle Williams.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Fort Jay flagstaff

Historic Condition: The Fort Jay flagstaff was located in the northwest bastion until being moved to the ravelin in approximately 1925. The flagstaff was a tall, single pole hosting a single flag through the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard changed the type of flagpole after 1966 but kept the circa 1925 location in the ravelin. They added a yardarm cross bar to hang four small flags at a lower level than the large American flag. The NPS removed the yardarm in 2009.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Fort Jay entry circle planter

Historic Condition: The Fort Jay entry circle evolved from the historic barbican at the fort's main gate. The barbican was a circular feature with a raised earth center and a narrow path on its perimeter, designed to block direct views of the main gate. In the 1950s, the Army altered the feature to accommodate vehicular parking. They removed the center barbican, leaving the exterior retaining walls, replacing it with a small, brick-edged, raised planter. The remainder of the space was surfaced with asphalt and striped for angle parking.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard used the entry circle for parking until they left Governors Island in 1996. The area is no longer used regularly for parking. The raised planter still remains with three stacked cannon balls in the center. Guided tours of Fort Jay depart from the entry circle.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Acorn style streetlights

Historic Condition: Historic photographs depict streetlights on Governors Island by at least 1928. They were cast iron fixtures with ornamented, tapered bases and

round glass globes. These appear to have been used throughout the north side of the island during the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard replaced the historic lights with acorn style, black, aluminum streetlights after 1966. These are currently used throughout the National Monument.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Cobra style streetlights on Carder Road

Historic Condition: It is unknown if the cobra style streetlights on Carder Road pre-dated 1966.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Tall, brushed aluminum, cobra-style streetlights are located along the island's perimeter thoroughfare, Carder Road. Several of these are located adjacent to Castle Williams.

Evaluation: Undetermined.

Cut-off style streetlights at Dock 102

Historic Condition: Not applicable.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: Dock 102 is lit by a series of cut-off style streetlights. They have square downward facing luminaires meant to reduce light pollution. Although it is unknown when these lights were installed, their modern design post-dates 1966.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Granite planters at Building 513

Historic Condition: Not applicable.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The granite cobble edged planters in the south courtyard of Building 513 were added after the building's construction in the 1970s.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Electrical vault south of the Library

Historic Condition: Not applicable.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The electrical vault surrounded by a concrete block structure south of the Library was built sometime after 1966. The vault stands on the site of a World War I-era building that the Coast Guard removed.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Dock 102 Shelter

Historic Condition: The Dock 102 shelter was installed after the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The National Park Service installed a glass enclosed shelter, vented at the top to allow heat to escape, with doors facing the northwest with bench seating for seventy-five people. Cases are mounted on the front to display information about interpretation and island updates. The shelter, built in 2010, protects travelers from the weather as they wait for the ferry at Dock 102.

Evaluation: Non-contributing.

Stone barbeque grill on Fort Jay terreplein

Historic Condition: It is unknown when the stone barbeque grill on the Fort Jay terreplein was constructed.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: A mortared granite cobble barbeque grill is located against the scarp wall of Fort Jay's southwest bastion. The grill does not appear to be in working condition.

Evaluation: Undetermined.

Clothes line pole on Fort Jay terreplein

Historic Condition: It is unknown if the clothes line pole in the northeast bastion of Fort Jay pre-dates 1966. It is possible that the feature dates to the Army's tenure at Governors Island, as it is documented that the terreplein of Fort Jay was used for domestic purposes by the residents of the barracks.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: A single leaning, rusted clothes line pole remains on the northeast bastion of Fort Jay.

Evaluation: Undetermined.

VIEWS AND VISTAS

Governors Island became an essential late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century defensive post because its strategic location in New York harbor provided sweeping views of the region. These views became less significant as the eighteenth century progressed and the island's main focus shifted from defensive to administrative functions.

View north, south, and west from Castle Williams

Historic Condition: Castle Williams was built on a rocky outcropping at the northwestern corner of Governors Island to take advantage of the unobstructed views of the upper New York harbor, the mouth of the Hudson River, and the East River. The fort's main gate was built into the east side of the structure, the least necessary side to arm with cannon. These views remained unencumbered throughout the period of significance.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The fort's location at the northwest tip of the island remains unchanged and wide-ranging views of the harbor, Manhattan, New Jersey, Ellis Island, and Liberty Island are still available from the roof of Castle Williams.

Evaluation: Contributing.

View between Fort Jay and Castle Williams

Historic Condition: During the redesign of Fort Jay and the construction of Castle Williams during the Second System, the view between the forts was an integral component of the island's defensive capacity. The forts were physically connected by the covered defile and obstructions were kept to a minimum to keep the view corridor clear. This visual connection remained until approximately 1900 when the Army built several buildings between the forts. They continued to use this space for buildable land during World War I when numerous temporary structures were placed on the Parade Ground and in areas east of Castle Williams.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The Coast Guard removed several buildings west of Castle Williams after the period of significance, partially restoring the view between the forts, with the exception of the Library that remains standing today. However, since the structure dates to the historic period, the current compromised view is indicative of historic conditions that took shape at the turn-of-the-twentieth century.

Evaluation: Contributing.

Views of New York Harbor from Fort Jay

Historic Condition: When Fort Jay was rebuilt during the Second System the surrounding landscape was largely cleared of vegetation and without many surrounding buildings. Consequently, the fort commanded a 360 degree view around the entire island. Guns on the terreplein level were aimed in all directions, showing the intent to provide sweeping coverage of the harbor. As the island's use shifted to include more administrative roles and newer fortifications in the lower harbor replaced the strategic importance of Governors Island's defensive works, buildings and trees began to crowd the once open viewshed of the fort.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: The maturation of the island's trees after the period of significance continued to impact the view of the harbor from Fort Jay after 1966. Currently, glimpses of the water are available because of the fort's placement on high ground but a comprehensive off-site view is no longer available. Because this alteration of the viewshed occurred over many years beginning in the mid-1800s, the current view is reflective of historic conditions.

Evaluation: Contributing.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Historic Condition: A detailed analysis of archeological resources is outside the scope of this cultural landscape report. For thorough information, see the 2003 Archeological Overview and Analysis for Governors Island National Monument.

Governors Island National Monument has been occupied by humans for thousands of years and evidence of this habitation is contained in the soil. The monument grounds contain deposits from pre-contact Native Americans, Native American groups at the time of European settlement, the colonial Dutch and British, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the activities of the U.S. Army through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Post Historic and Existing Condition: An Archeological Overview and Assessment was completed in 2003 that catalogued thirty-nine sites on National Monument land. These sites date to the Native American, Pre-contact period (pre-1500 AD), the Revolutionary period (1700-1783), the War of 1812 (1783-1815), the nineteenth century and Civil War (1815-1900), and the early twentieth century (1900-1966).[5] Additionally, according to the Archeological Overview and Assessment, "It was found that virtually all of GOIS possesses high sensitivity to contain additional unrecorded Native American and historic archeological sites."[6]

In 2008, a team completed a study of the Covered Defile to determine the extent of damage to the resource inflicted during a 2006 golf course re-contouring project. Numerous impacts to the feature were noted, but many seemed to pre-date 2006. The subsequent report recommended not attempting to repair impacts from the 2006 project and trying to protect the feature from further ground disturbance.[7]

Evaluation: Contributing. According to criterion D of the National Register, all documented and yet undocumented archeological features that pre-date 1966 are contributing resources for their potential to yield information about history and pre-history.

TABLE 9.1: FEATURE ANALYSIS SUMMARY

FEATURE NAME	LCS NUMBER	EVALUATION	COMMENTS
SPATIAL ORGANIZATION			
Fort Jay Courtyard	N/A	Contributing	The courtyard has been extant since construction of Fort Jay barracks, c. 1830.
Fort Jay Moat	N/A	Contributing	The moat reflects conditions c. 1811.
Parade Ground	N/A	Contributing	The Parade Ground reflects conditions c. 1966.
CIRCULATION			
Hay Road	N/A	Contributing	The road was reconfigured after the 1911 island expansion.
Kimball Road	N/A	Contributing	Kimball Road dates to c. 1940.
Tampa Road	N/A	Contributing	Tampa Road dates to c. 1920. It was previously called Comfort Road and was. renamed after 1966.
Walkway between Fort Jay and Comfort Road	N/A	Contributing	The feature was added c. 1918.
Walkway and staircase southwest of Library	N/A	Contributing	The features dates to c. 1937.
Fort Jay courtyard roads	N/A	Contributing	Scale and configuration of the roads date to c. 1830. They were paved with asphalt c. 1920.
Fort Jay entry circle	N/A	Contributing	The entry circle was altered from an early barbican. Its existing configuration dates to the 1950s.
Covered Defile	N/A	Contributing	The feature was constructed in 1811. It was partially blocked c. 1900 by buildings east of Castle Williams and further disturbed by WWI temporary buildings and the golf course.
Walkways in complex 513	N/A	Non-contributing	The walkways date to the 1970s.
VEGETATION			
Fort Jay courtyard perimeter trees	N/A	Non-contributing	The grouping has lost integrity and does not reflect historic configuration.
Trees on Fort Jay terreplein	N/A	Contributing	Evidence of the tree has been found at the end of the period of significance.
Domestic plantings on Fort Jay terreplein	N/A	Undetermined	It is not known when the small, informal gardens were added in the rear of the Fort Jay barracks.
Shade Trees at Fort Jay entry circle	N/A	Contributing	The trees date to the later portion of the period of significance, c. 1930.

Shrubs, annuals, and perennials at Fort Jay entry circle	N/A	Non-contributing	The plantings are post-1966 introductions to the entry circle.
Parade Ground turf	N/A	Contributing	Turf has been used as ground cover on the glacis/Parade Ground since 1808.
London Plane tree line east of Library	N/A	Contributing	The feature dates to c. 1940.
Building 513 A, B, and C vegetation	N/A	Non-contributing	The plantings date to c. 1970.
Andes Road street trees	N/A	Contributing	The mixed species tree line dates to c. 1910. Individual specimens have been replaced throughout period of significance.
Andes Road hedge	N/A	Contributing	The privet hedge dates to c. 1930.
BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			
Fort Jay	233500	Contributing	The original date of construction is 1794. The fort was significantly modified during the Second System, c. 1806 and again in the 1830s.
Fort Jay barracks (202,206,210,214)	233828 234334 234806 234826	Contributing	The barracks date to 1834-1836.
Fort Jay garages	N/A	Contributing	Eight brick garages were built at the corners of the barracks, c. 1930s.
Castle Williams	233380	Contributing	The fort was constructed between 1807-1811.
Building 107	261830	Contributing	Building 107 dates to c. 1850.
Library (Building 251)	N/A	Contributing	The Library dates to c. 1908.
Buildings 513 A, B, and C	N/A	Non-contributing	The buildings date to c. 1970.
Dock 102 Barge	N/A	Non-contributing	The barge was installed by the NPS in 2010.
SMALL SCALE FEATURES			
Fort Jay and Castle Williams cannon	N/A	Contributing	The current number of cannon represent a fraction of the number of historic guns that once stood on the forts.
Fort Jay flagstaff	N/A	Contributing	The flagstaff was moved to Fort Jay ravelin c. 1925 after being located in the fort's northern bastion. The current flagstaff has been altered since the historic period.
Fort Jay entry circle planter	N/A	Contributing	The circle planter dates to c. 1955.
Acorn style streetlights	N/A	Non-contributing	The features were introduced after the period of significance.
Cut-off style streetlights at Dock 102	N/A	Non-contributing	The features were introduced after the period of significance.

Granite planters at Building 513	N/A	Non-contributing	The features post-date 1966.
Electrical vault south of Library	N/A	Non-contributing	The features post-date 1966.
Dock 102 Shelter	N/A	Non-contributing	The shelter was added by the NPS in 2010.
Stone barbeque grill on Fort Jay terreplein	N/A	Undetermined	Documentation has not been found to date the feature.
Clothes line pole on Fort Jay terreplein	N/A	Undetermined	Documentation has not been found to date the feature.
Cobra style streetlights on Carder Road	N/A	Undetermined	Documentation has not been found to date the installation of these streetlights.
VIEWS AND VISTAS			
View north, south, and west from Castle Williams	N/A	Contributing	Historically important off-site views of the harbor are still available from the fort.
View between Fort Jay and Castle Williams	N/A	Contributing	The view between the forts has been blocked since c. 1900. The current condition does not reflect design intent of Second System, c. 1812, but reflects conditions at the end of the period of significance.
Views of New York Harbor from Fort Jay	N/A	Contributing	Off-site views of the harbor have been obscured by buildings and trees since before 1966. The current condition does not reflect design intent of Second System, c. 1812, but reflects conditions at the end of the period of significance.
ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Archeological resources pre-dating 1966	N/A	Contributing	The National Monument contains numerous documented and has the potential to yield many yet undocumented archeological sites relating to Native American and American history from pre-1500 AD through the period of significance.

ENDNOTES

[1] A discrepancy exists between the landmark documentation and the National Register database, relating to the areas and dates of significance. The documentation cites the district's significance under Criterion A, associated with the military, and Criterion C for Greek Revival Architecture, while the database lists Criterion A, associated with politics/government and Criterion C for architecture. The database lists the period 1750-1949 as the period of significance, differing from the period stated in the landmark documentation, 1794-1985.

[2] Frederick Black, "A History of Fort Wadsworth, New York Harbor, Cultural Resources Management Study, no 7," CW Post Center, Long Island University, 1983, 9.

[3] Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (U.S. Naval Institute Press, 1993), 28.

[4] "Governors Island National Historic Landmark District Nomination form," February 4, 1985, Section 8, "Significance," p 1.

[5] Shannon Wright and Timothy Binzen, "Archeological Overview and Assessment of Governors Island National Monument, New York, New York," the Environmental Institute, University of Massachusetts, 2003, chapter 5.

[6] Ibid., vii.

[7] "Final Archeological Resources Protection Act Site Damage Assessment Report, Governors Island National Monument," Tetra Tech Inc., 2008, prepared for Dr. William Griswold, Ph.D., NPS, Northeast Region Archeology Program, 19.

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